



Section 26

2019 Convention of Synod

Lutherans for Life Report



Lutherans for Life report to QLD District Synod, March 2019

INTRODUCTION

'I believe in Jesus Christ, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary.'

As I write this report it is several days before the festival of the Annunciation where we celebrate the coming of Jesus into our world as a tiny human embryo in the womb of Mary. This is recorded in Luke 1:26-39 and the Church remembers this event on March 25 each year. I am reminded of the wonder of this, that our gracious God has entered into the weakness and vulnerability of our human life in such a profound way. Our Lord Jesus has sanctified the entire human journey from conception to death, and so we are encouraged to promote and defend the sanctity of human life.

QUEENSLAND and ABORTION

In contrast to this, the past year has been another busy one for those concerned with these issues in Australia, mostly for all the wrong reasons. As you are no doubt aware, Queensland legalised abortion in October of 2018. Around the country more liberalising abortion legislation continues to be introduced. As I write this report my own home state of South Australia is considering a bill which would make abortion available on demand without restriction and up until birth. Despite the disappointment of these laws being passed in QLD, I would like to thank LFL supporters in your state who worked hard to advocate for the unborn and to keep fellow Lutherans informed. I especially acknowledge Cathryn Zarnke for her efforts in the lead up to the vote on the bill.

ABORTION RESPONSE RESOURCE

One of the responses our LFL team has made to this reality of increased access to abortion in our country is to produce a resource entitled 'Building a culture of life'. It contains 10 suggestions as to how Christians can respond to abortion in positive and practical ways. The written version of this can be found on our website, www.lutheransforlife.lca.org.au, under the resources-articles section. We have also produced a video version of this available on the website under the resources-media section. We encourage you to use these resources in your congregations, schools, home groups and wherever appropriate.

EUTHANASIA AND COMMITTEE FOR AGEING

It is not only at the beginning of life's journey, however, that we want to promote and defend the sanctity of human life, but also throughout life, and especially at its' end. Around our country there is also increasing pressure toward the introduction of euthanasia, and this is another discussion in which LFL is engaged in various ways. One opportunity we welcomed this past year was interaction with the LCA's Committee for Ministry with the Ageing on these and other issues. This committee produced a discussion paper on euthanasia and invited our comment, which then lead to an

opportunity to discuss LFL's work at one of their meetings. It's great to have interaction between different groups in our Church whose areas of interest overlaps.

LCA YOUTH FORUM

Another wonderful opportunity we had like this is to spend a whole day at the LCA Youth Forum run by Grow Ministries where we were speaking to the young people about Life Issues. We covered foundations, pre-birth issues, marriage and sexuality, end-of-life issues, and practical ways we can help as Christians. We found the young people very engaged and thoughtful and were encouraged to have the opportunity to be with them.

ALC GRADUATES DINNER

This year we again held a dinner for final year ALC pastoral students and their wives. It's always a great opportunity to get to know and encourage them as they prepare to move out into full time ministry. We also share with them a little about the work of LFL and to present them with a book to assist in their pastoral care of those facing difficult life issues. Our location this year was especially significant as we held the dinner at a cafe in Woodville, a suburb of Adelaide. The cafe is run by a Christian woman and sits next to the largest abortion clinic in SA. It is peaceful and non-confrontational, but intentionally offers a place of welcome, hope and life for mums, dads and children.

CONVENTIONS IN SYDNEY

LFL were present at the LWA convention and LCA General Convention in Sydney last year as well. We hosted a stall where our various resources were available and interacted with people from around our church. My thanks especially to Joy Wurst who represented us at the LWA Convention who were generous in giving us time to speak to them about our work.

LIFE NEWS

Our regular newsletter *Life News* continues to go out in both print and electronic versions, capably overseen by our editor Kimberley Pfeiffer. If you would like to receive this newsletter please contact Kim on LN.editor@gmail.com or the LFL committee on lutheransforlife@gmail.com.

FACEBOOK

In addition to our website we have also increasingly been active on Facebook in efforts to engage more people in the issues to do with the sanctity of life. Please look up Lutherans for Life Australia on Facebook and 'like' our page to keep in touch.

THANKS

We are extremely grateful for the financial support we receive, particularly from Lutheran Women and the women's guilds of the Church. LFL is entirely funded through donations and contributions. Please continue to pray for and support LFL however you can, as we speak up for God's precious gift of life.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank the other members of the LFL national committee: Chelsea Pietsch, Meg Pearce, and Janet Bowman. We are always looking for more people to get involved in our work, so please do contact us if you are interested - lutheransforlife@gmail.com.

Yours in Christ,
Rev Joshua Pfeiffer - LFL Chairperson