



# A Sacred Trust

*God's Gift Of Life*

WELS Lutherans For Life, Metro-Milwaukee Newsletter

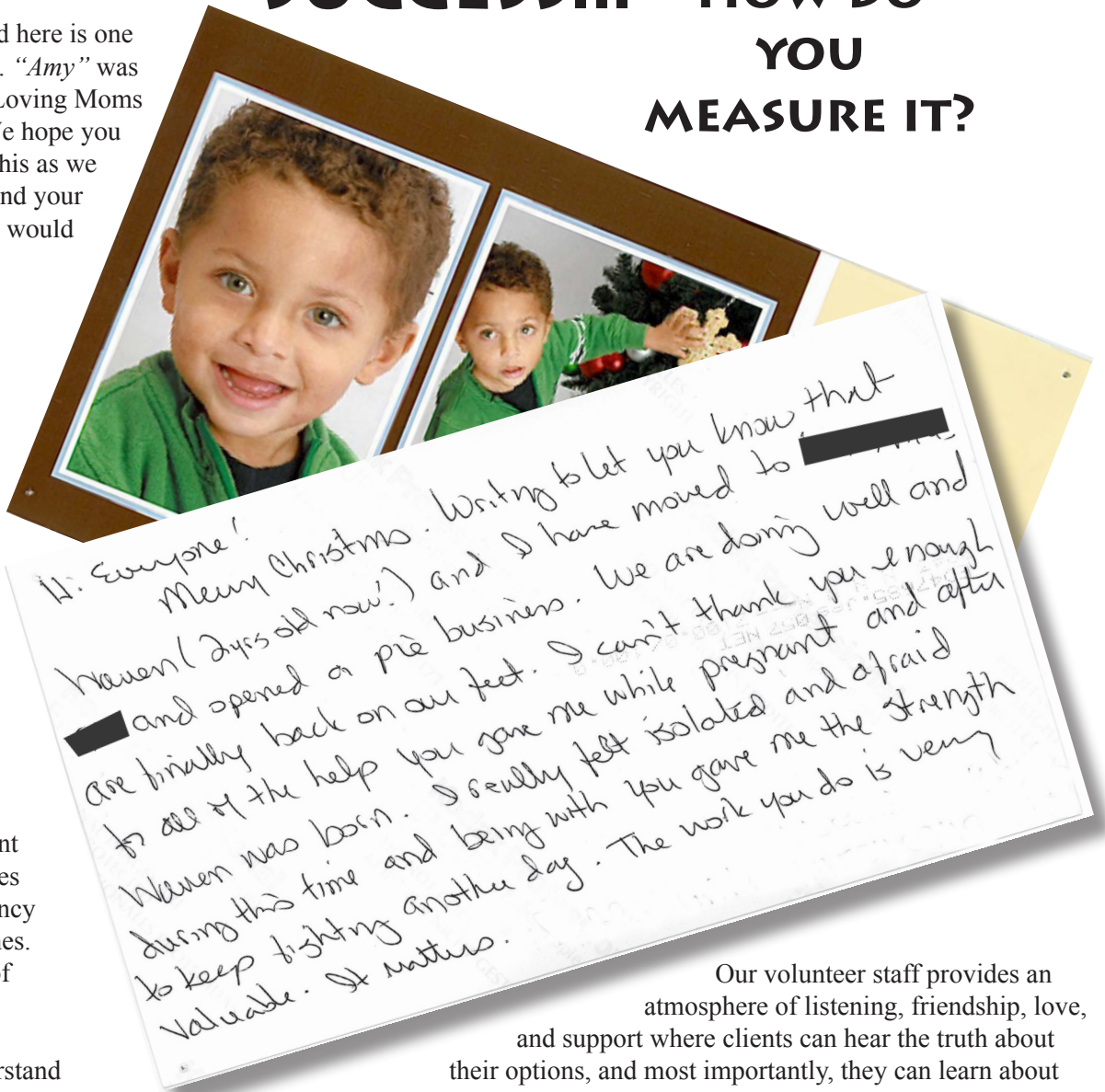
## SUCCESS... HOW DO YOU MEASURE IT?

The postcard pictured here is one of our success stories. "Amy" was one of our very first Loving Moms group participants. We hope you are as thrilled to see this as we are. Because of you and your support we knew you would love to see it.

As we begin the new year we consider our work during 2009, looking at the impact of our services and programs. How would you count success in a challenging and rewarding gospel ministry like ours?

We look at numbers, statistics, trends, and resources distributed. We record statistics on helpline calls, client demographics, services provided, and pregnancy decisions and outcomes. But this is only part of the picture.

Another way to understand what we do is to consider the seventy-five volunteers who gave a total of 4,285 hours of service in 2009. These volunteers share their love for the Savior by being available to young women who are often very afraid of the circumstances in which they find themselves.



H. Everyone!  
Merry Christmas. Writing to let you know that [redacted] and I have moved to [redacted] and opened a pie business. We are doing well and are finally back on our feet. I can't thank you enough for all of the help you gave me while pregnant and after Waven was born. I really felt isolated and afraid during this time and being with you gave me the strength to keep fighting another day. The work you do is very valuable. It matters.

