

2023 Lutherans For Life National Conference Agenda

Tuesday, October 10

3:00 p.m.	Hotel Check-in	
3:00-5:30 p.m.	Event Registration & Exhibitor Visits	Hotel Atrium
7:00-9:00 p.m.	Dessert Reception and LFL Updates, optional	Ballroom

Wednesday, October 11

7:00-8:00 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet & Exhibitor Visits	Hotel Atrium
7:00-8:30 a.m.	Event Registration	Hotel Atrium
8:00-8:30 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Devotion	Ballroom
8:30-9:30 a.m.	Keynote Presentation – Rebecca Kiessling Equal Protection—No Exceptions Rebecca will share her story and why every child deserves protection without exception.	Ballroom
9:45-10:30 a.m.	Breakout Session One (5 choices) Pastor Brian Barlow Called out of the Grave – Leaving My Grave Clothes Behind – Called out of the grave into a new life in Christ is every believer's promise in Baptism. Our grave clothes are removed, and the once-disfigured life ruled by confusion and rebellion is covered and made new. The rise of gay Christianity has promoted a false gospel and brings despair, not hope, to those suffering from gender dysphoria, their loved ones, pastors, and those called to extend pastoral care. Rev. Brian Barlow offers a clear voice of hope and perspective to pastoral care, having been called out of a life disordered by homosexuality. Michelle Bauman Raising Kids 4 Life – Parenting is a labor of love. It's a vocation filled with both joy and sorrow, success and failure. Between early mornings and sleepless nights, parents are given the important task of caring for their children in body and soul. But the world and all of its brokenness certainly doesn't make that task easy, especially when it comes to the topic of life issues. How do we prepare our children for the life issues they're certain to face? This presentation will offer basic guidelines for developmentally appropriate topics and conversations with our children, as well as rationale for starting conversations about LIFE today!	Boone Kenton
	Chrissie Gillet Peace – Developing Mental Health Sanctuaries in an Anxious World In this anxious world, we are often overcome by fears. While not all experiences of fear result in functional impairment, which would then be considered a mental illness, they can still impact our daily lives in a harmful way. God recognizes the danger of fear and commands us not to be afraid (Joshua 1:9). In this presentation, we will discuss the spiritual danger of fear/anxiety and what the Lord has done to give us peace.	Campbell

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	Sheryl DeWitt Redeeming Life Maternity Home: Solution-Based Ministry to Single Pregnant Women in Crisis – Learn how Redeeming Life, an RSO of the LCMS, is bringing life and hope to single mothers who want to choose life for their babies but lack the necessary resources to do so. By focusing on the reasons many women give for aborting their baby, we work to remove the barriers and provide solid solutions for a life choice.	Owen
	Rev. Scott Licht Awareness and Response to Modern-Day Slavery: Human Trafficking It is reported that there are more slaves today than at any other time in the history of the world. But how can that be in such an “enlightened” and “civilized” time? And we seldom, if ever, hear anything about it. What should we, as Christians, know about this horrific industry? What should we be looking for? What can we do? Learn more about this global atrocity that is likely happening in a city near you.	Hamilton
10:45 a.m.	Carpool to Creation Museum. Lunch on your own. Meal and snack items available at the Creation Museum, if desired.	
2:00 p.m.	SPECIAL PRESENTATION AT THE CREATION MUSEUM Patricia Engler – Life in His Hands: Empowering Pro-lifers with Biblical Truths – “For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well” (Psalm 139:13-14). When does human life begin? How do babies develop inside their mothers? What does God’s Word say about every human being’s value, how can we answer common arguments about abortion, and what practical ways can families defend life together? In this sensitively crafted, family-friendly presentation designed for all ages, learn how to live out the Bible’s truth about the value of every human life.	Auditorium
5:00-6:00 p.m.	Return to hotel at your leisure. Exhibitor visits	Hotel Atrium
6:30 p.m.	Evening Devotions	Ballroom
7:00-8:30 p.m.	Buffet Dinner and Award Winner Presentations	Ballroom
8:30-9:00 p.m.	Vigil for Life – Prayer for Legislative Action	Ballroom

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Thursday, October 12

7:00-8:00 a.m.	Breakfast Buffet & Exhibitor Visits	Hotel Atrium
8:00-8:15 a.m.	Opening Prayer	Ballroom
8:30-9:15 a.m.	Breakout Session Two (5 choices) Pastor Brian Barlow – repeat session	Boone

Emily Jashinsky Kenton

The Human Cost of Open Borders – This presentation will explore the human costs of open border policies that often go ignored in mainstream political discourse. America's porous southern border allows for unspeakable cruelty by Mexican cartels that now terrorize much of North and South America, reaping billions of dollars in the process.

