



DO NOT BECOME WEARY IN WELL DOING

*“Let us not become weary in doing good,
for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”* Galatians 6:9

On 5 May 2002 the Lutherans for Life Chapter became official—17 years ago. Through the years there have been many challenges and changes. We have lost many members for various reasons—moves, illnesses, and the major one of the Lord calling many of our leaders to their heavenly home. We have struggled with recruiting members, getting congregational representatives; members stepping up and becoming officers, raising funds, and a lot more. I will never forget Rev. Russ Hess doing devotion about 10 years ago in which he reminded us of the words above—“to not become weary in our labor of love as God would produce a harvest if we don’t give up.” And here we are—still facing challenges and yet a small core of members are willing to put their trust in the Lord to help us move onward if He so desires.

A small core of members met on April 14th to discuss our “dilemma.” We had excellent discussion from all those present. Some of the activities that have occurred this year include the following:

Elise Spleiss from Messiah, Citrus Heights, participated in the West Coast Walk for Life in January—her first time. Fees were paid to keep our website online.

Linda Cruz completed all the paper work for the IRS or whomever.

Lois Brauer contacted the National LFL for information pertaining to suicide in response to a request.

A phone call from a teacher at St. Peter Lutheran School, Lodi, requested information about an essay writing contest being held by our National LFL came to Zion’s office. Lois picked it up and was able to get the necessary information to the teacher. If one of her students should win, that child would receive a certificate and be recognized at our Regional Conference next November.

Richard Hintz continues to keep the LFL tract racks filled with good information for the congregation members.

Lois is serving as a member on the Elder Clergy Committee with Senior Care Solutions which puts on an annual event each September to help clergy and/or congregational leaders minister to the elderly in their congregations.

Pastor Colter has been talking with other pastors about the life issues we face and has found a number of pastors interested in our Chapter’s ministry.

Lois has obtained names of a number of new contacts to whom we can reach out & see if we might get some new members.

Val Brauer with Timothy and their three children participated in a Walk for Life on April 13. Val raised \$575 for the Pregnancy Center in Tracy. Thank you for your love and passion.

At our meeting on April 14th, we discovered that the Lord is placing some exciting things to our Chapter and if God so wills, we can continue being an active Chapter. If not, it may mean we have to shut the door till a more opportune time.

- We have \$6,735.96 in our treasury.
- At our meeting we decided to give a donation to the Elder Clergy Committee/Event to help defray their expenses of putting on the event. The event is free to those who attend. Last year we donated \$250 and also had a table of tracts and information available to the attendees. This gets our name on the program so we get more publicity. The response was awesome as those who picked up the brochures indicated how helpful they would be. That included a couple of doctors who said that the brochures encouraged them to remain faithful to God in a medical field where that is very challenging today.
- There is going to be a Regional LFL Conference, “Did God Really Say ...?” in San Francisco on November 16. We are hoping to have one of the speakers come to Sacramento the next day to speak to those who might be interested in learning about LFL & a lot more. This is still in the planning stages but we certainly are hoping it will occur.

- Richard Hintz will contact other congregations to see if we can put up tract racks with LFL brochures/tracts.
- We discussed the need for having members from other congregations; and this could include other denominations. However, only Lutherans can hold a position as an office.
- Since we had only one officer present at this meeting, we decided to make PRAYER for our Chapter a part of our daily lives. We specifically want to ask God to send us people to become members but who would also be willing to be leaders. We especially want to reach out to other congregations.
- All those present were asked to invite and encourage others we know or whom we meet to attend our next meeting on May 18th, 11:00 a.m. – 2 p.m., at Brookfield's on Madison Avenue & I80, Sacramento. Guests' meals will be provided at no cost.
- Richard and/or Lois will look for the officers' job descriptions.
- James Brauer will continue to do updates on our website www.lfl-sac.org

If you have been blessed by our ministry in some way (or haven't yet), would you please encourage us and also join us in daily prayer that God will bless our efforts to reach out and touch the lives of so many, many people who are dealing with a variety of life issues. We all have burdens we carry pertaining to life issues. Sadly, too often we try to do it alone. We are here to help support, comfort, love, and provide any help we can to you or someone you love.

Lately a hymn keeps popping up in my mind—an old hymn my mom used to sing around the house with many others she would sing as she worked. The one I am thinking of is “Jesus Savior, Pilot Me.” As we go through life at home, in the work place, in various committees, our LFL Chapter, or wherever; we are faced with storms, unknown waves, hiding rocks, treacherous shoal, etc. For some reason, I feel this is appropriate for our Chapter as we face the unknown future.

Jesus, Savior, pilot me,
 Over life's tempestuous sea;
 Unknown waves before me roll,
 Hiding rock and treach'rous shoal;
 Chart and compass came from Thee:
 Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

As a mother stills her child,
 Thou canst hush the ocean wild;
 Boist'rous waves obey Thy will
 When Thou say'st to them, “Be still!”
 Wondrous Sov'reign of the sea,
 Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

When at last I near the shore,
 And the fearful breakers roar
 'Twixt me and the peaceful rest,
 Then, while leaning on Thy breast,
 May I hear Thee say to me,
 “Fear not, I will pilot thee.”

Submitted by Lois Brauer
 Member
 Sacramento Valley Chapter Lutherans for Life

