



Lutherans For Life Canada

THE LFL-C BOARD. Here to serve:

Pastoral Advisor-Rev. Keith Haberstock

President-Rev. Richard Juritsch

Treasurer-Alan Schmitt

Secretary-Vacant, Acting Secretary-Judy Obelnycki

LMC Coordinators-Linda Welke & Tracey Juritsch

Board Members at Large; Rev. David Mellecke, Linda Welke, Glenn Kahle, Tracey Juritsch, John Krim, Ian Stewart

Webmaster-John Krim

Newsletter Editor-Judy Obelnycki

From the President's Laptop

Fall, 2022

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1

Since our last newsletter, the big thing in pro-life news has been the overturning of Roe vs. Wade by the Supreme Court of the United States of America (SCOTUS). Later in this newsletter you will read more about this and its impact on Canada. Many have thrilled at this, considering it the fulfilment of decades of prayer and work. However, leaders in the pro-life movement have been quick to point out that this is not a call to rest. Indeed, now there is call for concerted effort in each of the fifty states of the USA, as, essentially, the decision of SCOTUS moved abortion from federal jurisdiction, with some rather narrow restrictions, back to the bailiwick of governors and state legislatures.

Some folks view what God guided Solomon to write in Ecclesiastes as a declaration that change must happen. Yet, if you read the above verse and those that follow in the context of all of Ecclesiastes, it rather teaches that change is a constant and, yet, we continually return to what has happened before. The great constant that does not change is our Lord, who is our hope and strength and joy in this life and – through our Saviour, Christ Jesus – for eternity. There have been and will continue to be changes in how the sanctity of life is denied in this sin-ridden world, regardless of whether the laws of the day are pro-abortion/euthanasia or pro-life. For Satan, the world and our own flesh continue to urge us to consider death as the best solution, rather than hope and forgiveness for Christ's sake by grace through faith in our crucified and risen Lord.

And so, the work of pro-life organizations such as Lutherans For Life-Canada continues. We adjust and adapt to carry on our work, but the essential work remains the same – teaching about the sanctity of life from the womb to the tomb. It does not change for it is grounded on God's Holy Word, i.e., the verbally inspired and inerrant Holy Bible, and the truth of what life is that He has woven through His natural revelation in Creation.

Thus, newsletters, a staple of our organization, continue, though some of you are reading this electronically, something we only began a couple of years ago. Through the guidance of one of the members of our Board of Directors, Ian Stewart, we are adding alongside our newsletter, website and Facebook page another avenue of informing and educating people, especially our fellow Lutherans about life issues, through an LFLC Substack. You'll hear more about this in the future.

What also remains the same, yet changes, is our Board of Directors. We need people in order to carry out our work. At our upcoming Annual General Meeting (AGM – see the announcement later in this newsletter), along with Deaconess Dr. Chrissie Gillet speaking about the work of Word of Hope, we will also have our elections for directors to serve on our Board. For those who are not familiar with how we are run, we are a federally incorporated entity requiring a Board of Directors. Currently, we have nine elected Board members and a pastor appointed by the Board to serve as their non-voting advisor. Each director serves a three-year term. The terms are staggered so that we, the Lord willing, always have six experienced members able to help three new members get used to serving on the Board and letting them know about our past so that we can build on it and not reinfect the wheel. Currently, I, Linda Welke and John Krim are coming to end of our terms. The Board, at its first meeting following the AGM, based on the gifts and abilities of the Board members appoints or reappoints its officers: President, Treasurer, Secretary and LMC Co-ordinator(s), as well as its Pastoral Advisor. Please prayerfully consider whom you might nominate to serve on our Board this coming year. Having been on the Board for fifteen years and serving six of those years as President, I have informed the Board that if nominated, I will not let my name stand for reelection for this coming term, but that I will gladly continue to help as I am able with LFLC and its various works of education.

God's blessings to you and I hope to see as many of you as possible in person or online at our AGM.