Chrissie Gillet – repeat session Campbell

Michelle Bauman – repeat session Owen

Scott Licht Hamilton

Invisible to Indispensable – There are many people who are societally “invisible” – people with disabilities, victims of abuse, unwed mothers, children in the foster care system (and those who have slipped through the cracks). What does Scripture say about these “invisible” people? And how can the Church minister to, with, and from these indispensable individuals? Join this interactive session to give and take suggestions for your local context.

9:30-10:15 a.m. Breakout Session Three (5 choices)

Cameron Schroeder Boone

A Generation after God's Own Heart: Discipling Gen Z for a Lifetime of Knowing Jesus – Church leaders around the country are clamoring to answer the question: Why are all the young people leaving the Church? The truth is, they're still here ... we just need to find better ways to reach them. Cameron Schroeder will speak from his youth ministry experience in church, school, and camp settings to bolster your heart for discipling the youth in your community and give you some useful strategies to do just that!

Emily Jashinsky – repeat session Kenton

Rev. Adam Osier Campbell

The Sanctity of Life: Gospel Foundations and Imperatives – In this session, Rev. Adam Osier will discuss how the value of every human life is rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ and explore practical ways in which this reality informs and motivates the various vocations of the Christian's life.

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Virginia Flo

Owen

Introducing the LFL Frontline Playbook: Discover How to Implement Proven LFL Programs in New and Creative ways – Learn how to repurpose some of the best LFL Frontline resources. There is no need to reinvent the wheel. LFL has a variety of For Life resources already developed that you can utilize immediately in your local For Life ministry in the churches you serve. The playbook will provide optional game plans for your best program results as you adapt them to your unique local needs.

Dave Probst

Hamilton

Serving and Supporting YOU – Our Ministry Partners! – Lutherans For Life would like to invite **YOU**, our ministry partners, to an in-depth look into the five-year history of giving to Lutherans For Life. During our time together, we will also discuss the ways Lutherans For Life is celebrating, serving, and supporting our life affirming advocates.

10:30 a.m.

Carpool to the Ark Encounter. Lunch on your own.

Meal and snack items available at the Ark Encounter, if desired.

5:00-6:00 p.m.

Return to hotel at your leisure

Exhibitor visits

Hotel Atrium

7:00-9:00 p.m.

Banquet Dinner and Keynote Address

Ballroom

Rev. Mark Chavez

Joy and Death: The Blessing of Falling Asleep in Jesus – Our Heavenly Father promises an abundant, joyful life in Jesus. His promise includes all of life, even the most difficult experiences like illness and dying. Embracing our life in Christ in those challenging times sets us free to receive the Father's unexpected joyful blessings.

Evening Devotion

Friday, October 13

7:00-8:00 a.m.

Breakfast Buffet & Exhibitor Visits

Hotel Atrium

8:00-8:15 a.m.

Opening Devotions

Ballroom

8:15-9:45 a.m.

Closing Session – **Rev. Salemink – Life after Dobbs: Q & A**

Ballroom

9:45-10:30 a.m.

Sending, Survey, Closing Devotion

Ballroom

12:00 p.m.

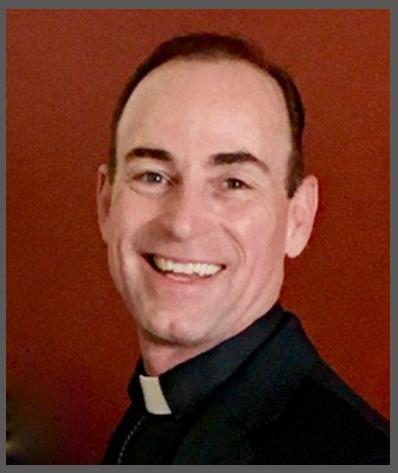
Hotel Check out

11:00-1:00 p.m.

