
Lutheran For Life

Jill Johnsen, President

Lutherans For Life of South Dakota (LFLSD) is a state affiliate of the national organization of Lutherans For Life (LFL), organized in 1978 as a non-profit, pan-Lutheran mission. Our purpose is to give witness to, and equip Lutherans to give witness to the truth of the God-given sanctity of human life found only in God's word. Therefore our mission statement is: **"Equipping Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices FOR LIFE"**. The message of LFL is the heart-changing truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ: the unique, primary message being, "Here is what God has done that gives value and dignity to all human life." LFL desires to pattern its manner after the Apostle Paul and **"speak the truth in love."** LFL strives to give witness, from a Biblical perspective, to the Church and society on the value and dignity of all human life from the youngest to the oldest, the preborn to the elderly, from the weakest to the strongest.

Education on life issues is our primary purpose. We encourage attendance at National LFL Life Conferences as well as at programs we develop or sponsor on the state level. Articles have been published in the South Dakota insert of the Lutheran Witness.

An ongoing project has been our Youth Essay Contest on Life Issues for students in grades 6-8th grades and 9-12th grades. This contest is sponsored by the Council of Federation Presidents of which South Dakota is one Federation. Our state currently awards \$500 for first place in each category and \$250 for second place. The 2025 theme for the Essay Contest is **"Fearfully and Wonderfully Made"** Psalm 139:13-14. State winners are eligible for national competition and is a way for young people to use their creative skills to share God's word.

Our Annual Meeting is held in early January and has been a time of sharing what our members have been doing in their local areas. Also in January is traditionally Life Sunday although it can be observed at any time. LFL resources are available through Concordia Publishing House (CPH). The 2025 theme is Life Shines in Darkness.

The Annual State-wide Diaper Derby provides friendly competition between Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day to collect disposable diapers and supplies. They are then delivered to a crisis pregnancy center or shelter, etc. in local communities. This shows support for God's gift of life while helping moms and dads in need. It's fun to see who can collect the most diapers or packages of baby wipes.

In 2024 we helped spread the word that the State Constitutional Amendment G was not in keeping with the will of God and that we should urge God's people to vote No. We were to show kindness to the unborn still in their mothers' wombs and speak for those who couldn't speak for themselves.

The Witness of the Crosses continues to be a bold, eye-catching display which serves as a reminder of the babies whose lives are taken as a result of abortion each year. Please contact us through our website or Facebook page to schedule the trailer and crosses at your church or event with the trailer spelling out the information about the recent statistics.

We are grateful for the generous supporters of Lutherans for Life of South Dakota, Inc.

MAIN STREET LIVING

Jay Schaefer, Executive Director

Since January 6th, 2002, Main Street Living has been producing and airing liturgical LCMS worship services to homebound & nursing home individuals. The program is currently broadcast on ten television stations covering six states, eight LCMS districts, and over 1,100 LCMS congregations. We are a ministry that supports the work of pastors and their congregations as they reach those who are unable to attend in person worship.

Six unique regional programs are produced each week for South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Wisconsin markets. It is estimated that the program is viewed weekly in about 25,000 households, with approximately 37,000 viewers. Local pastors proclaim the Good News of Jesus each week and invite the viewing audience to attend local services in the congregation they serve.

Main Street Living can be viewed each Sunday morning in:

South Dakota - Sioux Falls (KDLT & KCPO) & Rapid City (KEVN)

North Dakota - Eastern ND (KVRR) & Western (WDAYx)

Iowa - Sioux City (KCAU)

Nebraska - Lincoln (KLKN) & Omaha (WOWT/COZI)

Central Minnesota - Twin Cities (WFTC)

Wisconsin - La Crosse & Eau Claire (Fox 25/48 - WLAX/WEUX)

- All 6 markets can be view anytime at MainStreetLiving.com

Jay Schaefer has been serving as Executive Director since 2021, and also edited and delivered services to television stations since 2016. The ministry recently contracted Joel Klein of Klein Media to record, edit, and deliver MN market episodes. This past summer a small group of editors have also been assisting with episode and hymn editing. In addition to this small team, a dedicated group of volunteers give their time and talents to process donations, schedule pastors for recordings, and facilitate recording days. This ministry could not exist without their generous help.