Yours in Christ, Rev. Richard Juritsch

The Overturning of *Roe v. Wade*: What Does It Mean for Canada?

by Rev. Richard Juritsch

On June 24, 2022, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) handed down the decision on *Dobbs v. Jackson*. After months of rumours, SCOTUS made it official that *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, with a majority of seven out of the ten justices concurring on this decision. What does all this mean for us in Canada, especially for us as Lutherans who hold to the sanctity of life in the womb as revealed and confessed in Holy Scripture? I pray that his article will provide some help in answering this question.

***Dobbs v. Jackson* – Some Background**

The official title of the case is *Dobbs, State Health Officer of the Mississippi Department of Health, et al. v. Jackson Women's Health Organization et al.* In essence, an abortion clinic (Jackson Women's Health Organization) took to court the state of Mississippi, insisting that a Mississippi law that limited abortion to the first fifteen weeks of pregnancy violated a woman's right to an abortion as established by SCOTUS in *Roe v. Wade* and confirmed later by SCOTUS in *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pa. v. Casey*.

At the heart of the appeal was the claim to a constitutional right to an abortion. To quote from the majority opinion of the court in the Syllabus released by SCOTUS: "Like the infamous decision in *Plessy v. Ferguson*, *Roe* was also egregiously wrong and on a collision course with the Constitution from the day it was decided." (597 U. S. ____ (2022), p. 5) In other words, the court found that the *Roe v. Wade* decision was as wrong as the 1896 court decision that declared racial segregation to be protected by the constitution of the United States. Even pro-abortion justices, such as the late Ruth Bader-Ginsberg, noted that *Roe v. Wade* was a bad legal decision, creating a constitutional right where there never was one.

The June 24th decision of SCOTUS did not make abortion illegal. It stated that constitution gave no such right and thus restricted how much say the US federal government has over abortion. The United States will now be a patchwork quilt of states that will protect the rights of the unborn to a greater or lesser degree and states that will focus on providing access to women for abortions to a greater or lesser degree. Hence, in the days following the release of the *Dobbs v. Jackson* decision, leaders of pro-life organizations across the United States rejoiced greatly in this decision, but with a word of caution. A number of states had over the years enacted laws that would come into effect as soon as *Roe v. Wade* was overturned. Some of these states had laws that would enable abortions to happen, while others had laws that would extend greater protection to the unborn. Abortion is not a settled issue in the United States, through a major milestone toward which the pro-life movement was striving has been reached.

Dobbs v. Jackson in Canada

The response in Canada on June 24 to this decision was quick. Many rejoiced, hoping something similar might happen in Canada. Others did not rejoice. Our Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, immediately lashed out against the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, promising that his government would continue to protect a woman's right to an abortion. Pundits on both sides of the border began to wonder if Canada would become a sanctuary for women seeking abortions.

Whether Canada will become such a sanctuary is questionable. With a large number of states being supportive of abortion, there is no need for an American woman to cross an international border to secure a procedure she can have by crossing a state line or two. And whether we will see any direct challenge to our lack of abortion laws is questionable at best. Although both Canada and the United States have widespread access to abortion as a result of court cases, these decisions were based on very different arguments and reasoning.

In Canada, a movement toward the decriminalizing of abortion was begun by then Minister of Justice, Pierre Elliot Trudeau, by a bill he introduced to parliament in 1967. Before it was passed, Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson stepped down and Trudeau succeeded him as Prime Minister. His bill was then reintroduced by the new Justice Minister, John Turner, and was passed. Although this bill, later to be known as s. 251, still left abortion as criminal in most cases, it did allow for therapeutic abortions to be performed at an accredited health facility, after the abortion had been approved by a committee of three doctors as being necessary for the health and life of the mother. However, the law did not define what it meant by the health and life of the mother, leaving it essentially up to every committee to set its own parameters under which it would operate. Ultimately, in *R. v. Morgentaler*, in 1988 the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in a five to two decision that the mechanism of the therapeutic committee contradicted Article 7 of the Chart of Rights dealing with freedom and security of person. The majority decision noted that there was no support in law for a right to an abortion. Indeed, Justice Wilson, the most pro-abortion justice, stated in her decision that, while in her opinion women should have an unfettered right to abortion in the first trimester, parliament should make laws to protect the foetus as it matured at some point in the second or third trimesters. The result of this decision was that all of s. 251, which had replaced the previous Criminal Code section on abortion was ruled null and void and Canada remains the only country in the world with not laws restricting abortion in any way.

