

# Leaders 4Life – July 2022

## *A newsletter from Y4Life*

### The Gift of Community

by Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life

It's bright and sunny as I write this article; the spring rains have eased, and the warm winds whisper that summer is on its way.

I'm looking forward to summer. I always do. Long walks and late evenings, cookouts and campfires, lightning bugs and laughter are woven into most of my favorite memories. While the weather is certainly one commendable aspect of the season, I'm especially fond of summer for the community it brings. The spontaneous conversations with neighbors out mowing, the picnic lunches on the back patio, and the conversations around the firepit make summer my favorite time of year. It's the togetherness I long for more than anything—the opportunity to relish in the gift of others.

It's no secret that I'm an extrovert; longing to be with others comes naturally for me. But we don't have to be extroverts to recognize that people are meant to be blessings in our lives. Whether we prefer to spend time with lots of those blessings or a select few, it doesn't change the fact that community is a gift, and because it was a gift given pre-fall, we can be certain it's a good one.





Genesis 2:18 reminds us that we were made for community. After God makes Adam and places him in the garden, He declares, **“It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.”** And then God does; He creates Eve. Together Adam and Eve make community possible. In fact, one of God’s first commands is to make community: **“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth,”** God says (Genesis 1:28). Today we call this gift, this first community, family.

But the gift doesn’t end with our nearest relatives. Through Christ, our family expands exponentially to include our brothers and sisters at church, locally and throughout the world. Ephesians 2:19 reminds us, **“You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God ...”**. The community God provides is a good gift for His people. Even more, it’s a necessary one. We need each other for life.

God’s gift of Christian fellowship is a blessing meant to affirm and uphold life. Philippians reminds us of this. Paul begins his letter by thanking God for the faithful in Philippi, those partners in the Gospel who have been upholding his life in prison by praying and caring for him from afar. They have also been carrying on the work of the Gospel in his absence. They’ve been fulfilling their vocations, confessing Christ in name and through the fruits of service they’ve provided to those God has placed in their lives. Though Paul can’t be with them, he is uplifted by them. Their partnership, even from afar, brings him great joy.

God’s mighty work in Paul’s life has provided a confession for Christ that has spanned countless generations. Yet, Paul was still human. He needed to be supported by others. He needed the gift of Christian fellowship.

The same is true of each of us; we too need to be supported in body and soul. We need campfires and cookouts and picnic lunches filled with laughter. Yet, as members of the household of God, we also need conversation and consolation and prayer. We need to gather, in person, at the Communion rail. Surrounded by our eternal family, we need to hear God’s promises and rejoice in His forgiveness.

Whether you know it or not, you are manifestations of the blessing of community in my life. Your prayers and notes of encouragement from afar remind me that I am not alone. Your enthusiasm and interaction with Y4Life on social media platforms proclaim your support of our Y4Life initiatives. And your financial donations inspire and enable me to reach more schools and churches with the message of LIFE. It is good to be a partner in the Gospel with you. Good because God has made us for each other.

May your summer be filled with time for family and friends, time to catch up, and time to simply be together. May you rejoice in God’s good gift of community now and always!





## Y4Life Update

by Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life

**Y**4Life had a BUSY, life-affirming spring! We started with the Y4Life Summit in late February. The retreat brought together more than 40 college and high school youth who traveled from Washington, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Nebraska, and Texas. Our very first Y4Life Summit included five educational sessions, a service project, and closing worship—it was a fantastic weekend!

After the Summit was over, our team jumped into the **Y4Life High School Leadership Retreat** in Canton, Michigan. Students from Ohio received training in how to start and maintain a Y4Life Team and participated in team building and memory-making. Though cold and rainy outside in early March, the warmth and camaraderie inside was inspirational.

In mid-March, Y4Life headed south to exhibit at LEA in Orlando. The gathering of Lutheran administrators offered opportunities to share Y4Life resources and connect with principals who are interested in starting a team at their school. The following weekend, in Plano, Texas, Faith Lutheran Church and School welcomed Y4Life for an Owen's Mission presentation and a **From Fertilization to Forever Conference** for youth and adults. The weekend was filled with opportunities to learn how to uphold life.

In early April, the **Y4Life College Leadership Retreat** took place in Nashville, Tennessee. Concordias 4 Life made plans for the coming year, and each individual Concordia in attendance mapped out their goals and life-affirming opportunities for the 2022-2023 school year. We worked hard so we could play hard. It was a weekend full of life-affirming fellowship.

After Easter, a second **Y4Life High School Leadership Retreat** took place—this time in Branson, Missouri. The Leaders 4 Life from Oklahoma are already engaging in life-affirming opportunities in their community. It's clear they are going to do great things!

God blessed Y4Life with so many amazing opportunities this spring, and He's sure to continue blessing as we attend conferences and youth gatherings this summer. Thanks for your continued support of Y4Life. Today's youth are being prepared to make a Gospel-motivated difference in the lives of many!





