



## NEWSLETTER – SPRING EDITION 2018

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### **From the President's Laptop**

“What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done,  
and there is nothing new under the sun.” Ecclesiastes 1:9 (ESV)

Recently, I have received several emails citing recent polls on what Christians in various denominations believe about various things, including life issues, such as abortion and euthanasia. Not knowing how the pollsters selected their samples or what size of samples they were using, it is difficult to judge how accurate their figures are. I was not surprised by figures. I was surprised that others were surprised.

The reason Lutherans For Life was founded, and then Lutherans For Life Canada, was not in order to lobby the government. Nor were they founded in order to rally Lutherans to get together to protest for governmental action on different life issues. No, they were both founded because it was recognized that large portions of those who belonged to Lutheran congregations opposed the Scripture on one or more life issues. Sometimes this opposition was in ignorance of the Scripture. Sometimes this opposition was in willful rebellion against God's Holy Word. We came into existence for the purpose of making Lutherans aware of what God teaches about life issues in the Holy Bible. Then, by God's grace, the Holy Spirit changing hearts and minds would move those same Lutherans in their vocation as citizens, and in some cases politicians, would stand up and act in defence of the helpless for the sake of life.

In truth, if those polling figures are accurate, I breathe a sigh of relief. They were not as bad as I feared, for the devil has been working overtime in North America to lure people away from the teachings of Holy Scripture, while at the same time leaving them in the church, so that the leaven of this world's anti-life attitude might spread. I give thanks to God that monthly, people continue to avail themselves of the services of Word of Hope ministries as they deal with the hurt that abortions causes.

Perhaps I am being a bit of a Pollyanna, but those polls, for me, are a clarion call for us, as Lutherans For Life Canada, to seek even more opportunities to share that God has sanctified life from the womb to the tomb. He can still use us to serve His children, His church, with the pro-life message.

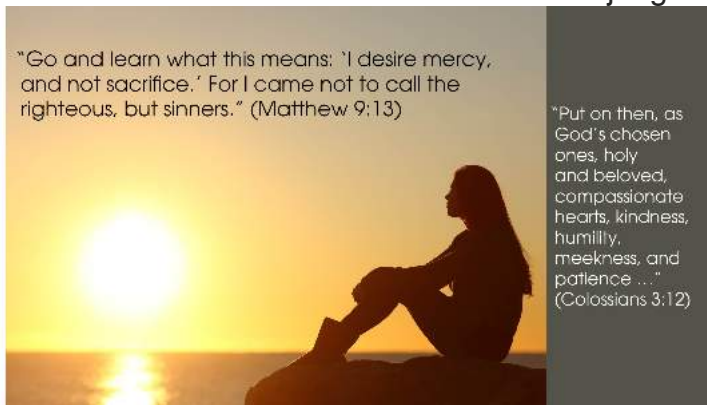
Yours in Christ, Pastor Richard Juritsch

## FOSTERING A CULTURE OF GRACE WITHIN THE CHURCH

Posted by [Diane E. Schroeder](#) on November 06, 2017

After years of working with Lutherans For Life and CareNet, I have heard many horror stories of young Christian women trying to deal with their unplanned pregnancies. In a local Christian high school in my area, I was told of a young student who, upon finding out she was pregnant, threw herself down the stairs hoping to cause a miscarriage. In another local church, a church youth worker became pregnant, and after pressure was exerted by the parents, she was eventually dismissed from her position. I remember talking to the Christian mother of a daughter who as a member of a pro-life Lutheran congregation felt only condemnation and judgment from her church friends when they learned of her daughter's pregnancy.

According to a 2015 LifeWay Research study, only seven percent of churchgoing women who have had abortions have discussed their experiences with anyone at church. Two-thirds of these post-abortive women said church members judge single women who are pregnant, and fewer



than half believe churches are prepared to help with decisions about unwanted pregnancies.

