

# Breath of Life

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## Personal preparation for Christmas

A message from Pastor Ron Uhlhorn, Tri-County Chapter Board of Directors

But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. —John 20:31



As I write this it is only about a week and a half and we begin the Advent Season of the Christian Church. It is really an important part of our Christian life, though sometimes the Advent Season is overlooked and becomes a time of “getting ready for Christmas.” “There are many preparations,” people will say, and it’s true, isn’t it? But right now that’s not what we’re thinking about when we speak about personal preparation for Christmas.

Rather we want to think about our personal preparation as Christian believers. For us the four weeks of Advent is a time to prepare to praise and worship God for sending Jesus into this world. We talk about that in the Advent Season. Many of our congregations have special mid-week Advent Services. Our hymns, our prayers and our lessons all point to the Savior who is coming, who has come and who will come again.

What does it mean to make it personal? Besides attending the worship services and hearing the message of the Savior in Word and song, is there something more I can do to prepare? Well, there are three important questions which we do well to ponder anew in every Advent Season. They are:

- Who is coming?
- Why is He coming?
- What will He accomplish?

Who is coming? The very Son of God become man entered this world on that first Christmas. There was never a birth like that before and there will never be another. The eternal God, the Maker of heaven and earth, became a human being and yet remained true God. That baby in the manger of whom we sing so fondly is God and Man in One Person. He is God who is able to save us and Man who can take our place.

We certainly want to be sure about why He is coming. He is coming to this world because all human beings need a Savior from sin. We are all sinful and sin separates us from God filling us with guilt and fear. Nor is there anything we can do that will change that sad situation. “As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins.” (Eph. 2:1)

That brings us to the real joy and gladness of Christmas. We know what our Savior has accomplished by coming into this world. He came and earned for us forgiveness of sins and a new life. Because Jesus shed His blood for us we are restored as the dearly loved children of God. We live in this world with a purpose and we have the sure hope we will live forever in heaven with our God.

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And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

2 Corinthians 9:8

# Pray, Praise and Give Thanks



Eternal praise to our Savior LORD as He continues to show His hand in mercy on lives that cross the Alpha threshold. Earnest prayers for those souls who continue to use abortion as a quick and short-lived fix to what they see as an insurmountable problem. We who know and love the Lord are not immune to the weaknesses of our human minds and hearts; may He keep us mindful that His Words on Life are not situational, nor are they optional!

We are also thankful for individual gifts given to the ministry. It is our goal to use these offerings in ways that benefits both earthly & spiritual needs:

## IN MEMORY OF:

- Russel Lange from Erv & Gloria Huebner
- Teresa Kay Roberts from Earl & Lorna Roberts
- Renner Albin Lehmann from M/M Gus Kalfahs, Albin Jaeger, and Armin and Kay Schuetze
- Mary Schroeder from M/M Gus Kalfahs
- Lilly Quest from Mike & Kris Quest
- mother Lydia Schneider from Dianna Pitzner
- Mrs. Irma Buelter from Erv & Glo Huebner
- Myron Parks from Jim & Sharon Greenwald
- Ed Sadowske from M/M Gus Kalfahs
- Lucille Kramer from Mabel Guenterberg
- M/M Leo Krueger from M&M Herman Zastrow
- Myron Schmidthe from Erv & Glo Huebner

## IN HONOR OF:

- Betty Huebner's 80th birthday from Erv & Glo Huebner
  - their children & grandchildren from Gerald & Joanne Brandt
  - LuElla Wiedenhoeff's 90th birthday from Erv & Glo Huebner
  - Grace Nitz's 80th birthday from Judy Quam, Dorothy Schuett and Betty Huebner
- We give humble thanks for the new record set at the Center in November 2008. More than 100 souls were served with Christian counseling in person or over the phone, assistance with clothes and children's supplies and/or other material assistance such as transportation, furniture and referrals to other agencies...more than 70 souls were witnessed to with Law and Gospel...10 times Bibles were accepted...we celebrated births, baptisms and referrals to WELS pastors. Our helpline also fielded more than 30 calls for assistance. The Lord is using Alpha to His glory!



