

The Future is Calling!

by Philip Meinel, WELS Lutherans for Life Board Member, Evening for Life speech 2014

Good evening,

The future is calling! That's what I'm here to talk about. But I can't very well talk about the future without life. And I can't really talk about life without talking about spiritual life, about God, about grace. "While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Wow! God loves sinners. But He hates the sin that clouds our relationship with him. So he sent his Son to shine through the cloud of our sin and restore us to himself through faith by the Holy Spirit.

God is light; He is love; He is **life**. This is our cause: — to protect physical life, so that it may be complete with spiritual life in God's grace. — In my mind, there is no more critical ministry than to help extend a child's life, so that they may become God's child.

Tonight we are here, united in *this* cause. WLFL is not just Peter. WLFL is not just Pat, Rachel, or Beth. Not just the countless volunteers. WLFL is you and me. Whatever part you play, whether giving hard-earned money or sharing your priceless time or offering your daily prayers. You are WLFL!

We are also God's people. We are Jesus' disciples. And we hear his reprimand, sharp and clear, "Let the little children come to me, and **do not hinder them**, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Our society hinders children from coming to Jesus. And abortion is more than a hindrance; it ends their precious time of grace. This year WLFL has taken huge steps to remove *this* hindrance, *this* obstacle from children in the Milwaukee area.

Peter and Rachel have talked about some of the calls they receive. WLFL has answered each of these calls with special programs and improved client services...but always with love, compassion, and truth.

Now, **the future is calling**, and with the help of God through you, WLFL will boldly answer this call.

We now occupy the entire building, doubling the size of our facility! With this **much** needed space, we have made the front half of the building more client-friendly. We were also able to add another counseling room for clients.

In order to meet the needs of a tech-savvy society, we are implementing a Client Texting Helpline. The policies, procedures, and training are currently being developed for this service, and we hope to dramatically expand our client base through a texting campaign. We will be able to reach more clients by providing a comfortable level of communication that is less intimidating than a direct phone call.

We are also planning to launch a blog in the near future for clients and a separate one for WLFL partners – for all of you.

A major consideration for the expansion is to meet the call for ultrasound services. The state of Wisconsin currently requires an ultrasound before a woman can make the choice to abort her baby. Our new space provides the opportunity for on-site ultrasound services. And we are looking to partner with

a pro-life ultrasound provider to expedite the start-up of these services. We are very excited about what the future holds.

So where do we go from here? The Future is calling!

The Wall, written by Kirk Walden, offers great hope for the pro-life movement through crisis pregnancy centers just like WLFL. He compares the combined efforts of crisis pregnancy centers across America to the building of the wall in Jerusalem under the leadership of Nehemiah. Our annual verse from Nehemiah 8:10 says, "...for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

We are making a significant difference. We have this wall at half its height, and there are strategic plans that we need to implement in order to complete this wall. The wall — which protects not only children, but the entire family unit. And will ultimately, benefit our entire society.

WLFL is doing much to advance the culture of LIFE, but there is more we can do as our plan describes and as the funding is made available. "With God all things are possible" and we are God's people. The Holy Spirit moves us to give, to serve, and to love. **We** are God's people. *We* will protect life. The future is calling... and *we* will answer the call.