

## NEWSLETTER – WINTER EDITION 2022



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

*Winter, 2022*

*"You have heard that it was said, You shall love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect."*

*St. Matthew 5:43-48*

For two years now, we have heard ongoing debate in the world and within Christendom regarding many issues surrounding COVID 19. I must confess to sadness and embarrassment with regard to some of these discussions. Sadness comes when I hear Christians bad-mouthing other Christians and saying hateful and nasty things about the other. Embarrassment comes when I realize how often I find that in my own thoughts, and, even more shamefully, coming out of my mouth.

Jesus says that we are to love our enemies and pray for them. How much more so should we then do so for our fellow Lutherans and indeed all Christians, when we disagree with them. We don't need to agree with their opinion. And in love we can voice our thoughts and convictions. However, Jesus does not give us the right to hate others for not listening to us and not agreeing with us on everything.

This goes also for our sharing about life concerns with others, whether Christians or not. That is not easy for our convictions regarding life run deep. It can be difficult, for example, to discuss abortion with someone who believes that abortion is regrettable, but necessary tool for woman in economical dire straits, or whatever other reason given for being in favour of killing the unborn. All too often such people insist on dodging the issue of who is that person in the womb and the

protection they should be given. Though losing our temper and putting a large dose of barbed language in our retorts may make the sinner in us feel better in the short run, have we accomplished what we hoped for? Jesus also said in the Sermon on the Mount, "turn the other cheek." (St. Matthew 5:39)

Jesus, as He hung on the cross, endured the sharp barbs of the leaders of the Jews who had convicted Him to death, as well as those of other bystanders. Yet, He prayed that His heavenly Father would forgive them. Thankfully, the forgiveness He won on the cross was not just for those who hurled barbs at Him in hate, but also for those who bear His name, when they hurl nasty invectives, or just think hateful thoughts, against those who don't listen to them.

I pray that you will find in this issue of our newsletter more helps in sharing in love what Scripture teaches on the sanctity of life from the womb to the tomb.

Yours in Christ, Rev. Richard Juritsch

### LOVE IS IN THE AIR

Some of us when we read the title above can immediately begin humming or even singing the opening lyrics to the song! Ok, not all of us! But that 1978 pop song (or at least the theme it speaks of) by Scottish born Australian singer John Paul Young, is one which many around the world are thinking of today.

On this the 14<sup>th</sup> Day of February (or now a bit after in this newsletter) many have love on their brains! Love in the form of chocolates, cards, letters, foods, movies, etc. and a whole truck load of other items that one might share with a person they have feelings for. I myself awoke this morning to 2 books, a shirt and some sweets next to my breakfast bowl. My wife is TRULY the gift giver of the three of us. Thank you dear! Love you!

True to form we humans take so many different ideas or thoughts and turn them into something we can purchase or make and in such we think that this giving of a thing makes the day more special. And, in a way, that thing purchased and given or hand crafted and delivered does put a tangible item into the others hands (or mouth) that engages more senses and thus seems to heighten the love being given and received.

Back in the day, actually quite a few days back in the day, in the year of our Lord 270 AD, it is recorded that a brother of ours, by the name of Valentine, a Doctor who also became a Priest in Jesus, yet illegal, Church found himself in prison for his faith in Jesus, his crucified and risen Saviour. During his incarceration he was blessed to come to know the young daughter of the jailer, who upon hearing of his impending martyrdom became distraught. How could he care for this youngster and bless her as he prepared to give his life for the One who had in full done so for him?

It is said that on a coloured piece of parchment paper, possibly in the form of a heart, he wrote a message sharing the love of Jesus' heart for this young girl. How Jesus had given His heart for all humanity that we might TRULY know love! How did the Apostle John pen this? He wrote: "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friend."  
(John 15:13 ESV)

Valentine was about to enter the arena and lay down his life, because of this love, this love sacrificed for him. He did not count his own life as more important than the saving faith he had received as a gift from God. All Valentine would have had to do was offer a sacrifice to Caesar, a pinch of salt thrown over his shoulder in a gesture of worship and he could have saved his skin! He could have gone on living!

