



# Notes For Life

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*I have great admiration and respect for my birth mother. How tremendously difficult it must have been for her to go through the pregnancy, spending nine months bonding with me as I grew inside her and then, through an incredible act of love, was willing to give me up so that I would have the opportunity to have a better life in a loving Christian family.*

— Wayne Pereboom

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## That I may be His own. . .

“That I may be His own. . . .” These words from Luther’s explanation to second article of the Apostles’ Creed ring in my ears when I think about our adoption as His children through Holy Baptism. We, quite literally, become born again . . . of a new parent . . . when God says that He accepts us as His own; bought and paid for with the blood of Christ. We are no longer doomed to an eternal life of death and separation from our Heavenly Father. Instead, from that moment on I am joyfully, and officially, “His.”

In this issue of *Notes for Life*, we discuss a similar event when human parents (both birthmothers and adoptive parents) give a new life of love and “belonging” to a child through the gift of adoption. Don’t miss reading about the many blessings of adoption from the personal and honest viewpoint of an adoptive child, now grown and raising children of his own.

As adoptive brothers and sisters in the family of Christ, this realization provides us with compassion for the practical needs of our neighbors who choose adoption to build their family. This issue offers resources for families who have chosen adoption and may need our support and encouragement for those who may be considering adoption in the future.

Finally, don’t miss info about our upcoming LCMS Life Ministries conference on Jan. 25–26, 2013, in Washington, D.C. Entitled *Lutherans and Pro-life Advocacy; “Good and Acceptable Service”* (1 Tim. 2:1–4), we will train Lutherans to get involved in the public square! We’ll kick off the event by bringing hundreds of Lutherans to the National March for Life, to join with thousands of other pro-life Christians from across the nation. The following day we will learn ways to get our message heard on Capitol Hill and around the country. We’ll also listen to Lutherans who are active in a variety of pro-life political and secular advocacy jobs. Be sure to block off your calendars now and start gathering your friends to attend with you. Go to [www.lcmslifeconference.org](http://www.lcmslifeconference.org) for the details!

As we approach the infamous 40th anniversary of *Roe vs. Wade* in 2013, it’s easy to think our voice is too small to make a difference. But every voice matters. Remember the Dr. Seuss story, *Horton Hears a “Who”*? Those little “who’s” on that speck of dust never gave up shouting “We are here! We are here!” The larger world soon recognized that they were alive and that “a person’s a person . . . no matter how small.” Be encouraged by those little guys! Add your voice — and your actions — to the chorus of life in our world! In our adoption as sons and daughters of the King, we have a powerful message of truth and love to tell the world.

In the life and love of our Savior,

Maggie Karner  
Director, LCMS Life and Health Ministries



Mercy forever.

**Give Now**

## Two mothers' incredible love

By Wayne Pereboom

Orville and Betty Pereboom were married in 1944 while living in Oklahoma City, Okla. As it was right in the middle of World War II, they decided to wait a few years before starting their family.

In the early 1950's, they had a series of three miscarriages. They wanted children so very much that they contacted Lutheran Social Services in Wichita, Kan., to look into adopting a child. After completing the application process and a series of in-home visits and evaluations, they were placed on the waiting list for a child to become available. They had no preference as to whether they got a girl or a boy.

They were blessed with a girl, born on Christmas Eve in 1955. Orville and Betty had one week to get everything ready (a crib, clothes, diapers — anything and everything that a baby could need) before bringing her home. Thank goodness they had a very large circle of friends and extended family (they had 19 older cousins). When the day came, they had everything in place to care for this precious life that God had entrusted to them.

About three years later, they decided that they wanted a second child. They contacted Lutheran Social Services once again. This time, they specifically asked for a boy — that would be me!

I was born in January of 1959 in Kansas City, Kan. Once again, they had about one week's notice to get ready to take me home. During that time, I was placed in the Lutheran orphanage in Winfield, Kan.

Mom and dad told us that they didn't want the adoption agency to tell them anything about the circumstances of our adoptions. They felt that this was now *our* family and the story of our lives began here. However, when we were old enough for us to have some understanding of the concept, mom and dad started explaining to us that we were adopted and what that really meant. I'm glad that we always knew it instead of finding out later in life.

Fast forward to 1986. My wife and I had been married for about a year and were planning to have kids of our own. We thought it would be a good idea to contact LSS to see if I could get my birth family's medical records. They sent me a letter detailing all of the information they had gotten from my birth mother. It had all of the usual medical facts — my birth mother had no medical issues, my birth father had diabetes, my maternal birth grandfather died of lung cancer, and so on.

