

Leaders 4Life – April 2026

A newsletter from Y4Life

Y4Life in Washington, D.C. 2026 – Standing Firm

by Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life

I'm sure it's happened to you, too.

You're busy juggling tasks and checking off your long list of to do's, busy fulfilling the vocations God has called you into. Maybe you're finishing a project, preparing for practice, or completing chores. Perhaps you're doing the responsible things—packing tomorrow's lunch, checking your schedule at work, or maybe making sure you have enough gas to get to school tomorrow. Whatever it is, you're engaged in multitasking and problem-solving and planning your next step like a pro.

And then it happens—despite the busyness of the moment or maybe because of it—a Bible passage you've memorized comes to mind. And you're struck by its truth:

“I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus” (emphasis mine) (Philippians 1:1-3).

Those were the verses that came to mind as I stood in the back of a ballroom filled with over 550 participants at **Y4Life in Washington, D.C.**, in January. I was preparing to walk to the front of the room to welcome our attendees. Maybe you were one of them. And it was at that moment that I was overwhelmed with gratitude.

Gratitude to God for His life-giving and life-affirming work.

Gratitude for the **Y4Life** and **LFL** team members who had been working for months to prepare for the event.

Gratitude for our donors and sponsors for helping us raise thousands of dollars in scholarships for the event.

And gratitude for **YOU**, the youth, young adults, and chaperones who attended. Thankful that you not only desired to be Gospel-motivated voices for life but also for dedicating your time, talent, and finances to learning about life issues and marching publicly to uphold life.

I am still deeply thankful because you were and are willing to make a difference.



I know that making a difference came at a cost. Most of you raised money or worked to fund the trip, a trip that, even with free registration, still cost you hundreds of dollars. Most of you had homework to catch up on and practices to make up. Some of you missed games and dances to be present. Yet, the choice was clear: You came to learn about life issues from a Gospel-motivated perspective and to stand alongside tens of thousands of others—For Life.

As I stood in the back of that ballroom, I couldn't help but be proud of you for making the choice you did. Proud of you for desiring to be a Gospel-motivated voice for life. Proud of you for standing for life at your nation's capital. And humbled to be present to see it.

But if I'm honest, I wasn't just thinking of those in attendance. I was thinking of the youth Y4Life serves who were at home as well. Perhaps that was you. Maybe you couldn't attend because you had other obligations to family or friends, coworkers or classmates.

In the last six years, I've met many youth who wanted to attend D.C. but couldn't. At least not this year. Some stayed home to help take care of siblings. Others were helping check in on grandparents. Some youth are working a job in addition to going to school so they can supplement their family's income, pay tuition, or purchase the items needed for life.

If that describes you, I'm thankful for you, too. You're doing life work. You're upholding the lives of others through your vocations.

It's not always easy to be Gospel-motivated voices for life. It often requires sacrifice and hard work and patience. On top of this workload, the world doesn't make life work or life-filled words easy. Taking a public stance for life can lead to shunning, shaming, and exclusion. It can mean the loss of friends, and it can create strain in families.

Nonetheless, God's Word is clear: Life is valuable. Life should be protected. Life is a gift from God.

And as God's people, we are called to stand firm on this truth. Ephesians 6:13 reminds us to **"take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm."**

Stand firm. That's a direct order. As soldiers in God's army, we hear what our General has commanded. We are called to stand firm on His Word despite the consequences.

Doing so alone is difficult; that's part of what makes gathering together for Y4Life in Washington, D.C., so wonderful. Yet, we also know that we can't always be together. Thanks be to God, though, that we are never really alone. God stands with us. He strengthens us through His Word and His Sacraments. And He gives us each other.

Whether you walked with me in DC or were busy doing life work at home, know that your work has not gone unnoticed. You have been an inspiration and an encouragement to many, including me. I thank God for you. Even more, I want to support and encourage you. Please let me know how Y4Life, the youth branch of Lutherans For Life, can uphold, support, and strengthen you as you carry out the work of being Gospel-motivated voices for life.

Your work is valuable. Your Gospel-motivated voice is needed. And I am confident that **"he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus"** (Philippians 1:3).



2026 Y4Life Summit in St. Paul, Minnesota

Y4Life, the youth branch of Lutherans For Life, hosted the 2026 **Y4Life Summit** from February 20-22 at Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota.



Each February, the Summit takes place on a Concordia campus. Through the use of educational sessions and hands-on opportunities to support life, the Summit is specifically designed to equip high school and college youth to uphold the lives of others. Youth learn how to spot a life issue and are also given practical and concrete ways to respond to the issue with both a Gospel-motivated voice and through acts of mercy.

This year's Summit welcomed 45 youth from across the nation. Eight different colleges and universities, all with active **Y4Life** teams on their campuses, sent representatives to the **Y4Life Summit** including Purdue, KU, Luther Classical College, Concordia Chicago, Concordia Wisconsin, Concordia Nebraska, Concordia St. Paul, and Concordia Texas. High school students also attended from a variety of states including Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Missouri.

