



#### BRIEF HISTORY of LUTHERANS FOR LIFE OF SOUTH DAKOTA, INC.

The First Annual State Convention was held in September 1992, at which time the state federation was chartered. ByLaws were written.

On November 12, 1992 the Board of Directors of the National Lutherans for Life, Inc. granted the thirteenth state affiliation charter to Lutherans for Life of South Dakota, Inc.

The first annual meeting of the Council of Representatives was held on January 16, 1993 at the South Dakota District Office of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Sioux Falls, SD with Rev. Jay Reinke calling the meeting to order. Representatives present were Thomas and Cindy Deadrick, Rev. Dana Brooks, Gretchen Gallo, Doris Bertsch, Lois Heese, Yvonne Steffen, Anthony Ahrendt, Rev. Joe and Lois Howlett and Edna Haeder. The Constitution was approved. The nomination slate for Board of Directors was presented with six to be elected. The following were elected and served as officers:

President: Lloyd Beckman, Brookings  
Vice President: Doris Bertsch, Freeman  
Treasurer: Mike Grooms, Sioux Falls  
Secretary: Edna Haeder, Wolsey  
Board Member: Gretchen Gallo, Sioux Falls  
Board Member: Jane Guericke, White Lake  
Advisor: Rev Dana Brooks, Huron  
Legal Counsel: Thomas Deadrick, Parker  
State Coordinator: Rev Jay Reinke, Pierre

Some of the business at this first annual meeting included plans for the second annual state convention in September and the publication of a Life Newsletter, consisting of three issues per year and edited by the Vice President.

By 1994 seven LFL Chapters had organized: Aberdeen Area, Central SD, East Dakota, Heartland, Sioux Empire, Southeastern and Trinity at White Lake.

The need for an ultrasound ministry in South Dakota was noted in 1997. Through this ministry pregnant women would be able see their baby in the womb! A fundraiser was launched which generated support across South Dakota to raise the \$35,000 needed to purchase the imaging machine and assist the Alpha Center for Women develop the ultrasound ministry at their pregnancy center. Since the initial fundraising, God has blessed the efforts resulting in the saving of thousands babies over the years!

The Witness of the Crosses was completed in 2000. A trailer was purchased and 1500 crosses were constructed to be used by churches or other organizations to illustrate the number of babies that are aborted each year. LFL of SD now has two trailers/displays to be used across the state.

Joining the 21st century in 2008, a website was added: [lutheransforlifesd.org](http://lutheransforlifesd.org). The site was updated in 2010 with a new look and the ability to make online donations.

“Life: A Better Choice” television ad fundraising campaign was introduced in October 2009. As donations allow, informative, tasteful, refreshing, pro-life and pro-family television advertising is purchased to air on television across the state of South Dakota.

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