Several other court cases regarding abortion were heard by the Supreme Court of Canada regarding abortion. One that garnered great attention was the case of *Tremblay v. Daigle* in 1989, in which a man sought to prevent his girlfriend from aborting their baby. Mr. Tremblay's attorneys argued for the rights of a foetus to life. However, in a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court could not find any legal precedent for a foetus' right to life in the Civil Code of Quebec, in the case law of Canada or in any legislation in Canada or Quebec. (It should be noted that Quebec law was integral to the case as this was a civil case that had been argued in Quebec.)

In no decisions of the Supreme Court was a decision made like that of *Roe v. Wade* creating a constitutional right to abortion, despite our Prime Minister's thoughts to the contrary. Hence, the possibility that *Dobbs v. Jackson* ruling in the US might have some application in Canada is dubious.

So What Do We Do?

First, we recognize that abortion has been around for thousands of years in different cultures. In Canada, abortion was not made formally illegal until two years after Confederation in 1869. In the original Hippocratic Oath, physicians formally refused to induce or secure an abortion for the very reason that abortions were being carried out in ancient Greece and in ancient Rome. Abortion exists because of sin. It will not end, until sin ends when our Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory. That does not mean that we throw up our hands in despair or frustration and turn our back on protecting the unborn babies.

What can we do? Where we can, we help and support pregnant women so that they do not resort to the death of their babies as a solution to their problems. Crisis pregnancy centres provide help for such mothers to carry their children to term and then either, give them to a caring couple for adoption, or help the mother to begin caring for the child. Supporting such centres with your donations and, when possible, time, is a wonderful way to love our neighbour (St. Matthew 24:34-36).

Consider Christmas that celebrates the culmination of the Annunciation. When the angel Gabriel visited the Virgin Mary and announced to her she would bear a son, the Holy Spirit overshadowed her and Christ was conceived in her womb and became that little two celled foetus. Shortly after this John would jump for joy in Elizabeth's womb at being in the presence of His Lord. Nine months later Jesus would be born in a stable in Bethlehem and worshipped by shepherds. God the Son in became human, became a person, the moment He entered Mary's womb enfleshed in those two cells. No laws passed by human legislatures or philosophies espoused by mere mortals can change the absolute truth established by God Himself when He became a man, that life is sacred from the moment of conception. Cling to that.

And pray for our governments and judges, as God tells us: "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Saviour, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." (1 Timothy 2:1-4) Pray not only for wisdom and guidance for our leaders, but above all, pray for their salvation and for the salvation of all who have in one way, shape or form, been touched by abortion. For Jesus does not want their death or damnation. He died so that they can receive forgiveness and mercy for their sin. As a Church, we are not called to establish a perfect or just society on earth by laws or regulation, but to bring the Gospel of salvation to people in their hurting in this sometimes beautiful and sometimes ugly world. And as God forgives them and teaches them, the Holy Spirit will work to change how they look at life.

And teaching them is most important of all. Human legislation, even that based on God's Law, can, at best, attempt to corral human beings into behaving more in keeping with God's will. But as God Himself reveals in Romans 7, even His Law cannot corral a human being, for our sinful nature's natural response to rules, laws and commandments is to rebel. So, with love, we share with others Holy Scripture's truth that life is sacred from the womb to the tomb. And yes, following the example of St. Paul, we will not hesitate to use examples from the unbelieving world as he did in Greece and Asia Minor to help people more clearly see the truth. However, this we do always with the ultimate goal of their eternal salvation.