In that letter, they said that if I wanted it, I could have my original birth certificate and the story of my adoption. I am, by nature, a very inquisitive person. So I jumped at the chance to find out what led my birth parents to make the decision to put me up for adoption. Shortly after sending a letter requesting this information, they mailed everything to me.

When I opened the envelope, it was quite a surprise to find pictures of me. My birth mother had contacted LSS to find out how I was doing so they approached my parents, who sent some photos taken of me when I was about six months old.

As it turns out, I have two birth certificates. There is the one that shows my birth name. Only my mother's name is listed. The section for the father's information is blank. I also have the birth certificate that shows the name that mom and dad gave me with their names listed as the parents.

### Contact Your Elected Officials

For the name of your U.S. representative or senator, contact your local elections officer or call the **Federal Citizen Information National Contact Center at (800) 333-4636.**

For the most recent information about elected national officials, log on to these Web sites or call the following Capitol switchboard numbers:

#### Senators

(202) 224-3121

[www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov)

#### Representatives

(202) 225-3121

[www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov)

#### To contact the White House

Comments (202) 456-1111

Switchboard (202) 456-1414

Fax (202) 456-2461

#### TTY/TDD phone numbers for hearing impaired only:

Comments (202) 456-6213

Visitor's office (202) 456-2121

#### President Barack Obama

[president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)

#### Vice President Joe Biden

[vice.president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:vice.president@whitehouse.gov)

Updates on pertinent legislative activities and public policy are available by subscribing to *MercyNotes*, another e-newsletter from LCMS World Relief and Human Care. Subscribe online by registering at [www.lcms.org/enews](http://www.lcms.org/enews). Select *Mercy Notes* from among the "LCMS World Relief and Human Care" newsletters.

My birth parents lived together, but were not married. They felt they had to keep the pregnancy a secret from her ex-husband for fear that she could have lost custody of her fifteen-year-old daughter if he had found out about me.

My birth father was still married to another woman and had four children of his own. He was unemployed at the time of my birth. Several months after I was born, he divorced his wife and married my mother. Given these circumstances, I wonder if I would have had much of a chance of being born at all if this had happened today.

I have great admiration and respect for my birth mother. How tremendously difficult it must have been for her to go through the pregnancy, spending nine months bonding with me as I grew inside her and then, through an incredible act of love, willingly give me up so that I would have the opportunity to have a better life in a loving Christian family.

Mine was an unplanned pregnancy. But God, in His infinite love, uses even what we might call a “mistake” to accomplish His divine plan. Rom. 8:28 says, “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.” The Lord has most certainly made an abundance of good things happen in my life.

I thank God that He used my birth parents to set me on this path and through my adoptive mom and dad, has brought me to this place in my life. My adoptive dad taught me what it is to be a man — a man who trusts His Lord Jesus Christ to lead and guide him in every area of his life. Unfortunately, we lost dad in 1994. But not before he had the opportunity to model for me what it was to raise my own children in a Christian home. My mom has proven to me that you don’t have to give birth to a child in order to be their *real* parent. We were never called “the adopted kids” and were always treated as whole and complete members of our extended family.

My wife and I have had the privilege of raising two amazing children of our own. Our daughter graduated from Concordia University, Irvine (California) and teaches at a Lutheran school in Independence, Kan. (note the irony). Our son is currently a music major attending Concordia as well. The lessons that my parents taught us have served us well in the raising of our own children.

It is my hope and prayer that I can encourage those who, for whatever reason, are in a similar situation that my birth parents found themselves. Having an abortion is not the answer to an unplanned pregnancy. There are so many families who are unable to have children and desperately want to love and raise a child as their own.

Even though I have never searched for my birth parents, I have always wanted to thank them for loving me so much that they would do what they did for me. And I thank my mom and dad for the love that they have shared with me every day of my life.



*Wayne Pereboom and his wife live in Westminster, Calif. He has been a member at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Huntington Beach, Calif., for 38 years. Like his son, music is his passion. He has directed musical groups of all ages and is the founding director of Redeemer’s “Celebration Ringers” handbell ensemble. You can contact him at [wpereboom@aol.com](mailto:wpereboom@aol.com).*

## Adoption: Not Just for Babies

Many people, when they think of adoption, picture cute little newborn babies whose mothers chose life but can’t care for the child themselves. But adoption encompasses many situations, from an international adoption of an orphan toddler to foster-to-adopt situations where families care for children in the state’s foster care system and eventually adopt them.

