



# A Sacred Trust

*God's Gift Of Life*

The Newsletter of WELS Lutherans For Life, Metro-Milwaukee Chapter

## From the Executive Director

### TREASURING HUMAN LIFE ONE HEART AT A TIME!

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11. This verse fits us as individuals involved with this ministry, as an organization, as well as for our clients. As the Lord leads our clients to us and guides us to help them he knows what is in each of our hearts and what each of us needs. He knows if a client will choose life for her unborn baby or not. He provides our volunteer staff with the words to speak to the clients with firm love, patience, and forgiveness. He helps us plant the seed and we trust him when he tells us that his Word will not return to him empty.*

*Our mission and focus is to share the love of Jesus, it is not political. Yet, with a very crucial election just a few months away I feel compelled to encourage you.*

*Have you thought abortion isn't as big a concern as it once was? Or have you struggled with how to talk to a friend or coworker about this topic? In this and the next several issues we will reprint excerpts from the booklet “The Top Ten Myths About Abortion”. I encourage you to use the resources listed at the end of this article to inform yourself so you can be a part of a Christ/life centered decision in the upcoming elections.*



by Peter Georgson

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## The Top Ten Myths about Abortion

In order to discuss abortion intelligently, it is a prerequisite that the facts about it be known. Yet, the one thing that can be said with certainty is this: the American people do not understand the facts surrounding abortion. Instead, their views are clouded by various “myths.” In this pamphlet, we separate myth from reality. From whether abortion is protected under the Constitution to whether one can truly be “personally opposed, but pro-choice,” from whether abortion benefits women to whether it benefits society, from the frequency of and reasons for abortion to whether the American people support abortion “rights” as currently existing, from the question of an abortion/contraception “link” to the facts of human development, we look at the important issues surrounding abortion.

We hope readers will use this pamphlet to educate themselves and others so they can confidently enter into the public policy debate and shape a just resolution of this important issue.

**Myth No. 1:** *Abortion is legal only during the first 3 months of pregnancy.*

**Fact:** *Abortion is legal during all 9 months of pregnancy.*

The Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade* declared abortion a constitutional right.

The Court divided pregnancy into three trimesters but ultimately ruled that women have a

right to abortion any time an abortion doctor deems the abortion necessary for her “health.” The Supreme Court defined “health” as “all factors—physical, emotional, psychological, familial, and the woman’s age—relevant to the well-being of the patient.”

This “health” exception gives abortion doctors the power to nullify any abortion restriction on the grounds that there are “emotional” reasons for the abortion.

*(continued on page 3)*

WELS Lutherans for Life, Metro-Milwaukee’s mission statement:

*“To share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through compassionate care, information, education, and support services while empowering women and men to make informed decisions about lifestyle and pregnancy issues.”*

### Contact Us:

WELS Lutherans for Life, Metro-Milw  
8501 West Lincoln Avenue  
West Allis WI 53227

Office: 414-727-8176

Fax: 414-727-8178

E-mail: [Office@welslflmilw.com](mailto:Office@welslflmilw.com)

Website: [www.welslflmilw.com](http://www.welslflmilw.com)

### Board of Directors:

Pastor Benjamin Wessel - President

Harold Theesfeld - Treasurer

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Pastor Mike Bartsch

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Jean MacKain - Reception Coordinator

Gloria Marcouiller - Loving Moms Coordinator

### Staff:

Peter Georgson - Executive Director

Sandy Baker - Administrative Assistant

### Center Locations:

Associated Pregnancy Services

- 8501 W. Lincoln Ave. -

Risen Savior Lutheran Church

- 96th and Brown Deer -

St. Peter Lutheran Church

- 8th and Scott -

The Point of Grace - Campus Ministry

- 2223 E. Kenwood Blvd. -

### Client Helpline and Website:

414-727-8177

[www.pregnancy-counseling.com](http://www.pregnancy-counseling.com)

Thanks!

If you appreciate the work we do and enjoy this newsletter, please use the enclosed envelope to send a donation. Because of your generosity all of our services are offered at no charge to clients!

## Banquet & Soul Ride Success!

The **fundraising banquet** on May 8, 2008 at the Grace Center was a huge success. 149 people were treated to an inspiring message of grace, persistence, and love from Gianna Jessen who survived when her mother tried to have her aborted. She spoke about her "gift" of cerebral palsy and how her life has been blessed by Jesus Christ and how her strength is only found in him.