Though tomes could be written regarding what has happened as a result of *Dobbs v. Jackson*, I pray these few words will be of help to you.

MAKE SURE YOU CAREFULLY CHECK YOUR DOCTOR'S CREDENTIALS!

To being, let me say that in writing the following, I'm not putting all Doctor's down but rather elevating the True Doctor for each of us to behold.

You and I (I assume) have all been to the Doctor! We go for numerous reasons. Arthritis and acne, broken bones and bunions, cuts and cancer check-ups...! The list could cover all our infirmities. However, in rushing to the appointment we all forget the sad truth that every single Doctor has a 1000% (.1000) patient average. Using baseball batting average stats, every single patient that a Doctor treats will die! Ouch! But it's the truth! But to be totally fair it is also true that every single person, who goes to a Mechanic to fix their car or to a Grocer to get their food or to a Pastor for advice or to be led in worship, will die! Truth is we all have that one death thing in common! However, there's hope! Great hope in the Doctor who alone heals every single person even though we'll all die! That Doctor, my Doctor and prayerfully yours, is Jesus of Nazareth.^{24b} ...And a great crowd followed him (Jesus) and thronged about him. ²⁵ And there was a woman who had had a discharge of blood for twelve years, ²⁶ and who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse. ²⁷ She had heard the reports about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment. ²⁸ For she said, "If I touch even his garments, I will be made well." ²⁹ And immediately the flow of blood dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. (Mark 5:24b-29)

Jesus does not promise that He'll cure every single person of every single ailment in this lifetime. However, through faith in His miraculous medical achievement upon the Cross of Calvary all persons can be healed forever by Him, even though they die!

There are so many in our confused and hurting world madly seeking hope in our culture of death, running to all types of Doctors to find relief. And some do find relief for a time. But relief without true hope and the only cure available will only compound ones problems in this life. So please do as the hurting lady in the Gospel of Mark did, and encourage those you know to also check Jesus out!

There are some Doctors, however, whom I encourage you never to visit! Doctorsho top the charts with the speed at which their patients get to their flat-line! Abortionists and Euthanasist get their patients to death so much quicker than any other doctors I know!

Truth is: #Abortion is not healthcare! It's just the opposite! Abortion is death not only for the child but abject pain and guilt for the mother, father, siblings, grandparents, cousins, uncles, aunts, and the world which will never ever get to see the gifts and talents that were stolen from it, etc.! Abortion is heartache, and hopelessness for all who yet walk along that path. However, there is One Doctor who is able to meet anyone in their guilt and despair to forgive and restore.

Truth is: #Euthanasia is not healthcare! It's just the opposite! Euthanasia is death not only for the elderly (and now already for those not even ill) and for those younger and younger, but abject pain and guilt for a whole assortment of family and friends! Euthanasia is heartache, and hopelessness for all left to walk along that path. However, there is One Doctor who is able to meet anyone in their shame and agony to forgive and restore.

Please come alongside persons in pain, yourself fully included, and call upon the Doctor (no need for a phone) who alone has every single human beings best interest in mind, along with the desire and ability to fully care for us all now and for eternity.

Call out to him at: (Jesus hear my prayer ...)
Rev. Keith Haberstock, Pastoral Advisor for Lutherans for Life Canada

2022 ANNUAL MEETING
Saturday, November 12, 2022
at Grace Lutheran Church, 213 Linwell Road, St. Catharines, Ontario

All times are for Eastern Standard Time.

- 10 am Registration & Snack for In-Person Attendees
10:30 am Opening Worship (in-person and on-line)
11:30 am Guest Speaker: Deaconess Chrissie Gillet (in-person and on-line)

Blessed by Life Issues: What was meant for evil, God meant it for good.

Chrissie shares her experiences and interactions with those who contacted the Word of Hope hotline including calls from Canada. Here her testimony and be encouraged by a renewed meaning in Joseph's statement to his brothers, "...you meant for evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today" (Genesis 50:20). After listening to these true stories, one will discover the ability to love their sinful neighbour, learn Gospel-motivated approaches to life issues, and be blessed by the journey of sharing in one's suffering.