Each adoption situation is unique and full of its own blessings and challenges. Some children come to the adoptive family with language barriers or medical issues. Others are older and part of a sibling group. Sadly, some children have entered the “system” in the first place because of abuse or neglect in their own homes.

Now Focus on the Family has a new website, [www.icareaboutorphans.org](http://www.icareaboutorphans.org), that explains the different types of adoption, spotlights state-by-state statistics on children waiting to be adopted, and provides resources for families prayerfully considering adoption and for families who have already gone through the process. Resources include a *Handbook on Thriving as an Adoptive Family and Wrapping Around Adoptive Families*, a primer on supporting those who have adopted.

If you are prayerfully considering adoption or have already adopted a child or children, check these new resources out, plus additional resources listed below.

## Adoption: Resources in print and on the Web

- LCMS Life Ministries Life Library. More than 200 articles on topics including two kingdoms, vocation and Christian ethics are at your fingertips via our online Life Library. Many articles are lay-friendly, while theological papers offer more in-depth study. All are free and easily downloadable. Visit [www.lcms.org/lifelibrary](http://www.lcms.org/lifelibrary). See especially the adoption resources at [www.lcms.org/lifelibrary/adoption](http://www.lcms.org/lifelibrary/adoption).
- Lutherans For Life. [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org).
- Focus on the Family's [www.icareaboutorphans.org](http://www.icareaboutorphans.org) is a resource for families prayerfully considering adoption, and serves as a support for families who have already gone through the process.
- *Adopted and Loved Forever* by Annetta Dellinger (Concordia Publishing House) is a Christ-centered children's book explaining adoption. Find it at [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org).
- Adoption bulletin inserts and brochures for your church's information rack, including Christ and Adoption, The Servanthood of Adoption, and more, at [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org).

## LCMS Life Ministries Speaks Out in Washington, D.C.

LCMS Life Ministries staff members Maggie Karner and Ed Szeto were part of an LCMS contingency to visit Washington, D.C., and speak to Capital Hill congressmen and other Lutheran advocates for religious freedom in Washington. The LCMS representatives were also invited to join leaders from Lutheran health and human services organizations to be guests at the White House on October 28 as part of a day-long event entitled "Lutheran Services in America (LSA) at the White House". The event drew more than 160 participants from almost 30 states and over 50 different Lutheran organizations.

On the day prior to the LSA event, Szeto and Karner joined 17 other LCMS members in visiting the offices of 18 U.S. Representatives and Senators on Capital Hill. The LCMS delegates spent this time encouraging congressional members to recognize the need to protect our religious freedoms and to promote laws to protect the sanctity of life. In particular, Karner and Szeto developed specific talking points on life issues that the LCMS representatives discussed with the various congressmen. Those discussions focused on the following topics:

### Protect Life Act (for health care reform)

1. We said "thanks" to House members for passing H.R. 358, commonly known as the "Protect Life Act," and especially to Representative Joe Pitts for sponsoring this bill in the House. This piece of legislation, has passed the House and is stalled in committee in the Senate. It would ensure that all Affordable Care Act (Health Care Reform Plan) funds are covered by the longstanding Hyde Amendment and that no taxpayer funding will be used for abortion, except in cases of life endangerment or rape/incest.
2. We urged senators to do everything they can to get S. 877 (senate version of the Protect Life Act) out of committee and onto the Senate floor for a vote and to support it.

## In the News

**Granting Personhood to Fetuses will be on the Mississippi Ballot.** The Mississippi Supreme Court cleared the way for an amendment to the state constitution granting "personhood" to fetuses to go to voters in November though the court did not render a position on the measure's constitutionality, should it pass. Full story: [www.washingtontimes.com](http://www.washingtontimes.com)

### Abortion Increases Risk of Women's Mental Health Problems 81%

LifeNews.com – A new study published in the British Journal of Psychiatry by leading American researcher Dr. Priscilla Coleman of Bowling Green State University finds women who have an abortion face almost double the risk of mental health problems as women who have their baby. Full story: [www.lifeneews.com](http://www.lifeneews.com)

### New UN Population Projections Have India Outpacing China

New York, NY (LifeNews/CFAM) – The UN's new fertility forecasts could have significant implications for predicting which nations will wield global power in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, especially predictions about the coming power shift in Asia where Indians will outnumber Chinese by 2025. Full story: [www.lifeneews.com](http://www.lifeneews.com)

### Respect for Rights of Conscience Act

1. We encouraged Representatives and Senators to adopt legislation that has been introduced in both chambers of Congress that would clearly protect the conscience rights of private health insurance plans (such as Concordia Health Plans.) The two bills (listed as House version H.R. 1179 and Senate version S.1467) would remove sterilization and prescription contraceptives from the list of preventative services that the federal government is mandating to be covered under private health plans. It is especially important to exclude any drug that may cause an early abortion, and to fully respect religious freedom on this issue as other federal laws do. The narrow religious exemption in this new Health and Human Service rule protects the religious freedom of almost no one.

