



Memorial for the unborn Jan. 26, 2019

LAKESHORE LIFE NEWS

Prolife Community Gathers In Unity for Election



Left to Right: Lisa Peters and Representative Bill Huizenga presenting the Life Award to Senator Arlan Meekhof; Focus on Life Benefit Dinner attendees enjoying the evening at Spring Lake Country Club; Chris Iwan speaking to guests about the Prolife Youth Group; Knights of Columbus members Jim Burke, Terry Johnson, Steve Erickson, Bill Bernesser; TCRTL Board Members Cheri TerHaar and Patti Bernesser and guests.

More than 220 members of lakeshore's prolife community attended the 24th annual Focus on Life Benefit Dinner on October 18.

Ed Rivet, former Legislative Director of Right to Life of Michigan, spoke on having the difficult conversation with friends and neighbors about the impact our vote has on the unborn. After more than 30 years spearheading the organization's public policy, Ed spoke on the courage that is needed from each one of us to find common ground to change hearts and minds and defend the rights of us all to life.

Pastor Marshall Holtvluwer of Covenant Life Church in Grand Haven, opened our evening with prayer.

Tri-Cities Right to Life honored retiring Senator Arlan Meekhof for his dedication and service in the support of life. One of the bills

Senator Meekhof sponsored is SB160 that bans Partial Birth/Late Term Abortions. Senator Meekhof has been a loyal supporter and participant in local prolife events including the annual Memorial for the Unborn held in January. Following a standing ovation, Senator Meekhof thanked those present and spoke of his personal commitment to the support of life and the loving option of adoption. Rep. Bill Huizenga spoke about the inspiring character of Senator Meekhof, his courage and fortitude to stand for life during his years in public office.

Lisa Peters, former Tri-Cities Right to Life President was recognized and thanked for her many years of dedication. Randy Royston presented the Right to Life of Michigan update.

Rev. Dave Gross from Spring Lake Catholic Church offered the heartfelt closing prayer.



BY THE NUMBERS

2017 Michigan Abortions

- **26,594 total MI abortions**
- **594 Total**
299 Ottawa County (+98 from 2016)
295 Muskegon Cnty (-7 from 2016)
- **Age of Woman**
<20 yrs 80
20-24 yrs 199
25-29 yrs 160
30-34 yrs 92
35-39 yrs 47
40+ 16

Source: MI Dept. of Health & Human Serv.

View from the Pastor

There is a new deity in our culture that's gained a huge following. I call it "the god of my comfort." In other words, what we revere, adore, and worship is our comfort. It is the most important thing in our lives and we protect it at all cost. It also means we will not embrace or even tolerate anything that undermines it. Which brings us to the unpleasant topic of abortion. People who worship comfort assume that an infant will disrupt their lives, cause stress, create hardship, and generally interfere with their sacred right to "comfort," and they will stop at nothing to protect it.

How short-sighted. They deny a biological reality in pursuit of their god, namely, that, as the Scriptures put it, "the barren womb is never satisfied" (Proverbs 30:16 ESV). Stories are legion of women who hesitantly, even fearfully, gave birth, only to discover a powerful and totally unexpected wave of tenderness coming over them as they hold the new-born in their arms.

My wife and I were told by medical experts we were extremely unlikely to have children. And yet, God chose to give us two healthy, active, delightful sons.

I have a number of friends who testify that their Down Syndrome child was the best thing that ever happened to them; that they discovered a kind of fulfillment and richness of life that transcended anything the god of comfort supplied. And by the way, when did the pursuit of comfort ever lead to satisfaction in life?

Those who live, who drink deeply of the elixir of life, are those who embrace risk, accept challenges, color outside the lines.

Every child is a gift from God, an affirmation of his decree that human life shall continue on planet earth.

What a privilege to cooperate with Him in adding to the richness of His people.

Pastor Wayne Muri

Get Involved!!!

♥ **Sanctity of Human Life Sunday**
Sunday, January 20-All Churches
Pray for respect of human life from conception to natural death.

♥ **40 Days for Life - Grand Rapids**
March 6 thru April 14
Vigil Held in Front of Heritage Clinic
320 East Fulton Street, Grand Rapids
www.40daysforlife.com/grandrapids
Join this grassroots effort to end abortion through prayer, fasting, and a peaceful vigil.

♥ **Tri-Cities Right to Life Meetings**
2nd Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m.
St. Patrick's Family Center
920 Fulton Street, Grand Haven
Meetings are open to the public.

Memorable Quote

The World now looks at death as a social good.

