



NEWSLETTER - SPRING EDITION 2016

THE LFL-C BOARD has changed in the past couple years. Here to serve:

President-Cliff Pyle

Treasurer-Alan Schmitt

Secretary & Editor-Judith Obelnycki

LMC Coordinator-Linda Welke

Board Members at Large; Marian Obeda, Pastor Richard Juritsch, Pastor David Mellecke, Pastor Gregory Palmer

Pastoral Advisor: Rev James Luke

FROM THE EDITOR'S PEN...

This is long overdue but still needs to be acknowledged. Mrs. Judy Balasch, the former editor of the LFL-C Newsletter, left the Board to home school her children. No small undertaking but an admirable one. We thank you Judy, for all your past efforts, in editing the newsletter. We pray all the best for you and your family.

For the past two years, members of the Board along with other members of LCC have been participating in the March for Life, on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. We would gather at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Ottawa, for breakfast and Opening Devotions. The ladies of St. Luke's provided the fixings to make bag lunches, which all participants would make their own and off we 'd go to the Hill. Some of us out-of-towners would bring pillows and sleeping bags and spend the night in the basement of St. Luke's the night before the march. Last year there was five of us, and we had a great time of fellowship that included lots of laughter.

For me, participating in the march is a very moving experience on so many levels, as I am sure it was for the rest of the group. When you are standing on the hill and looking down at the long winding road filled with so many people, carrying placards, expressing their desire to speak up for those that cannot and never will speak for themselves it is almost overwhelming. There are individuals of all ages that take part in this, from the very young to others not so young or as able bodied, riding scooters, wheel chairs, walkers etc. Everyone is so quiet and solemn with the exception of those there supporting abortion. When you watch this later on the news channels you are given the impression that it might only be a few hundred participating in the march, but in reality it is more like thousands. In fact it's more like 23,000. Unfortunately, the media appears to pay more attention to the pro-choice and pro-abortion groups in attendance with the sole intent to disrupt and draw attention from the real occasion.





At the end of the march when we make our way back to the hill, there are those that have had abortions and ready to share how they seriously regretted their choice and the affect it has had on teir lives. Both the mom's and dad's tell of the long hard struggles they went through for years after having done it. It is heart breaking to hear their stories, because many of them, in an effort to deal with the reality and pain of loss, get caught up in taking drugs and alcohol. The upside is there are organizations and groups that reach out and help bring them back and let them know they are loved and forgiven because of what Jesus has done for them and for us

all.

It has been the practice that LFL-C would hold the AGM at St. Luke's. When everyone returned to the church, we would be greeted by a nice home cooked meal with all the fixings, followed by the AGM. Much appreciation goes out to Mrs. Anne Taylor and others for having made all the necessary arrangements.

The following article is taken from LFL U.S. 2016 Spring Edition of "LIFEDATE" with permission from the author.

PRISONERS FOR LIFE

Rev. Thomas Steers

Two Canadian women have given the term "prisoner for life" a new meaning. Christian pro-life witnesses Mary Wagner and Linda Gibbons both currently sit in an Ontario prison.

Mary and Linda have been arrested so many times they've lost count. Mary, 41, began her pro-life work in 2000 and has spent some four years incarcerated. Linda, a 67-year old grandmother, has spent eleven years in jail over the last two decades.

Their crimes?

Mary Wagner, a soft spoken, considerate woman, goes into abortion facilities armed with red roses and counsels women to consider not ending the lives of their unborn children. She hands them a rose and offers to pray with them. She provides information on sources of help—physical and spiritual.

Linda Gibbons simply walks silently back and forth carrying a sign on a public side-walk in front of Toronto abortion mills. The sign has a picture of an infant and reads, "Why, Mom, when I have so much love to give?"

For these acts of witness Mary is charged with mischief, essentially trespass, and with breaking probation orders which ban her from being within 200 metres (656 feet) of places where abortions are performed.

Linda is charged with violating a 1994 "temporary" injunction that created a "bubble zone" of 500 feet around a number of abortion facilities in Ontario. No other group that protests faces this kind of restriction.