Thanks to everyone who came out for the event and to support WELS Lutherans for Life, Metro-Milwaukee. The evening, which included a small silent auction of gift baskets prepared and donated by the Mount Lebanon Ladies Guild, was enjoyed by all. The funds raised through immediate gifts, pledges received in 90 days, and monthly pledges for one year amount to \$\_\_\_\_\_! For the first fundraising banquet we are very grateful to the guests for helping to make it successful and to the Lord for blessing our efforts in raising these much needed funds!

We are already planning the fundraising banquet for next year. If you have any suggestions or would like to help with the event, please contact Sandy at 414-727-8176.

The **Soul Ride** charity motorcycle ride was also a great time. When planning the event we didn't know what to anticipate. As we talked about the event people were excited and encouraging. The committee agreed that if we had 25 riders for the first year it would be a success.

The day arrived and we started with 24 bikes and 33 riders! The Lord granted a perfect day for a ride through the beautiful Kettle Moraine countryside. Sam's Club provided everyone with a post-ride picnic lunch in their parking lot as we listened to a band play. We shared information about our pregnancy services with everyone.

Several of the riders gathered sponsorships to help raise extra funds. All together we anticipate raising \$1,700! Thanks to all the participants and those who sponsored them!

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

**Q-** Does Thrivent support WELS Lutherans for Life, Metro-Milwaukee with Giving Plus matching funds?

**A-** No. We had been eligible for a short time several years ago until Thrivent notified us that we were no longer eligible because we are a "controversial" organization. When told that we are a WELS based, non-political, pro-life ministry to share the Word of God, Thrivent responded that not all Lutherans agree on life issues.

We frequently receive Thrivent Giving Plus matching forms with donations. Upon receiving these forms we inform the donors that we aren't eligible for the Giving Plus Program. We let them know they should submit their request for matching dollars to another organization.

We occasionally must return some donations because the donor prefers that it get matched. So we lose some financial support. We also don't receive the matching funds from those donations.

But the bigger, underlying problem is that when donors seek where they wish to donate, matching funds can motivate and sometimes - occasionally - be the deciding factor for where the donation goes. This means that when people look at organizations to support, we may not be at the top of their list, because Thrivent doesn't match us. It is therefore reasonable to say that our donations are less than if Thrivent supported us through Giving Plus.

If you are a Thrivent member, thanks for thinking of WELS Lutherans for Life, Metro-Milwaukee and for supporting this vital ministry. You may want to let the Thrivent home office know your feelings about this situation. If you would like to know more feel free to call Peter Georgson at 414-727-8176.

You may want to find other ways of multiplying your contribution by asking your employer about matching funds.

## Life Tribute Gifts

Tell someone how special they are and how their life has touched yours through a gift to WELS Lutherans for Life. Send a gift in memory of someone who has entered eternal life or honor someone for a milestone during life's journey (birthday, baptism, adoption, anniversary, confirmation, graduation, etc.). Each gift is acknowledged.

### Received in honor of:

Lowell & Ann Wener's wedding  
Keegan Retherford's birth  
Thomas Buresh's 80th birthday  
Diane Kratz and Dana Leyrer teachers at  
St. John, Wauwatosa  
Frank & Carol Broder's 80th anniversary  
Ethel Jogwer's 97th birthday  
Marie Lee's 90th birthday  
Edward Huth for raising six children  
Lincoln Paul Schuessler's birth  
George Baab

### Received in memory of:

Delores Miller  
Scott Yunk  
Rhonda Kleist  
Lois Wells  
Grandma Marguerite Peterson  
Madelyn Huth  
Evelyn Schneider  
Eugene Elbert  
Roy Sherwood  
Albert Trapp  
Rachel Engelbrecht  
Keith Engelbrecht  
Emily Miller  
David Chopp  
Midred Schultz

## "Friends of Life" Program

We have adopted an electronic monthly stewardship plan called "Friends of Life" to help strengthen the funding for our centers. When you participate in "Friends of Life", you are providing a faithful and reliable monthly pledge that allows us to better plan and grow this ministry. Checks are cheaper to process, so they are preferred, but credit cards are acceptable as well. You can mail, fax, or call in your information and we will set you up as a "Friend of Life". You may also sign up on our website [www.welslflmilw.com](http://www.welslflmilw.com).

## The Top Ten Myths about Abortion *(continued)*

**Myth No. 2:** *Abortion is legal because the Constitution says so.*

**Fact:** *Legal abortion is the fruit of judicial activism. It has been imposed upon the country by judges.*

The word "abortion" does not appear in the Constitution. Nevertheless, in *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court ruled that a right to abortion was part of an implied right to personal privacy emanating from various constitutional Amendments—in other words, that a right to abortion is an "implied" part of the Constitution.