But at what price?! At the price of betraying the One who willingly gave His life for him! Valentine chose to die rather than forfeit his soul and his true and unending Life in Jesus. In such he made the greatest testimony to a young girl, and many others, of the Greater Love that is for every human being in their Saviour Jesus.

What an incredible blessing our brother gave that young girl, the truth about the greatest love there is! The love of God for each of us!

And what a blessing you and I are able to give each young girl or boy in the womb when we speak up for their right to Life! Their right to come forth from the womb, yes into this crazy and messed up world we have crafted, to prayerfully receive the gift of faith in Jesus, freely given in Holy Baptism! To stand up for their right to Life not just with words but also with our actions assisting at local pregnancy care centers so that young moms and those not so young can be blessed to have resources to assist them in their greatest possible challenge and physical need. To go looking for ways that individually and as Congregations we can be used of God to help and promote LIFE!

And what a blessing we are able to give each older girl and guy in a care home or hospital when we speak up for their right to Life! Their right to continue living, yes in this crazy and messed up world we have crafted, to rejoice in the gift of life and faith in Jesus, if they already have such or prayerfully can have through you or me volunteering to feed or play games or take them for walks (or push wheel chairs) and as we talk, take the blessed opportunities the Lord will orchestrate to share His greater love, with this one, whom the world would rather discard.

I'm not sure where you're at! I know Who loves you with His Greater Love and where He's at! He's daily rejoicing in you as His kid and offering you His Word, and prayerfully weekly His Sacrament, so that you (and I) are strengthened for service to those who are at this moment are being threatened with death! Death in the womb or death in a care facility or death more and more of those somewhere in between the womb and the tomb! Jesus LOVES THEM ALL and has proven it with his Greater Love.

Truth is: our Saviour desires every single day to be Valentine's Day and He alone has paid the price to make it so! His desire is that His Love for all humanity, proven at the Cross, be shared daily. His coming to earth in the first place sanctifies all human life because he chose to be one of us. BUT His death to forgive us and His taking His life back up again undeniably proves His gift of forgiveness is legit! This is our motivation, dear Lutherans who are for Life here in Canada, to fight for Life, all human Life, so that prayerfully every single life might hear and be saved by Jesus Greater Love, using us!

Love is in the air! Jesus eternal love for all! Alleluia and Amen!

Rev. Keith Haberstock, Pastoral Advisor for Lutherans for Life Canada



# 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](http://www.lutheranfoundation.ca). Plan. Make a difference, for your loved ones, and the ministries you value.

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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.**

***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.***



For those who have had an abortion—there is a **Word of Hope** for broken hearts. Call 888.217.8679 or go to [www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org). **Word of Hope** is confidential and caring. **Word of Hope** is a ministry of Lutherans For Life.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### MARCH FOR LIFE CANADA

**WHEN: THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2022**

**WHERE: PARLIAMENT HILL, OTTAWA**

Unfortunately, as in past years, we are unable to gather at St. Luke's in Ottawa for opening Devotions, due to pandemic health guidelines as well as some unforeseen structural damage. Should other arrangements become available, changes will be posted on our Facebook page and our website.



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# Lutherans For Life Canada

## *Annual General Meeting*

Grace Lutheran Church,  
205 Linwell St., St. Catharines, ON  
**Saturday, November 12, 2022**

*Hopefully in person, online and via telephone  
Guest Speaker and Topic as well as special arrangements to be  
announced at a later date.*

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

## Gradually—then Suddenly

by Pastor Paul Clark, President of Lutherans For Life of Michigan

Ernest Hemingway, in his novel *The Sun Also Rises*, has this exchange between two characters, Bill Gorton and Mike Campbell:

“How did you go bankrupt?” Bill asked.

“Two ways,” Mike said. “Gradually and then suddenly.”