While participating in the **Y4Life Summit**, youth learned about Christian citizenship, the life-affirming benefits of marriage and family, IVF, the complex intersection between mental health and homelessness, and how to engage as a compassionate Christian using a Gospel-motivated voice in a world broken by sin. All educational sessions were led by experts on life issues, including three local speakers—Minnesota South District President Lucas Woodford, Rev. Scot Missling, and Rev. Joshua Miller—as well as two experts from Lutherans For Life—Deaconess Chrissie Gillet (**Word of Hope** Director) and Michelle Bauman (**Y4Life** Director).

In addition to learning about life issues, those who attended the Summit worshipped together, watched a For Life movie, and partnered with the St. Paul Outreach Center at Jehovah Lutheran Church for a service project. Attendees packed over 400 snack kits and made fleece tie blankets for the unhoused in the Minneapolis and St. Paul communities.

The conference offered youth an opportunity to transform their beliefs into actions and build deep relationships with other life-affirming youth. If you'd like to find out more about the **Y4Life Summit** or discover resources and gatherings **Y4Life**—the youth branch of Lutherans For Life—has to offer, please contact Director Michelle Bauman at Michelle@y4life.org.





LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE

Equipping YOUTH to be...

Gospel-motivated voices 4 Life!

Y4Life equips high school and college-aged youth to share the Gospel-motivated message that **YOU are made 4 LIFE.**

Find out more at Y4Life.org or contact Michelle Bauman, Y4Life Director, at michelle@y4life.org.



YOU ARE MADE 4 LIFE



Y4Life • Michelle Bauman, Director of **Y4Life**
mbauman@lutheransforlife.org • 812.350.2732 • Y4Life.org

YA^{For}LIFE

YA For Life seeks to equip young adults in their 20s and 30s to be Gospel-motivated voices for LIFE! Through service, celebration, worship, and education, young adults are encouraged to engage in life-affirming activities and become advocates for LIFE in their families, churches, communities, and world. In this way, their life-affirming work ripples into the future - not only changing lives today but also for eternity.



Visit our website
WWW.YAFORLIFE.ORG



Find us on Facebook
LUTHERANS FOR LIFE



Find us on Instagram
@LFLYAFORLIFE



Y4Life • Michelle Bauman, Director of **Y4Life**
mbauman@lutheransforlife.org • 812.350.2732 • **Y4Life.org**

YA For Life | @lflyaforlife

YA FOR LIFE CONNECTION KITS

Each YA For Life Connection Kit contains resources that are designed to be used by young adults and Life Teams as they address life issues in their congregations and communities. Kits include practical information on how to plan for and set up a Connection Event; ideas for addressing life issues through worship, education, service, and celebration; and practical tips for including families and youth. Learn more and get your kit today at YAForLife.org.

On sale now for

\$50

Order your kit at
lutheransforlife.myshopify.com

Questions? Email
michelle@y4life.org



www.yaforlife.org

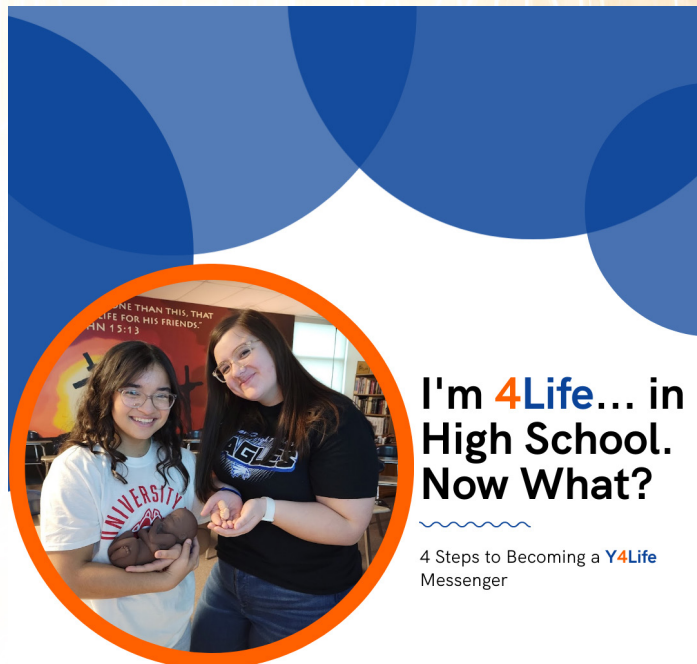


Y4Life • Michelle Bauman, Director of **Y4Life**
mbauman@lutheransforlife.org • 812.350.2732 • **Y4Life.org**



I'm 4Life... in College. Now What?

5 Steps to Becoming a Y4Life
Messenger



I'm 4Life... in High School. Now What?

4 Steps to Becoming a Y4Life
Messenger

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



Y4Life • Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life
mbauman@lutheransforlife.org • 812.350.2732 • **Y4Life.org**