## Alpha Center Wish List

- \*\*\* disposable wipes for babies \*\*\*
- car seats for 20-40 lbs. or boosters
- new/very gently used toddler socks
- sleepers/winter pjs for 18 mo to 4T
- baby hygiene items (wash, lotion, Aquaphor, etc)
- used playpens (ideal: pack & carry)
- People's Bible:
- de-icing salt (for use outside building)
- AA & AAA batteries (for used baby eqpt.)
- cocoa or tea packets, tissues, toilet paper (ofc)



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.



We are humbly grateful to the many businesses, church groups and individuals who donated items or money toward our very successful banquet and silent auction on October 18. More thanks to Thrivent Financial for supplementing our proceeds. We certainly wouldn't have had such fun without the many friends who joined us for great food, music and tables of fabulous auction items!

### Breath of Life

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# News on life issues...know it, use it, share it!

[SOURCE: 12/2/08 - WI Right to Life e-mail]

## Information on "Freedom of Choice Act"



The pro-life movement has formidable challenges ahead. Our immediate and critical goal should be to stop the so-called Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA). The passage of this devastating piece of legislation is a priority of President-elect Obama, the Democratic leadership and their pro-abortion allies. Here's what FOCA would do...

- You, as a taxpayer, forced to pay for abortions
- Partial-birth abortion legal again
- Secret abortions for our minor daughters with no parental involvement
- No required information or waiting periods for women seeking abortions
- Medical professionals and facilities forced to perform abortions

That's right...all of the laws that have been saving lives and protecting women since 1973 would be wiped out by FOCA with no hope of passing future protective laws.

Stopping FOCA is a major project for Wisconsin Right to Life and we've instituted a comprehensive plan. A special webpage is now up at [www.stopFOCAwi.com](http://www.stopFOCAwi.com) where you can find all the information you need to help defeat this terrifying piece of legislation. Here you will find a Stop FOCA petition, our video on Stop FOCA, complete information on FOCA, a means of contacting your Congressman by e-mail and specific things you can do to help.

Please visit this webpage and circulate this critical information to all of your friends, family, organizations and colleagues. Make no mistake about it - Planned Parent-

hood and NARAL are buoyed by the election results and believe they can now realize their ultimate goal...abortions with no restrictions whatsoever and destruction of the right-to-life movement. Whatever we do in the next few years and months, stopping FOCA must be our ultimate goal to save lives and reduce abortions in our state and country.

## 2009 Legislative Conference on Life Issues

The 2009 Legislative Conference on Right-to-Life Issues will take place on Thursday, February 19 at the Inn on the Park, located across the street from the state capitol building in Madison. This conference takes place at the beginning of every two-year state legislative session to prepare pro-life people throughout Wisconsin to assist in the task of building a culture of life through legislative action.

Christian Life Resources and Students for Life of America will be co-sponsoring this event with WI RTL.

The conference luncheon speaker will be Jason Jones. Jones has been active in politics and the media throughout his career. One of his most recent accomplishments has been as co-executive producer of the feature film *Bella*. Jones is one of the right-to-life movement's most uplifting and energetic speakers.



This event is for adults, collegians and teens.

The special student rate to attend the conference is \$15. Adults are \$40. Included in the cost is a continental breakfast, lunch and all conference materials.

Contact Susan Armacost, Wisconsin Right to Life Legislative Director toll free at 877-855-5007.

## ~ATTENTION KWIK TRIP CUSTOMERS~

### YOU CAN ASSIGN YOUR KWIK REWARDS REBATE TO HELP ALPHA

To participate in this program, provide the "Kwik Rewards Fund-Raising" information below by calling 1-800-305-6666. Tell them you'd like to designate Alpha to receive your rebate. They'll check your credit card account and ask you for the info we have listed below.