*The Value test is Abel-ism.
It is a final decision to kill people.*

*Sgt. John Wayne Cockfield, USMC
on 10/25/18*

Please support the January Billboard Campaign



TCRTL's 10th Annual Roe v. Wade Commemorative Billboard Project is underway. Look for all 3 billboards in our area during January. This year we ask for courage and a deep love from our birthmothers to take the difficult road of giving their child life through adoption. We are grateful to those

who wish to contribute to the cost of this campaign. Individuals and churches can sponsor the billboards, contributions may be sent to:

Tri-Cities Right to Life, PO Box 943,
Grand Haven, MI 49417.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Positive Options Connection

Recently, our team explored the question "What does love require of me?" Andy Stanley asked this in his book "Irresistible" and it's a question that resonates deeply with those of us in life affirming work. Some days, Love requires us to embrace and find resources for a woman who hasn't bathed in a week and doesn't know where her next meal will be. In that embrace, we communicate

that she is valuable and equally important to the life she carries in her womb. Some days, Love is a hard conversation with a man who spouts angrily about wanting his partner to get an abortion-"It's no big deal, really." That hard conversation, seasoned with overwhelming grace and truth will sit in his heart to help him weigh what he is asking her to walk through. Other days, Love is simply calling a doctor's office for a client whose phone is shut

off. Failing to ask this question can cause us to judge someone before we understand their underlying need. When we keep the question "What does Love require of me?" at the forefront of our minds, it forces us to slow down, respond (not react) in the moment, and view each person as a unique individual created in the image of God with needs beyond, yet including, their unexpected pregnancy.

Sarah Minner, Director GHLPC

Plan to attend the Memorial for the Unborn on Saturday, January 26



Left to Right: Participants attend the memorial service at St. Patrick's Catholic Church; students carry candles for babies lost to abortion at the 2018 Memorial Service: Pro-life walkers in, Memorial for the Unborn Walk 2018.

January 22, 2019, marks the 46th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court decision that has thus far permitted the legal destruction of almost 60 million innocent unborn children.

Tri-Cities Right to Life will hold its eighth annual Memorial for the Unborn on Saturday, January 26, to remember in a special way the 594 unborn children from Ottawa and

Muskegon county lost to abortion from the lakeshore area.

Participants should gather at 10:00 a.m. at First Reformed Church (301 Washington Avenue, Grand Haven). Following an opening blessing, the group will walk to St. Patrick's Church (920 Fulton Street, Grand Haven). Positive pro-life signs are allowed and encouraged.

The prayer service will begin at 10:30 a.m. at St. Patrick's Church. At its conclusion, everyone is invited to return to First Reformed Church for warm-up and refreshments.

All are welcome to attend this memorial event. Those unable to walk please come directly to St. Patrick's Church for the prayer service.

Tri-Cities Right to Life Pro-life Youth Event a huge success!!!

Our first pro-life youth event was held at Positive Options in November — close to 40 students were in attendance.

In December the TCRTL-Pro-life Youth met to hear the compelling life story from Dr. Danielle

Koestner, who experienced a crisis pregnancy as a Junior in High School and traveled the road of adoption to give her daughter life.

Join with the TCRTL-Pro-life Youth in January to be part of the Memorial Service and Walk for the Unborn.

For information on future events contact: Chris Iwan

616-935-6974
ciwan@stmarysl.org



Support Local Conference Book Ad Sponsors

The following organizations placed advertisements in the 45th annual Right to Life of Michigan Conference Book. Remember to support these pro-life businesses.

- **Bowen and Thornley, DDS**

17000 Robbins Road, Grand Haven
616-846-7360
bowenandthornleyddspsc.com

- **Best Builders, Wayne Hill**

18396 North Fruitport Road,
Spring Lake
616-847-6061 • bestbuilders.com

- **First Reformed Church**

301 Washington Avenue,
Grand Haven 616-842-6600
firstgrandhaven.org

- **Knights of Columbus**

George P. McCarthy Council 2975
Grand Haven, Michigan

- **Reenders Blueberry Farms**

9981 West Olive Road (US 31),
West Olive 616-842-5238
reendersblueberryfarms.com

- **St. Mary's Catholic Church**

406 East Savidge Street, Spring
Lake 616-842-1702 • stmarysl.org

- **Sytsema Funeral & Cremation Services**

- **St. Patrick and St. Anthony Parish**

920 Fulton Street, Grand Haven
616-842-0001 • stpatsgh.org

- **Christine Wade, Realtor**

326 N. Beacon Boulevard,
Grand Haven 616-850-8310
cwade@greenridge.com

- **Washington Street Inn Bed & Breakfast**

608 Washington Street,
Grand Haven 616-842-1075
abciccan@sbcglobal.net

- **Weiss Chiropractic Wellness Center**

124 W. Savidge Street
Spring Lake

Post Office Box 943
Grand Haven, MI 49417

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Tri-Cities Right to Life

Mail: P.O. Box 943, Grand Haven, MI 49417
Phone: 616-201-7813
E-mail: info@tricitierighttolife.org
Website: www.tricitierighttolife.org
Facebook: facebook.com/tricitierighttolife

Our Board

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YES! Please renew my membership for 2019 to Tri-Cities Right to Life and Right to Life of Michigan.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Membership Options:

\$15 Student / Senior Citizen

\$20 Individual

\$25 Family

\$ _____ Billboard Sponsor Donation

As a member, you will receive Tri-Cities Right to Life and Right to Life of Michigan newsletters.
Your membership also ensures that Tri-Cities Right to Life remains a visible presence in our area.

Make your check payable to Tri-Cities Right to Life and mail to P.O. Box 943, Grand Haven, MI 49417.

Your contributions to Tri-Cities Right to Life are not tax deductible.