The church has a hard time balancing an abstinence culture with a prolife culture that wants women to choose life for their unborn child.

As Christian author Julie Roys notes, "Christians often fall into one or two ditches when dealing with sin in their own communities. Either we completely

overlook it and err on the side of compromising holiness—or we fail to forgive, punish harshly, and miss the heart of the gospel. What's needed is a proper view of biblical discipline—a practice that seeks to restore and heal, not wound and punish."

Which ditch are you in? Is there a compromise position? To me, the extreme danger is pushing young Christian women in an unplanned pregnancy to abortion because of the shame they feel and the judgment they expect from their church. Aren't we only compounding the sin when through our actions we push young women to abort their children? Can't we as the church encourage sexual abstinence until marriage and yet provide compassion for those who fail and become pregnant? I remember talking to my girls when they were growing up. "Yes, God's design is for sex within marriage, but if you make a mistake, I will always love you. You can come to me and I will help you." Can't we in the church take the same approach? Educate our youth on God's plan for their sexuality realizing that some will fail and we will need to welcome the new lives that God has created.

At CareNet, we worked with women's groups within churches to provide support for some of our clients who were keeping their babies. What a wonderful way to live out Christian compassion. The young girls were encouraged, prayed for, loved unconditionally, and given a baby shower. We did not judge their behavior. That was up to God. Certainly, young women within our church deserve the same, if not better. Young women within our churches are

watching how we as the Christian community treat unplanned pregnancy within our own four walls. Yes, it is very important to educate our people on the dangers of abortion and the value of life. But we will fail as life advocates if we do not demonstrate compassion for those among us who find themselves caught in the web of unplanned pregnancy.

Diane E. Schroeder is a former president of Lutherans For Life, U.S.A.

### **The National March For Life, 2018**

On Thursday, May 10, 2018, the 21<sup>st</sup> National March For Life in Ottawa took place. Pastor Paul Pollex organized what has become something of a tradition – a sleepover Wednesday night at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Ottawa, for anyone who wanted to come early, along with a breakfast and the fixings for a bag lunch to take to the March Thursday morning. A huge blessing for those who came was the food and love provided by the Taylors of St. Luke’s and the encouragement provided by their pastor, Rev. Bryan King. Pastor Pollex invited me to lead the prayer service at St. Luke’s before we walked over to Parliament Hill.

Although many of the people in attendance were from various Christian organizations, it was also good to see that there were representatives from Feminists for Life, Atheists for Life, Muslims for Life, and even some folks from a group of homosexuals for life. It was good to see visible proof that abortion and life issues affect all sorts of people and that being pro-life is not just a Christian “thing”, but something that every human being should be. After greetings from various dignitaries, prayers and a taste of what we would hear after the March, thousands of people began to walk along a route through downtown Ottawa. About ten minutes into the march, we came to a standstill.



The focus of the service and sermon at St. Luke’s was being faithful witnesses to Christ and His gift of life, even in the face of opposition and ridicule.

And, boy, though we have faced anti-life protestors in the past, this year was even more of a challenge. The reason we had come to a standstill was that a group of anti-life protestors, shouting obscenities, some of them wearing masks, had blocked the March route. The police were there if things became violent, but would not move these protestors. As one of the organizers shared with me, when he asked the police what they would have done if it had been pro-life protestors blocking an anti-life march, an officer answered: the exact same thing. As long as people did not become physical, the police would not intervene. And here I must say, I became very proud of the pro-life marchers and the organizers. There was not shouting back. Rather, in keeping with St. Matthew 5:38-42, we literally turned other cheek and started marching in the other direction along a slightly different route.

Those who were anti-life tried to stop the March along the new route, but now the police were able to prevent them from getting in the way. They were restricted to standing at an intersection, again yelling obscenities. To my knowledge, what they received in response were not people screaming back at them, though there were some looks of anger. But there were also looks of pity for people so filled with hate that they cannot communicate civilly, and smiles, as people heeded Jesus’ admonition in St. Matthew 5:43-44, to love our enemies and pray for them. Perhaps by God’s grace, some year in the future, they might join some of the speakers after the March.

