

## Lutherans for Life – Canada Newsletter Fall Edition 2007



**From the President of Lutherans for Life – Canada:**

### **God's Ultrasound**

An ultrasound is a wonder. Since Eve was pregnant with Cain, expectant parents must have wondered at the young life growing inside the mother's womb. Now we can see pictures video, even 3D colour images of that little tike. What a miracle and what a gift the ultrasound is. Often parents who see an ultrasound of their growing, active, living unborn child are immediately convinced to bring that child to full term and to birth, even if they were considering an abortion beforehand. A video which highlights some amazing images of babies in utero at various stages of development wows my confirmation classes every year and convicts them to respect and even to fight for the life of the pre-born.



I am no medical expert or radiological technician. But from what I understand, an ultrasound picture is the result of sound waves echoing back to the receiving unit. As God's people, we are part of a process similar to an ultrasound. God pours out His redeeming love to us - like the sound waves emanating from the ultrasound unit. As we live out our new life in Christ, we are echoing back to the receiving unit the love which God has first shown us. The picture that results from these "love echoes" relates to the ultrasound images that are so precious.

In 1 John 4:11 we read, "*Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.*" What images are appearing on our ultrasound screens?

Ultrasounds can remind believing parents of the wonder, beauty, and awesome power of God's creation. As we echo God's love, do the images that are produced encourage our fellow believers to look to Jesus as the author and perfecter of our faith or do our ultrasound images point others to look at us?

Ultrasounds can change parents' doubts, questions, and fears to hope, trust, and joy in anticipation of holding that life in their arms. Do our lives, so enriched by God's grace and mercy, show God's love in such a way that people will be eager to receive that new life in Christ?

May we echo God's love in such a way that everyone who views our "ultrasound" may be drawn to our God of love and may rejoice with us in the Saviour who lives in us.

Rev. Ron Mohr  
President, Lutherans for Life – Canada

## LFL-C TREASURERS REPORT

(To September 15, 2007)



As first year treasurer I wish to joyfully submit this report. It has indeed been a blessing serving the Lord of the Church, and Lutherans for Life - Canada in this capacity.

After refreshing my math skills and adjusting to the system, it became a pleasure receiving the generous gifts from God's People. The words of encouragement were especially appreciated, as one cannot emphasize enough what that means to me personally and to our great organization. Those gifts received from seniors who are on fixed incomes shows the great testament to their faith. The sacrifices they make to support us reflect God's generous love.

To date we have received 42 donations totaling \$3,495.78. We almost averaged \$100.00 per gift. They do this knowing they will not receive a charitable deduction. One can only marvel at how God provides for us of little faith.

We have had expenditures of \$1,754.87, with our most expensive purchases being fetal models for our three district display booths, and pro-life material. We also intend to send \$1,000.00 to the "Life Issues Seminar" in Edmonton. We have had the normal operating expenses.

I wish to thank all for your support, small and large which have come from individuals, the local parishes, and the various groups within the Church.

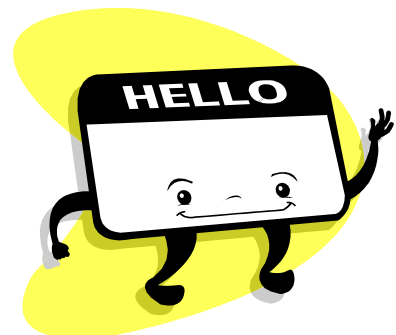
May God richly bless you all!

Cliff Pyle  
Treasurer

### **2007 LFL-C Annual General Meeting is More than a General Meeting!**

Who of us wants to attend yet another meeting, especially on a Saturday when we have so much to do?

Certainly, we don't want to meet just for meetings sake! That is why the LFL-C General Meeting will include presentations from faculty members of Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Catharines. These presentations will address various life issues that are of concern to all of us.



The LFL-C Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 17, 2007 at Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Catharines, Ontario from 10am - 3 pm. Registration and Fellowship time will begin at 9:30am. Registration is \$10 which covers the cost of lunch and parking and a gift for our speakers.

And yes, there will be some business at this meeting. We will be electing our new board of directors! The meeting and elections will be held following a catered lunch. Please send you registration to Mrs. Marian Obeda, 458 Castlegrove Blvd., London, ON N6G 1K8 or by email to: [msobeda@sympatico.ca](mailto:msobeda@sympatico.ca).