Our volunteer staff provides an atmosphere of listening, friendship, love, and support where clients can hear the truth about their options, and most importantly, they can learn about God's truth for their lives.

As our lay counselors offer emotional support, pregnancy information, community referrals, parenting education, and material assistance, their primary goal with each client is

### 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, life-affirming decisions about lifestyle and pregnancy issues."

## Contact Us

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West Allis WI 53227

Office: 414-727-8176  
Fax: *no longer have one*

E-mail: [Office@welslflmilw.com](mailto:Office@welslflmilw.com)  
Website: [www.welslflmilw.com](http://www.welslflmilw.com)

## Board of Directors

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

## Center Leaders

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

## Staff

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

## Pregnancy Help Sites

Associated Pregnancy Services

Lincoln Center  
- 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)

## FAX update

We monitor our expenses to ensure your contributions are effective in supporting and advancing this ministry. We've disconnected our FAX line since the use doesn't justify the cost. When necessary, we digitize documents & e-mail them.

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to share the Word of God. Over one third of our clients state that they have no religious affiliation, and many who cite a church home are not active there.

Our volunteer team of lay counselors, receptionists, helplineers, and Loving Moms instructors understands that we are a "sowing" ministry. We have only one opportunity with many of our clients, but offer further services hoping to make follow-up possible. While we don't always see the fruits of our efforts, we take great joy in witnessing the effects of this ministry. We recognize the Holy Spirit at work when:

- The frightened teen concludes that she is right in wanting to carry her baby to birth.
- The group of giggling girls hears that refraining from sexual intimacy is the best way to respect themselves and gain the respect of the boys they like.
- The "twenty or thirty-something" client believes abortion is her only logical choice, but then learns she has options that abortion advocates didn't mention.
- The post-abortive client sheds her grief and pain, when the Holy Spirit works healing in her heart.
- A baby that had been a "choice" enrolls in a Christian school.
- Jesus' love is experienced.

Our success, although not always measurable and not always known, is evidenced in the faithful, compassionate work of our volunteers and in the responses of the clients they serve. Thanks for your generous support of this ministry which provides these vital services to our community.

For Life in Christ,  
*Peter Georgson*



## "Thrivent Choice" update

*The following is a portion of an e-mail from Thrivent (bold emphasis added). We share this information for our Thrivent members who would like to support us through Thrivent's benevolent channels. We plan to enroll in Thrivent Choice. In the past they declined to allow us any Giving Plus funds because they consider us controversial. If you would like to encourage them to approve us for Thrivent Choice you need to let them know at the number or e-mail at the bottom.*

If you are a Thrivent member you may be interested in learning more about Thrivent Choice, a **new program that lets members help choose** where Thrivent Financial gives back. Thrivent Choice Dollars will launch mid-year, but eligible members will be able to help direct a full year's worth of Choice Dollars to institutions and congregations in 2010.

Voting Events will include a short list of national Lutheran and non-Lutheran organizations that **members and Lutheran church bodies tell us are important** to them. The first Voting Event will be this April and **members can vote via a business reply card in the Thrivent magazine**. Please look for it – we look forward to your vote!

If you **have questions or would like to offer feedback** about Thrivent Choice, **contact us at 800-THRIVENT** (at the prompt, say "Fraternal Service Center") or **[fraternal@thrivent.com](mailto:fraternal@thrivent.com)**. While we may not have immediate answers to all your questions, logging topics important to you will help keep our list of frequently asked questions up to date.

# The Top Ten Myths about Abortion

*This is the fifth, and final, 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. 9:** *Abortion, particularly early abortion, does not take the life of a human being.*

**Fact:** *Every abortion takes the life of a human being.*

At the time of fertilization, when a sperm penetrates the ovum or "egg" cell, a new human organism comes into existence, with a complete and unique genetic code. This is a scientific fact, not a religious claim. Those who claim not to know "when human life begins" are making a political statement, not a scientific one.

*Human beings develop at an astonishingly rapid pace. The cardio-vascular system is the first major system to function. The blood is circulating and the heart begins to beat at 21 or 22 days (3 weeks), and can be detected on ultrasound. By the end of the eighth week, the unborn child has developed all its organs and biological systems. 20 weeks after fertilization (5 months), unborn children feel pain.*

Some try to distinguish among human beings, arguing that some are worthy of respect (because they possess certain characteristics), while others are not. This assertion contradicts the basic premise of Western law and of our Constitution—the equality of all human beings. As the Declaration of Independence says, all human beings are created equal. It would be perilous to abandon this point of view and to adopt a philosophy that puts into the hands of some human beings (the powerful) the right to decide whether other human beings (the weak, the unpopular, the defenseless) are to be counted as members of the human family.

