



# Breath of Life

VOL 24 NO 4 • END OF YEAR 2007

## Shine!

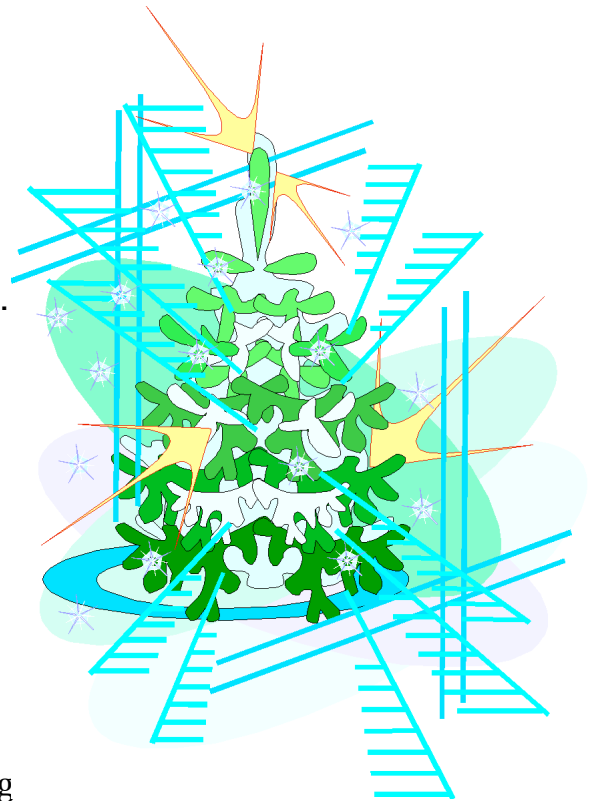
Pastor Martin Stuebs, Alpha Board member

A shining Christmas tree... tiny lights each so bright.  
Some bulbs so small...might doubt it missed at all;  
No one cares if its light's not shared?  
Yet, each has a space...

With love and lessons and light  
to keep the tree ablaze  
with lights to show the way to life forever.  
Just so has Jesus given the Gospel-Light for each  
to shine on the Tree.

Kids in the Children's Service this year, used  
battery operated candles  
"good for 96 hours."

But eventually...they stop "going and going and going



Not Jesus!

His searchlight pushes even dark death aside.  
He lights the way...yes, is the Way!  
Lazer-like beaming into eternity

Light dim?

Jesus isn't losing the juice!  
(some prefer darkness.)

His little gospel light.. ..I'm going to let it shine!

**Shine, Jesus shine!**

"Light of the World" shine on us  
Set us free by the truth you now bring us.

(Let All The People Praise You, CW 270:1)

# Pray, Praise & Give Thanks

The Jefferson County Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans recently gave us a large donation as a result of their award as "Lodge of the Year" from the Wisconsin Fraternal Insurance Association. Our congratulations to them as well our thanks!

We are pleased to report that because of your efforts in dropping off empty ink cartridges and old cell phones, we have reaped almost \$90! A number of you have designated Alpha Center as your Kwik Trip Rewards recipient, and we have received \$225 from this source. What painless ways to give such blessings! If you ever have questions about this, please don't hesitate to call or e-mail the office.

We have recently been blessed with the following tributes and memorials:

- ◇ In memory of Milo Sterr from Beth Kietzmann
- ◇ In Honor of Dave & Jan Melcher's 50th anniversary from Erv & Glo Huebner
- ◇ In memory of James Arthur from Bob & Ruth Huebner

- ◇ In memory of Irma Knief from Elaine Knief
- ◇ In memory of Sheridan Chamberlain from Beth Kietzmann
- ◇ In memory of Howard Maertz from Rev. Ron & Kay Uhlhorn
- ◇ In memory of Adela Spaude from Rev. Cyril Spaude
- ◇ In memory of Tom Theder from Terry & Beth Lundsten
- ◇ In memory of Dorothy Pitzner from Elaine Knief
- ◇ In Honor of Bob & Judy Tietz's 50th anniversary from Erv & Glo Huebner
- ◇ In memory of Lorraine Strauss from Bob & Ruth Huebner
- ◇ In memory of Viola Genz from Erv & Glo Huebner

## **New volunteers!!**

Welcome back to former counselor Kris (Slee) Hale (Trinity, Watertown) and a warm welcome to new counselor Louise Wendland (St. Stephen Beaver Dam)



## Alpha Center Wish List

- ◇ **Occasionally we are asked what the Center is in need of on a regular basis, so we try to keep a current wish list that anyone is more than welcome to supply! These are typically things that we have ongoing use of, so multiples are great.**
  - **\*\* special need\*\* disposable baby wipes, both tubs and refill packages**
  - **children's devotionals**
  - **office supplies, especially tissues, hot cocoa drink mix, animal crackers, upright vacuum cleaner bags (type Y)**
  - **baby girl tights, white or colors, sizes 0-6 mo, 6-24 mo, 2T-3T**
  - **baby bath towels, baby shampoo/wash**
  - **new/gently used toddler-sized boots and shoes**
  - **gently used playpens (ideally pack & carry)**
  - **For Library: People's Bible books Matthew, Mark, Luke & John**

Groups are encouraged to assemble layette packs as gifts to the Center to be given out to new mothers. Content lists for the layettes are available by phone or e-mail request!



