



# Lutherans For Life Canada

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## Sometimes Abortions Fail

by Pastor Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life

Sometimes abortions fail. Sometimes the babies make it to birth. Sometimes they even receive names.

Hospital staff delivered Melissa Ohden after five days of in-utero saline poisoning. Then they discarded her with biohazard waste in a utility closet and told her mother she'd died. Thanks to a nurse who heard her newborn cries and an adoptive family who opened their home, she recounts her ordeal worldwide.

Gianna Jessen endured the same abortion method in the very same year. Her birth certificate bears the abortionist's signature. She came away with cerebral palsy and needed foster care until age four. Claire Culwell made it through an abortion that worked. Her twin sibling did not. The thirteen-year-old mother had no idea she was carrying multiple pregnancies until the condition persisted. Sarah Elizabeth Brown's mother elected to undergo abortion in the ninth month of gestation. The abortionist's toxin injection missed Sarah's heart but found her brain. It didn't prevent birth but did blind her, cause a stroke at six months, and claim her life in kidney failure after five years.

Transgressions like these sent Philadelphia abortionist Dr. Kermit Gosnell to jail in 2013. The court convicted him of 21 illegal late-term abortions and three first-degree murders for severing the spinal cords of infants who survived his abortion procedures. And the proprietor of a Washington, D.C., facility more recently stated on video that he would provide no medical assistance to children whose abortions prove unsuccessful in his clinic.

Authorities have publicly recognized the reality for decades. (In 1981, Dr. Willard Cates, national director of abortion surveillance, affirmed approximately “400 to 500 abortion live births” every year.) But only ten states require clinics or physicians to report failed abortions. They all have different definitions for “survival.” One stipulates the fetus must have reached a certain gestational age. Others accept nothing less than a beating heart or voluntary movement as proof. Still, between 2016 and 2018, three states reported 40 babies born alive after abortion attempts. Michigan alone reported (another) 11 from 2008-2013, and Texas had six just in 2019. The U. S. Centers for Disease Control officially accounted 143 for the span of 2003-2014. The Canadian Institute of Health admitted 766 late-term live-birth abortions over a five-year period. And a law professor’s research into incomplete government statistics in Australia found more than 800 such cases in the last decade. Available data reveals an “abortion failure rate” of about 0.2%, and that means an estimate of over 1,900 of them in our country every year.

Several congressional representatives have introduced legislation to address it. (An earlier statute from 2002 [“The Born-Alive Infants Protection Act”] simply declares that all newborns, regardless of their parturition process, qualify as legal human beings and persons. It has produced no prosecutions.) The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act would mandate that babies born after termination attempts receive the same (basic!) medical care as any other child delivered at the same gestational age. And it would levy penalties against providers who refuse or neglect that support. But majorities in one chamber or the other have been declining it for several years in a row. One state’s governor—a pediatric neurologist—asserted that the decision whether or not to intervene on the baby’s behalf after an abortion that didn’t avert birth belongs to the woman and the doctor.

We need these tiny neighbors. Their lives come as gifts and privileges to enrich our world and our race: “When she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world” (John 16:21). They reflect how Almighty God creates, redeems, and calls each one of us special and precious: “On you was I cast from my birth, and from my mother’s womb you have been my God”(Psalm 22:10). They embody the gracious gentleness of our Lord and Savior coming among us: “God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law” (Galatians 4:4-5). They reveal the weakness of our sinful nature and teach us helpless dependence upon divine mercy: “Whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it” (Mark 10:15). And they call forth our courage and compassion for the vulnerable among us: “Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?” ... “The one who showed him mercy.” ... “You go and do likewise” (Luke 10:36-37).

Melissa Ohden’s [Abortion Survivors Network](#) has designated September as Babies Survive Abortions Awareness Month. Pray for the little victims. Share these details with

someone who doesn't know. Appeal to your elected representatives for local and federal policies that protect them. Implore your medical professionals to advocate and undertake life-saving action especially for these unpopular patients. And receive every individual as a heavenly blessing, no matter what their inconveniences or how they got here.



## 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.

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

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



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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 THIS NEWSLETTER 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 email [Newsletter@lutheransforlife-canada.ca](mailto: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](http://www.lutheransforlife-canada.ca)



Euthanasia Prevention Coalition

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# LUTHERANS FOR LIFE CANADA

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday, November 18, 2023  
At Peace Lutheran Church  
60 Young St., Tillsonburg, ON  
In person & Online

*(all times are Eastern Standard Time)*

10:00 am Registration & Snacks (In person only)

Registration Fee \$10.00 to cover lunch for in person only

10:30 am Opening Worship (In person and Online)

11:30 am Guest Speaker: Rev. Ken Maher

Presentation on:

Dignity & Compassion: Hospice Care vs Euthanasia

12:30 pm Lunch (Provided for those attending in person)

1:30 pm Business Meeting

This will include the Elections of Three Directors and Discussion on the Future Focus of LFLC.

Pre-register by November 8, 2023 to attend in person or online by email at:  
[President@lutheransforlife-canada.ca](mailto:President@lutheransforlife-canada.ca) or call Judy Obelnycki at (902) 876-1988.

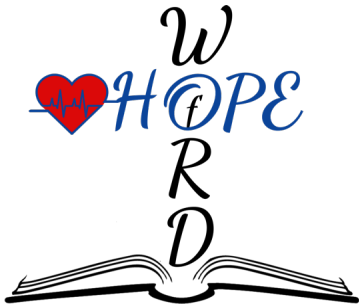
Please include your name, number of people attending, contact information, and if attending in person, and if there are any food allergies. Payment for in person attendees can be received on the day of the meeting.

Pre-registering by November 8, 2023, allows us to plan meals for in-person attendees. As well, instructions on how to connect via the internet or telephone will only be sent to those who pre-register by November 8, 2023.

*Nominations for 2023-2024 LFLC Directors may be sent to the President's email address. Please secure the consent of the nominee before you submit their name.*

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.

WE GIVE THANKS FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND GIFTS



Word of Hope exists to bring healing found in Christ...

**to those whose hearts have been broken by abortion.**

At Word of Hope, we know God is a God of mercy and compassion. We are ready to share that message with those who are suffering.

**"As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him." Psalm 103:13**

If you have questions about our programs, or would like to speak with someone, please contact us today by giving us a call or sending an email.

[888-217-8679](tel:888-217-8679)

[info@word-of-hope.org](mailto:info@word-of-hope.org)

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**WHAT: MARCH FOR LIFE,  
WHERE: Parliament Hill, Ottawa  
WHEN: May 9, 2024**

MEMBERSHIPS, MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND/OR DONORS TO LFLC FROM JUNE 24, 2023 TO OCTOBER 6, 2023

Heidi & Ralph Arndt  
Rev. Robert & Berte Bruer  
Martha Darroch  
Debbie Gajdos  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Ch, London, ON  
E. Ruth Haberman  
Helen Hamp

Gerald Klassen  
Cliff & Nicole Pyle  
Roblin-Zorra LWMLC Societies, Roblin,  
MB  
Macklem & Doris Sherman  
Udi & Jeff Scott  
Alan Schmitt

# Here We Stand For Life

“Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Scriptures or by clear reason ... I am bound by the Scriptures ... and my conscience is captive to the Word of God.

“I cannot and I will not retract anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience.

“I cannot do otherwise, here I stand, may God help me, Amen.”

*Martin Luther at the Diet of Worms, 1521*



**LUTHERANS**  
FOR LIFE

## 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.

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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](mailto:Contact@Lutheransforlife-canada.ca)

To order Pro-life materials;  
Concordia Publishing House