**Deadline for registration is November 10.**

### A WIN-WIN SITUATION



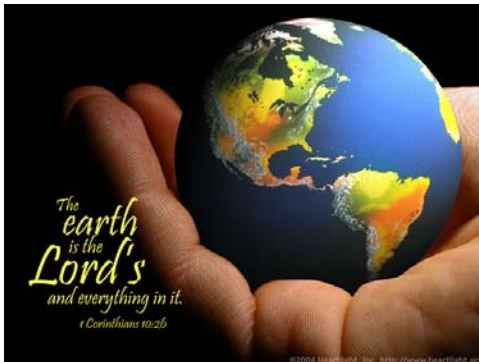
The youth group of St. John's Lutheran Church, Pembroke has once again participated in the Life Chain Event in our community. As you know the Life-Chain event is a prayerful witness to the Sanctity of Life. Having the youth involved is one of those win-win situations. First of all, it is beneficial for the event and the witness it brings. Too often the Life Chain is lined with grey-haired men and women. While it is a blessing to have the commitment by these older individuals, it can also give the community the idea that this is only a concern for previous generations. The presence of youth prevents this misconception. Secondly, having youth involved is beneficial to the young people themselves. Having them participate in the Life Chain is a way for them to make a conscious decision to stand in the side of life. It is hoped that participation in promoting life at a young age will continue throughout their lifetime. I would encourage all youth leaders in Lutheran congregations to make this part of your youth ministry.

-- Standing for Life, Pastor Stephen Alles

## **Love Life: A Life Issues Conference at Concordia University College of Alberta, Edmonton on November 10<sup>th</sup>!**

**What are you planning to do on November 10<sup>th</sup>?** Hopefully, you are planning to attend the *Love Life: A Life Issues Conference* at Concordia University College of Alberta, Edmonton. The conference will feature two keynote speakers: Dr. Gerald Krispin, President of CUCA and Dr. Stephen Genuis, a local MD. Dr. Manfred Zeuch, President of Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton will also be one of the breakout session presenters. Each conference attendee can choose to attend three optional sessions from a range of topics, including personal health and well-being, elder-care (“what to do with grandma?”), the ethics of stem-cell research, tips on how to talk to your kids about sex, and the Bible’s view of the family. The conference will be held at the Tegler Center at Concordia University College of Alberta on Saturday, November 10, 2007 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. The cost of the conference is \$25.00. Students pay only \$10.00. A light lunch is included in the fee, and parking is free on the Concordia campus. A registration form is available at [www.concordiasem.ab.ca](http://www.concordiasem.ab.ca). The conference is co-sponsored by Lutherans For Life-Canada, Concordia University College of Alberta, and Concordia Lutheran Seminary.

### **LUTHERANS FOR LIFE – United States Meet in Omaha, Nebraska**



It is always exciting to attend a conference with people of a similar mind-set - in this case Lutheran pro-life. The annual meeting held this year in Omaha, Nebraska July 6 - 8 had the theme “*In the Hand of God*”. The seven Canadian attending this year were Pastor Mayo and Adelman Mellecke, of Kitchener, Ontario, Pastor Orland and Linda Welke and Marian Obeda of London, Ontario, and Cliff and Nicole Pyle of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

The conference always begins with an opening service Friday evening and ends with Bible study and worship service with Dr. James Lamb on Sunday morning with a prayer breakfast on Saturday morning.

Buddy Davis, sculptor of dinosaurs at the Creation Museum in Kentucky, provided entertainment for the children after their trip to the zoo, and later also spoke and sang for the rest of us in the evening.

A number of the workshops dealt with creation. There is a strong connection between creation and the pro-life movement. Man was created by God; the worldly view is that man is merely an animal. However, it takes three to make a baby - a man, a woman, and God. When one hears Dr. Menton at these conferences, the stupendous make-up of the

human body is explained in easy to understand laymen's terms. The human body cannot happen by chance. God is involved.

The conference next year will be in Milwaukee, Wisconsin - date still to be determined.

-- Submitted by Marian Obeda

## Life News from Around the World:



**What is One of the Most Common Surgeries in Canada?** -- According to an article that appeared in the *National Post* (September 13, 2007) abortion is one of the most common surgeries performed on women in Canada. Roughly 105,000 are performed annually, 70% of them on women between the ages of 10 and 29.

The article goes on to talk of David Fergusson, a New Zealand psychologist, who is the author of a longitudinal study on abortion published in 2006. He is a self-described pro-choice atheist, not a social conservative. Dr. Fergusson's results did not just show an increase in general depression. They showed increased effects across a wide array of outcomes, including substance-abuse disorders, anxiety, suicide and suicide ideation. According to Dr. Fergusson's work, post-abortive women show increased risk of phobia, panic attacks and fears *"or just a generalized feeling of concern and anxiety at a level deemed to be clinically significant."* He describes the irony: *"99% of abortions in New Zealand are conducted on mental-health grounds. And our study suggests that this procedure may increase mental-health risks."*

**Canadian Pro-Abortion Advocates Are Up In Arms!** -- According to a *Globe and Mail* article (October 1, 2007) there's a place in North America where women have to wait for weeks to get an abortion because of lack of funding for nurses, doctors and operating rooms. This place is not some conservative U.S. state or a remote corner of Canada's far north.