Donations of any new or clean, gently used baby clothing or maternity clothing or other baby items and equipment are always welcome and can be dropped off at the center during our office hours. Any questions, contact Nancy Schmitz at 920-253-8984.

Breath of Life  
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*Dear* Friends of Life,

As together we celebrate the advent of our King we are reminded of why we volunteer and support this ministry. The hope that the baby Jesus gives us is the same hope we strive to share daily with those we meet who are struggling and confused.

Over the course of a year our volunteers have many opportunities to witness "the reason for the season." Following is just one example of a real life story, recently experienced by one of our counselors at the Alpha Life Resource Center:

Susan visited the Center at the referral of another agency in town. She had three little ones, all preschool age. She prided herself on self-sufficiency, even with a husband who neither lived with them nor provided regular child support. As an assistant manager of an area restaurant, she had means to do just that. But her youngest needed surgery and extended care; Susan lost her position taking time to be with her baby. Even so, she was working hard at making it work. She just needed some diapers, some clothes, some supplies, so here she was at the Center. We had a pleasant conversation that easily moved to asking her whether her children were baptized, whether she was interested in a local church home. They weren't; she wasn't. "Oh, their father takes care of all that," was her quick and firm reply. "I don't do church." We couldn't help but be disappointed that while we helped with her physical need and said goodbye with her humble thanks, we had not been able to help with her and her children's spiritual needs.

Fast forward ten months. Susan was back at the Center. She had indeed bounced back and had been doing well. A series of recent setbacks, however, had forced her to again seek some assistance for her children, just as we were again happy to fill her need. At the end of the counseling session, remembering her rejection of the first witness, there was hesitancy to bring it up again. "You know, I'd regret not reminding you of the reason why all of us volunteers are down here, helping you. We know the love of Jesus..."

"I know," she interrupted, and so began her second rejection, it seemed. "I want to know what you know. I want something different than what I had growing up. I want something different for my kids," Susan said. Ten months, and the seeds planted by the Spirit in our counseling room popped through the soil. What a blessing that we were able to witness the miracle.

What an honor and privilege! As redeemed children of God, we have been chosen to be the instruments to proclaim the message of the true Christmas story. **"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given...And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."** *Isaiah 9:6*

It is our prayer that "Susan's" family will grow in the grace that was brought to completion by this tiny baby born in Bethlehem. Thank you for partnering with us as we proclaim the message of the manger babe who came to be our Savior.

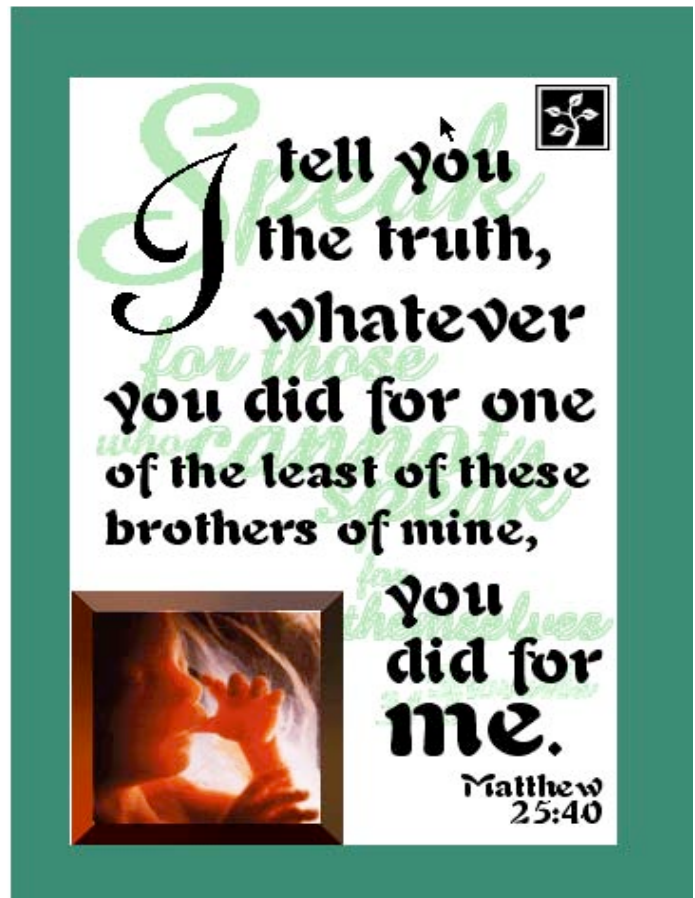
God's blessings and a Happy New Year,

Steve Georgson  
Board Chairman, Tn-County Chapter Christian Life Resources

# LIFE SUPPORT

Every year our local chapter of Christian Life Resources places an ad in the Watertown Daily Times on January 22, the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision to legalize abortion. We invite you to join other WELS Christians in showing your support of God's gift of life.

