



## NEWSLETTER - WINTER EDITION 2017

**THE LFL-C BOARD.** as of Meeting Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016, Here to serve

**President-Pastor Richard Juritsch**

**Treasurer-Alan Schmitt**

**Secretary & Editor-Judith Obelnycki**

**LMC Coordinator-Linda Welke**

**Board Members at Large; Cliff Pyle, Pastor David Mellecke, Pastor Gregory Palmer, Adrian Rhodes**

**Pastoral Advisor: Vacant position**

**LIVE IN FAITH EVERYDAY**

**1 Cor. 6:18-20**

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2016 AGM

The LFL-C Annual General meeting took place on Saturday, Nov. 12, 2017, at Faith Lutheran Church in London, ON. The morning began with registration, refreshments, muffins and fruit, followed by Devotions and a timely message delivered by Pastor Oscar Castillo. There were 34 registered participants.

Marian Obeda, a long standing member of the Board introduced the guest presenter, Alex Schadenberg, the Executive Director of the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition,. Alex pointed out the media brainwash on Euthanasia, “ending suffering”. And stressed “safeguards” were not very reliable due to judgement calls of others in authority. This was further demonstrated in

the viewing of the DVD “The Euthanasia Deception” a film that exposes three main deceptions; that euthanasia is a form of compassion; that decisions made between the doctor and patient operate in a vacuum and finally can safeguards protect the vulnerable? The film included testimonies from those whose family members were euthanized and on one

that was involved in performing euthanasia.

During Lunch break Marian Obeda presented Rev. Michael Salemink, the Executive Director of



Lutheran's for Life in the U.S., with some thoughtful gifts, served with humour, on behalf of the LFL-C Board, as reminders of his trip to Canada. Lunch was made and served by the London ladies. There was also a beautiful cake, decorated with the Canadian flag, to honour the occasion. Later, Rev Salemink shared with the group how he started out and got involved with LFL. Pictures of the occasion were taken by Judith Obelnycki, and will be placed on the website and Facebook page for viewing.

The Voting Members meeting was chaired by Pastor Rick Juritsch, as President Cliff Pyle was unable attend.

Nominations and elections for 3 directors took place and Pastor Rick Juritsch and Pastor Gregory Palmer were re-elected with newcomer Adrian Rhodes.

Pastor Rick Juritsch announced the news that Marian Obeda was resigning from the Board. On behalf of the Board, Pastor Rick Juritsch thanked her for all her dedication and hard work over the years. Marian Obeda was honoured with a standing ovation by all the Board and voting members. She will continue participation in other areas.

The meeting closed with devotions and installation of Board members by Rev James Luke.

## **THE EUTHANASIA DECEPTION**

The Euthanasia Deception DVD, produced by Dunn Media and the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition, is an approximately 54 minute long series of interviews with people negatively impacted by euthanasia – as it is imposed on vulnerable people. The hard hitting film takes us through the deceptions of euthanasia advocates, exposing myths which drive the ideals of death. This video is a counter to the pro-euthanasia propaganda seen in mainstream media.

Be forewarned that the Euthanasia Deception is a hard hitting presentation and more sensitive people should have tissues close at hand while watching.

The Euthanasia Deception DVD is priced at \$30.00 CDN, for one; \$100.00 CDN for four; and \$200.00 CDN for ten discs. (Prices do not include taxes or shipping) Call the Euthanasia Prevention Coalition at 1-877-439-3348 or visit [www.epcc.ca](http://www.epcc.ca) or [www.vulnerablefilm.com](http://www.vulnerablefilm.com) for more details, a teaser and details on how to order your copy today.

## **HOW MANY PEOPLE HAVE DIED IN CANADA BECAUSE OF EUTHANASIA?**

A simple answer about how many people have died is not easy to find. Since we are always hearing of campaigns to ‘legally permit’ euthanasia in different jurisdictions, it is strange that euthanasia enthusiasts don’t trumpet their body counts.