It's Ottawa! Wait times for abortions in Ottawa stretched to six weeks this summer and are expected to do so again this winter. Right now, a woman who wants an abortion in the city must wait about 3½ weeks, a delay that's unheard of elsewhere in North America, according to abortion-rights advocates and providers.

Of course, this delay presents a problem to the pro-abortion advocates. The unborn child continues to grow. The mother experiences more and more the reality of the child in her womb which causes her emotional and physical distress. The cut-off date for an elective abortion in many parts of Canada, including Ottawa, is 20 weeks.

One of the reasons the wait is so long is that, nationally, only about one in six hospitals does abortions, according to a 2007 survey of all 791 public hospitals in Canada: That's 15.9 per cent, down from 17.8 per cent in 2003.

We can only pray that fewer and fewer hospitals and doctors/nurses will want to perform abortions. We can only hope that these delays will result in more women deciding to give birth to their child!

**Statistics Canada Confirms Late-Term Abortions in Canada** – In July Stats Canada released the national abortion figures for 2004. There were 100,039 abortions reported in 2004. Abortions performed in Manitoba clinics were not reported, nor were abortions obtained by Canadian women in the US. The Canadian Medical Association considers 20 weeks to be the point of viability, that is, the point at which babies can survive outside the womb. After the 20 week period, there were 401 abortions, 366 between 21-24 weeks, 18 between 25-28 weeks, 12 between 29-32 weeks, and 5 abortions reported at 33+ weeks. **Note:** There were 63,165 abortions for which there is no gestational information which means that if the above-mentioned patterns are applied to these 60,000+ abortions, there would be about 1200 post-viability abortions in Canada in 2004 with more than 100 in the third trimester and 15 in the final six weeks of pregnancy! – *The Rose*, The Provincial Newsletter for Alberta Pro-Life Alliance Association, September 2007, p. 1)

**First International Symposium on Euthanasia, Nov. 30:** The Euthanasia Prevention Coalition will be co-sponsoring Current Issues, Future Directions, the First International Symposium on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide in Toronto, November 30-December 1. There will be a number of speakers from around the world addressing such issues as: the current global situation regarding euthanasia and assisted suicide, why euthanasia is a threat to people with disabilities and why we must resist 'mercy killing.' The registration deadline is Nov. 15 and the cost is \$189.00 or \$100.00 for students or people with disabilities and that includes Friday lunch and dinner and Saturday lunch. For more information contact Alex Schadenberg at [info@epcc.ca](mailto:info@epcc.ca) or 1-877-439-3348.

**Newborns Probably Able to Feel Pain!** A doctoral thesis by Italian-Swedish researcher Marco Bartocci shows that the brains of premature babies are far more developed than previously thought. Using infrared spectroscopy, Bartocci's studies show that pain signals from a prick are processed in the cerebral cortex of premature babies in the same way as in adults. His research, which has been published in the scientific journal, *Pain*, is causing quite a stir since many doctors have assumed that fetuses, premature babies and fully developed newborn babies do not have the cerebral cortical functions required to feel pain. – Yahoo! News Canada Thurs. December 7, 2006.

**Man Awakes after 19 Year Coma!** Jan Grzebski, 65, of Dzialdowo, Poland fell into a coma in 1988 after being injured at work. Doctors also found that he had cancer in his brain and concluded that he would not live. Grzebski's wife took him home and cared for him. His wife, Gertruda, said, *"I would fly into a rage every time someone would say*

*that people like him should be euthanized, so they don't suffer. I believed Janek would recover!"* – Associated Press, Monday, June 4, 2007.

**After 6 Years, Experimental Electrodes Let Brain-Injured Man Speak, Eat!** – A 38 year old, New York brain damaged man who could only communicate with slight eye or thumb movements for six years can speak again, after stimulating electrodes were placed in his brain. He has also regained the ability to chew and swallow. The man cannot initiate conversations, but he can reply to others with one to three words. The man is still totally dependent and severely disabled, but his mother said, “Now, my son can eat, express himself and let us know if he is in pain. He enjoys a quality of life we never thought possible.” -- Yahoo! News Canada, Wed. August 1, 2007.