- 2 pm Lunch (Provided for those attending in-person)
3 pm Business Meeting
This will include the Election of Three Directors and Discussion on the Future Focus of LFLC
Terms just ending: Rev. Richard Juritsch; Linda Welke; John Krim
Note: Rev. Juritsch will not allow his name to stand for nomination.
4:15 pm Adjournment & Closing Prayer with Installation of Newly Elected Directors

Pre-register for attending in-person or on-line by email at president@lutheransforlife-canada.ca or call Rev. Richard Juritsch at (905)359-4109 including your name, number coming, how best to contact you and, if attending in-person, any food allergies.

Cost: \$15 to cover the lunch for those in-person. No charge for those attending on-line.

Due to technical limitations, those attending on-line will only be able to communicate with us via email during the AGM.

All voting during the business meeting will be only by those present in-person.

To nominate an LFLC member to serve on the Board of Directors for the coming three years, after receiving their consent send their name, phone number, address, email, and congregation to our acting secretary, Judy Obelnycki by email to judithobelnycki@gmail.com or to LFLC by Canada Post to 1 Jefferson Drive, St. Catharines, ON L2N 3T8.



Lutheran Foundation Canada

REFLECTING GOD'S GRACE

Have you considered leaving a planned gift within your estate to support the work of Lutherans for Life - Canada? Are you passionate about the work they do? Have you considered how even a small percentage of your estate would allow this vital work to continue? Lutheran Foundation Canada, an organization of LCC, assists individuals who are considering a planned gift, but are unsure of how best to create the gift. Coupled with other gifts you might leave to your home congregation or others, these combined gifts can generate significant tax savings. Call Lutheran Foundation Canada to find out how, at 877-711-4438 or visit our web site at www.lutheranfoundation.ca. Plan. Make a difference, for your loved ones, and the ministries you value

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.

PLEASE NOTE: In an effort to curb some of the producing and mailing expenses of the LFL-C newsletters we are happy to offer it in both formats; online in an e-mail OR a mailed hard copy via Canada Post. Please indicate your preference by providing your email address to the treasurer when you make your next donation or remit your yearly membership. We appreciate your help in this matter. PLEASE ALSO FEEL FREE TO FORWARD AND SHARE WITH OTHERS ON YOUR CONTACT LIST.

If for some reason you prefer to not receive any newsletter, please advise Alan Schmitt, (see address below) or by emailing: Newsletter@lutheransforlife-canada.ca and your name will be removed. Thanks for your assistance.

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

LFL-C WEBSITE. Please check it out at: www.lutheransforlife-canada.ca

Donations and Membership Fees can be made by e-transfer can be made by visiting our website and following the instructions at:

<https://lutheransforlife-canada.ca/contact/>

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

PLEASE CONTINUE TO KEEP THIS MINISTRY OF EQUIPPING LUTHERANS TO BE GOSPEL-MOTIVATED VOICES FOR LIFE, IN YOUR PRAYERS.

WE GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND GIFTS.

MEMBERSHIPS, MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND/OR DONORS TO LFLC FROM JUNE 12, 2022 TO SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

Rev. Mark and Helga Danielson
Martha Darroch
Rev. Larry and Debbie Gajdos
Patricia and Wayne Geick
Helen Hamp
Wayne and Kathy Hartwig
Andrew Hayes
Helga and Adolph Judt
Glenn and Lesley Kahle

Joan Krey
Richard Lockstadt
Robert and Doris Osgood
Donna and Martin Prusha
Vernon Raaflaub
Roblin-Zorra LWML Society, Roblin MB
Eloise Schaan
Terry and Grace Shaw
Macklem & Doris Sherman

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:
Contact@Lutheransforlife-canada.ca

To order Pro-life materials;
Concordia Publishing House