



## FARGO-MOORHEAD LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

F-M Area LFL Newsletter

Fall 2008

### In this Issue:

“This Sweet Life”  
2008 Dessert  
Banquet  
Thursday, Oct 9th  
7:00 PM



See Flyer Inside and  
please post in your  
church bulletin and /  
or bulletin board

**RENEWAL FOR LIFE** One of the most joyous times in our church year is the time we call Easter. And although Easter for 2008 is now a somewhat distant memory, hopefully, we all continue to celebrate that joy every Sunday and in our everyday lives. Easter is all about LIFE and God's Word is all about LIFE. The Word of God points to a resurrected Jesus. The Word of God gives new life, is “living” and “remains forever”. It is the perfect word to apply to life and those issues that deal with life. This is one of the basic thoughts behind “Renewal for Life”, an exciting new program of Lutherans for Life to renew the church and her people to speak out on the life issues with the life-saving Gospel of Christ.

Some of you have been affiliated with Lutherans for Life in one way or another for a long time. Others are relative newcomers and just learning about our organization. Most of you know that our mission has to do with witnessing to the sanctity of human life through education, based on the *Word of God*. In our area, you have observed that witnessing in action through both secular community events as well as through our churches. You may be familiar with our “church contact” mode of operation in which we have sought to have representatives of our organization in as many congregations as possible. Along the same line we have a Life Ministry Coordinator program available through our national organization. We have asked these representatives to help promote events such as our annual dessert banquet as well as use of the resources we have available to educate people in their congregation on the life issues. We have asked them to help keep the life issues *alive* in their congregations.

I believe that there has been a significant educational impact on life issues in many congregations through the faithful work of LMCs and church contact representatives. The Lord has blessed their efforts and I believe many people have been helped through the various resources we have to offer. But, I also know that many have struggled with how to carry out this ministry effectively, some with very limited support in their congregations, and others in dealing with resistance to their efforts. For even in our Lutheran churches, the life issues are often controversial issues.

The National LFL board of directors has developed a pivotal initiative to impact Lutheran congregations *For Life* in a whole new way. You will be hearing much more about this exciting program as it continues to be launched in 2008, but for now, let me share my enthusiasm by telling you a little bit about “Renewal for Life”. It can be summed up in 3 R's: Responsibility, Relevancy, and Resources! LFL aims to encourage pastors and congregations to see how the life issues are spiritual issues and as such are their **responsibility** to address. This program will help those who choose to participate to come to a better understanding of the need to address the life issues in the church. It will also help them understand that God's Word is **relevant** in addressing the life issues. The Gospel is the most positive and powerful *For Life* message in the universe! The church needs to take the lead in helping people turn to the Lord of Life, not the god of death, for help and hope. Lastly, the program will offer **resources** to help pastors and congregations to deal with the complexity of the life issues and applying the Gospel to them.

So what does this all mean to our local LFL chapter? Will this change how we carry out our ministry or eliminate the need for local chapters? Certainly not! The local chapters remain the grassroots effort for the LFL pro-life mission. Renewal for Life is intended to strengthen our connections in our congregations and support the work we do. It will need our help and support and we will be asked to be involved as this moves forward.



The Fargo-Moorhead Chapter of LFL 20th Pro-Life Celebration Dessert Banquet was held on Sunday, November 4th, 2007 at Immanuel Lutheran Church in north Fargo. Approximately 165 people gathered to hear a presentation entitled "Challenges of Being Pro-Life in a Pro-Death Culture". Our guest speaker was Betty McGuire, the executive director of a pro-life ministry located in the heart of the poverty and crime-stricken inner city of Minneapolis.

The evening program was emceed by Pastor Dave and Kim Wagner of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church with invocation provided by Vicar Patrick Lovejoy from Our Redeemer Lutheran. An update on "40 Days for Life" was provided by Colleen Sampson and Jody Clemens and a musical selection "How Beautiful" presented by Linda Froslic. Benediction was given by Pastor Becky Lee of Atonement Lutheran Church. The evening also included a selection of tasty desserts, a chapter ministry update and presentation of the Dr. Jean Garton Life award to Jody Clemens.

