



# A Sacred Trust

*God's Gift Of Life*

WELS Lutherans for Life, Metro-Milwaukee Newsletter

## A Very Sad Anniversary

Anniversaries and birthdays are generally happy dates. Sadly, this past January 22, we again commemorated legalized abortion in America. It is not a happy date.



by Peter Georgson

On that date in 1973, the Supreme Court of the United States handed down decisions that would change the world forever, as they ruled that a woman's right to privacy is more valuable than the life of a pre-born baby.

Even though it is difficult to hear and read, it is important for us to know some of what 36 years of legalized abortion have brought us.

- At current rates, an estimated 43% of American women will have at least one abortion by the age of 45.
- 52% of U.S. women having abortions are younger than 25 years old.
- About 13,000 abortions each year are attributed to rape and incest—representing 1% of all abortions.
- 64% of women having abortions felt pressured by others.
- Suicide rates, among those who abort, are 6-7 times higher compared to women who give birth.

Three children have died every minute for 36 years. And yet...the Endangered Species Act not only protects 170 different species of plants and animals, it also protects the animals' unborn offspring. Sadly, a turtle egg in Florida has more protection than a human baby.

Little has changed since 1973 on the legal front. What has changed is that pregnancy care centers, basically non-existent in 1973, are flourishing, with more than 2,500 centers nationwide. And the number of abortion clinics—once totaling more than 2,000—is down to fewer than 750. The number of abortions nationwide is still too high. One

is too many. But after reaching a high of more than 1.5 million a few years ago, the number now is less than 1.3 million. A trend is developing and the tide is turning.

Sometimes a tide turns slowly before the momentum builds toward a major societal shift. The new front lines truly are at the pregnancy care centers. As lives are saved, that momentum builds—one heart, one life at a time.

The election of our new pro-abortion president and the shift in our national leadership could easily be discouraging. I believe our nation suffers in many ways because many of our laws exhibit selfishness rather than loving care for all of our citizens—the pre-born included.

Legislating against abortion, however, will not be enough to change people's attitudes. We know God holds the ultimate power and we serve the Lord of Life. We do not fear death. As we "treasure human life one heart at a time," we demonstrate that we are pro-life not anti-abortion. We work to share the ultimate life—eternal life with God—not just life on earth.

The pro-abortion climate cannot and will not stop us from working toward our mission. As St. Paul writes in Galatians 6:9&10, "*Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers*".

We still have much work to do "*for Christ's love compels us*" (2 Corinthians 5:14).

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WELS Lutherans for Life, Metro-Milwaukee's mission:

*"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@welsflmilw.com](mailto:Office@welsflmilw.com)  
Website: [www.welsflmilw.com](http://www.welsflmilw.com)

### Board of Directors:

Pastor Benjamin Wessel - President  
Harold Theesfeld - Treasurer  
Mark Groth - Secretary  
Ken McGhee  
Pastor Brandon Wigley

### Center Leaders:

Margo Ulrich - Risen Savior Site Dir.  
Linda Carter - St. Peter Site Dir.  
Melissa Kehoe - The Point of Grace Dir.  
Laura Sherwood - Training & Retention  
Sharon Rosenau - Counselor Coordinator  
Jean MacKain - Reception Coordinator  
- Loving Moms Coordinator

### Staff:

Peter Georgson - Executive Director  
Pat Johnson - Client Services Director  
Sandy Baker - Administrative Assistant

### Center Locations:

#### **Associated Pregnancy Services**

Lincoln Center  
- 8501 W. Lincoln Ave. -

Risen Savior Lutheran Church  
- 96th and Brown Deer -

St. Peter Community Center  
- 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)

## Help Us

If you enjoy this newsletter and appreciate the work we do, please donate at [www.welsflmilw.com](http://www.welsflmilw.com) or use the enclosed envelope to send a donation. Because of your generosity, all of our services are offered at no charge to clients!

## Unconditional Love Arriving Daily

At the moment a hurting girl opens the door to our center, the first thing she needs to see is love, the unconditional kind of love that says, "I'm here for you." If you want to share that kind of love, it's not complicated. We have volunteer openings. If you have a heart for Jesus Christ and desire to impact the lives of the wandering, worldly, and hopeless, we have a place for you.

We have set in place a self-paced training program which means you don't have to wait for a class to begin. You can begin now, at your own pace, at the center where you will be able to witness love in action while you learn.

Moms with children at home – do you have a friend who would consider it a ministry to mind your children once a week or once a month while you serve? We need you both.

It really is not complicated. Just pick up the phone and call. Tell us you want to know more about volunteering – you'll be glad you did.

***Call 414-727-8176 today!***

## Loving Moms

Since the pregnancy center first opened, volunteers have longed to offer clients something beyond the initial pregnancy test, counseling, referrals, and witness opportunity. They wanted to develop a longer term relationship with the women so that they could have more of an impact on their lives.

The Loving Moms program was begun as a way to nurture expecting and new moms so that they can learn to nurture their children with the love of Jesus. The young women come to the center monthly for parenting classes where they enjoy the friendship of one another as they look to the volunteer instructors as role models.

The participants have the opportunity to earn "Baby Bucks" to spend in the "Baby Boutique" which contains a nice selection of new and like-new baby clothes and items which are donated for this purpose.