**The Death of Free Speech at Memorial University of Newfoundland:** On Wednesday, September 26, 2007, the Memorial University of Newfoundland Students' Union Board of Directors (MUNSU) declined to grant Memorial University of Newfoundland Students for Life (MUN for LIFE) official club status. When it came to this point the meeting, everyone was hesitant to speak.

The dominate arguments brought by MUNSU personalities to deny MUN for LIFE their rights were 1) MUNSU is a local of the pro-choice Canadian Federation of Students (CFS) and 2) MUNSU could not ratify a group in opposition to its beliefs.

The arguments aren't logical. There are numerous groups on the campus that hold opposing beliefs. For example, there are Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Pagan groups. There are Progressive Conservative, Liberal, and New Democratic groups. One would think that if MUNSU can grant ratification to these groups, it should be able to allow MUN for LIFE its democratic and university rights to free speech.

Patrick Hanlon, the President of MUN for LIFE, is encouraging his fellow union members and all concerned individuals, regardless of their position on life issues, to demand MUNSU to immediately reverse the decision made at the September 26 meeting. If this decision is not reversed, a dangerous precedent is set in place for MUNSU, and other Student Unions in Canada, which would allow the silencing of any other group that a union wishes not to have democratic and university rights.

You are encouraged to contact the following people in order to respectfully contact the MUNSU executive and voice your opposition to the decision:

James Farrell, External Director, [munsu@munsu.ca](mailto:munsu@munsu.ca)  
 Bradley Russell, Student Life Director, [studentlife@munsu.ca](mailto:studentlife@munsu.ca)  
 Stella Magalios, Campaigns Director, [campaigns@munsu.ca](mailto:campaigns@munsu.ca)  
 Stephanie Power, Advocacy Director, [advocacy@munsu.ca](mailto:advocacy@munsu.ca)  
 Nick Eisnor, Finance Director, [finance@munsu.ca](mailto:finance@munsu.ca)  
 Phone: 709-737-7633  
 Fax: 709-737-4743  
 Mail: MUNSU, Suite 2000 - University Centre, MUN, St. John's, NL A1C 5S7

To respectfully express your concerns to the university administration:  
 Dr. Axel Meisen, President and Vice Chancellor of MUN, [president@mun.ca](mailto:president@mun.ca)  
 Dr. Lilly Walker, Dean of Student Affairs and Services, [lwalker@mun.ca](mailto:lwalker@mun.ca)

You may carbon copy or send best wishes to:  
 Patrick Hanlon, MUN for LIFE President, [MUNforLIFE@gmail.com](mailto:MUNforLIFE@gmail.com)

## **Make the Connection ... Join Lutherans for Life – Canada!**

When you make an annual financial donation of any amount you become a member of Lutherans for Life – Canada. We place you on our mailing list and send you a quarterly newsletter.



Unfortunately, you are not able to receive a charitable receipt for your donation since LFL-C does not have charitable status with Revenue Canada.

You can send your donation to: Mr. Cliff Pyle 207 230 Heath Ave.  
 Saskatoon, SK S7S 1N7.

Visit LFL-C's website: [www.lutheransforlife-canada.ca](http://www.lutheransforlife-canada.ca).

### **A Call for LFL-C Board of Director's Nominations!**

Each year at our Annual General Meeting we elect a new board of directors. This year we are asking all our members to submit nominations so that we can broaden the scope of the board even more across Canada. Please prayerfully consider nominating yourself or another person you believe would serve Lutherans for Life Canada well as we move into another stage of our growth. Please contact the person you are nominating to get their acceptance of the nomination prior to submitting their name. Please include as much contact information as possible with your nomination. **Nominations deadline is November 2, 2007.**

**NOTE: All board meetings are conducted via telephone conference calls so you can be located almost anywhere in Canada and still serve on the board of directors!!!**

Please submit nominations by post or email to Rev. Ron Mohr, 14 Glendale Drive,  
 Tillsonburg, ON N4G 1J2 [rmohr@execulink.com](mailto:rmohr@execulink.com)

## Nomination Form

Nominee Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Home Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

I have prayerfully considered this nomination and have contacted him/her. He/She is willing to accept this nomination.

Nominator Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

The current board members are:

Rev. Ron Mohr, Tillsonburg Ontario, president  
 Mr. Cliff Pyle, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, treasurer  
 Mrs. Marian Obeda, London Ontario, secretary  
 Mrs. Linda Welke, London, Ontario, LMC coordinator  
 Rev. Mayo Mellecke, Kitchener, Ontario  
 Rev. Steven Alles, Pembroke, Ontario  
 Mrs. Ruth Klages, Collingwood, Ontario

**Note:** Ron Mohr and Ruth Klages have declined nomination to the board this year. The others have allowed their names to stand in nomination.