

ADVOCATING FOR LIFE, SERVING OUR NEIGHBOR

Mosaic offers life-affirming pregnancy services

By Cheryl Hemmer
Southern Illinois District
Advocates for Life Team

When expectant mothers first walk through the doors of Mosaic Pregnancy and Health Center, they often feel scared, alone, helpless and overwhelmed. However, they often leave with the strength, courage and support they need to bring their babies into the world.

Mosaic is a crisis pregnancy center with locations in Fairview Heights and Granite City. The centers offer free and confidential pregnancy testing and ultrasounds, along with testing for sexually transmitted diseases and infections.

Mosaic does not offer abortions and does not refer women to abortion providers.

“We are 100 percent pro-life,” said Kathy Lesnoff, Mosaic president and CEO. “We believe that God creates all life, and abortion would end a life that God created.”

Mosaic also offers free counseling, pregnancy classes, parenting classes and help with insurance and obstetrician and pediatrician referrals.

Mosaic provides \$250 worth of baby items to mothers who complete the parenting classes. Items include diapers, wipes, bottles and onesies.

Mosaic also has a post-abortive recovery program led by women who have had abortions and have gone through the post-abortion healing process themselves.

“We recognize that this is a very difficult time,” Lesnoff said. “Studies show that it takes women an average of five years to recover from an abortion physically, emotionally and spiritually. To help with that, we offer a nine-week Bible study which focuses on God’s forgiveness and His promises for the mother and her child.”



Mosaic locations

5016 N. Illinois St.
Fairview Heights
618-355-9977

2019 Johnson Road
Granite City
618-451-2002

Male counselors are also available for fathers and couples offer mentoring for other couples.

Mosaic has helped over 16,000 clients make unplanned pregnancy and health decisions since its inception in 1987.

Mosaic offers an abstinence-based sex education program for middle and high school students. The curriculum, Rel8, serves 2,200 students a year in Madison and St. Clair counties.

The St. Louis Metro East pro-life community was caught off guard last fall when Planned Parenthood moved its Fairview Heights offices to a newer, larger and more visible location near the intersection of Interstate 64 and Illinois 159.

But Mosaic already unwittingly had a counterplan in place. Mosaic is completing a move of its St. Clair County location from Belleville to Fairview Heights, placing it much closer to the Planned Parenthood clinic. The new Mosaic office is located at 5016 N. Illinois St., two miles from the Planned

Parenthood building at 317 Salem Place.

Lesnoff said she was unaware of Planned Parenthood’s plans for a new clinic when Mosaic made its own plans to move.

“When we first opened 32 years ago, we had a location in Fairview Heights,” Lesnoff said. “We moved from there to the east end of Belleville several years later to be closer to Southwestern Illinois College and the Belleville high schools. But we came to realize we saw more clients while we were in Fairview Heights than Belleville. We simply decided we needed to be where we were needed. We didn’t realize at that time how much we would be

needed.”

Mosaic’s move to its new building doubles its available space, from 1,000 square feet at its Belleville location to 2,000 square feet at its new facility. It had outgrown the smaller location and was using a nearby church for its pregnancy and parenting classes.

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— Kathy Lesnoff

Continued on next page

District well represented at March on the Arch

Mosaic has not completely moved into the Fairview Heights site because it is undergoing renovations.

Mosaic also has a mobile unit that is parked next to the new Planned Parenthood clinic. Since moving the mobile unit to an adjacent parking lot a few months ago, Lesnoff said 130 clients have gone directly into the Mosaic unit instead of Planned Parenthood. Members of Coalition For Life St. Louis, a pro-life organization, stand outside the gate at Planned Parenthood and inform those arriving for services at Planned Parenthood that Mosaic is available for testing and alternatives to abortion.

“We give them enough information to make them at least stop and reconsider,” Lesnoff said. “Not everyone that comes to Planned Parenthood is considering abortion. Some just want to get a pregnancy test. But last year, 92 percent of abortion-minded clients that came to Mosaic chose to keep their baby.”

Mosaic is a donor-supported ministry. It is funded by three fundraising events each year, and donations from individuals, churches and other organizations. Mosaic has a baby bottle campaign each January around the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision making abortion legal. Mosaic provides churches and organizations with baby bottles that members can fill with cash or checks. In March, Mosaic hosts a dinner gala for monthly donors. It also holds Mission Life Saturday each September with games and food.

Lesnoff is Mosaic’s only full-time employee and she’s been with the organization since its inception. The center also has 10 part-time employees and 32 volunteers.

Volunteers are needed at the center, especially volunteers in nursing. Mosaic also trains volunteers interested in counseling mothers and being a client advocate for them. Volunteers also can help lead childbirth and parenting classes, help with administrative work, be a receptionist, serve on the board of

See **MOSAIC**, page 7



Among the Southern Illinois District pastors who participated in the March on the Arch are (pictured with LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, at right), from left, Revs. Karl Gregory, Roger Drinnon, Dr. Kirk Clayton, David Otten, Bruce Keseman and Justin Massey.

By Rev. Dr. Kirk M. Clayton Pastor, Zion, Mascoutah

On Saturday, March 7, about 100 lay members and pastors from congregations of the Southern Illinois District joined together to participate in the March on the Arch in St. Louis.

