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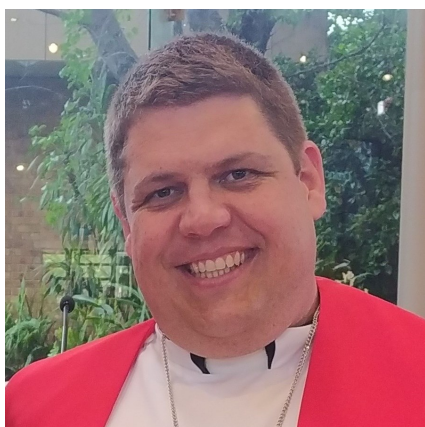


Life News

Promoting the sanctity of life

A message from our (new) chair...

Beloved of God, grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord, Jesus Christ!



Pastor Joseph Theodorsen

What a privilege to be able to write you this message of encouragement in my new role as chair for the Lutherans for Life here in Australia. We have a wonderful group of people who have come together with the common desire to promote the value of human life, created in the image of God, and held in such high esteem by Him. We also seek to provide information about the goings on in our communities and legislation as it relates to the value of life. Why?

We believe this is an important topic in our local areas and the wider world.

Sadly, we have seen over the last few decades the sanctity and value of human life eroded away, to where, for many, humanity is seen as no more special or important than any other animal. In Christ, though, we know that humanity is indeed specially created by God for His glory, to the point that He even deigned to give His own life in order that we might be saved. Thanks be to God!

We have been given the unique privilege to come together, in the face of great darkness, to be a light in this world, and we pray that the work we do will be fulfilling Christ's call to us in the Gospel of Matthew to: *'...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.'* May this issue of Life News be an encouragement to you as you hear the incredible ways God is working amongst us to protect the most vulnerable of our community and let His light shine in His world.

In Christ, Joseph Theodorsen—LFL Chair

Inside this issue

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Message from the chair..... | 1 |
| Messages of Hope | 2 |
| LfL out and about | 4 |
| Bill before parliament..... | 5 |
| Encouraging witness..... | 6 |
| Thanks!..... | 7 |
| Prayer points..... | 8 |



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EDITOR: Vacant
ln.editor@gmail.com

HEARD US ON THE RADIO?

Order your free booklet that was offered on the radio.
Listen to the latest message of hope and read the script.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Are you, or someone you know, in need of hope?
[Click here](#) to see the range of topics and issues and the hopeful insights offered.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Messages of Hope *when dealing with life issues*

When you are dealing with life-changing events, where can you turn for help? Or how do you find the right words to comfort someone else in their time of need? Are there Christian resources that you can point people to? *Messages of Hope* (a ministry of Lutheran Media) reaches out through media to millions of people with inspiring real stories of hope, celebration and love. They do this through videos (on YouTube), podcasts, print and radio. *Messages of Hope* can be heard on radio in Australia, New Zealand and across the world on over 1200 commercial, community and Christian radio stations and frequencies (a list of frequencies is available from their website <http://www.messagesofhope.org.au/broadcast-stations/>).

Pastor Richard Fox (Director of Lutheran Media) has provided the following links to resources that specifically address the life issues that concern LfL. Feel free to use and share these resources with people you know.

Miscarriage:

Video <https://www.messagesofhope.org.au/dealing-with-miscarriage-miscarriage-support/>

Booklet <https://www.messagesofhope.org.au/losing-a-baby/>

Podcast <https://www.messagesofhope.org.au/when-dreams-break-3/>

Parenting children with disabilities

Watch *Susannah's Miracle* on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8vIptKzNC_k

Suicide

Booklets: <https://www.messagesofhope.org.au/product/the-unbearable-sorrow-when-suicide-hits-home/>

<https://www.messagesofhope.org.au/product/surviving-a-loved-one-s-suicide/>

Cancer and chronic illness

Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OFQev1wTYD4&t=54s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jyhwEeMa50Q&t=2s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xq-xKORMnxs>

Podcasts: <https://www.messagesofhope.org.au/coping-with-cancer/>

<https://www.messagesofhope.org.au/what-about-the-carer-2/>

Booklet: <https://www.messagesofhope.org.au/product/cancer-courage-through-christ/>

Dementia

Booklet: <https://www.messagesofhope.org.au/dementia-booklet/>

Podcasts: <https://www.messagesofhope.org.au/families-coping-with-dementia/>

<https://www.messagesofhope.org.au/early-onset-dementia-part-one/>

<https://www.messagesofhope.org.au/dementia-this-is-our-story-2/>

<https://www.messagesofhope.org.au/the-day-mum-disappeared/>

Videos: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zNcSZTppFA>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JUUxw-eJnGg>

Grief

Booklet: <https://www.messagesofhope.org.au/take-heart-in-your-grief/>

Podcasts: <https://www.messagesofhope.org.au/one-foot-in-heaven-one-foot-on-earth/>

<https://www.messagesofhope.org.au/saying-goodbye-2/>

<https://www.messagesofhope.org.au/losing-mike-but-keeping-hope/>



For more information, visit www.messagesofhope.org.au www.messagesofhope.org.nz

www.lutheranmedia.org.au OR email Pastor Richard Fox richard.fox@lca.org.au OR FREECALL 1800 353 350

¹ <https://anglican.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/1.-NAFVP-Research-Report.pdf>

² <https://aifs.gov.au/resources/policy-and-practice-papers/domestic-and-family-violence-pregnancy-and-early-parenthood>

LfL out and about in the community

The Lutheran Women of SA and NT invited Chelsea Pietsch (Consultant to LfL) to speak about the work of LfL at their **Metro North Zone Rally** at Para Vista in August 2022. The theme for the day was Ecclesiastes 3:1,2a... *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die.* Chelsea's presentation touched on the history of LfL and why it was established, the issues of most concern to LfL, changes to abortion and voluntary assisted dying laws, and what LfL is up to today.