Every year there are challenges hearing everything that is said at the March, but what is said is worth hearing. As encouraging as the greetings from various dignitaries and MPs before the March can be, the speeches after the March are especially worthwhile. This year, as for the past few



years, the speakers were from Silent No More – women who had undergone abortions, men who had pushed their wives or girlfriends into aborting their child, and even people whose mothers tried to abort them, but survived. Hearing that people can change and have changed in their attitude towards life makes putting up with some abuse all worthwhile. And, by God's grace, maybe some of those who hurled abuse this year, will carry signs in support of life next year or in the years to come.

One of the greatest things the National March For Life does is show what a lie it is, when the anti-life (pro-choice) lobbyists portray all pro-life supporters as insane, abortion clinic bombing fanatics. Even if only those people working and living in downtown Ottawa, and MPs and their staff in the parliament buildings see us, the sea of people who come from across the country to give a peaceful witness to the sanctity of life from the womb to the tomb. Prayerfully consider if you might join us next year. The March is held on the Thursday closest to March 14 (the date the Supreme Court made abortion legal in Canada). The Campaign Life Coalition, which organizes the March has not made the date official yet.

Respectfully yours, Pastor Richard Juritsch

More comments on the March for Life, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018

Though I love the March for Life (this being my first one I have ever attended, but have read about with interest for years), AND I will probably go to it every year from now on...is only a very small news item to the news networks as they are all pro-death (choice) and avoid covering the largest annual march in Ottawa (and Canada wide for that matter in lots of provincial capitals) ... very, very biased news reporting on over 15,000 participants in Ottawa alone! A whole bus load of secondary school students from the local Catholic high school in Stratford went to the March for Life IN ADDITION TO the bus load of adults organized by the Right To Life (Catholic pro-life sister organization) who we Lutherans For Life members jumped on board with again this year. The Life Coalition umbrella group had organized buses from 22 Ontario cities so I see this as a growing movement each year. Many politicians spoke at the rally. Many organizations showed up, so it was a great booster for those thinking they were the only ones upset by the direction of our courts and legislature in regards to pro-life issues. Even the pro-death (choice) people were there, worried about protesting against us as we were so many... and they were so few...less than 100. I didn't understand why they had to wear face masks, plaster swastikas all over their bodies and clothing, curse and profane everything, scream and shout and throw things like they did during their mini march... I guess they really do show who their father is! Justin is just their pin up boy but is really their anti Christian leader ... isn't that the ANTI CHRIST?



Lutherans For Life's mandate is to educate the masses about Christ. His love for both the sinner and the victims wronged. His forgiveness to those caught in that web of lies regarding life issues. Caring for the hurting and leading everyone to the fountain of grace, that is Jesus Christ, so healing can begin which brings about joy and peace in their lives and salvation! BUT also to sound the warning to those involved in such heinous acts as euthanasia and abortion and murder (this third category being the taking of life without regard whether it be in acts of revolution, or unjust war or hatred to the point of senseless mass slayings for vengeance or even just for publicity)... that there is Only ONE GOD, and He is The WAY, The TRUTH, And The LIFE. and lastly that there is a just judgement coming for those who refuse to accept His Sovereignty!

I was very happy with the prolife rally... it was a celebration of LIFE... that which God gives and only He decides when it is finished....peaceful, respectful and to all observers with IMPACT.

I'd like to thank the members of St. Luke's LC Ottawa and Pastors Paul Pollex, Bryan King and Rick Juritsch for their hosting our bus load from Stratford for breakfast, giving us a place of assembly, a great memorial service and a bag lunch for our walk to Parliament Hill and to the many pastors of the LCC who attended as part of the March.

Because He Reigns!