Presidents (COFP) Meeting (private)

Thoroughbred

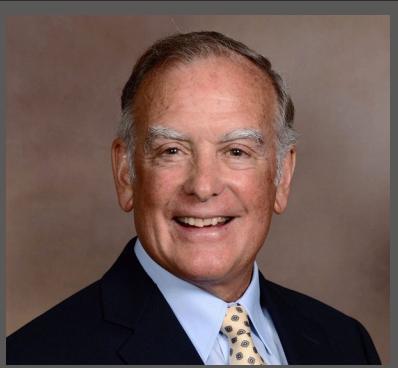
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Rev. Brian Barlow, with over 20 plus years ministering to the sexually and relationally broken, addresses the necessity of keeping a clear gospel when walking alongside individuals who identify as LGBTQ+ and those who desire freedom in Christ. His personal journey out of a disfigured life is a testimony to Ephesians 3:20. God in His mercy continues to do more than Brian and this world could imagine. He married his bride, Nichole, in 2012, and together they are raising their four sons ages 10, 8, 4, and 2.5 months. In addition to pastoring, Rev. Barlow serves with many local and national ministries, including Lutherans For Life, Y4Life, and LINC-LA. Pastor Barlow is invited often to share his story and give hope to both large and small venues across the United States.



Michelle Bauman joined the Lutherans For Life team on June 1, 2019. She earned her Lutheran teaching degree in secondary education from Concordia Nebraska in 1998 and a master's degree in English from the University of Indianapolis in 2011. Before joining Lutherans For Life, Michelle taught middle school English from 1998 to 2002 at Holy Cross Lutheran School in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and English, Drama, and Speech at Trinity Lutheran High School in Seymour, Indiana, from 2002 to 2019. Michelle also served as Trinity's Recruitment Director from 2004 to 2017. She lives in Columbus, Indiana, with her husband, Pastor Doug Bauman, and two sons, Nathaniel and Simeon, and attends St. Paul Lutheran Church, Clifty, where her husband serves as pastor.



Rev. Mark Chavez is passionate about proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There is no life apart from Jesus. His ministry is all about focusing on Jesus so everyone, including him, is drawn to Jesus in love, faith, and obedience. He thoroughly enjoys preaching and leading worship and Bible studies. Since all who are baptized into Christ are called to be His disciples, Mark is also passionate about nurturing discipling relationships. He began serving Reformation Lutheran Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in May 2021. He served 21 years outside the parish, ten years most recently as General Secretary of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC), and prior to that as director for Lutheran renewing and confessing movements. He served congregations in Maryland and Pennsylvania for 12 years at the start of his ministry. He tried, unsuccessfully, running away from the call to ordained ministry by attending the USAF Academy in 1972. After graduation and commissioning in 1976, he studied for two years at Queen's College, Oxford University, UK. He then served on a briefing team that made presentations on the Soviet Union at Air Force bases worldwide. God had his way with Mark, so he resigned his Air Force commission in 1983 to attend Luther

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Northwestern Theological Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He was ordained on All Saints Day in 1987. While in the Air Force, he met his wife, Jocelyn, and they married in September 1980. They were blessed with six children. Their youngest child, Kevin, was killed in 2013. Jocelyn was diagnosed with a rare, progressive neurological condition in 2012 and died peacefully in Jesus in March 2017. Mark has eleven grandchildren. Eight of his grandchildren live within five minutes of his home. Being a grandpa is one of his most important and joyful vocations. Mark grew up in Colorado and California. Most of his family now lives near Spokane, Washington. In the winter he skis with his family out west. The rest of the year he enjoys playing golf with his sons and sons-in-law and tending to his vegetable garden.