### Banquet The banquet fund-Mission raising efforts resulted in a total of \$3821.00 in donations for our Projects

mission projects, with a net balance of \$3029.21 after expenses were paid. The mission project chosen for 2007 was to contribute to a special need of an adoptive family in our community. Derek and Katie Tuel are a couple who have opened their hearts and home to children from Guatemala and had accepted a referral for a baby girl born in August of 2006. This was the second of 3 children they were to adopt from Guatemala, and during the long and difficult adoption process, they found out that little Sage had severe medical problems. Our chapter chose this family as the recipient of the funds raised through the banquet to help cover the surgeries and other medical expenses required once she was brought to this country.

Our layette project was also very successful and we were able to put together a total of 24 layette kits, which were then distributed to The Perry Center, the YWCA Shelter and the "Adoption Option" program of Lutheran Social Services.

Thank you to all who contributed to these projects with financial and / or layette donations as well as your ongoing prayer support for our LFL mission.

### Thank You Banquet Committee

The annual chapter dessert banquet continues to be an event that our members and supporters look forward to each year. And it is certainly one that we enjoy bringing to you and also greatly appreciate the opportunity to see and enjoy fellowship with each of our LFL friends. But, it is an event that would not occur without the efforts of many volunteers who give of their time and talents to plan and organize, as well as to host the event. On behalf of the executive board, I would like to extend my appreciation to the following people who served on the banquet committee for 2007. The committee was led by Co-Coordinator **Scott McAllen** and **Faith Luebke** who did a great job organizing and helping carry out all of the necessary details to make the evening a great success. Also, our thanks to these great committee members and many others who helped on banquet nite

- Jolene Richardson**
- Michelle Mindeman**
- Dean Sonnenberg**
- Kelly Fougner**
- Diane Berggren**
- Kay Johnson**
- ReNae Schaeffer**
- Dan Borsheim**
- ReNae Simmons**



- Kim Wagner**
- David Mork**
- Gail Waagen**

**On Saturday, October 25th**, our chapter will once again team up with ND State LFL to sponsor a PRO-LIFE booth at this year's Women's Showcase Event.

### Women's Showcase

**Would you like to help?** We could use help to set up our display on Friday evening and help to staff the display on Saturday. You would be working with one or two other people for a 4 - 5 hour shift between 8:30 am and 5:30 pm. It is a great opportunity to witness for LIFE, and as an exhibitor, your admission to the event is covered. Please contact Jolene Richardson (237-5929; jorich3707@msn.com) or Gail Waagen (281-3977; gl\_wgn@msn.com) if you can help or would like more information.



**21st Pro-Life  
Celebration**

# **Lutherans For Life**

Join us for a  
fabulous evening with  
Radio Talk Show Host  
**SCOTT HENNEN**  
capped off with  
**SWEET DESSERTS**



You are invited to  
partner with us and  
give generously to  
a free-will offering  
in support of  
*Lutherans for Life*

Scott Hennen, Keynote Speaker

***“This Sweet Life”***  
***At every age and every stage!***  
*Taste and see that the Lord is good...Psalm 34:8*

**Annual Dessert Banquet**  
**October 9th ~ 7:00 pm**

**Atonement Lutheran Church**  
**4601 S University Drive ~ Fargo**





**DR. JEAN GARTON  
LIFE  
AWARD**

Congratulations to Jody Clemens as the recipient of the 2007 Dr. Jean Garton Life Award. Jody's passion is to advocate for the rights of unborn children and to show loving concern for women who are facing a crisis pregnancy and/or the experience of abortion. Over the past 3 decades, she has worked tirelessly to affirm life and to encourage and support others to do the same. Jody was instrumental in starting a crisis pregnancy center in another community. She has been a sidewalk counselor at abortion facilities in our area. Jody and her husband, Dave also served as house parents at a maternity home in Fargo. She has shared her own testimony with countless women in crisis and demonstrates a servant heart and passion for personal ministry to young women in crisis. Jody works as a birth parent counselor at Christian Family Life Services Adoption Agency. Her co-workers tell us that she has been blessed with the ability to relate to clients in a positive, non-threatening way. She also travels to other crisis pregnancy centers in order to train other workers how to present adoption as a very positive alternative to abortion.