As a Personal Kwik Card user, you earn a Kwik Rewards rebate of 3¢ per gallon on every gallon of fuel you purchase, PLUS a 3% Kwik Rewards rebate on all in-store purchases you make with your Kwik Card.

Alpha will receive your account's quarterly earned Kwik Rewards rebate and in addition, Kwik Trip will donate an additional 1% of the amount equal to your in-store credit purchases made with your Kwik Card. That's 3¢ per gallon and 4% on in-store credit purchases to help our ministry automatically!

Kwik Rewards Fund-Raising Information			
8	I authorize the following charity/group/organization to receive my Kwik Rewards rebate on a quarterly basis.		
Charity/Group/Organization Name	Alpha Life Resource Center		
Address	313 E Main St.	City	Watertown
State	WI	Zip	53094
		Telephone	920-261-9207

Give our info like this <-----





## Board of Director Profiles

Last issue we began introducing the men who serve on our Board of Directors. All of them are volunteers and must be members of our area WELS/ELS congregations. The board meets each month on the 2nd Monday and not only discusses the financial matters and care of our building but above all shows deep concern for our mission and ministry of life. In this issue we'd like you to meet our present Treasurer, Erwin Huebner.

Erv and his wife, Gloria, have been strong, faithful supporters of Alpha ever since it began. Erv first began serving on the Board in 1996. After six years he was off the Board for a year—since we have a limit of two successive three-year terms. But after a year, Erv returned to the Board and is now serving his second year as our Treasurer.

Erv is a lifelong resident of the Ixonia area, and a lifelong member of St. Paul in Ixonia. Before retirement he worked in Ixonia as a branch manager of Framco, a business dealing in seed, grain and fertilizer.

Erv's wife, Gloria, became a hotliner for the Alpha Center about two years after it opened and continued for over 20 years. A hotliner answers the phone when the Center is not open. The Huebners have been blessed with four children, all of them grown. Thank you, Erv and Glo, for faithful service!

## What's so special about CLR?

*by Ron Uhlhorn*

On November 15 my wife and I, together with about 10 other volunteers from our Alpha Center, had the privilege to attend the National Convention of Christian Life Resources. CLR is our national affiliate (many of us may know it better by its former name, WELS Lutherans for Life). Now, there are many organizations in our country that are "pro-life." In their own ways each of them seeks to support life for the unborn, for the disabled, for the elderly. Some of them have political aims—a constitutional amendment to overturn the 1973 US Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion, or to eliminate laws such as physician-assisted suicide, now legal in Oregon and Washington. Others participate in public protests against abortion and ending life, and public prayer vigils to support their cause. All of us are dedicated to protecting life.

But as I attended the convention of CLR, I knew this was a special organization for me. That's true not simply

because it is associated with the WELS, of which I have been a member all my life. Yes, CLR also opposes abortion and prematurely ending life. But we go about our work on the basis of "What Does God Say" and how can we share the message of the God-sent Savior, Jesus Christ.

And what does God say about life in this world? He tells us He is the Creator of life. Not only does God tell us that on the sixth day of creation, "God made man in his own image; in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them" but He also tells us quite clearly that no matter who we are and what abilities we have or do not have. God is our creator. Ex. 4:11 says, "Who gave man his mouth? Who makes him deaf or mute? Who gives him sight or makes him blind? Is it not I, the Lord? As we confess in our Catechism, "I believe that God made me and every creature..."

Not only has God given us our life, we confess in the Explanation to the Second Article, "I believe that Jesus Christ... redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death and from the power of the devil... that I should be his own, and live under him in his kingdom." God gave us life and gave it for a purpose – so that we might live for him and serve him now and for all eternity. It is true that we do not all have the same abilities, nor can we perform the same service at all times in our lives. But God has put everyone in this world for a purpose.

And finally we believe and confess as we say in the Third Article, "The Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith." Each believer has been called by God – called to faith in Christ and given new life. And He promises to keep us until we enter eternal life in heaven.