**Myth No. 10:** *I can be "personally opposed, but pro-choice."*

**Fact:** *That is impossible.*

While it is true that some people claim to be "personally opposed, but pro-choice," that position is, logically, impossible to hold. People who profess this opinion say that while they would not choose abortion themselves, they would not deny women the option to choose it. They appear to think that what is a wrong choice "for them" might not be wrong "for someone else." However, what happens in an abortion is an objective fact, not a subjective judgment. During an abortion a human being who is unborn—and therefore innocent of any wrong-doing—is killed. Since abortion is, thus, objectively unjust, anyone who supports the "right" of others to have abortions necessarily supports such unjust acts (the killing of innocent, unborn children). Further, a choice to be "personally opposed but pro-choice" is necessarily a choice in favor of the legalization of abortion (so that the "choice" to abort is available to others). And that means the person who makes such a choice accepts that innocent, unborn children will be killed by abortions, albeit by other people. Thus, while one can say that one is "personally opposed but pro-choice," what one necessarily means is "I support the right to kill innocent human beings."

## 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:

Addison Hadler's Baptismal Anniversary  
Addison Lofness's Baptismal Anniversary  
Amanda Bourdo's Birthday  
Fredrick and Ellen Bartz's 60th Anniversary  
Glenn Unke's Birthday  
Ida Raddatz's Birthday  
John and Carol Schram  
Lesley Bergemann - 15 yrs of Secretary of Fairview  
Loraine Knudten's Birthday  
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Rupp's 25th Anniversary  
Sharon Rosenau  
Ray, Emily, Craig and Gail Ellsworth  
Jesus Christ - Author of Life  
Carolyn Reineck  
Dave and Tim Hermann  
Marion Schweitzer's Birthday  
Max & Margaret's Grandchildren  
Steve & Beth Zambo - 25 years of marriage  
Roger & Mimi Festerling's grand kids  
David Allerheiligen, Diane Kratz,  
and Madeline Horton  
Hailee, Alexis, and Ashton Gerner for being born

### Received in memory of:

in honor, memory, and thanks for Jesus Christ  
Adolph Zindler of Germany  
Dave Radke  
Deloris Nell  
Mary E. Steffen  
Mary Trinkhaus who taught & worked for children  
David Schlueter  
Dorothy Bollhagen  
George and Alice Gallepp  
Gertrude and Thomas Lauren  
Jim Shallow  
A loved one in Heaven  
Rachel Engelbrecht and son, Keith Engelbrecht  
Robert Kitzerow, died at age 37 on 3/23/2006  
Walter Klusmann  
Cecelia Metzger, passed away on 5/25/09  
Ervin Drall on the occasion of Christmas  
Miss Kathleen Doud  
John Stefanovitz  
Del Ehlke on the occasion of Christmas  
Michael Trzecinski  
George & Alice Gallepp & George Jr.  
Dona J. Destrampe  
Mrs. Elizabeth Lang  
Roy "Gordie" Bergum  
Dad & Mom Truckey who are "together in eternity"  
Lois Mitzner



Return Service Requested

Join our group on  
**facebook**  
Visit [welsflmilw.com](http://welsflmilw.com)  
to find a quick link

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## 2010 Special Events

*NOTE: The **Life-A-Thon** is now in the spring and the **Evening for Life** is in the fall.*

### **Life-A-Thon** Saturday, May 8; 9:30am - 12:30pm.

The annual 5k walk/run will be at McCarty Park in West Allis. Registration and packet pick-up in the Pavillion. The Life-A-Thon will wind through the park and end at the pavillion. Each paid registrant will receive an event t-shirt. Start a group from your church.

### **SOUL Ride** Saturday, June 12; 9:30am - 12:30pm

The 3rd annual motorcycle ride fundraiser begins at Salem Lutheran Church (N.107th), winds through beautiful Kettle Moraine areas north of Milwaukee, and ends at Sam's Club on North Calument & 76th St. Each paid participant will receive an event t-shirt. Invite your friends and fellow riders!

### **Evening for Life** Friday, October 22; 5:30pm - 8:30pm

A evening of inspiration and insight into the triumphs and struggles of pro-life work at the pregnancy resource centers. Join us at The Grace Center (located at Grace Lutheran Church) downtown. The featured speaker is yet to be determined for 2010, but whoever we choose you can count on a unforgettable evening.

**For more information on these events or to get involved:**

- *visit* [WELSLFLMILW.COM](http://WELSLFLMILW.COM)
- *become a fan* on Facebook (to get updates, info, and invitations)
- *e-mail* [office@welsflmilw.com](mailto:office@welsflmilw.com) and request more info
- *call* 414-727-8176

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## 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

By the time this issue of *The Sacred Trust* arrives in your mailbox the 2009 Annual Report should be available online at [www.welsflmilw.com](http://www.welsflmilw.com).

To receive a printed copy of the report in the mail, call the office at 414-727-8176 or e-mail [office@welsflmilw.com](mailto:office@welsflmilw.com) and we'll be happy to send you a copy. After you have had a chance to read it, if you have any comments or questions, please call Peter. He enjoys discussing the pregnancy care ministry that you support in Milwaukee.