Mary is currently facing trial in Toronto on March 10 and 16, 2016, for trespass and breach of probation for entering a Toronto abortion facility this past December 12. She also has a constitutional appeal heading towards the Canadian Supreme court. At a recent preliminary court appearance Mary said, "I am consistently arrested for trying to protect unborn children. I have done nothing wrong."

Linda Gibbons's most recent trial concluded January 13, 2016. She was arrested September 2 for carrying her sign while walking in front of the Morgentaler abortion facility in Toronto. Linda is awaiting a verdict. During the trial Linda refused to speak. She explains her silence is to honor the unborn. "The Supreme Court of Canada says the unborn children we're defending don't exist ... nobody is there until the baby is born."



Despite their years in prison, Mary and Linda have asked during my prison visits with them that the focus not be on what they've endured, but on the unborn children losing their lives in abortion.

For their selfless witness the two women are not without supporters. Last May's Canadian March for Life in Ottawa was dedicated to them. Both Wagner and Gibbons have received Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee medals as a result of being nominated by pro-life former Member of Parliament Maurice Vellacott and have been the subject of national news coverage.

There have been other personal acts of appreciation as well over the years. Both women continue their pro-life witness while in prison, encouraging pregnant inmates to keep their babies under difficult life circumstances. In one instance a former cellmate brought her child to visit Mary in jail and thanked Wagner for convincing her to keep the child on her knee she had considered aborting.

When asked recently about her entries into abortion mills Mary said, "People have often asked me if I could not simply stay outside the area I'm forbidden to enter and in that way avoid arrest. But this question forgets something: The children, scheduled to be killed, will have no one to stand up for them. We will stop being present for them and for their mothers out of obedience to an immorally imposed restriction by those entrusted with authority. If we think in terms of getting arrested or not getting arrested, we lose sight of Christ, hidden in the distressing disguise of the poor—those so poor we cannot even see or hear them. As Jesus said, "As you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40).

Abortion was made legal in Canada when in 1988 the Supreme Court ruled in *Regina v. Morgentaler* that existing abortion laws were unconstitutional. Since then approximately 100,000 abortions have taken place each year according to Statistics Canada, meaning a total of at least 2.7 million unborn children have been killed.

During a past trial a Crown prosecutor argued that releasing Mary would interfere with the administration of justice. Mary replied that she reached out to women in abortion facilities "to uphold justice, even when the letter of the law won't."

Her response echoes Martin Luther King's famous words in his Letter from a Birmingham Jail when he wrote, "One may well ask: 'How can you advocate breaking some laws and obeying others?' The answer lies in the fact that there are two types of laws: just and unjust. I would be the first to advocate obeying just laws. One has not only a legal but a moral responsibility to obey just laws. Conversely, one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws. I would agree with St. Augustine that 'an unjust law is no law at all.'"

Letters can be sent to Mary Wagner and Linda Gibbons at this address:

c/o Vanier Centre for Women
PO Box 1040

655 Martin Street, Milton, Ontario, L9T 5E6 Canada

Rev Thomas Steers is Pastor at Christ Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Toronto, also a member of LFL-C..

FURTHER UPDATE ON PRO-LIFE CHRISTIAN PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE MARY WAGNER

By Pastor Tom Speers, Christ the Lutheran Church, Toronto

Mary Wagner said today during trial, “this is about unborn children being considered human beings and their right to life.”

After a short opening statement Mary didn't speak in silent solidarity with the 100,000 children who are killed every year in Canada through abortion.

A closed circuit video was played in court showing Mary gently talking with people in the abortion mill's waiting room, offering roses and praying for them. The video also clearly shows abortionist Ninia Lupovici pushing and attempting to drag Mary Wagner out of the abortion mill. Lupovici is co-owner of the 'Bloor West Village Women's Clinic' located at 2425 Bloor St. West, Toronto, where Mary Wagner was arrested.

Surprisingly the abortionist in her testimony described Mary as “benign.”

Mary's trial will continue on Wednesday, March 16 at 10 a.m. in Toronto's Old City Hall, Courtroom M1. We ask that prayers be offered for Mary, for the court, and most importantly for the unborn children Mary has spent more than four years in prison witnessing to. Pastor Tom Steers, Christ the Saviour Lutheran Church, Toronto.