Jody also served on the steering committee for the North Dakota 40 Days for Life Campaign for 2007 and has worked tirelessly in this community's effort to end abortion. A co-worker shared the following: "I have had the privilege of working with and learning from Jody for the past 8 years. I know her to be genuinely caring and tireless in her compassion and concern for the unborn and for those who find themselves facing an unplanned pregnancy. I know her to be a woman of deep, personal faith in Jesus Christ who strives to bring honor to Him in all she does. She has done a great deal to extend the pro-life cause across denominational lines in our region."

The namesake for this prestigious honor is **Dr. Jean Garton**, co-founder and the first president of the national LFL organization. She is a well-known and highly respected author and speaker, and was, in fact, the speaker for the first annual banquet of the F-M LFL chapter

*Dear ProLife Friends,  
I want to thank you very much for the recent award I received at the Lutherans for Life banquet. I was humbled as I looked at the past recipients of the Dr. Jean Garton Life Award and saw the names of faithful people who have modeled lives of obedience to the Gospel. Individuals who have demonstrated that they understand only too well that it is not enough to merely affirm their prolife policies or confess the teachings of the Church, but that it is their responsibility to practice and act on what they know is true and right. . . . I would like to thank Lutherans for Life for their continued love for the Lord and the unborn. Pray, as always, that we will triumph in this battle for justice for the unborn as we continue to express our faith in actions because of our deep and abiding love for Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Gratefully Serving  
Jody Clemens*

**Thank You**

**CRITERIA FOR THE DR. JEAN GARTON LIFE AWARD  
The Recipient of the Dr. Jean Garton Award**

**Will be a person who proudly professes Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.**

**Will be a lover of life and will actively celebrate this precious God given gift.**

**Will be a strong advocate for the rights of unborn children. The recipient will boldly speak for those who cannot speak for themselves.**

**Will show loving concern for women facing a crisis pregnancy and/or the experience of abortion. The recipient will, through word and deed, encourage and support these women.**

**Will affirm the right of fathers to be parents to their children.**

**Believes that human beings have rights because they are a unique creation of God and totally rejects any attempt to define life through qualitative standards. The recipient affirms the worth of the weak, the poor, the handicapped, and the aged.**



**Our 21st Pro-Life Celebration Dessert Banquet** is soon here. Please see details on page 3 and plan now so you won't miss this great opportunity. You may register individually or as a group by calling ReNae Simmons at 701-293-4058. Or, sign up on a list posted in your home church. You may also post the flyer in this newsletter and start a sign up list if needed. Childcare will be provided during the banquet event. We hope to see you there for a wonderful and inspirational evening.

At the dessert banquet to be held October 9th, the Dr. Jean Garton Life Award will be presented for 2008 - 09. If you would like to nominate someone for this award, please send your nomination to F-M LFL, P.O. Box 1202, Fargo, ND 58107, or contact Kim Wagner at 701-232-1215. Please note the criteria on page 6 and provide information about your nominee to support how they meet the criteria for the award. Nominations must be submitted **by September 25th**.