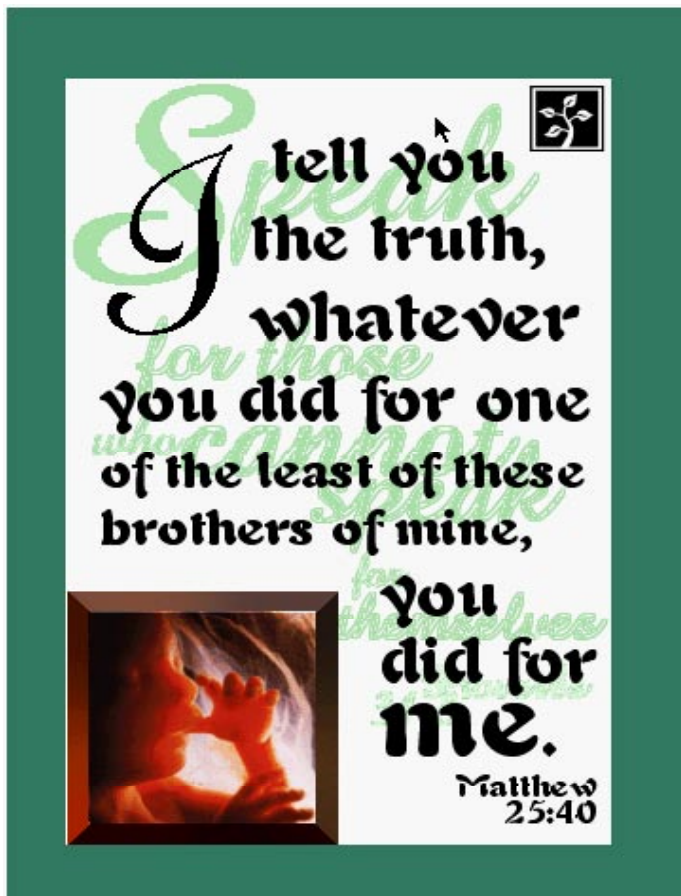
At the Alpha Center as in CLR we would welcome laws more friendly to our pro-life stand. But we are not political; we are here to share the good news about our loving God and our Savior Jesus. For that reason we volunteer our time, give to those in need, and greet everyone who comes in our doors. It's all so special! Let us pray that more people will learn to know the Savior and experience the joy of knowing they are God's own creation, in this world for a godly purpose, and on the road to life eternal.

**To hear Kim's latest report on the Center, come to the annual mtg Jan 18!**


# 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 US 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.



**Speak** the truth,  
whatever  
**you did for one**  
of the least of these  
**brothers of mine,**  
**you**  
**did for**  
**me.**  
Matthew  
23:23



Then, please plan to attend our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 18, 2008 at the Luther Prep cafeteria. 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. Kim Winters, Center Director, will present with video on the ministry of the Alpha Center, who and how we help and some examples of families who have benefitted from your support. 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 before 01/16/2009 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    other \$ \_\_\_ \*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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ALPHA LIFE RESOURCE CENTER  
313 E. MAIN ST.  
WATERTOWN, WI 53094

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ORGANIZATION  
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Annual Meeting • Sunday Jan. 18, 4:30**  
Come for the fellowship, come for dinner, come to hear a presentation on the latest prolife message. View coloring contest entries and listen to our winning essayists as they proclaim the prolife views of the next generation! Held in the Luther Prep dining hall, students speak at 4:30 PM, dinner is at 5 PM with program to follow; all of our supporters are welcome and encouraged to attend!

**Ad in Daily Times • January 22, 2009**  
With a change in Washington and the anniversary of the Court decision legalizing abortion, we have opportunity to take a stand for God's Word on Life and let our voices be heard as one! Join with us as we publish a large, color ad in the Watertown Daily Times to remind all that human life is a gift from God, to be respected and protected always. Plan to help with a donation: send your name(s) by January 16 to the Center with a note saying you'd like to be a part of this reminder!