Sheryl W. DeWitt is the co-founder and Executive Director of Redeeming Life Outreach Ministries, which operates residential maternity homes and a transitional living home for single pregnant and post-partum women in crisis. With a professional background in the insurance and TPA industry, founding Redeeming Life was more about her life passion than her career development. Sheryl, along with her husband, Rev. Edward DeWitt, dreamed for over 25 years of opening a home for women in crisis pregnancies who were at risk of aborting their unborn child. That dream became a reality in November 2013 with the opening of The Southward House, a comprehensive

program and residential option for women who want to choose life for their child but lack the resources necessary to do so. In August 2018 Redeeming Life celebrated the opening of phase two of ministry, a transitional home, which offers graduates of the maternity home program continued stabilization and residential services. In late 2023 the first major expansion of the ministry is the scheduled opening of a maternity home in Chicagoland, specifically East Dundee, Illinois. Sheryl is passionate about offering positive, life-saving options to at-risk women and children. Sheryl and Rev. DeWitt have been married for 42 years and together raised three children. In addition to finding great joy in serving the women and babies of Redeeming Life, Sheryl is a dedicated and doting grandmother of three.



Patricia Engler is a Christian apologetics speaker, author, and podcast host for Answers in Genesis (AiG). After 12 years of homeschool and a B.Sc. degree, she backpacked 360° around the world in 180 days, documenting how Christian students keep their faith at university. The top takeaways from this research are available in Patricia's book, *Prepare to Thrive: A Survival Guide for Christian Students*. A series of "God stories" resulted in Patricia joining AiG-Canada as a speaker, writer, and youth outreach coordinator before transferring to AiG-US in 2022. The same year, she also embarked on a second backpacking journey,

this time to research Marxism's history and consequences in Europe. Both backpacking trips formed the basis for separate teaching series available on Patricia's blog (answersingenesis.org/blogs/patricia-engler). Along with blogging and speaking, Patricia serves as an *Answers News* panelist, co-hosts AiG's new podcast for young adults, *Zero Compromise*, and is pursuing

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an MA in Bioethics to help Christians think biblically about sanctity of life issues and emerging technologies. In her spare time, Patricia can often be found adventuring outdoors, exploring back roads, sketching, reading, or playing the ukulele.



Virginia Flo joined Lutherans For Life in September 2013 and currently resides in Eagan, Minnesota, where she is a member of Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran Church and School. She has spent her life in a dual career, both in business management, working for several major corporations in the Twin Cities area, as well as making a career in church work. She has worked extensively in the areas of Christian education, stewardship, and evangelism, while also serving as a choir director, where she is able to share her love of Christian music with both adults and children. In her business experience, she has worked in management, marketing, technology, and the graphic and visual arts. Her strong conviction For Life has given her the opportunity to speak on

all the life issues, with a particular emphasis in the area of physician-assisted suicide, which is being addressed in many states today. She grew up in a family that welcomed foster children who found a safe home with them in the country. She has authored a Christian fiction novel capturing some of those foster care experiences. Virginia has served as an LFL Life Chapter president and is now working across the United States helping equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.



Deaconess Chrissie Gillet, PsyD is married to her best friend, Steph Gillet, who is a pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Tomahawk, Wisconsin. They enjoy working side by side in the ministry as a husband-wife and pastor-deaconess team. Together they have seven children, but only their youngest still resides at home, along with Phoebe, their Labradoodle in therapy dog training. Chrissie earned a doctorate in clinical psychology from Spalding University and completed her psychology residency as an officer in the United States Air Force. She served four years active duty and another four as inactive reserve. God blessed her with a range of counseling experiences in settings such as: a domestic violence shelter, the suicide crisis hotline, military mental health clinics, and a Christian counseling agency. Transitioning from an emphasis on psychology to theology,

Chrissie attended the Distance Deaconess Program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. She graduated in October 2018 and was commissioned as a deaconess with Lutherans For Life. In her position as the **Word of Hope** Director, Chrissie answers the hotline calls and emails. Understanding both the secular worldview and the Christ-centered perspective, she listens without personal judgment while also responding in Christian truth and love. Motivated by compassion, she often goes above and beyond to connect people with local services and natural supports.