Glenn Kahle

Lutherans for Life –Canada, Director

**WE REMEMBER:** Rev. Mayo Mellecke - whom the Lord has taken into eternal glory on Thursday, April 12, 2018. Pastor Mayo supported the sanctity of life with Lutherans for Life for many years.

The following prayer was written by, Gail Mitchell, VP Communication LWML-CANADA

Lord Jesus Christ, great Shepherd of Your flock,

It has pleased You to call Mayo Mellecke, a pastor to Your people, into Your glorious presence. We thank and praise You for all the blessings and mercy You bestowed on Your departed servant, especially the years You permitted him to be Your under shepherd, to preach Your saving Gospel, to administer Your Sacraments, to instruct the young and old, to comfort the sorrowing, to counsel the troubled, to visit the sick, and to bring back the erring. We praise You for having kept him faithful in the face of trials and difficulties, for having given success to Your Word which he proclaimed, for having built Your temple in the hearts of many through the years of his ministry, and for having given him a blessed death and reception into the kingdom of Your glory in heaven. Comfort the family and all who mourn his death with a holy and certain hope of the resurrection to everlasting life and a joyful reunion with those they love who have departed in the faith; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

A beautiful poem written by a nine year old Board Member's granddaughter

*"Because of God  
People were made  
Because of people  
families were made  
Because of families  
babies were born  
Because of babies  
Happiness was found  
All because of God"*

**AN IMPORTANT DATE....NOVEMBER 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018...  
PLEASE PLAN TO COME**

**LUTHERANS FOR LIFE – CANADA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2705 Islington Avenue  
Etobicoke ON**

Registration: 9:30 a.m.

Registration Fee: \$ 15.00 (Refreshments and lunch will be provided.)

Prior to the business meeting there will be a Presentation:

**The Good News FOR LIFE**

Pastor Richard Juritsch



**LFL-C WEBSITE.** 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 Facebook search bar or Google it.

**LUTHERANS FOR LIFE-CANADA, IS A MINISTRY AND A LISTED SERVICE ORGANIZATION OF LUTHERAN CHURCH CANADA.**

**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.**

**WE GIVE THANKS...**

**Donors, Membership to LFLC from January 1, 2018 to May 31, 2018**

Mrs. Esther Allison	Faith Lutheran Church, London, ON
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, London, ON	Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Catharines, ON
Historic St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Kitchener, ON	Rev. Mark & Helga Danielson
Frank & Joanne Foran	Mrs. Donna Gash
Paul Glinz	Bud & Ruth Haberman
Helen Hamp	Wayne & Kathy Hartwig
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Macklem & Doris Sherman	Doris Steidl
Rev. Roger Winger	Anna Wissing
Don Wolfe	Marcie Woolley
Mount Olive LWML-C, Regina, SK	Grace LWML-C, Grace Lutheran Church, St. Catharines, ON
Ladies Aid/LWML, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Pembroke, ON	

**Memorials to LFLC from January 1, 2018 to May 31, 2018**

Rev. Lee & Elizabeth Barnai	Lutheran Church-Canada, East District
Tony & Barbara Marchand	Judith Obelnycki
David & Esther Scchlicker	Rev. Roger Winger

Also: Thank you to John Krimm for the donation of the new LFL-C Banner seen pictured in the photos of the March for Life of May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

## Lutherans For Life - Canada



Yes, I would like to make a gift offering to Lutherans for Life - Canada to assist with the witness to the sanctity of all human life through education based on the Word of God.

MEMBERSHIP \$

DONATION \$

Name:  Address:

City:  Province:  Postal Code:

Telephone:  E-mail:  (Please complete)

Please make cheque Payable to Lutherans for Life - Canada, 75 Blackthorne Cres., London, ON N6J 4B3

Membership: \$15/Person per Year  \$30/Family per Year  \$50/Group per Year

### 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 Prolife materials;

Concordia Publishing House – [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org)