One of two Loving Moms Christmas parties - (*Instructor Meg Schuessler - third from left*)

# The Top Ten Myths about Abortion

*This is the third in a series of excerpts from the Family Research Council's (FRC) booklet "The Top Ten Myths About Abortion" published in 2007 and written by William L. Saunders, Jr., Cathy Cleaver Ruse & Lucia Papayova. The FRC, located at 801 G Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20001, gave written permission to reproduce this information. You can order this booklet or find more information at [www.frc.org](http://www.frc.org) or by calling 800-225-4008.*

**Myth No. 6:** *Abortion is good for women.*

**Fact:** *Women suffer physically and psychologically after abortion.*

## **Physical complications:**

Abortion can cause both short-term and long-term physical complications, and can significantly affect a woman's ability to have healthy future pregnancies.

Though there are no requirements for states to report abortion data to any federal agency, the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control have received reports of the deaths of 386 women from legal abortion between 1973, when abortion was legalized, and 2003.

Physical complications include cervical lacerations and injury, uterine perforations, bleeding, hemorrhage, serious infection, pain, and incomplete abortion. Risks of complications increase with gestational age and are dependent upon the abortion procedure.

Long-term physical consequences of abortion include future preterm birth and placenta previa (improper implantation of the placenta) in future pregnancies. Premature delivery is associated with higher rates of cerebral palsy, as well as respiratory, brain, and bowel abnormalities. Pregnancies complicated by placenta previa result in high rates of preterm birth, low birth weight, and perinatal death.

While the question of whether abortion can increase the risk of breast cancer is hotly debated, a number of scientific studies demonstrate that induced abortion can adversely affect a woman's future risk of breast cancer.

Physical complications from chemical abortion with the drug RU-486 include hemorrhage, infection, and missed ectopic pregnancy (a potentially fatal complication). At least 8 women have died from RU-486 due to hemorrhage and infection.

## **Psychological complications:**

A "pro-choice" research team in New Zealand, analyzing data from a 25 year period and controlling for multiple factors both pre- and post-abortion, found conclusively that abortion in young women is associated with increased risks of major depression, anxiety disorder, suicidal behaviors, and substance dependence. This is the most comprehensive, long-term study ever conducted on the issue.

Other studies also conclude that there is substantial evidence of a causal association between induced abortion and both substance abuse and suicide.

A review of over 100 long-term international studies concluded that induced abortion increases risks for mood disorders enough to provoke attempts at self harm. Researchers have also identified a pattern of psychological problems, known collectively as Post-Abortion Syndrome, in which women may experience depression, anxiety, anger, flashbacks, guilt, grief, denial, and relationship problems. Post-Abortion Syndrome has been identified in research as a subset of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Further, studies analyzing the effects of induced abortion in adolescents have shown, when compared to adolescents who give birth, those who abort reported more frequent problems sleeping, more frequent marijuana use, and increased need for psychological counseling.

## Life Tribute Gifts

*You can show people how special they are or how their lives have touched yours through a gift to WELS Lutherans for Life, Metro-Milwaukee.*

*Send a gift in memory of someone who has entered eternal life or honor someone for a milestone during life (birthday, baptism, adoption, anniversary, confirmation, graduation, etc.).*

*Each gift is gratefully acknowledged.*

### **Received in honor of:**

Andy and Bonnie Huth for raising 7 children & encouraging 5 grandkids  
Allan and Viola Georgson for a year of blessings  
Pastor Stephen Weiss  
Marion Schweitzer's 87th birthday  
Carolyn Reineck

### **Received in memory of:**

Helen Scheller  
Lester Behnke  
Alice and George Gallepp  
Doris Gebert  
Robert Hobus  
Carol Haasch  
Ervin J Drall  
John and Charlotte Bock  
Robert Owen  
Norman Jodat  
Ethel Jogwer  
Shirley Bucholtz  
Eamon Kehoe  
Ellen Ensslin  
Sarah Nygaard  
Edwin H Petzold  
June Zimmerman

Return Service Requested



Our one-year goal  
with your help!

## Our One-Year Goal Has a Smile (and giggles, too)

A mother who walks in our door today has a choice. If she chooses life for her child, her little baby will be three months old in just one year, like the baby in the photo above.

Do you want to know our goal for the next year? We want to give this mom (and the father) every opportunity to choose life—and a happy outcome for their child. Whether they choose adoption or parenting, we will walk with them, offering practical help—and the hope of Jesus Christ.

It's a simple one, this one-year goal. If you share this dream, join us as a volunteer or financial partner. Together, let's create some happy smiles—and a few giggles, too.



Detach and save



### 2009 Events Calendar

- **May 7 -- Fundraising Banquet**  
*Save the Date! You won't want to miss this.*

Reception 6:00 pm -- Program 6:30 to 8:15 pm  
At The Grace Center (Grace Luth., Downtown)  
Special guest speakers Dr. Anthony and Ceil Levatino share the story of what led Dr. Levatino to change from abortionist to pro-life advocate.

- **June 20 -- SOUL Ride**

Saturday morning motorcycle ride.  
Begins at Salem Church on 107th Street, winds through scenic Kettle Moraine/Holy Hill area, with a few rest stops, and ends at Sam's Club on North 76th street with a picnic meal. A chance to ride and raise money for a great cause.

- **September 26 -- Life-A-Thon**

Walk/run at McCarty Park in West Allis.  
Rally a group of friends from church, work, or your extended family for a Saturday morning walk to save lives! Good weather not guaranteed, but your dollars guaranteed to make a difference.

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)