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Emily Jashinsky is culture editor at *The Federalist* and host of *Federalist Radio Hour*. She previously covered politics as a commentary writer for the *Washington Examiner*. Prior to joining the *Examiner*, Emily was the spokeswoman for Young America's Foundation. She's interviewed leading politicians and entertainers and appeared regularly as a guest on major television news programs, including *Fox News Sunday*, *Media Buzz*, and *The McLaughlin Group*. Her work has been featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Post*, *Real Clear Politics*, and more. Emily also serves as director of the National Journalism Center, co-host of the weekly news show *Counter Points: Friday* and a visiting fellow at Independent Women's Forum. Originally from Wisconsin, she is a graduate of George Washington University.



Rebecca Kiessling has been an international pro-life speaker and adoption speaker since 1995, speaking for various pro-life organizations throughout North America and Europe. Politically influential, she changed the heart of Gov. Rick Perry during his presidential campaign, as well as Newt Gingrich, and many other legislators across the United States, Canada, and Europe. She's helped pregnant rape victims all around the world to choose life for their children. She's also an attorney and mother of five (the two oldest of whom are adopted), she lost two additional babies to miscarriage, and her 33-day-old adopted daughter, Cassie, who was born with special needs. She's also

the poster child for Feminists for Life's ad, "Did I Deserve the Death Penalty," author of the Heritage House '76 pamphlet "Conceived in Rape: A Story of Hope," and the writer of, and subject of, numerous articles and blogs on LifeNews, LifeSiteNews, and Live Action. She is the Founder and President of Save The 1 and co-founder of Embryo Defense.



Rev. Scott Licht grew up in New Ulm, Minnesota, and was raised in the Wisconsin Synod. He graduated from Martin Luther Preparatory School, Northwestern College (the WELS pastor-training college), and attended Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary for a short time. In 2005, he earned an MBA and a Master of Science in Information Systems from Iowa State University. Scott worked in the corporate world for 30 years before combining his business and theological education and experience at Lutherans For Life beginning in 2012. Scott satisfied the requirements and was ordained in the Lutheran Congregations in Mission

to Christ (LCMC) in 2014. In addition to his service at Lutherans For Life, he serves as pastor of Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church in Huxley, Iowa – a congregation rostered with the LCMC and the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). Scott has an adult daughter in the Des Moines area and a daughter, son-in-law, and two grandsons near Colfax, Iowa. He and his

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wife, Sue, live near Huxley, Iowa, with three horses. Sue also has three adult daughters. Scott says, "There is never a lack of things to do, and I give thanks for how richly God has blessed me. I enjoy serving Him through the mission of Lutherans For Life, and I would ask for your prayers as we continue to 'equip Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life.'"



Rev. Adam Osier and his wife, Courtney, reside in Maple Grove, Minnesota, with their three children, Jacobi, Kaia, and Luther. He has pastored churches in rural central Minnesota and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Since 2019, he has served as Dean of the Free Lutheran Bible College in Plymouth, Minnesota. He is also a co-host of *Being Lutheran*, a podcast dedicated to proclaiming the excellencies of Jesus Christ and the biblical theology expressed in the Lutheran Confessions.



Dave Probst joined the Lutherans For Life team as the Development Director on January 17, 2022. He received a BS in Financial Management from Southwest Missouri State University in 1993, and a DCE Specialist Certificate from Concordia Nebraska in 1998. Dave worked two years as a Commercial Appraiser in St. Louis, Missouri, two years as a Youth Director at Oak Road Lutheran Church in Lilburn, Georgia, and sixteen years as a Youth Director at St. James Lutheran Church in Lafayette, Indiana. Dave left youth ministry in the summer of 2016 to begin serving as the Development Director at Trinity Lutheran High School in Seymour, Indiana. He and his wife,

Jennifer, have been married since 1998 and are blessed with two sons, Josiah and Caleb. The Probst family are members of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church in Columbus, Indiana, where Jennifer serves as Pre-School Teacher and the Early Childhood Ministry Director.



Cameron Schroeder is originally from LaCrescent, Minnesota, but currently lives in Saginaw, Michigan, where he serves as admissions counselor for Michigan Lutheran Seminary. He has previously served as a youth leader at Northcross Lutheran Church in Lakeville, Minnesota, Junior Staff Director at Camp Phillip in Wautoma, Wisconsin, and in an advisory role for churches around the country trying to take their youth ministry initiatives to the next level.