To that end, I researched the death numbers from the Internet. The first realization is that there is no global clearinghouse (at least as of early 2016) of the death numbers in places where medical killing was legally permitted. The second realization is that the numbers, when found, do not provide a clear picture.

In fact, the numbers, as I found them, are used to push forward an agenda of death acceptability, rather than highlight any greater idealistic truth. Therefore, there was, until I created this, no collection of data showing the numbers worldwide.

The answer to the question posed in the title is that approximately 788 people have been medically killed in Canada, as of January 23, 2017. This is based on media reports, gathered over time, and those reports are self-contradictory and therefore are incomplete.

To answer the question over euthanasia deaths worldwide, the approximate number of people killed is 59,000. This is another under-estimate, since Switzerland, India and Columbia have not been included in those totals.

There is another issue with the numbers: the reports given over time do not add up. There is a variance in the reported numbers from time to time as the numbers are released by province. The issue with these numbers is that they are snap-shots; they are not cumulative over time.

With the variance in the provincial numbers, we do not know which numbers are accurate. This is another mechanism that leaves Canadian citizens in the dark.

Then there is Bill 84, presented in Spring, 2016. This Ontario Bill specifically said that the public had no right to know how its citizens were killed in that province. This covered in the Bill, in Section 65 of the Freedom of Information Act:

So not only does someone have a right to be killed (to save money, according to the Globe and Mail of January 23, 2017) the public has no right to know who has been killed in Ontario, even though the deceased was killed with taxpayer dollars. There is also no provision in law about how sanctions would be levelled at doctors and nurses who broke the law. It’s a self-reporting issue in any case; what doctor is going to self-report abuse?

This should be a cause for concern; the position that the public has no right to know what is happening erodes the legitimacy and role of the public citizen. It also removes any possibility for resistance to euthanasia by silence. Even worse, silence on the issue equals consent.

If silence equals consent, then voicing concerns equals dissent, and dissent in the ending life game is not allowed. (Virilio, 2003:74) If you want to see one possible future of the discourse, note how people who are against abortion – even for what we might see as

‘trivial’ reasons – are marginalized and silenced. This is why people who are against medically imposed death but are silent no longer have the ethical right to keep silent.

To make matters worse, some ‘medical ethics’ specialists are arguing that medical professionals do not have the right to exercise their conscience. (Udo Schuklenk blog, March 25, 2015)

The implication is clear, even from this cursory examination: the public’s right to know how their safety in care is compromised when such basic information (how many people has your government killed in the name of compassion?) is essentially made a state secret is abrogated to a different ideal.

And those same public servants who have misgivings do not have any right to refuse to participate in the killings. In short, we have seen how there is a socially sealed environment that steers someone to death as if medically imposed death were automatic and therefore, inevitable. This secrecy means that abuses will happen, but the victims will be silenced and rendered invisible. This cannot be a protection for the patient/victim, it must therefore be a protection for the organization. This is why medically imposed death is, at the same time, an ideological benefit to its supporters, and a deep betrayal of the vulnerable.

So what do we need to do to protect the vulnerable patients at risk of medically imposed death? First, we need to remember the Gospel truth: nothing is covered that will not be revealed. (Matthew 10:26, ESV) We will find out this truth, however we find the information on imposed deaths. There might be a momentary scandal and emotion, but the majority of people will let it go. This must not happen.

We know that some of us can take on the role of a watchman, as in the OT requirement:

But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, so that the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any one of them, that person is taken away in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand. (Ezekiel 33:6, ESV)

In warning in this way, that medically imposed death is a scandal and an anarchy, we are fulfilling the role of watchman. Note that we are not required to succeed in stopping evil; we are to at least try to warn about the evil we see.

We cannot therefore keep silent on medically imposed death, when we see this wrong. We might not succeed when we stand up and warn of danger; it is possible that we might even pay a price for such a statement. However, if we do stand up, publicly, against medically imposed death, others will see what we do and be encouraged themselves to resist this evil action in their own way.

