



A Sacred Trust

God's Gift Of Life

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

A PLACE WHERE WE CELEBRATE (TRUE) CHOICE

Decades ago those who opposed ministries like ours would say about us, “Oh, those are the people who try to talk women out of abortions.

They don't provide women with choice.” This was a frustrating, inaccurate description, but in many circles, the description stuck. Because we could offer little more than a free pregnancy test, it was hard to peel off that label.



by Peter Georgson

Today, those people say the same thing—and it could not be more wrong. Their line of reasoning is

that if we don't provide abortion, we are somehow depriving women of their rights. Suddenly we are targeted as “anti-choice.”

But times have changed. Without question, we are the providers of choice. Should a woman want a picture of where she is in pregnancy, she comes to us for an ultrasound (we refer clients to this service). If a couple considers adoption for their baby, we are many times their first choice. Should parenting be an option, where does a woman turn for help? Us, of course.

And if a woman has been through an abortion and is suffering emotional pain and trauma, where does she turn? To the abortion clinic? Never. Instead, she comes to us—people who understand her hurt, who love her enough to listen to her and who will walk with her on her road to forgiveness and healing.

Choice is a catch-word and in today's world has come to mean, “Abortion.” It is a shame, because choice actually

means we are given options from which we can make an informed decision. And we want those options to be healthy ones.

Choice, then comes not from those who give but one answer to an unplanned pregnancy—but from us, Associated Pregnancy Services, the centers of WELS Lutherans for Life, Metro-Milwaukee. Here, a woman is given an opportunity to explore healthy pregnancy options such as parenting, adoption, and marriage. In each case, a pregnancy is allowed to come to its intended conclusion: birth.

The truth about choice is simple: No self-respecting physician offers abortion as a healthy choice for pregnancy, just as no worthy physician offers cigarettes as a choice for the patient with high blood pressure (“Relax more—have a smoke!”). To do so is a hypocritical rationalization of the Hippocratic Oath.

So while others attempt to sway the public debate with carefully-chosen words, we truly offer choice—backing it up with practical assistance to make those choices work.

Choice? It's found right here, every day, at Associated Pregnancy Services.

In this issue:

P. 1 - From the Executive Director

P. 2 - Client story
Friends of Life Program
Frequently asked questions
Contact information

P. 3 - Top ten myths about abortion
Life tributes

P. 4 - Life-A-Thon

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:

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Board of Directors:

Pastor Benjamin Wessel - President
Harold Theesfeld - Treasurer
Mark Groth - Secretary
Ken McGhee
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Center Leaders:

Pat Johnson - Client Services Director
Margo Ulrich - Risen Savior Center Dir.
Linda Carter - St. Peter Center Dir.
Melissa Kehoe - Point of Grace Center Dir.
Laura Sherwood - Training & Retention
Sharon Rosenau - Counselor Coordinator
Jean MacKain - Reception Coordinator
- Loving Moms Coordinator

Staff:

Peter Georgson - Executive 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 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

Thanks!

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

Ultrasound and a client's view

This article was written by one of our clients who chose life for her baby.

"Before I saw the ultrasound my days were normal. Sometime I forgot that I was pregnant because I wasn't feeling anything.

But the day my doctor made the ultrasound it all changed, when my eyes saw this angel so beautiful inside my body. You can't believe the way my baby was moving, how she crossed her legs. But the thing more wonderful was in the moment the baby opened and closed her mouth. I think she was eating.

This moment my life changed. I love so much my baby, I take care every second for myself, so my baby don't feel any pain.

My days are full of hope and love as I wish to have my baby in my arms. Thanks for all you do to support me and my baby girl.

**Sincerely,
Tara"**



Editor's note: Tara has been attending our Loving Moms program to earn things that she needs for her daughter, Mariah. At first she came because she needed everything. During that time she developed great friendships with the other Loving Moms and the instructors. She continues to attend and recently stated that what she likes coming for the most is the Bible study portion of the class. See below how to sign up to help on a monthly basis as a Friend of Life.

"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.welsflmilw.com.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

Q- *I thought Thrivent Financial for Lutherans didn't support WELS Lutherans for Life, Metro-Milwaukee. Why then were they listed as a sponsor for the Life-A-Thon?*

A- As explained in the last issue of *A Sacred Trust*, we are not eligible for matching contributions through Thrivent's "Giving Plus Program".

Through "Care Abounds in Communities," another Thrivent program, South-East Wisconsin Thrivent Chapters can support local fundraisers. Individual Thrivent members volunteer on service teams to help with the fundraisers. Six of the South-East Wisconsin Thrivent Chapters approved varying amounts of funding for a total of \$6,300 support for the 2008 Life-A-Thon.

We thank the Thrivent members for helping and the Thrivent Chapters for choosing to support the Life-A-Thon and our ministry.

The Top Ten Myths about Abortion

This is the second 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 or by calling 800-225-4008.