These bills are currently in committee in both the House and Senate.

### Leahy-Smith America Invents Act

1. We thanked our Congressman in both the House and the Senate for approving this recent bill that had the forward vision and ethical awareness to insert language to codify (make permanent) the previous temporary ban on the issuing of U.S. patents on human embryos. This is a perfect example of a law that promotes American ingenuity and still maintains an ethical framework from which to work. This law recognizes the fact that human life is special and not to be seen as “intellectual property.”

For more information on how you can make your voice heard on these and other issues, visit the National Right to Life Committee web site here: <http://nrlc.org>

## Book Review: *The Man in the Middle* by Timothy S. Goeglein

Liberal media outlets may vilify the legacy of George W. Bush, but his pro-life record is without peer, says Timothy Goeglein, a “cradle Lutheran” from Fort Wayne, Indiana, the former deputy director of the White House Office of Public Liaison and current vice president of External Relations for Focus on the Family.

In his new book *The Man in the Middle: An Inside Account of Faith and Politics in the George W. Bush Era* (B&H Books, 2011), Goeglein tells the story of a President with integrity, character, and a deep faith that informed many of his decisions from the Oval Office.

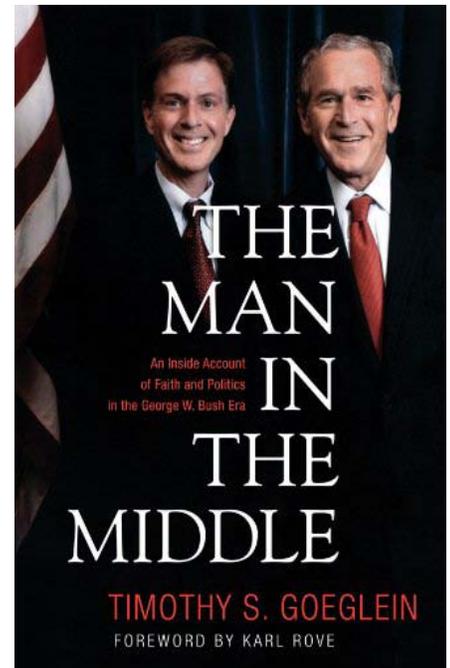
Goeglein served the George W. Bush administration for nearly eight years as the point man who connected with America’s conservatives and religious groups. He listened to what they wanted and needed and reported to Karl Rove, then the Deputy Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to George W. Bush.

In this position, Goeglein witnessed important moments in the intersection of faith, life, and politics, from Bush’s historic decision to not allow federal funding for the development of embryonic stem cells to the appointment of two Supreme Court Justices, Chief Justice John Roberts and Associate Justice Samuel Alito.

“George W. Bush was the most pro-life president ever, and without peer,” Goeglein says. “He spoke to the National Right to Life March all eight years as president, and he signed the Unborn Victims of Violence act, the Born Alive Infants Protection Act, the bill banning partial birth abortions (after Clinton had vetoed it twice). He gave a prime-time speech on his stem cell decision, the most pro-life speech ever delivered by a U.S. President in prime time.”

Of course, Bush’s biggest legacy was how he shaped and formed the Supreme Court and Federal Courts for decades to come, Goeglein says. “The elevation of Roberts and Alito, and more than 30 percent of all sitting federal judges, is a huge legacy of accomplishment that has already borne fruit,” he says. “The President believed that every person ever born mattered; that the sanctity and dignity of the innocent pre-born was foundational.”

You can purchase *The Man in the Middle* from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).



## Postcard for Life

Forget writing a letter to your elected officials: Curt Reinbold, a member of St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Richville, Mich., created a poster-board sized postcard, had church members sign it, addressed it to the President of the United States, and mailed it out. "It cost about \$30 to make and \$4 to send the postcard through the mail," Reinbold says. "We sent it just the way it is so everyone coming into contact with it through the mail would see it."

