



Lutherans For Life Canada

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S COMPUTER

The following is the Reflections on the March For Life by Christian Sinner Saint, from the latest LFLC Substack.

WHY DO WE MARCH?

You may be aware that in Canada, the March for Life takes place on the second Thursday of May, in Ottawa and in some provincial capital cities. Lutherans for Life - Canada had a presence in the Ottawa, Edmonton, and Victoria Marches for Life.

When you look at the state of our country, it is normal to wonder if the March does any good, or if we are all wasting our time acting judgemental, as some would say, and preaching to deaf ears. Do we really think that our leaders have it in them to abolish abortion?

When we see how evil our society and our government is, it takes all the more faith to trust how good God is. God appoints all rulers, as St. Paul says, there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. For reasons known only to Him, God sometimes sees fit to appoint wicked rulers, and has ordained for Canada's unborn children to die under tyrants. Therefore, we need to pray for God to grant wisdom and repentance to our government, and for God to appoint just rulers: I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority. Furthermore, The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much. God hears our prayers, and we are not without Hope! If all you do at the March is pray, it will be time well spent.



“O Lord, how long shall I cry, and thou wilt not hear! Even cry out unto thee of violence, and thou wilt not save! Why dost thou shew me iniquity, and cause me to behold grievance?

Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?” Habakkuk 1

An evil as great as abortion, which kills somewhere around 100,000 Canadians every year, deserves some response from people of conscience. It is common sense that if you see an abuse taking place, you should speak up and say something—but the World would prefer if the Church kept to itself. If I saw a mother throw a baby in a dumpster but didn't say anything, what kind of person would that make me? Would I not become an accomplice of this great evil by inaction?

To our shame, when it comes to sanctity of life issues, such as abortion, euthanasia or sexuality, some people think it is virtuous to keep mum on the topic. The Bible says, Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. We are to confess and proclaim the Word of God, the Law as well as the Gospel, so that some will break their pride and recognize their need for a Saviour. And what a Saviour we have! We have the One and Only Saviour that rescues us from sin, death, and the devil, Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rescue those being led away to death;
hold back those staggering toward slaughter.
If you say, "But we knew nothing about this,"
does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Proverbs 24 NIV



As for us, Lutherans for Life-Canada had an “official” presence at the Marches in Ottawa, Edmonton, and Victoria. It was a blessing to take time off work, travel there with my friends, pray at Church and meet new people. In Ottawa, Lutherans took the bus from their distant Ontario towns to St. Luke Lutheran Church where they enjoyed breakfast and time in worship together with other life-minded Christians. The March to Parliament Hill was eleven blocks long. In BC, those from the Mainland got a ride on a sold-out BC Ferries sailing to Victoria. They attended a prayer service and lunch before joining the March from Centennial Square to the Legislature. Next year, we would be glad for you to join us at one of these Marches. Please reach out to us!

****Thank you to Glenn Kahle, John Krim and Ian Stewart for the roles they played in organizing and coordinating arrangements for our Lutheran brothers and sisters to be a part of the march speaking for those that cannot speak for themselves. To God be the glory!

FROM THE PASTORAL ADVISOR'S DESKTOP

Read: Psalm 1

Read: Colossians 2:6-15

6Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, 7rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

8See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits^a of the world, and not according to Christ. 9For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 10and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority. 11In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, 12having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead. 13And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15He disarmed the rulers and authorities^b and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him.^c

Devotion:

In the year of our Lord 325, the bishops of the Church were called together by then Roman Emperor Constantine in an effort to unify the Christian Church and bring an end to a schism which had developed around an erroneous thought about the divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ. There were some who mistakenly held that

there was a time when the Son of God was not, and that the Son of God was, at best, a lesser form of God neither co-eternal nor co-equal with the Father. This Christological ‘problem’ inevitably would trickle through and impact all theology, including the question of how we are saved. Not to forget about the societal dissension which had led Constantine to call the Church together in the first place.

