

Leaders 4Life – March 2022

A newsletter from Y4Life

God Gives More

by Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life

It's been two days since the Y4Life in Washington, D.C., conference and the March for Life, and I am still riding an emotional high. A bit like being dunked in a pool of joy, I find myself unable to dry off completely, and frankly, I'm okay with that. In fact, I'd like to splash a little of that joy on you if I may.

After last year's disappointing cancellation, this year's long-awaited gathering more than made up for it. It was a fantastic event, full of enthusiasm, memory-making, and laughter. The conference brought students together who had only ever seen each other on Zoom; it introduced youth from neighboring communities and states, connected college students across Concordias, and laid the foundation for new friendships. The Y4Life in Washington, D.C., conference was filled with hugs and cheers and selfies.

And if those gifts weren't enough, God gave more.

Over 140 youth were deeply invested in supporting LIFE. They filled posters with creative, life-affirming, Gospel-motivated messages. They engaged our speakers, asking thought-provoking questions about how to get involved in a post-Roe society, how to reach out to those experiencing gender brokenness, how to uphold LIFE in a world enamored with death.

And God gave more.

Despite the cold weather, those who participated in our conference not only rejoiced in the opportunity to march with tens of thousands of other for-life advocates, but they also remained positive while doing so. The wind was brutal at times, but our Y4Life youth smiled back at it, sang hymns, said prayers, and encouraged others.

And God gave more.

Our panel discussion on temptation, especially as it relates to sexuality, hit home. Given the chance to ask questions anonymously, our youth posed more than 200 queries in a matter of minutes. Our panelists were gracious and patient, answering questions scripturally, providing practical ways to avoid temptation, and reminding students of the hope they have in Christ.

And God gave more.

During the panel discussion, it became clear that more than one youth longed for forgiveness for the sexual sins they had already committed. Thanks be to God that a pastor on our panel was able to, in the stead and by the command of Christ, pronounce that much needed forgiveness.

And God continues to give.



It was good, on so many levels, to gather together this weekend. To be present in the flesh. It was good to see many of the youth I serve face to face and to be reminded that we were designed to be fleshy-designed as gifts for each other in real and tangible ways. We were designed to laugh and sing and weep together. We were designed to hug and hold and march alongside each other. We were designed to belong to each other.

Despite the hardships we experience and the sin we face, God's work submerges us in a pool of joy; through our Baptism, He daily refreshes us, strengthening our bonds to Him and to each other. Yes, we Christians are connected more deeply than participation in any march or gathering can offer. By God's grace, we have become family. We share a home and a future.

Psalm 23:6 reminds us that **"surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."** This weekend offered a taste of God's goodness, a taste of the blessings to come and the family reunion we have in store.

One day, we won't need to gather around a cause; instead, we'll gather around His table. We'll smile and sing and pray with joy because our hope will be fulfilled. And when the weekend is over, we won't need to head our separate ways, because we'll already be home.

This weekend was amazing, but we Christians know there's even more to come. Until that day, may we find both joy and refreshment in His never-ending goodness and mercy and may we rejoice in the gift of each other.



Life Is a Valuable Gift

by Kambria Steinhaus, a member of Knights 4 Life

Martin Luther High School in Northrop, Minnesota, has a **Y4Life** chapter, the youth branch of Lutherans For Life. In this group, we strive to learn about different life issues and how we can address them. Life issues extend beyond the infamous issue of abortion. They also include homelessness, human trafficking, marriage, abstinence, self-harm, suicide, pornography, family, contraception, end-of-life care, homosexuality, transgenderism, and so much more. A recent project that our group took part in was packing about 70 kits for the homeless, which we gave to the Salvation Army in Mankato to distribute. There is so much information about life issues being tossed around, whether true or false. We seek to sort out fact from fiction and learn to respect the other side without compromising the truth.

LFL and **Y4Life**'s theme this year is "God Chose You," based on John 15:16: **"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit."** God has chosen each one of us from the beginning of creation. God has also chosen our body to be a temple. He gave us the beautiful gift of a body, and we are called to be stewards of that body, to take care of it and be aware of what we do with it. God also chooses each one of us to belong. We all have a spot and purpose in God's family—and not one of us is useless or random. God chose us with a purpose. Nothing He does is random. He is intelligent, caring, and purposeful. He knows you, and He knows your talents. God chose us with forgiveness. No one is perfect. We all do bad things, and we all have insecurities. God knows who He is choosing, and He knows that we are not perfect. God chose us for life in Christ. God does not want anyone to go to hell. He forgives, and He wants you to be part of His family. God chose you for Life together. God does not want anyone to be alone. Humans need other humans to love. God gives us marriage, children, and friends to create the beautiful gift of family. We can create strong bonds and love between people.

Today, we often find lines, divisions, and hate, but we hope to spread a little love and hope. Life is a valuable gift at all ages and all stages of life, and it should be protected.





Lutherans For Life

Available in App Stores



Download the New LFL App!

Find motivation. Get education. Take action. Engage with a nationwide network of voices, proclaiming the sanctity of life and putting it into practice. Discover upcoming events in your community and across the country. Explore life issues like surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis with a constantly-updated archive of articles, podcasts, videos, and other resources.

Reflect on how God's grace in the Holy Scriptures and Lutheran doctrine brings hope and gives joy to difficult situations. Share comfort and encouragement with your social networks. Connect with Life Teams, Life Chapters, and State Federations making a difference in your area.

Locate and communicate with other life-minded individuals. Participate in the Y4Life program for students and youth. Access Word of Hope, the 24-7 confidential crisis care and post-abortion healing ministry.

Celebrate how God creates, redeems, and calls every human life as His own precious treasure from fertilization to forever.

Use the Lutherans For Life app to become a Gospel-motivated voice For Life!



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For Life Live! – The first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7:00 p.m. CT/8:00 p.m. ET. These 90-minute events allow speakers to go in-depth with plenty of opportunity for Q & A.

Chats 4 Life – Offering high school and college youth an opportunity to learn about contemporary life topics from expert guest speakers. Held every first and third Thursday at 7:00 p.m. CT/8:00 p.m. ET.

What about ... Mondays? – On the second Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. CT/7:00 p.m. ET, students gather to talk about life issues they'd like to address and to find hope-filled, Gospel-motivated answers.

Frontline Call – For all LFL Frontline volunteers! Monday, July 12, 2021 – 7:00 p.m. CT/8:00 p.m. ET. There will be a devotion, activity update, life project ideas, guest speakers, and Q & A.



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ONLINE



I'm 4Life ... Now what?



4 Steps to Becoming a Y4Life Messenger

I'm 4Life ... Now what?



5 Steps to Becoming a Y4Life Messenger

I'm 4Life ... Now what? • Offering high school and college opportunities



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