Committee members Hayley Simons and Rose Vonow spoke to around 75 young adults at the **Creative Word Fellowship Bible Study retreat** at Tandara Lutheran Camp, Halls Gap in January 2023. They gave an update about the abortion and voluntary assisted dying laws and why Christians should be concerned about them, whilst also highlighting the forgiveness found in Christ.



Chelsea Pietsch at the Metro North Zone Rally.
Photo courtesy of Di Schlenk.



Photos from the Walk for Life courtesy of Rose Vonow (above and below)

Just this month, some of our Adelaide-based committee members and LfL supporters attended the annual **Walk for Life** organised by *Love Adelaide*. Thousands of people met in the centre of Adelaide on the grass outside of Adelaide Oval to listen to various presentations before walking up to and around government house. Being present at these walks is a wonderful way to stand beside other members of the body of Christ in promoting the value of human life.

If you would like someone from LfL to come and speak to your fellowship group/ congregation/ school, please contact us via email lutheransforlife@lca.org.au



Human Rights (Children Born Alive Protection) Bill

2022

Did you know that, in Queensland and Victoria, an average of one baby is born alive and left to die without any intervention every week? It's an even higher amount nationally, as Queensland and Victoria are the only states or territories that publicly release accurate data in this area.



Sadly, in our current society, the abortion industry and the media, including journalists at The Guardian, attempt to pass this fact off as a pro-life myth, nonsensical, or medically unnecessary. In reality, 724 children were left to die post-birth in Queensland and Victoria alone between 2010 and 2020. But there is hope!

A Bill has been put before parliament by Senators Matt Canavan, Alex Antic, and Ralph Babet to bring an end to this heartbreaking practice. On 9 February 2023 the Senate referred the above Bill to the Community Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 1 July 2023. Its content is that Australia should adopt new national laws which treat babies born alive after a failed abortion in the same way as other babies. At present there is no national protection for these babies.

I'm sure we're not alone in believing that most Australians would support such action, even though it has not been very well publicised across the nation, and so we at Lutherans for Life have made a submission to the Standing Committee on Community Affairs in support of this Bill. Unfortunately, by the time this issue goes to print, the opportunity to make submissions relating to this Bill will have closed, but can I encourage you to pray that our Federal Government would support and implement these measures? Our God is good.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we ask that you would guide our Federal Government to defend the most vulnerable of our society, and implement measures to protect those who have survived attempts on their life in the womb. In the name of Christ, Amen.

Facts and content in this article was sourced from a fact sheet produced by Dr Joanna Howe, titled: Babies born alive and left to die following a failed abortion. Accessed from: https://assets.nationbuilder.com/acl/pages/12865/attachments/original/1677482175/Dr_Joanna_Howe-Fact_Sheet-Babies_Born_Alive-FINAL.pdf?1677482175

Lutherans for Life Branches

New Zealand: Est. June 1991

Contact: Dr Petrus Simons
04 476 9398

Sunshine Coast: Est. August 1992

Serving the Sunshine Coast area of Queensland

Contact: Mr Norm Auricht
07 5443 6849

Darling Downs: Est. October 2005

Serving the Darling Downs area of Queensland

Contact: Mrs Joy Wurst
07 4613 4189

Check out our website

www.lutheransforlife.lca.org.au

Follow us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/lutheransforlifeaustralia



Contact us (email)

lutheransforlife@lca.org.au

Life News Editor (email)

ln.editor@gmail.com

Support Lutherans for Life

Consider making a financial gift to continue the promotion and protection of human dignity in our culture and community (see back page for details).

Encouraging witness in the secular medical sphere—*By Margaret Pearce*

Before my sweet mum died in May of 2022 she made one thing clear about her wishes for her human remains. What may seem an unusual choice to some, perhaps, was for Sara Klein a strong ambition. Like her father before her, mum wanted to donate her body to medical science.

In the later part of her life she could often sense her body was of low value in the world; certainly it was old, worn, and marked by disability incurred from many years of dedicated smoking. But she knew that when she had taken her last earthly breath her body could become a vehicle for learning for students of medical science.

Two days ago, March 8th 2023, marked the occasion of Sara's first heavenly birthday. And yesterday Adelaide University hosted the Annual Memorial and Dedication Service for the families of those whose loved ones bequeathed their body to medical science. In attendance were faculty and first year students of the three participating universities.

