



# Human Care

APRIL—2009

Iowa District West

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## *Obama Signs Order Allowing Stem Cell Funding*

President Barak Obama announced on March 9 that he will allow federal financing of medical research using stem cells from discarded human embryos. He later said, “This order is an important step in advancing the cause of science in America...It is about ensuring that scientific data is never distorted or concealed to serve a political agenda, and that we make scientific decisions based on facts, not ideology.”

How will the changes in Washington affect our pro-life mission? What will this new political context bring to the pro-life cause? What now? Maggie Karner, director of Life and Health Ministries with LCMS World Relief and Human Care, shares some of her thoughts in the March edition of the LCMS REPORTER. Even though the political landscape has changed, our mission remains: to spread the healing balm of the Gospel. While we place our faith in God rather than in legislative change, we must understand the important responsibility we have in speaking for the vulnerable in the secular kingdom of the left. We remember that during the last “pro-life” administration, abortion still remained legal for all nine months, and more than 1 million unborn children continued to die every year in America.

Karner continued by expressing that today, as never before, life issues span a continuum from conception until natural death. There is a lot of “life” between those bookends that needs God’s grace and mercy. Complicated life decisions are made every day by people whose lives are affected by hopelessness, poverty, hunger, and need. If we’re going to be “pro-life,” we’d better also be “pro-solution” in every area of the life continuum. Whether we are sending doctors into the Nairobi slums to worm children, finding ways for mothers widowed by AIDS to earn a living, finding housing for single mothers in Brooklyn, or supporting a pregnancy center in Russia, these are all ways to proclaim loud and clear that all life is sacred and precious in the eyes of our Savior. She said, “In my view, this is a wonderful time to be bold in our pro-life witness, whether it be in public through our church, or personally in a pro-life approach in all our life in our homes, at work, at church, etc. It’s simply about telling other people that they are valued and loved by God. That “light” of God’s truth needs no legislation by man to be affirmed. It’s God’s Word and commission to us all.

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## *Living Faith in Hard Times*

Much as been written and said about the state of the economy. Pastor Roger Kruger, in a recent e-newsletter (Fireflies), offers some helpful suggestions for congregations;

- 1) Find ways to meet the needs of people in your community by providing needed assistance to those most severely impacted by unemployment; supporting and expanding congregational/community food banks; or opening your facility to serve one meal a week to needy families could provide an important gathering place for social, emotional, and spiritual support.
- 2) Look for ways to utilize the unemployed in volunteer roles where they can think, talk, teach, and preach about faith, or where they can encourage one another and be reminded of God’s faithfulness. In each hurting person we reach out to help, we see the face of Jesus. “As you did it to the least of these brothers of mine, you did it unto Me.” (Mt. 25)

## Life Quotes from Lutherans for Life

Ezekiel was called to be Israel's Watchman (Ezekiel 33), warning them with God's Law and comforting them with His Gospel. As Christians today, who are concerned about the



issues of life from abortion to embryonic stem cell

research to assisted suicide, we to are called to be "Watchmen,"

both warning and comforting the Church and our country based on God's Word.

Many are justifiably concerned about how the issues close to our heart will fare in the next few years. At the same time we are called to be faithful to God's Word of Life. We have a ministry within our LCMS that is focused on such life issues. It's a ministry that we can support with our prayers,

with our dollars, and utilize in our congregational ministries, by informing, educating, and equipping our own members to be "life" witnesses in their realms of influence.

We face complicated issues in today's world, issues about which we need to be informed & knowledgeable. Learn more by calling 888-364-LIFE, or by finding LFL's website at [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org).

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## "New Clothes for Easter" ... (from LFS of Iowa)

Are you planning to wear any new clothing item for Easter? If so, historians believe that the custom of wearing new clothes on Easter may have originated from the old practice of having newly baptized Christian wear new white clothes for the Easter celebration. New clothes represent the new life offered through the death and resurrection of Jesus. When you help your children dress in their new spring clothes, use it as a time to reflect on

the New Life that is theirs because of Jesus and because of the first Easter!

This little "Building Healthy Families" note is from:

Lutheran Family Service of Iowa ...with offices in Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Fort Dodge, and Sioux City.

Toll free phone #: 800-622-7285

## A table prayer for you

Our thanks to Thee for love that's shared,

Our thanks to Thee for food prepared.

Bless Thou the cup, bless Thou the bread.

Thy blessing rest upon each head.

Lord, bless us one and all we pray, as we are gathered here today.

In Jesus' holy Name, Amen.