Myth No. 3: *Most Americans agree with current U.S. abortion law.*

Fact: *The vast majority of Americans strongly disagree with it.*

According to various national polls:

- 61% of Americans say abortion should be illegal after the fetal heartbeat has begun — which occurs in the first month of pregnancy.
- 72% of Americans say abortion should be illegal after the first 3 months of pregnancy.
- 86% of Americans say abortion should be illegal after the first 6 months of pregnancy.
- Only 16% of Americans say abortion should be legal at any time for any reason.

However, Supreme Court decisions make abortion legal throughout all 9 months of pregnancy, for any reason. Therefore, abortion law today is completely out of step with Americans' views on what it should be.

Myth No. 4: *Abortion is rare in United States.*

Fact: *The U.S. has the highest abortion rate in the western world.*

There are 1.31 million induced abortions every year in the United States. 24.5 percent of all pregnancies in the United States end in abortion.

That means 3,500 children are aborted every day, 145 children are aborted every hour, and 2 children die every minute due to induced abortion in the U.S.

In fact, the U.S. has the highest abortion rate in the western world, and the third-highest abortion rate of all developed nations worldwide.

The U.S. abortion rate is higher than the abortion rate in Spain, Ireland, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland, Scotland, Italy, France, England, Wales, Denmark, Tunisia, Finland, Uzbekistan, Croatia, Japan, Israel, Hong Kong, Canada, Norway, Singapore, Azerbaijan, New Zealand, Sweden, South Korea, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic, Georgia, Australia, Kyrgyzstan, and Puerto Rico.

Myth No. 5: *Most abortions in the United States are done for health reasons or because of rape or incest.*

Fact: *Most abortions in the United States have nothing to do with these reasons.*

According to the Alan Guttmacher Institute (a pro-choice organization), 93.5 percent of the abortions every year are done for reasons other than health, rape or incest. Their survey shows women have abortions for the following reasons:

25 % "not ready for a(nother) child/timing is wrong"

23 % "can't afford a baby now"

19 % "have completed my childbearing/have other people depending on me/children are grown"

8 % "don't want to be a single mother/am having relationship problems"

7 % "don't feel mature enough to raise a(nother) child/feel too young"

4% "would interfere with education or career plans"

>0.5% "husband or partner wants me to have an abortion"

>0.5% "parents want me to have an abortion"

>0.5% "don't want people to know I had sex or got pregnant"

Less than 8 percent of abortions every year are done for reasons of health, rape or incest:

4 % "physical problem with my health"

3 % "possible problems affecting the health of the fetus"

>0.5 % "was a victim of rape"

>0.5 % "became pregnant as a result of incest"

Yet, under current U.S. abortion law, all of these abortions are legal.

Life Tribute Gifts

Show someone 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 loved ones who have entered eternal life or honor people for a milestone during their lives (birthday, baptism, adoption, anniversary, confirmation, graduation, etc.). Each gift is acknowledged.

Received in honor of:

Stephen Weiss, Adopted son, An
LCMS Pastor in Lakefield, MN
Jeanette Kassulke's 80th B-Day
Laura Biesterfeld
Sharon Burow
William and Gloria Snamiska's 60th
Wedding Anniversary

Received in memory of:

Evelyn Treptow
Sharon Hamraan
Andrew & Martha Sinkus
Jim Shallow
Rob J Levendusky
Barry Ginocchio
Deborah Ann Spencer

Return Service Requested



Life-A-Thon 2008 Results Are In!

The Life-A-Thon drew 225 people, including two school teams and we raised more than \$15,000. This is the first year grade school students were invited to participate as teams. Word of Life and Christ-St. Peter grade schools both participated. Pledges that participants collected will total more than \$2,500. Thanks to everyone who collected individual sponsors.

Special thanks to "Teens for Life" from Wisco for attending and encouraging participation among the other students.

We are so humbled by everyone's hard work and generosity. Please accept our sincere gratitude for spending your time with us! We would like to especially thank the following corporate sponsors for underwriting the event so that most of the money collected will go directly to helping women and families facing unplanned pregnancies with Christ-like compassion.

- NPH Christian Books & Gifts
- Felsing Service, Inc.
- Halquist Stone Co.
- Kremer Publications, Inc.
- INPRO Corporation
- Spiegelberg Financial Services
- D & B Industrial Floor Coatings, Inc.
- Shady Acres Perennial Nursery
- All Star Vending
- Letters and Signs
- Sky High Marketing
- Heritage Funeral Homes
- Harder Funeral Service, Inc.
- Tom's Christian Tours
- Office & Home Interiors
- I.E. Franks, LLC



Participants eating & visiting



Some of Wisco's Teens 4 Life



Some of St. Peter's school team



An event everyone can enjoy

Hope to see you next year. Bring more friends to raise awareness and funds, and enjoy the fun.