



**Lutherans For
Life - Canada**



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From the President's Laptop

Fall, 2021

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” St. Matthew 5:17-20 (ESV)

At our most recent board meeting, it was brought to my attention that something I had written in my message this past spring was not completely clear.

“And herein lies the difference between Lutherans For Life Canada (and our sister organization in the USA, Lutherans For Life) and many other pro-life organizations.”

In hindsight, I wish I had written it as follows:

“And herein is how Lutherans For Life Canada (and our sister organization in the USA, Lutherans for Life) differ from many other pro-life organizations.”

My words, unlike the words at the beginning of the column recorded by God through the Evangelist Matthew, are not inspired and inerrant. All too often I err, as do you and as do many people with regard to life issues. And even worse, we sin. Pro-lifers sin when we refrain from speaking up for life. We sin when we speak hatefully of pro-choice people for whom Christ died on the cross. Mothers sin when they abort their babies. Children sin when they authorize the killing of their aged parents. Not one iota (the smallest letter in the Greek alphabet and similar to yodh, the small letter in the Hebrew alphabet) nor one dot (the smallest part of either an iota or yodh) has passed away from God's law on life. You shall not kill is still in effect, as all Christian pro-life organizations proclaim.

Thankfully, the fulfilment of that Law has taken place as Jesus promised. He has kept the Law, including God's laws on life, perfectly. Jesus has also paid for the sins of pro-lifers and pro-choicers, for moms (and dads) and children and all of us. What a blessed balm it is to the new creature in us when God reminds us of this, moving us to pray for those with whom we argue, praying not that they become perfect like us, because then they will likely become perfect devils doomed to hell. No rather, we pray that with us, they would kneel at the foot of the cross confessing our sin and receiving forgiveness from the nail-scarred hands of Jesus through Word and Sacraments.

As a pastor, as much as I am embarrassed when someone asks me a question about a sermon that makes it obvious that I was not as clear as I should have been, I still rejoice when my listeners follow in the footsteps of the Bereans listening to the Apostle Paul. "Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so." (Acts 17:11 ESV) It is at times a hard encouragement to be more diligent in what I say in the name of Jesus. However, it is also a wonderful encouragement to walk in the footsteps of St. Paul, who freely admitted: "And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. And I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God." (1 Corinthians 2:1-5)

May God continue to bless us with a faith that rests not on the wisdom of men but the power of God in Jesus Christ and Him crucified through whom we receive the righteousness greater than that of the scribes and Pharisees.

Yours in Christ, Rev. Richard Juritsch

FROM THE PASTORAL ADVISOR'S DESK

Remember Mercy!

¹⁷But you must remember, beloved, the predictions of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁸They said to you, "In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions." ¹⁹It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit. ²⁰But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life. ²²And have mercy on those who doubt; ²³save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.

[Jude 1:17-23]

It has been a singular honour to serve as the pastoral advisor to Lutherans for Life Canada over the past three years. You have all been in my prayers, and will remain so, even as I step down from my position to take on other duties. In many ways, the work you do is both the most important and the most difficult of any I have been involved in. Important, because without first having the protection of life there simply is no opportunity to share the Gospel. And difficult because ... well you all know well enough why it is often so difficult. In this culture of ours we are surrounded by scoffers intent only on their ungodly passions. Sin is justified in freedom and choice. Callous disregard for humanity is masqueraded as love and murder is called health care! So what are pro-life Christians to do?

Remember mercy!

First, we are to be merciful to those who doubt. Even our brothers and sisters in Christ, who are beset by false teachers, improper expectations, and the temptations of the world around us. We are called at all times to build each other up in the most holy faith. Pray for one another. Reason with one another. Forgive one another. Serve one another. For it is only by God's great mercy that any of us have the hope of life at all.

Second, we are called to "*snatch others from the fire and save them ...*" Too many people around us are in mortal danger. And not just those in the womb or the Long Term Care homes, who get the bulk of our attention as pro-lifers. Too many people still have never heard of the mercies of Christ, or don't yet believe in Him. Our call to serve them is most urgent. It is hard to interpret a phrase like "snatching from the fire" in a nonchalant, "whenever I can get around to it" kind of attitude. This is THE most important and urgent task we have been given – one to be done right now, before it is too late. And it is the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus alone that saves every single life from the fires to come.

The final group deserving our mercy is perhaps the most difficult. For this group also deserves our fear. These are the ones so stained by their beliefs and lifestyles that they are literally a danger to be around. They are the ungodly, unrepentant few, whose utter disregard for human life can lead to heartbreaking atrocities. They are the overly worldly, those who have so fallen victim to their sinful flesh even their clothing is stained. Stained in the blood of the innocent. But not even these souls can be left alone! We are to treat these ideological enemies with the very same mercy shown to us in Christ ... despite the dangers to ourselves. Any group that has lost its charitable tax status, or has been de-platformed, or maligned by the very people in power for defending the defenseless knows the dangers. These dangers will grow, not lessen, as you continue to hold out the forgiveness and redemption in Jesus available to all who repent of their wickedness. Remember mercy.

This all seems like a pretty daunting task, I will admit. Wouldn't it be easier just to keep ourselves safe and prepared, while we wait for our Lord's return? Pray from afar? Talk only to the like-minded? Is that the life God has called us to live? That kind of thinking is at best, insincere. The Gospel is so much more than that. It not only sets a hard task before us, it gives us the strength and courage to face up to it. The precious blood of Christ serves not to coat our lives with excuses, but to course through our veins, pumping life and energy into all that we do in His name and for single human life He loves so much.