And so, 318 bishops traveled to the city of Nicaea (now Iznik, just south of Istanbul in modern Turkey) to convene what would come to be known as the first ecumenical council. Through their discussions, guided by Holy Scripture and the Holy Spirit, these 318 fathers of the Church put forth the first ecumenical creed and confession of the church, it went like this:

We believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
begotten from the Father, only-begotten,
that is, from the substance of the Father,
God from God, light from light,
true God from true God, begotten not made,
of one substance with the Father,
through Whom all things came into being,
things in heaven and things on earth,
Who because of us men and because of our salvation came down,
and became incarnate and became man, and suffered,
and rose again on the third day, and ascended to the heavens,
and will come to judge the living and dead,
And in the Holy Spirit.
But as for those who say, There was when He was not,
and, Before being born He was not,
and that He came into existence out of nothing,
or who assert that the Son of God is of a different hypostasis or substance,
or created, or is subject to alteration or change
– these the Catholic and apostolic Church anathematizes.

Now, you might be thinking several things.

One, that sounds like the Nicene Creed we confess on Sunday, and yet it doesn’t. The second article is slightly different. It’s missing a whole lot of stuff about the Holy Spirit. And, there is that little bit about anathematizing – or rejecting and cursing the false teachings – that our fathers in the faith confidently did. Truthfully, the Creed we confess and know as the Nicene Creed, is a further development of the Creed from the Council of Constantinople in 381, and like this one it is a summary of what Holy Scripture teaches.

Two, why does this, today, feature as our devotion? This is the perhaps the easiest answer, since today, June 12th, is the day we in the Church are given to remember this event, and so I thought it would be fitting to explore it a bit. Besides, this is how we have received Christ Jesus the Lord... walking... rooted and built up in him, established in the Faith [Colossians 2:6-7].

And three, this is all fine and nice, but how does it connect to what we do, and who we are as Lutherans for Life – Canada? How does it help our witness to the sanctity of human life through education based on the Word of God?

Now I know that to this fine group, I’m the new kid on the block, so to speak. And so, I have a unique opportunity to parlar without a whole lot of knowledge about Lutherans for Life – Canada or the people who serve on its board.

Firstly, in preparing for today’s devotion, I contemplated the name Lutherans for Life – Canada. You and I and many sitting in the pews of our congregations are well aware of the culture of death which surrounds us here in Canada. While we may despair at what is going on, we ought not. The Church of Christ has always been surrounded by death; the Apostle John, echoing Jesus, tells us that we who are in Christ Jesus, have passed

out of death into life. And we know this, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. [1 John 3:14, John 5:24]. What we are given to do is to love one another, as Christ has loved us [John 13:34]. What we Christians are given to do as salt and light, is to simply stand firm and bear witness to the Light and Life which has come into the world [John 1], our Lord Jesus Christ. This is something we Lutherans are well positioned and given to do, as we aim to keep Christ and His Gospel at the centre of all that we say and do, for He is given for the Life of the world [John 6:51]. His is the balm which heals, and soothes broken and hurting souls. He is the God who creates. He is the God who kills and makes alive [Deuteronomy 32:39].

Secondly, because God became man in the person of Jesus Christ, every sanctity of life issue that we engage with in these grey and later days is an issue that touches on the humanity of our Lord; if it affects man, if potentially impacts our understanding of the God who became man. Every worldly philosophy and ideology which posits a different understanding of humanity, life and death, and natural reality other than that which is revealed in Holy Scripture, necessarily impacts our understanding of our Lord's own human nature, and as such impacts our salvation: for, for us men, and for our salvation He came down. If Death is not understood as an enemy, then there is no need for One who saves us from death, sin, and the devil.

There are many philosophies and ideologies that have taken captive many in our day, and many in our churches have also fallen prey to them as we western Christians dozed, lulled asleep by wealth and prosperity. By returning to our Creed and Confession, we set all worldly philosophies in the Light and before the mirror of the Wisdom of God, the faith once for all delivered to the saints [Jude 3] ... and we take and make all things captive to Christ [Colossians 2:6-8].

Conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, our Lord hallows all humanity, human experience, and human development from conception through natural death and into eternity. Coming forth in the fullness of time... He is born under the Law, to redeem those under the Law [Galatians 4:4]. With His flesh and blood – identical to ours in everyway, yet without sin [Hebrews 4:15] – He is actively obedient where we are unable to be to the will of His Father, even unto death... death on the Cross [Philippians 2:8]. So that through faith in Him, we might become the righteousness of God [2 Corinthians 5:21]. Fourth-century church father Gregory of Nazianzus, a man born four years after the first Nicaean council, sums it up like this: that which He (that is Christ) has not assumed [taken up into His Divine Person] He has not healed. You can't change anthropology (how we understand mankind) without affecting Christology.

Thus, as faithful Lutheran Christians bearing witness to the Gospel and the Baptismal name we bear, we must necessarily engage these and all issues, taking them captive to Christ, with our own hearts and minds united and captive to the Word of God.

We must give a twofold response to these great facts. First, mindful of our own shortcomings and failures, our own complete reliance on the grace of God, we are ready to extend that same undeserved grace which we have received to those broken by sin and the law. And second, to those who would lead others astray, further into the culture of death, we must be ready in season and out to engage them with the Truth and Wisdom of God, confessing It and not our own wisdom and truths. We do this living cruciform lives. Living, speaking, and confessing Law and Gospel truths; and encouraging and educating others to do likewise.

For those who are ignorant and asleep, we pray that the Holy Spirit the Lord and giver of life... who calls and enlightens the whole Christian Church on earth, would use us as willing tools to His glorious end.

So that you are not left unaware, it may be that we must suffer for the name of Christ in these tasks, for we are not above our master [John 13:16].

Nevertheless, we can rejoice, even in suffering, for God has disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Christ Jesus our Lord [Colossians 2:15] and heavenly Brother. To Him alone be honour, glory, and dominion; now and forever. Amen.

-Pastor Dave Zakel, Pastoral Advisor



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.

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/>



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 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

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

It can be easy at times to see all that opposes God's gift of life. Let's try a small scavenger hunt to discover some places and ways we can encourage each other as we live out and support God's gift of life from conception to natural death. Enjoy!

LIFE AFFIRMING SCAVENGER HUNT

1. In addition to this Lutherans for Life-Canada Newsletter, can you find one item in your home showing that you affirm God's gift of life from conception to natural death? What is it?
2. In your community or summer travels see if you can spot any life supporting/affirming advertisements/materials, i.e., billboard, bumper sticker, pamphlet, etc. Note what it is.
3. What is the name of an organisation or agency in your community/county/province that supports individuals facing challenges to life? (For example, local pro-life group, crisis pregnancy centre, hospice, group home, etc.)
4. Can you find one thing (tract, artwork, poster, mug, Bible verse, Psalm/prayer in hymnal, etc) that you notice that affirms God's gift of life or offers support in the crises of life? What is it?
5. Find a Bible verse or passage that supports life. What is it? Mark/record the reference and/or write out the verse. If you have a Lutheran Study Bible, you may want to look up and read the article "Life's God-Given Value" by Psalm 139.
6. Is there anything else you have discovered while doing this scavenger hunt that you want to remember? Record it here.

MEMBERSHIPS, MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND/OR DONORS TO LFLC FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 23, 2023

Catherine Allen
Rev. Mark and Helga Danielson
Debbie and Rev. Larry Gajdos
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Sharon Thibaut
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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 to attend in person or online by email at: President@lutheransforlife-canada.ca or call Judy Obelnycki at (902) 876-1988. Please include your name, number coming, contact information and if attending in person, any food allergies.

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.

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 Prolife materials;
Concordia Publishing House