Many people wonder how our culture has sunk to such low levels as it has, with the attack on the sanctity of human life, the way many look at unborn babies as disposable, the acceptance by some of physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia, and of course, the ever-increasing attacks on traditional marriage and gender identity as male and female, as God created them.

How did this all happen? Of course, the answer is: *Gradually*, and then *suddenly*.

For years and years, those who oppose God and His Word have chipped away at such values as the right to life and traditional marriage and family structure. Then, in swift blows, things came tumbling down suddenly. And many are dazed and wonder how it could all happen so quickly.

But in the same way, we can rebuild a culture of life. We have been doing that—gradually—over many years, with our pro-life efforts at changing minds, combatting the lies, electing pro-life officials, and supporting women and their babies in their time of need.



Now, with the coming release of the Supreme Court *Dobbs* decision in June, we may have things going much more “suddenly.” If the court would overturn, or even weaken, *Roe v. Wade*, that would be wonderful news for our dear unborn children! But even then, there will continue to be a state-by-state battle for life. So, we must not weaken. We must not falter. The Lord of Life is with us in this battle!

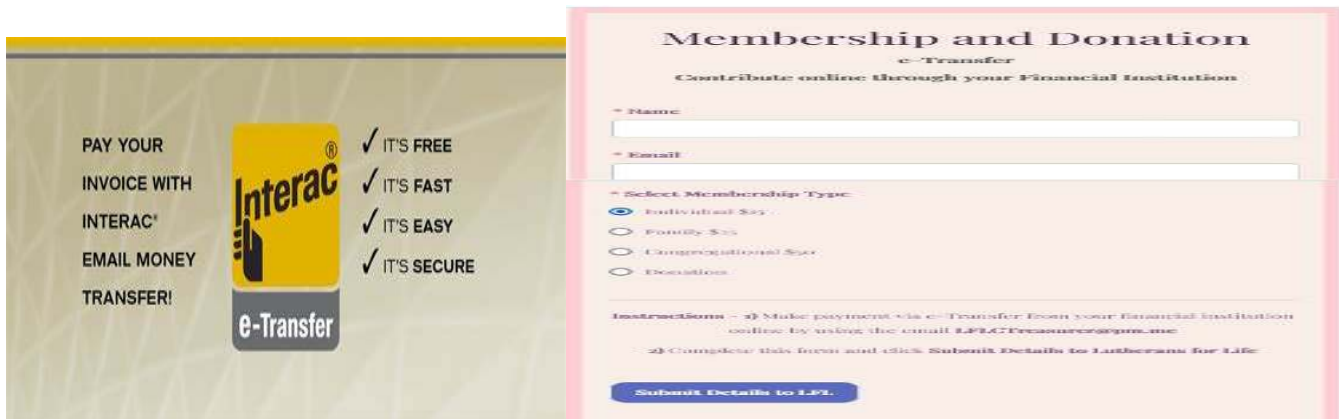
For all who have been damaged by the sin of abortion—and for all who have been complicit by not speaking up in defense of innocent babies—repent, and then hear the sweet and comforting words of Jesus:

**“Come to Me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.”** (Matthew 11:28)

God give us courage to engage in the battle For Life!

page 4 • Order LFL Resources at [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org) or 800.325.3040. S/H applies to all orders.

**New!!!!**



**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 September 10, 2021 to February 22, 2022**

Myron and Valerie Becker  
Rolf and Ilse Cantrup  
Martha Darroch  
Andrew and Rachel Dixon  
Walter and Ruth Haberman  
Helen Hamp  
Robert and Ruth Klages  
Rev. Ken Maher

Rev. Ron and Karen Mohr  
Robert Pritchard  
Donna and Martin Prusha  
Rev. Les and Maxine Prusha  
Stanley and Brenda Sadowski  
Rev. Kevin and Carol Walrath  
Rev. Orland and Linda Welke  
Patricia and Terry Wir



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