It is the chief modern example of judicial activism—judges imposing their own policy preferences rather than interpreting the law as written. When judges act in this manner, they usurp the role of the legislators, whom the citizens elect to represent them in deciding disputed, difficult policy issues. Thus, judicial activism undermines the very basis of our representative democracy.

This ruling has been sharply criticized by legal scholars, federal judges, and seven other Supreme Court justices. Justice Byron White, for example, said the Court engaged, "not in constitutional interpretation, but in the unrestrained imposition of its own, extraconstitutional value preferences." Justice Antonin Scalia said, "the Court should return this matter to the people—where the Constitution, by its silence on the subject, left it—and let them decide."

Even Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, an outspoken proponent of legal abortion, called *Roe v. Wade* a "heavy handed judicial intervention" that was "difficult to justify," and said it was "not the way courts generally work."

*Printed with permission: "The Top Ten Myths About Abortion" published in 2007 and written by William L. Saunders, Jr., Cathy Cleaver Ruse & Lucia Papayova. The Family Research Council, located at 801 G Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001. You can order this booklet or find more information at [www.frc.org](http://www.frc.org), or by calling 800-225-4008.*

## Forgotten Quote

"Abortion on demand would be a great calamity for womanhood... I've had so many women coming to my surgery and pleading with me to end their pregnancies and being very upset when I have refused. But I have never known a woman who, when the baby was born, was not overjoyed that I had not killed it." Aleck Bourne, M.D. – *London Express* 1/25/67

## United Way

The United Way campaign will be underway in the next few months. Many of you, our Christian supporters, will be encouraged to contribute to the United Way and may wonder "*Should my money be going to the United Way?*" Here are some points to consider:

- The United Way serves your community by distributing monies it receives, from people like you, on a percentage basis to predetermined designated charitable groups and organizations.
- Unless you specifically designate to whom you wish your gift to go, that money could very well be given to Planned Parenthood, Gay Activists, or other organizations that oppose Christian morals and teachings.
- WELS Lutherans for Life, Metro-Milwaukee is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization which IS qualified to receive funds through the United Way as long as YOU designate on a Donor Choice form that this is the agency you choose to receive your gift, AND your local chapter of United Way chooses to include us as an organization they wish to fund.
- You can be assured that a gift designated through the Donor Choice program will be received by WELS Lutherans for Life, Metro-Milwaukee. (The United Way keeps 5-7% of your gift and the balance is sent directly to the agency that you designate.)
- Simply ask your employer for a Donor Choice Form or contact your local United Way campaign committee.
- Just write "WELS Lutherans for Life, Metro-Milwaukee" in as your charity of choice.
- Please support WELS Lutherans for Life, Metro-Milwaukee through the United Way "Donor Choice" program if you choose to give through United Way.

For more information call Peter Georgson at 414-727-8176.

Return Service Requested




### Mailing List Update Requested

Occasionally we receive removal requests from our mailing list because someone is deceased. We carefully watch the obituaries and keep our ears open, but don't always know when someone on our mailing list dies or moves. Contact us if you move or if someone you know dies. This helps us control our costs while respecting those who care about this ministry of Life. ~ Thanks for your help!

### Wish List

*Before we purchase anything we let you know. We find that God often provides through people like you. Below is a list of things we need. Can you, or do you know a business who can, fill one of our needs? Or you may make a donation toward a specific item. If not, pray that God will connect us to someone who can fill these needs.*

- 1 - flat panel computer monitor
- New laptop computer
- Items for Baby Boutique and layettes
- You to introduce WELS Lutherans for Life to friends through a "dessert" in your home

 Detach and save

WELS Lutherans for Life,  
Metro-Milwaukee

## 25 Years - A Legacy of Life

### 2008 Activities Calendar

We're planning these special events to celebrate 25 years of God's guidance and blessing in this vital, rewarding work and ministry of sharing his Word, saving babies from abortion, and making a difference in lives.

- **August 17 -- "LOT" Music 1-5pm**  
*new event -- fundraiser*  
Band concert by Soli Deo Gloria  
St. John parking lot in Wauwatosa  
Soli Deo Gloria, brass chamber  
trio, Town Square Band, & PFJ Polka  
food and beverages for purchase  
a whole lot of fun!  
free will donations support WLFL
- **September 27 -- Life-A-Thon**  
Walk/run at McCarty Park in West Allis  
I.E.Franks Chicago style hot dogs  
Open house at 8501 W. Lincoln Ave. and  
see first hand where we carry out this vital  
ministry.  
*(For more details see inside.)*  
We invite you to join us for these events.  
*For complete information call, 414-727-8176  
or watch for more info at [www.welsfmlw.com](http://www.welsfmlw.com)*