Furthermore, by standing for life, by spreading the Gospel in this action, we are fulfilling our mandate to evangelize, and in our current social and medical context, the best evangelization is to remind people that they do not have to accept the world’s argument and rule that medically imposed death is the best action in it.

Adrian Rhodes,  
London, ON, January 2017

## **A QUOTE FROM MOTHER THERESA...**

"But I feel that the greatest destroyer of peace today is abortion, because it is a war against the child, a direct killing of the innocent child, murder by the mother herself.

And if we accept that a mother can kill even her own child, how can we tell other people not to kill one another? How do we persuade a woman not to have an abortion? As always, we must persuade her with love and we remind ourselves that love means to be willing to give until it hurts. Jesus gave even His life to love us. So, the mother who is thinking of abortion, should be helped to love, that is, to give until it hurts her plans, or her free time, to respect the life of her child. The father of that child, whoever he is, must also give until it hurts.

By abortion, the mother does not learn to love, but kills even her own child to solve her problems.

And, by abortion, the father is told that he does not have to take any responsibility at all for the child he has brought into the world. That father is likely to put other women into the same trouble. So abortion just leads to more abortion.

Any country that accepts abortion is not teaching its people to love, but to use any violence to get what they want. This is why the greatest destroyer of love and peace is abortion."-Mother Theresa.

*The above is a quote posted on the LFL-C Facebook page by Pastor Ron Mohr .He wrote that it came from a U.S. friend and he wanted to share it with you all.*

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## **WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ON PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE (EUTHANASIA/MURDER)**

In response to more requests for Biblically-based guidance on what should properly be called physician assisted murder I offer the following:

God's views on 'euthanasia' and the sinful views of men.

Recently a number of people have contacted me and asked my Pastoral advice on euthanasia. They have been disillusioned with secular commissions, associations, and even non-Biblical church bodies. They're confused, disappointed, and rightly so. The ultimate and only authority on issues of life come from God, and His inerrant Word, the Bible.

In Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation we find God's answer to this question in which we can find instruction, comfort, and hope: "The severely handicapped, infirm,

helpless, and aged are persons in the sight of God with life given by Him and to be ended only by Him.”

What are Bible scriptures we can look to? Proverbs 6: 16-17: “There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood.” We can also look to Proverbs 31: 8, “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.” Another Bible verse for guidance is Acts 17:25, “He Himself gives all men life and breath and everything.” We need look no further than the first verse of Genesis in the Bible to see this is true.

For all those who mourn the effects of a sinful world, and of churches who have fallen away from God, I offer God’s Word and a church that has been true to it. Pastor Tom Steers, Christ the Saviour Lutheran Church, Toronto.

### **ON THE HORIZON....**

**MARCH FOR LIFE**, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017 on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, ON

### **DID YOU KNOW....?**

- **LFL-C WEBSITE** has been reconstructed and is now completed.

Please check it out at:

[www.lutheransforlife-canada.ca](http://www.lutheransforlife-canada.ca).

-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?

A quote from..John Krim, LMC Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Etobicoke, ON

Legalized abortion was ratified into law in the USA in December 1972. This was in the same month and year as the American Eagle was legally protected as an endangered species.

**It means that you can go to prison for destroying an eagle's egg, but not for destroying an intra-utero child.** Does that at all sound peculiar to you?

Society has placed the life of an eagle higher than that of a child. It may also say that something rare is to be protected, while something abundant should not be protected. As of January 2016, the US's National Right to Life estimates that, since the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion 43 years ago in Roe v. Wade and Roe v. Bolton , more than **58 million unborn children have lost their**

**lives.** Each one of those abortions is a tragedy, not just because an innocent child died, but because of the lasting impact the abortion itself had on the mothers of those children.

An old Chinese saying is, "May you live in interesting times". That indeed.

**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.

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**Hurting from Abortion?**  
*A Word of Hope can help • 888-217-8679 • Confidential and Caring*

**[www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org)**  
Word of Hope is a ministry of Lutherans For Life



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**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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*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](mailto:info@lutheransforlife-canada.ca)

To order Pro-life materials;  
Concordia Publishing House – [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org)