

# AFFIRMING LIFE

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT LCMS

## Christian Outreach: Equipped to Proclaim the Gospel

In the field of pro-life work, as in the field of Christian evangelism, earnest and interested people very often share a common lament: "I want to, I just don't know how!" And it's a fair concern. Christ changes hearts and lives, forgiving sin and granting eternal salvation... but He doesn't always make us great public speakers. Sometimes, no matter how good the news is, we feel a little tongue-tied when the moment arrives.

There are many objections to the message of the Gospel, and there are many objections to the message of life. The two share a lot in common. Providentially, God has tied these two forms of outreach together quite closely! Did you know that they are both expressed most fully from the Christian witness of Lutherans?

In a concrete and meaningful way, as you hear God's Word and receive forgiveness and salvation, you are being equipped for Gospel-speaking proclamation to your neighbor and to confess God's whole counsel of life in the public square. These two messages in their fullness center around the person and work of Jesus Christ, and Lutherans can be prepared very simply to proclaim two things: First, that Jesus paid for the sin of the whole world, including every human being without exception, from the womb to the deathbed. This is not something that all Christians are willing to confess, but we can and we must. Second, that the work of Jesus is completed and none of us is capable of doing God-pleasing good on our own, nor avoiding sin to the point that we merit our own salvation. We rely entirely and completely on the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. This is also not something that

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all Christians are willing to confess. But Lutherans can, and Lutherans must.

There are other details of course, and every personal conversation is fraught with personal stories and

background and hurt and need. This is something that no amount of training can completely anticipate. You are in the best position to know your neighbor, whether they are friends and family that may be in need, or a woman you've never met who plans to enter an abortion or abortion-referral facility that you have volunteered to stand outside.

If that last thought gives you pause or it doesn't sound like you, consider that you are being continually prepared to offer just such a witness, and especially to the downtrodden and hopeless, and those who are feeling the condemnation of the Law. Christianity (Lutheran Christianity in particular) does not call us to tidy avoidance of difficulty, but to bear it and to walk alongside those who are burdened by sin and hurt. Christian outreach at abortion facilities presents a fertile mission field in which to bring the hope of the Gospel of Christ to a darkened place. You are already being continually formed and shaped to offer this witness.

"Outreach of the sidewalk kind" will be necessary regardless of the fate of Roe v Wade in the United States. Consider that sin is not subject to legislation, and the problems that precipitate abortion will not disappear by legal action. And because it is a particular witness of mercy, hope, support, and healing in a specific context, some training is definitely necessary.

This monthly newsletter, serves to support the Rocky Mountain District in the ministry of defending those who cannot defend themselves and proclaiming the Gospel of Christ to those struggling with life-related issues.

Comments and suggestions are always welcomed and appreciated.  
Deaconess Sara Smith, Rocky Mountain District Life Coordinator  
[DistrictLifeCoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:DistrictLifeCoordinator@gmail.com)

As you consider whether you might say (like Isaiah who was called to proclaim difficult Law and sweet Gospel) "here am I, send me," the following resources are available to you immediately:

First: Continue hearing God's Word and receiving His body and blood at church. Hear your pastor proclaim God's message of life for you and all people in Christ.

Second: LCMS Life Ministry continues to make many resources available for this kind of witness at <http://www.lcms.org/lifeministry>. In May, the Making Disciples for Life conference deals with the topic of [Evangelizing the Lost through Life Ministry](#), which will help to equip you and your parish for precisely this kind of witness. Registration for this event (and access to materials post-event) will be available [here](#).

Third: Seek Lutheran support from inside your parish or nearby churches in fellowship to pursue a sidewalk ministry program for your local abortion (or abortion

referral) facility. Cross-denominational mercy-based programs like [Sidewalk Advocates for Life](#) are gaining support inside the Missouri Synod, and they are highly commended.

Fourth: If you have questions about what it might look like, feel like, or require of you to support (or even start) pro-life ministry, I welcome you to contact me at [jamont@gracesandy.org](mailto:jamont@gracesandy.org) or reach me through the LCMS Rocky Mountain District Life Ministry Coordinator so that we can talk about how you can personally make an effective start at proclaiming Christ and His Word of life to all the nations in your own city and state.

God's blessings on you as He continues to form you in Christ to be light and salt in a lost and dying world!

Jeremy Lamont  
Regional Life Coordinator, Utah

### ***Making Disciples for Life Seminar Series Evangelizing the Lost through Life Ministry***

Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>  
1:00 PM – 5:15 PM CDT

In our witness to the sanctity of human life, we often find ourselves engaged with nonchurched people in one way or another. Some of these nonchurched people are pro-life; others are pro-abortion. Some are seeking services or assistance; others are offering help. Some are standing beside us proclaiming the value of life; others are standing against us proclaiming imagined rights. In these various circumstances and encounters, we have opportunities to share the Good News of Jesus with people who are perishing no matter what their view of life may be.

The *Making Disciples for Life* seminar, "Evangelizing the Lost through Life Ministry," provides a forum for exploring ways in which we can individually and collectively make use of the opportunities to proclaim Jesus that Life Ministry provides for us. Through brief plenary sessions and longer breakout sessions for discussion and sharing ideas, this seminar is designed to provide practical ways to conduct witness and outreach through the Life Ministry you are currently conducting or the Life Ministry you are planning.

This seminar will be conducted live at the LCMS International Center in St. Louis and on-line. Recordings of the sessions will be available to seminar participants through June 20, 2022. There is no cost for this seminar, but registration is required. Registration for either in-person or online participation is open now at <https://cvent.me/yvKQYZ>

LCMS Life Ministry

[www.lcms.org/life](http://www.lcms.org/life)

[www.facebook.com/LCMSLife](https://www.facebook.com/LCMSLife)

LCMS Life Ministry Newsletter

<https://resources.lcms.org/tag/life-ministry-newsletters/>

Lutherans For Life

[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)



Listen to this podcast from LCMS Life Ministry, to hear from life leaders and others who are speaking up about and living out the sanctity of human life.

<https://www.kfuo.org/category/friends-for-life/>