Excellent speeches made by senior clinicians, and a sample of students highlighted the gravity and seriousness of this responsibility. Here is a sample from intern Simon's speech:

"To the first years, it is impossible to grapple with how impactful this degree is, and it is only with the hindsight of these 6 years that I am able to appreciate how incredibly fortunate I am for this career. In my time in medical school I have held an oxygen mask for a newborn child fighting for life, and held family members as they grieved their loved ones. The experiences during this degree are truly profound.

"Today is about recognising the donations that enable us to receive this education. To the families present, there is no greater donation than that given to us by your loved ones. Your loved ones' gift to me, and all the students here, was the incredible opportunity to learn about the diversity of the human body. From people who had led rich and interesting lives, I was able to tangibly learn how the incredible networks of nerves supplied feeling to their skin, how perfectly the muscles manipulated their skeleton, and how the heart and complexity of vasculature pumped life through them. I was guided through human anatomy not just by the professors, but by your loved ones. And to me it marked the intersection between the art and the science of medicine."

Nowhere to be seen was the common refrain of human life being just a clump of cells, dispensable whenever it is no longer desirable. No, this ceremony honoured humanity and innate dignity, while always pointing to excellence in education made possible by the generosity of donors.

I couldn't help reflecting that by being encouraged to connect with our families students would be less inclined to seeing the donated bodies just as cold lumps of flesh, but as so much more - as dearly loved ones; and this can only have a positive impact on their overall medical and professional interactions and the shaping of their lasting ethical framework. And perhaps, when they are themselves medical practitioners and are asked to act in ways that go against this notion of human value and dignity (as some modern legislation enforces), then medical professionals can be at the forefront of voicing why this is not consistent with their education, nor acceptable in a field that so highly respects human worth.



*Are you a Pastor or Chairperson
of your congregation?
Do you work or volunteer in the
church office?
Are you a passionate supporter of LfL?*



Then we need YOU to help raise the profile of LfL!

How you can help:

- Volunteer to photocopy *Life News* and distribute it to your congregation.
- Attach *Life News* to the weekly email that goes out to congregation members.
- Forward your copy (if you subscribe via email) to someone else.
- Follow our Facebook page and share our posts!

Thanks Trudi!

The committee of Lutheran's for Life want to extend our thanks and gratitude for the work of Trudi Skene in being a part of our committee as the Editor for the last couple of years.

Trudi was a wonderful presence in our group, full of ideas for improvement, always bringing a smile, and brought her incredible editing skills to life in the publication of this newsletter. May God guide you in your future endeavours as you work for His glory. You will be missed!



So... We are seeking an Editor!

With Trudi's departure, we here at Lutherans for Life are currently seeking nominations for an Editor. The role consists of the following: creating and distributing this bi-annual newsletter, *Life News*, with assistance from the committee, managing subscription services to our eNews, and managing the editor's email address.

Previous editorial experience, and familiarity with the Microsoft suite of programs, particularly Publisher and Outlook, would be advantageous.



If you or someone you know has these skills and a passion for the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death, you are encouraged to complete a nomination form, found at <https://www.lca.org.au/governance/nominations/>, and forward on to the Standing Committee on Nominations as noted on the form. For any questions, or to have a chat with the team, contact us at lutheransforlife@lca.org.au.

God, our creator and redeemer, we pray

- For those who believe that life is only as valuable as its capabilities or resources. Soften hearts and reveal your truth.
- For the many women who want to keep their unborn children but cannot see any possible options for doing so. May they receive support and encouragement from sisters and brothers in Christ.
- For women whose bodies and minds have been damaged by abortion. Heal and comfort them.
- For countries where policies restrict the number of children that can be born or devalue the lives of women to the point where female foetuses are aborted. Move those in power to change unjust laws and to protect women (and babies) at risk.
- For those who grieve the loss of unborn children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews. Comfort them with the certainty that these precious little ones are safe in your arms.
- For those facing the end of their lives who are in great pain or who feel they are a burden to those around them. Give them access to effective palliative care and help us to care for them with compassion, love and respect.



Lord, you are ever-faithful. Make us faithful in our service to you. Amen.

(adapted from <https://dojustice.crcna.org/article/psalm-lament-abortion>)

Thank you for your support!

Name: Mr/Mrs/Ms/Rev/Dr _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Occupation: _____ Congregation: _____

☐ Please send me *Life News* and keep me updated on upcoming LfL events

I prefer my *Life News* in print ☐, OR electronically (via email) ☐, OR as both print and electronic ☐

You can subscribe electronically by visiting www.lca.org.au/departments/ministry-support/communications/enews/ . (*Life News* is under the Churchwide tab)

The latest issue of *Life News* and past issues can also be found on our website

www.lutheransforlife.lca.org.au/public-resources/life-news/

☐ I would like to make a financial gift to Lutherans for Life (LfL prefer online donations or cheques).

Online Donations can be made at <http://donation.lca.org.au> (click on 'Other').

Make cheques payable to 'Lutherans for Life'. Receipt Required ☐

Please send your completed form to Janet Schoell PO Box 346, Woodside, SA 5244

Privacy Note: Your personal details are only used for distributing LfL publications