We have involved many more congregations and pastors in the ministry the past two years. The Nebraska market has included service recordings at Zion Lutheran (Kearney, NE) and St. Paul (Wisner, NE). The Minnesota market has added recordings at Prince of Peace (Baxter, MN) and Trinity Lutheran (Slayton, MN). We have also recorded choirs in Fargo, Sioux Falls and Black Hawk, SD; Sioux City, IA; Baxter, MN; and Eau Claire, WI. The video and audio of these choir recordings is available at MainStreetLiving.com for pastors to use when visiting members. Future expansion into central Iowa and central Wisconsin is being discussed.

Since the pandemic donations, have been down and expenses have been up. While Main Street has a reserve fund from generous donors to help get us through, it will only last a few years. Congregational support makes a huge difference and can be as simple as informing members of the program. Other ways of support include praying for the ministry, including program information in church bulletin / newsletter, sharing broadcast times with those in need, and hosting a Main Street Living Sunday, in addition to financial support. We appreciate any support and/or ideas you may have.

Finally, we thank the pastors who proclaim God's Word on the program, keep this ministry in front of their congregations, and support us with their prayers. Main Street Living strives to provide production and administration, but it is the pastors who share the message that the world needs: forgiveness, life, hope, and salvation through Christ alone.

We thank you for your continued prayers and support of this ministry!

LUTERAN FAMILY SERVICE

Rev. Max Phillips, Executive Director

Lutheran Family Service has partnered with the South Dakota District for several years bringing supportive adoption services, and mental health wellness services to individuals, church workers, and congregations. Unlike most of the mental health and adoption industry we whole-heartedly embrace your convention theme in being “not ashamed of the Gospel,” for such is how we do our work. As a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, we strive to wrap the church and the love of Christ around those who are well and those who are struggling.

A primary focus of our work is to be a ready resource for church workers to help them deal with the stress of ministry and support them in the challenges of being the church in this, sometimes hostile, age. Our goal is to bring our ministry hearts into our work as highly educated and clinically trained therapists so that workers remain healthy in their mind and body, strong in their family relationships, and joyful in their serving.

Our support of church workers extends to care for those working within our Lutheran Schools, and those children and families they serve so well. At the Lutheran Educator’s Conference in Sioux Falls this year, LFS counselors are leading topics on supporting students with mental health concerns and those with gender identity confusion. A new partnership is growing at Zion Lutheran School in Rapid City with an LFS counselor serving on site one afternoon per week.

Our century-plus ministry of caring for orphans continues in South Dakota and other states. We are a leading voice in the church in support of life through pregnancy counseling and adoption as primary avenues of extending the church’s Biblically mandated work.

With the support and encouragement of the district in the past three years, we opened two offices in South Dakota (Sioux Falls and Deadwood) serving people in person at our offices and remotely via telehealth across the state. A third office, located within and hosted by the members at Divine Shepherd in Black Hawk, opened in October. Our South Dakota Lutheran Family Service staff includes three licensed mental health counselors, a grief specialist, and an adoption specialist. Our work includes groups, including those that support church worker spouses who have unique pressures to lovingly serving in their role. In addition, LFS pastors have filled pulpits across the district preaching the Gospel’s “power of God that brings salvation,” sharing ways this power is manifest through our caring mercy work.

We are thankful to God for all of you and the partnership we share to serve people in your District. Without your financial help, prayerful support, and district encouragement we would not have been able to serve so well and so many. We look forward to growing this partnership in the years ahead.

Find current information about Lutheran Family Service offices, offerings, and activity in South Dakota through our website at www.LutheranFamilyService.org.