## 24,000 Diapers!

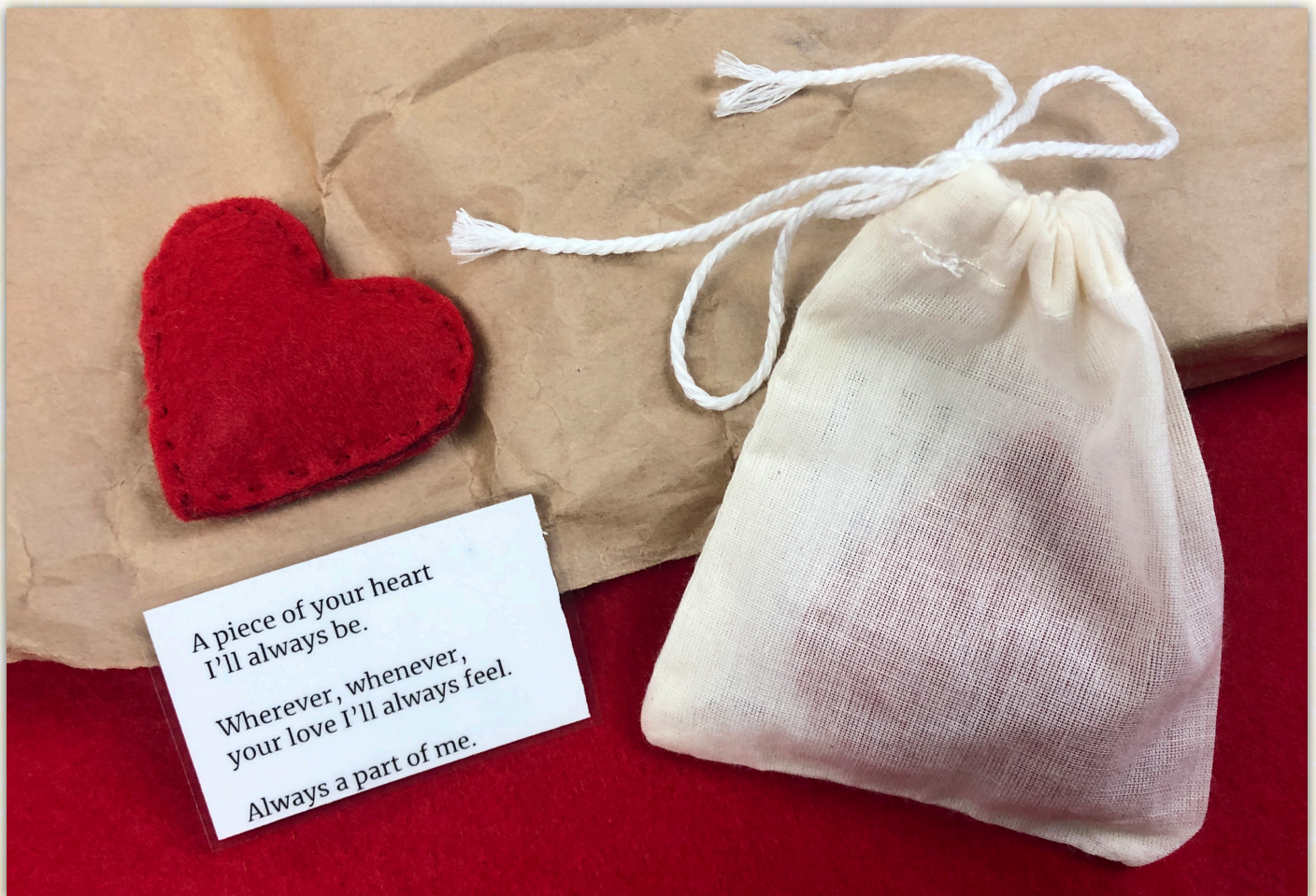
by Anastasia Brown, Lutheran North Senior

In March, in Macomb, Michigan, Lutheran North High School celebrated Lutheran Schools Week. A tradition at the school is to spend one day doing service projects for local charities. This year, one of the charities helped was Compassion Pregnancy Center. The challenge: repackage as many diapers as possible! Compassion hands out packages of 30 diapers of the same size to their clients, so repackaging donations is a constant task. Students at North welcomed the opportunity to help! In the end, 24,000 diapers were repackaged by teachers and students—ready to be given out to those in need! For this blessing, to God be the glory!



## CUC4LIFE Adoption Event!

In April, CUC4LIFE gathered together to learn about the adoption process in the USA, work on a service project for a local adoption agency—Hopeful Beginnings—and view the adoption-themed movie, *Bella*. For their service project, they sewed and stuffed red felt hearts and placed them in small canvas bags with a short poem. These will serve as a small gift of remembrance the adoption agency can give to birth mothers to encourage and remind them of the difficult and beautiful thing they have done! Approximately 15 people attended each meeting, completing gifts for 55 mothers!







**Blessed For Life**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Lutherans For Life NATIONAL Conference**  
**October 21-22, 2022**

**Rock Island, Illinois (Quad Cities)**

**[lutheransforlife.org/conference](http://lutheransforlife.org/conference)**

**The LFL National Conference is back!** Lutherans For Life national conferences allow our team to come directly to you with the For Life Gospel message. These gatherings are wonderful times spent together where we can provide valuable information and encouragement to you, your community, and the life-affirming work you are engaged in!

**Friday, October 21 – 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. | Saturday, October 22 – 8:30 a.m. to noon**

### **Speakers**

Melissa Ohden | Jeanne Mancini | Steve Deace

### **Workshop Leaders**

Rev. B. Keith Haney | Father Frank Pavone | Rev. Fred Hinz  
Col. John Eidsmoe | Rev. Dr. Wade Mobley | Deaconess Pam Nielsen  
Dr. Roni Grad | Dr. Kim Marxhausen | Deaconess Tiffany Manor  
Rev. Michael Salemink | Rev. Scott Licht | Michelle Bauman  
Virginia Flo | Deaconess Chrissie Gillett | Rev. Dr. Gregory P. Seltz, PhD

### **Special Friday Night Banquet Music**

Wendysue Fluegge

### **Conference Registration**

LFL Members: \$125 | Non-Members: \$150  
Students: \$25 | Children 12 and under: FREE



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# Lutherans For Life

Available in App Stores



## Download the New LFL App!

**F**ind 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.



JOIN US  
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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