On the right are photos of Reinbold's youngest daughter, Lauren, 17, showing the front and back of the poster.

Interested in creating your own postcard for life? Contact Mr. Reinbold for more information at [curt4girls@yahoo.com](mailto:curt4girls@yahoo.com).



## Did You Know?

### Is placing adoptive children into homosexual households acceptable?

In 2006, the Commission on Theology and Church Relations issued a statement called "Placing Adopted Children into Homosexual Contexts." Its text says:

"The Board for Human Care of the LCMS has asked the Commission on Theology and Church Relations "to comment on the matter of LCMS recognized agencies placing adopted or foster children into homosexual contexts." In response to this request, the Commission states the following:

While Scripture does not specifically address social and political questions concerning the adoption (or foster care) of children, the Bible does clearly teach (as the Synod has repeatedly stated) that "homophile behavior is intrinsically sinful" (1973 Res. 2-04), that "same-sex unions are, according to the Scriptures, contrary to the will of the Creator and sin against the commandments of God" (1998 Res. 3-21), and that the God-given union of husband and wife in marriage "is the only proper context for human procreation" (1983 Res. 3-14).

On the basis of the clear teaching of Scripture regarding homosexual behavior and about God's will and design for marriage and the family as foundational units for society as a whole, it is the opinion of the CTCR that a policy of placing adopted or foster children into homosexual contexts would stand in opposition to the official doctrinal position of the LCMS."

Read this and other opinions from the CTCR here: [www.lcms.org/page.aspx?pid=465](http://www.lcms.org/page.aspx?pid=465)

### Calling All Readers

We want to hear from you! If you've got ideas for future issues, comments, feedback on articles you've read in *Notes for Life* or news and life outreach stories from your part of the world, please let us know. Write to [lifeministries@speaking4life.com](mailto:lifeministries@speaking4life.com) with your stories, and be sure to include your name, city, and state, or post on our Facebook wall.

### Coming Up

**I'm Worth It! How Parents Can Teach Teens About Chastity.** Yes, it's embarrassing and uncomfortable — for you and for them. But teens need to hear why remaining pure until marriage is so important, straight from the horse's mouth. Our next newsletter will look at how to reach teenagers with the message of abstinence in the face of schools, media, and friends saying it's not a big deal. Not a subscriber? Don't miss the next issue! [Subscribe now](#) to receive this free quarterly e-mail newsletter.



### Join Our Facebook page!

Want to stay on top of life news from LCMS Life Ministries? “Like” our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/LCMSLife](http://www.facebook.com/LCMSLife). You’ll be notified when the latest *Notes for Life* issue is out, and we’ll link to important life news in between. Tell your friends, too: hit the “suggest to friends” link on the left-hand side of the page. Thanks for your support.

### Save the Date/Tell Others

**From LCMS Resolution 6-02A, To Be a Light for Life (64<sup>th</sup> regular convention, July 2010):** Resolved, *That a conference be convened by the LCMS Sanctity of Human Life Committee that will provide encouragement to all LCMS members currently involved in elective and legislative processes and help them to be more vocal about pro-life issues, and that will equip and encourage more LCMS members to become involved in the governmental process of our country.*

On Saturday, January 26, 2013, LCMS Life Ministries will host a day-long pro-life conference in Washington, D.C., the day after the national March for Life on January 25, 2013 is a significant year that marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Roe v. Wade. The goal for the event is to encourage and equip Pro-life Lutherans to get involved in the public square as an advocate for life. The conference will feature prominent Lutheran speakers, such as LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, and other Lutherans working on Capitol Hill who are involved in pro-life outreach in the kingdom on the left in our government. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this unprecedented LCMS conference for life. More information will follow as plans emerge. Visit [www.lcmslifeconference.org](http://www.lcmslifeconference.org)



### Support LCMS Life Ministries

LCMS Life Ministries is an outreach of LCMS World Relief and Human Care. All programs of LCMS Life Ministries are funded by donations from caring people like you. No dollars come from the Missouri Synod’s unrestricted budget.

Your generous gift to the international and domestic work of LCMS Life Ministries will make a tremendous difference and help to uphold the message of Christ’s mercy to all in body and soul. [Click here](#) to give.

### How to Subscribe

To subscribe to *Notes for Life*, register online at [www.lcms.org/enews](http://www.lcms.org/enews). Select **Notes for Life** from among the “Helping People” newsletters.

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Mercy forever.