A Letter to all Canadian Parliamentarians:

We believe that legalizing euthanasia and/or assisted suicide is bad public policy and should be rejected by every Canadian legislature.

To legalize euthanasia and/or assisted suicide would enable one citizen to directly and intentionally cause the death of another citizen or be involved with causing that death. Canada must not allow its citizens to be involved with causing the death of other Canadian citizens. We understand that the most tragic cases will dominate the public discussion, but the issues must be considered based on how it will affect society as a whole.

Euthanasia and assisted suicide are not socially acceptable responses to terminal or incurable illness or chronic conditions. Changing the law may result in some people feeling pressured and thereby consider themselves or their loved ones as 'better-off-dead'. Some people will feel obliged to justify why they want to continue treatment. For many, including attending physicians, euthanasia and assisted suicide would become the unspoken, but ever present, question resulting in a subtle, negative change to the doctor-patient relationship. Will this result in a “duty to die”?

Euthanasia and assisted suicide pose a threat to the equality of persons. The lives of some in our community will be considered — “not worth living”. Among those at greatest risk are the elderly, the lonely, those living with disabilities, those experiencing chronic illness and those with limited access to good medical care. Maintaining the current laws protects



all Canadians equally.

Older Canadians are not a problem to be rid of — they're a generation to be honored and cared for. Elder Abuse has become a significant problem in Canada. We cannot ignore the possibility that dependent elderly people may be coerced into euthanasia or assisted suicide. We cannot put older Canadians at risk by creating new paths to elder abuse.

Canada must not place the lives of citizens at risk. Legislators need to apply the precautionary principle: the higher the risk – the higher the burden of proof on those proposing legislation. The risk of abuse cannot be eliminated.

Legalizing euthanasia and/or assisted suicide is a recipe for abuse. So-called 'safeguards' are an illusion because they are unable to prevent the potential for coercion and abuse.

All Canadians should have access to quality pain control — no matter where they live. Pain control and palliative medicine should be given a higher priority in medical training so that every Canadian can benefit.

Being involved in one's health care plan and making informed choices are vitally important to a patient's sense of well being. Euthanasia and assisted suicide would weaken the autonomy of patients, reducing their choices about their care and symptom management. Euthanasia and assisted suicide could be increasingly adopted as the easier option to the exclusion of genuine patient centered care.

We respectfully ask you in every instance, to firmly oppose euthanasia and assisted suicide legislation. This can be done by going online to Euthanasia Prevention website and clicking on the link "Sign the Declaration of Hope".

ON THE HORIZON....

MARCH FOR LIFE, May 12th, 2016 on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, ON

LFL-C WEBSITE is being reconstructed. LFL-C Board is excited about this project. It is expected the webpage will be completed by the end of March, 2016.

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE NATIONAL CONFERENCE- On October 21- 22nd, 2016, at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Bloomington, Minnesota. Scheduled speakers include Dr. Jean Garton, Actor Frank Runyeon, Jānis Diekonts, Rev. Don Richman, Jim Pressnell, Barbara Lyons, Allen Quist, Stephenie Hovland, Laura Davis, Col. John Eidsmoe, Rev. Fredric Hinz, Dr. Sheila Pagen, Lori Trinche, John Hawkins, Rev. Michael W. Salemink.

DID YOU KNOW....?

-LFL-C has a Facebook page? Just type in Lutherans for Life-Canada on your Fb search bar or Google it.

-CARP as in the Canadian Association of Retired Persons supports Euthanasia?

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE-CANADA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Time: November 12th, 2016

Registration: 9:30 a.m. Fee: \$ 15.00 (to cover costs of guest speaker)

Meeting Starts: 10:00 a.m.

Where: Faith Lutheran Church, 310 Southdale Rd. E., London, ON

Guest Speaker: Mr. Alex Schadenberg, Executive Director,
Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

YOUR PRESENCE IS WELCOMED!!!!

BOOK REPORT

I have just finished reading the book, "Uncle Tom's Clinic" by Jay Mikes. It arrived via Lutheran's for Life email and was forwarded by the author of the book. Although it was fictional it was a very informative read, something you might want to share with others. The book was FREE but I do know if the link does not work to get your free copy, it can be purchased from Amazon Canada for \$.99.