#### **2007 - 08 Chapter Officers and Coordinators**

President - Gail Waagen  
Vice President - Ginny Leon  
Secretary - Linda Froslie  
Treasurer - Scott McAllen  
Pastoral Advisor - vacant  
Education and Resources -  
Carolyn Worrall  
Banquet Co-Coordinators -  
Kim Wagner and Pastor Becky Lee  
Prayer Warriors - Dorothy Swenson

#### **Speakers Bureau**

Beth Schaible  
Jerry Kensok  
Linda Froslie  
Dr. Michelle Von Ruden  
Kim Wagner

## **Annual Meeting**

F-M LFL was unable to hold the 2008 Annual Chapter meeting in the spring, including election of officers for this year. The executive board has determined that in lieu of hosting an additional meeting for that purpose, election will be held in conjunction with the upcoming fall dessert banquet gathering. Nominations are currently open for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Requirements for officers are that the person must 1) be a member in good standing of an F-M or nearby surrounding community Lutheran congregation, and 2) a member of Lutherans for Life, or become qualified by election time.

## **Election Of Officers**

**We are asking that all nominations be submitted to F-M Chapter LFL, PO Box 1202, Fargo, ND 58107, by September 25th.** In order that we might give all members an opportunity to vote in the election, ballots will be mailed to each person who is on the active membership list. You may return your ballot to the ballot box at the banquet on October 9th, or mail it to the LFL PO Box by October 8th. If you are uncertain whether your membership is active, please feel free to contact Gail Waagen (701-281-3977). If you would like to re-activate your membership, or join for the first time, you may do so by filling out a membership application for National LFL and making an annual membership gift of any amount to the National organization. Please indicate on the form your local chapter name and/or number (F-M Chapter # 037). That may be done on the night of the banquet if you wish and you will have an opportunity to vote at the banquet if you do so.

In addition to election of officers, we will be voting on 3 proposed minor changes to the chapter bylaws. These changes are for the purpose of clarification regarding regular chapter meetings and meetings of the executive board. The following will serve as the advance 10 day submission in writing to the members prior to when the amendments are voted on. The proposed changes are:

- 1) Under Article II C 2. VACANCY. In the event of vacancies for any cause other than the expiration of term of office, the office shall be filled by special election at the next *regular monthly* LFL Chapter meeting. PROPOSED CHANGE: Omit "*regular monthly*", and add "*or as determined by the executive board*"
- 2) Under Article V MEETINGS 1. Regular meetings of the Chapter shall generally be held quarterly, and may be held at churches of various participating congregations and such other places designated by the President and the Executive Committee within or outside of Fargo - Moorhead. PROPOSED CHANGE: Change "Chapter" to "*Executive Board*".
- 3) Under Article V MEETINGS: 3. The February Meeting shall be the Annual Meeting. PROPOSED CHANGE: "*There shall be an Annual Meeting of the chapter, generally to be held in February, and other meetings as determined by the executive board.*" Page 7



**Fargo - Moorhead Area Lutherans for Life**  
*Witnessing to the Sanctity of Human Life Based on the Word of God*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Church: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Please make checks payable to "FM-Lutherans For Life")

\_\_\_\_\_ Currently receive F-M LFL free newsletter: Prefer \_\_\_\_\_ Mail or \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail

\_\_\_\_\_ Add me to your mailing list: Prefer \_\_\_\_\_ Mail or \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please contact me regarding a presentation for my church, school, or other group

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like more information about being a Life Ministry Coordinator or church contact.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copies of the "Truth Unmasked" CD. (No charge)

\_\_\_\_\_ I can help LFL in the following ways:

\_\_\_\_\_ Being a prayer warrior \_\_\_\_\_ Making phone calls \_\_\_\_\_ Banquet Cmte

\_\_\_\_\_ Serving on the exec board \_\_\_\_\_ Nominations committee for exec board

\_\_\_\_\_ Auditing financial records \_\_\_\_\_ Staffing Pro-life displays at marketing events

\_\_\_\_\_ Notify me about the next "Stand to Reason" training class: "Making Abortion Unthinkable:

*The Art of Pro-Life Persuasion.*" Circle method: Take 5-hour class / Borrow 2-hour video

Comments and/or information requests: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please complete form and return to Fargo-Moorhead LFL, PO Box 1202, Fargo, ND 58107)

**FARGO-MOORHEAD LUTHERANS FOR LIFE**  
**P.O. BOX 1202 Fargo, ND 58107**