Abortion is not solving problems, abortion is not helping women and abortion is always the death of a living human being. Each child is a gift from God, "unplanned" or otherwise. Join in showing your stand against abortion by returning the form below by JANUARY 16. It's a small but important way to show your support of Life.



**Tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.**  
Matthew 25:40

Then, please plan to attend our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 20, 2008 at the Luther Prep cafeteria. A Center recap and winning student essays from our "God Gave Us Life" contest will be read beginning at 4:30 PM. A free will dinner with entertainment by the Luther Prep strings will follow at 5 PM. CLR Milwaukee Metro Centers' Executive Director Peter Georgson will share their ministry's progress, and the evening will end with a brief business meeting. Come for some or stay for all—your interest is crucial to our success!



Please return by 01/16/2008 to:  
Alpha Life Resource Center  
313 E Main Street  
Watertown, WI 53094

\_\_\_\_\_ Please include my name as printed below

\_\_\_\_\_ Accept my donation but do NOT include my name.

Donation:      \_\_\_\_\_\$8      \_\_\_\_\_\$15      \_\_\_\_\_\$25      \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Church Home \_\_\_\_\_

# 2007 EVENTS MAKE FOR MEMORABLE YEAR!

• **Annual dinner meeting** held in January; Rev. Martin Stuebs, new board member, spoke. Luther Prep strings ensemble performed. Winners of 5th annual “God Gave Us Life” coloring/essay contest were recognized. (Area schools were invited to respond to essay topics provided by the Board of Directors (K–2 colored provided pictures). High school winner receives \$250 college scholarship; grade school winners receive gift certificates to NPH.) **2008 meeting set for January 20, 2008, at Luther Prep cafeteria beginning at 4:30.**

“**Layette night**” was held at the Center, where 25 18-gal totes in pink, blue and yellow were assembled, using donated items and homemade booties, afghans and hats. Each tote estimated value at \$75; these are given to new moms who come for help to the Center.



- Long-held tradition of a Watertown newspaper signature ad marking the **Roe v Wade decision** ran the third week in January; over 100 individuals & families join with us in this effort. At the same time we send bulletin inserts to our supporting congregations, meant to educate and inspire pro-life beliefs and actions. A group of churches in our southern area ran their own ad marking the anniversary.
- Since our center fronts Main St., volunteers continued **regular window theme changes** throughout the year that presented pro-life, pro-family attitudes and information about what our Center offers through professional-looking seasonal decorations, posters and displays.
- new web site up and running at <[www.alphalifecenter.org](http://www.alphalifecenter.org)> Created and maintained by new volunteers.
- Refresher training held for current volunteers.
- We participated in our local paper’s elementary–high school “**Design-an-Ad**” program, where all area schools, public and private are given a list of businesses and business info from which the kids can design a print ad. Businesses choose winner and winners and published in a supplement to daily paper. Alpha had 1000s of kids exposed to our info and over 20 kids chose our “business” for their ad. Thousands more parents flip through the supplement to see if their child’s ad was published. Great exposure!

• **Mothers Day Rose Sale** supported by 10 area churches enabled many families to honor mothers with beautiful roses and raise awareness (and \$800) for the Center.

• Life issues and/or information on our ministry **presentations** given at area church group meetings and Teens for Life group at Lakeside Luth HS.

• Annual **Ice Cream Social** fundraiser held in Watertown church fellowship hall; served over 400 plates of lunch and hundreds of slices of homemade pie or scoops of locally-made ice cream; with Thrivent help, \$3,000 was raised for the Center.

• **Brat fry held at Pernat’s** in Creek on an August Saturday; lunch was served to over 100 (\$225 to us!) and lots of exposure for the Center.



**The second annual Life Banquet, Silent Auction** was held at Luther Prep in Watertown in October, **with music** provided by jazz group Straight Ahead. With a Thrivent supplement, we were able to raise just over \$7,000 for the continued operation of our ministry!

# Alpha Life Resource Center

Operated by Tri-County Chapter, CLR  
313 E Main St.  
Watertown, WI 53094

Bulk Mail  
Permit # 24  
Watertown, WI  
53094

Chapter Annual Meeting • Sunday January 20  
Come for the fellowship, come for dinner, come to hear prolife  
news. View coloring contest entries and listen to our winning  
essayists at 4:30 PM as they proclaim the prolife views of the  
next generation! Held in the Luther Prep dining hall, dinner is at  
5 PM with speaker to follow; all of our supporters are welcome  
and encouraged to attend!

Anniversary Signature Ad • Tues, January 22  
Watch the Watertown Daily Times for our annual signature ad  
speaking out on abortion. See insert for details on how you can  
get involved by donating toward this effort!

Mentor Training • Fri or Sat, Feb 1-2, 2008  
Those interested in learning about what it takes to become a  
mentor are invited to join us at the Alpha Center to learn from  
professional trainer Rebecca Hillstrom and hear about their  
successful mentoring program being run in our sister center in  
the Twin Cities. You do not need to have experience with the  
Center to attend—only a love for others and a desire to see  
lives change for the better! No further obligation—attend either  
Friday OR Saturday. Please contact Kim Winters at  
alpha@core.com or 253-8259 about how to reserve your spot!