Just look at the way that Jude speaks about Christ. *"To him who is able to keep you from falling, and present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy ..."* Christ is our strength in all that we do. He defends us, even as He calls us to defend the unborn and the aged and the infirm and the dying, the unwanted and persecuted. He was here, in the flesh, to take the burden of our sin. He came back in life, to give us eternal life. He is here with us in every deed of mercy, to bear us up and keep us from falling. The promise of Christ is not a promise of an easy way out. It is a promise of the strength needed to keep trying, no matter how hard we are battered for it in this life. And what's more, Christ himself is the one who will bring us before God, when our time of waiting is done.

In these last few days of our church year, and then on into the season of Advent which is quickly approaching, let us continue to prepare ourselves and to serve others. Let us remember mercy! Let us keep our hearts and minds directed toward Our Lord Jesus and that glorious day when all his promises will be fulfilled. None of our actions will help or hinder us in coming before God. Whether we served others well or not. Whether we are able to snatch anyone from the fire, or just get our hands burnt trying. Jesus will bring us and set us down before the Almighty. And as we stand there with Him because of His remarkable mercy, we will be blameless, free of guilt and shame, and full of all joy at all that Jesus has done for us. How could we not want this mercy to be there for as many other people as we can show Christ by our own mercy?

Gratefully yours,
Rev. Ken Maher

Some Lutheran Online Pro-Life Resources

Many of these web sites have information you can print.

Lutherans For Life–Canada: <https://lutheransforlife-canada.ca>

Word of Hope: <https://word-of-hope.org>

Downloadable PDF Word of Hope brochure at: <https://word-of-hope.org/resources> (page bottom)

Lutherans For Life (our sister organisation in USA): <https://lutheransforlife.org>

This site has many resources under its various tabs. Two with accessible and redistributable information are:

Conference tab: information on upcoming conference and recordings of previous conferences.

Resources tab: Various resources including:

- media resources
- weekly life thoughts that link to the church lectionary
- life quotes which can be added to church bulletins
- Life News which is a monthly bulletin insert page
- LifeDate; a quarterly timely journal of news and commentary on life issues.

To receive notifications of new information/journals/conferences and other Lutherans for Life updates register under the LFL e-mail sign up at the top of the Lutherans For Life page.

From LCMS Life ministry: <https://www.lcms.org/how-we-serve/mercy/life-ministry>

LCMS podcast on life issues: <https://www.kfuo.org/category/friends-for-life>

Materials you can share

Lutherans for Life-Canada LMC co-ordinators have a number of printed brochures and materials available that we can send to you.

Lutherans for Life-Canada can be reached at lutheransforlife.canada@gmail.com

Other possible places to order brochures/pamphlets, items to help educate and give away items:

Concordia Publishing House: <https://www.cph.org/c-1006-lutherans-for-life.aspx?REName=Shop+by+Category>

Non-Lutheran sources for materials to share/give away:

(We encourage you ask for your pastor's opinion on materials from these places before sharing them)

Heritage House '76 (In USA-Roman Catholic): <https://www.hh76.org>

Life Cycle Books (In Canada): <https://www.lifecyclebooks.com/canada>

Coming in 2022

Life Sunday scheduled for 2022: January 16, 2022



Lutherans For Life Canada

Annual General Meeting

Saturday, November 6, 2021

online and via telephone

TO BE ANNOUNCED

10:30 am to noon

1 to 2:30 pm

Presentation with Question Period

Worship Service

Business Meeting with Elections

Please pre-register with Mrs. Judith Obelnycki, LFLC Secretary

judithobelnycki@gmail.com

or call Rev. Richard Juritsch, LFLC President, (905)359-4109.

Instructions on how to connect via the internet or telephone will only be sent to those who pre-register by November 4, 2021.

NOMINATIONS FOR DIRECTORS MAY BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY'S EMAIL ADDRESS.

PLEASE SECURE THE CONSENT OF THE NOMINEE BEFORE YOU SUBMIT THEIR NAME.



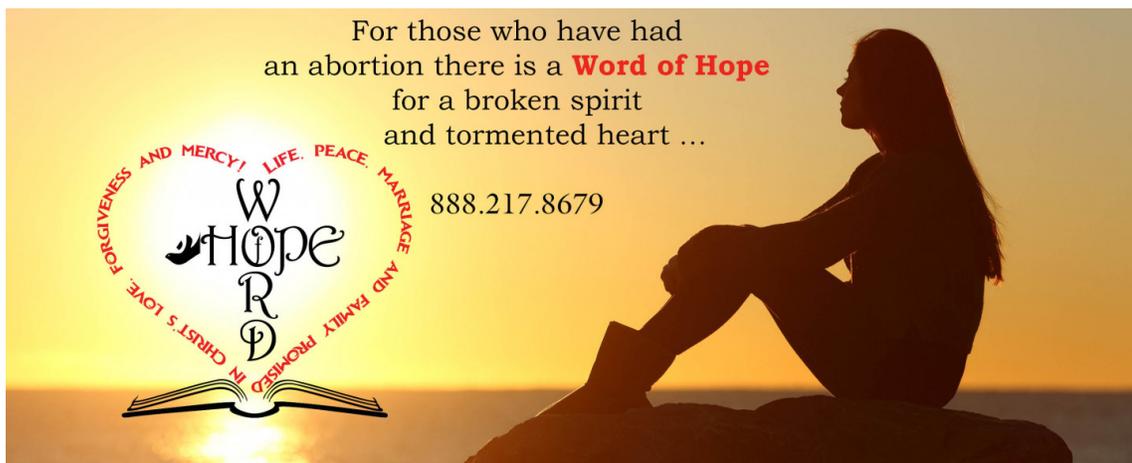
Lutheran Foundation Canada

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 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.

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.



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.

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 APRIL 13, 2021 TO SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

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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

To order Pro-life materials;

Concordia Publishing House - www.cph.org