Dear Pro-Life Colleague,

Please accept the attached complimentary copy of my pro-life novel, *Uncle Tom's Clinic*. This version is in .pdf format. Other eBook formats are available on Amazon.com and BookBaby.com.



The purpose of the title is dramatically explained in a video in which I narrate the Preface. You can watch the video at <http://jam23.net/utc.htm>. Links to Amazon and BookBaby can also be found at <http://jam23.net>.

Uncle Tom's Clinic is a dramatic depiction of the explosive issue of abortion in America. The gripping tale captures the reader's heart and mind. Beginning with a powerful and insightful [Preface](#), *Uncle Tom's Clinic* brings the political, moral and spiritual issues of abortion out in the open. As the story unfolds, it exposes the lies propping up a woman's "right to choose" and tells the reader the truth about abortion. The dialogue is genuine enough that the reader may not even perceive that the deceitful rhetoric of abortion rights is being systematically refuted. *Uncle Tom's Clinic* also weaves throughout its pages, the hopes, desires, and frustrations of one infertile couple longing to adopt a child. The narrative immediately draws the reader in and doesn't let go. The book is truly hard to put down until it reaches an intensely

emotional climax. And even then, the reader is drawn back in again until the final resolution. In short, *Uncle Tom's Clinic*, like the novel written more than a century ago by Harriet Beecher Stowe, is a compelling narrative requiring the reader not only to reflect on, but also to act on, the most critical moral issue of its time.

(Feel free to make the .pdf version available for free to everyone on your staff. You may also post it on your website so visitors may download the novel for free. Jay Mikes Author, *Uncle Tom's Clinic* www.jam23.net JayMikes@jam23.net)

MARCH FOR LIFE, MAY 12TH, 2016 on PARLIAMENT HILL, OTTAWA, CANADA

For the past couple of years as Lutherans, many of us have been meeting at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, in Ottawa for Opening Devotions, and to pack a bag lunch to eat while participating in the March. For those arriving from out of town on Wednesday evening, St. Luke's has graciously provided accommodation, i.e. a place to throw your sleeping bag and pillow down, and coffee etc in the morning.

Anyone interested in participating this year as a group of Lutherans in need of these provisions/accommodations please contact Judy Obelnycki, at (905) 820-4990 or by email: jobelnycki@aol.com by no later than April 29th, so that adequate arrangements can be secured.

Lutherans for Life-Canada, is a ministry and a Listed Service Organization of Lutheran Church Canada.

Your financial support is greatly appreciated.

Please continue to keep this ministry of Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life, in your prayers.



Please consider supporting Lutherans for Life-Canada through your prayers and making a financial contribution, or becoming a member. You are then placed on our mailing list and will receive our newsletters. If for some reason you would rather not receive a newsletter please indicate this to the treasurer when you submit your contribution.

Membership and Donation Form
(Please print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, Province: _____

Postal Code: _____

Email: _____

Church Body: _____

Pastor's Name: _____

Church Name, City, Province:

Annual Membership: \$15.00/year
Further donations gratefully accepted.

Amount enclosed: _____

Please send this form with cheque to:
Lutherans for Life-Canada
C/o Mr. Alan Schmitt, Treasurer
75 Blackthorne Crescent
London ON N6J 4B3

Eight Objectives of the LFL-C are:

1. To provide an organization through which Lutheran Christians can unite to share dialogue and give common witness within the Church and society to their concern for the value and dignity of all human life;
2. To strengthen the existing common bond of concern by bringing Lutherans of like mind into contact with one another;
3. To gather and share pertinent information with its membership and develop strategies for witness and response;
4. To develop and distribute educational materials based upon the Word of God;
5. To identify resource people who can write and speak on behalf of the organization;
6. To monitor public and private action in order to enhance the right to life;
7. To respond to and co-operate with other groups in society who share similar concerns; and
8. To examine and correct popular but misleading stereotypes regarding pro-life advocacy.

To contact LFL-C please email us at:
info@lutheransforlife-canada.ca

To order Pro-life materials;
Concordia Publishing House – www.cph.org