The pro-life event began with a rally at a Planned Parenthood clinic, and then we marched four miles downtown and ended under the Gateway Arch. Throughout the route, LCMS marchers were led in hymns, prayers and catechism recitations by Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, LCMS, president. Along with President Harrison, participants also heard from Rev. Michael W. Salemink, Lutherans For Life executive director.

At the rally before the march, participants heard the wonderful news that while over 1,000 babies had been killed at the St. Louis Planned Parenthood clinic in 2019, only seven abortions had been performed so far in 2020. Pro-life advocacy and legislation are having a definite and noticeable impact to improve the hope for life for children in Missouri. Unfortunately, the tide seems to be flowing the opposite direction in Illinois,

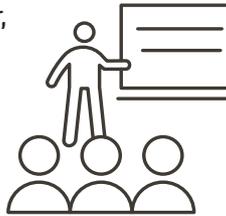
with the opening of a new Planned Parenthood facility just across from St. Clair Square mall in Fairview Heights. Pro-life Lutherans in Southern Illinois have a prayerful task laid before us to testify to the unique dignity and precious value of every life, born and unborn.

Joining together as district brothers and sisters at the March on the Arch was a good start. Participants at the march included members of Christ our Savior, Freeburg; Good Shepherd, Collinsville; Good Shepherd, Marion; Holy Cross, Collinsville; Immanuel, Waterloo; Messiah, Lebanon; Olive Branch, Okawville; Our Redeemer, Golconda; Our Redeemer, Greenville; St. John, Chester; St. John, Red Bud; St. Paul, Hamel; St. Peter, Campbell Hill; Trinity, Hoffman; Trinity, Millstadt; Zion, Belleville; Zion, Mascoutah, and quite possibly others.

Future pro-life events will be coming from the new district Advocates for Life Team. Please look for ways to support the pro-life cause as opportunities arise through the team, and please be fervent in prayer to bring an end to the atrocity of abortion and a restoration of the respect that God’s gift of life merits.

Continuing education opportunity

Every summer, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), Ind., offers a



number of continuing education classes at numerous sites across the country. While CTSFW staff provide the framework for these classes, pastors in your district serve as the site coordinators and choose the topic, teacher, time and location (usually their home church).

Classes are open to both church workers and lay people.



Messiah Lutheran Church, Carlyle, will host “Giants of Singing the Faith: Luther, Gerhardt, and Bach,” Aug. 25-27. The conference will be taught by Rev. Richard Resch, emeritus professor and kantor, CTSFW.

The study will look at the contributions of Martin Luther, Paul Gerhardt and Johann Sebastian Bach to the hymnological, musical and theological heritage of the Lutheran church. As towering pillars of confessional Lutheranism, what does each man bring to this glorious heritage that so identifies us? And how can pastors and church musicians still make faithful use of their good gifts in the Lutheran church of today?

A Luther/Gerhardt hymn festival, a choral vespers service and an all-Bach organ recital will highlight the conference.

Conference musicians include Rev. Dr. Christopher Ahlman, Kantor Janet Muth, Nancy Peterson (doctorate in musical arts) and voices from The American Kantorei.

Messiah Lutheran Church is located at 1091 13th St. in Carlyle.

Along with Messiah and CTSFW, sponsors are St. John’s, New Minden, the Southern Illinois District, Concordia Publishing House and MorningStar Music.

For registration and more information about the conference, visit ctsfw.edu/ce and scroll down to locate the Carlyle site.

MOSAIC

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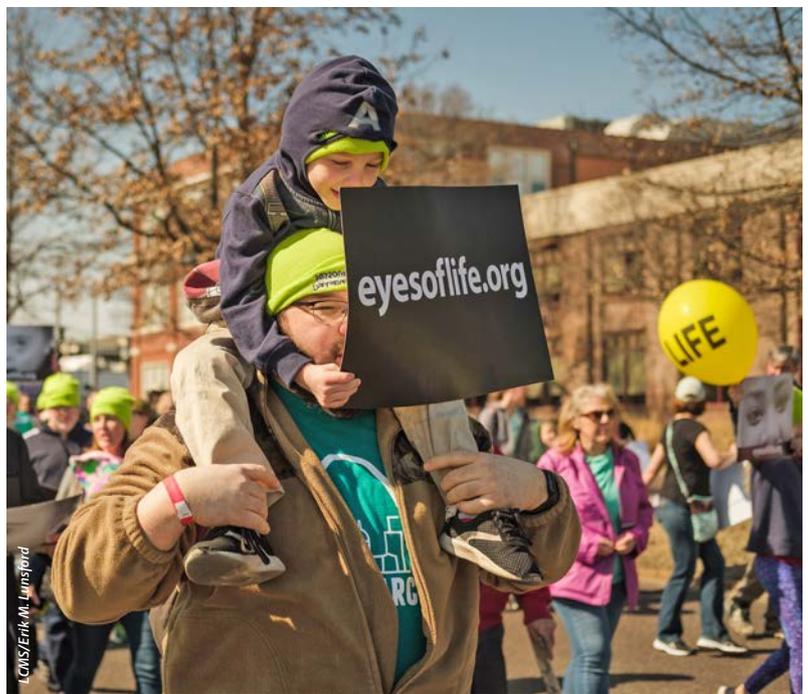
directors or even clean the facility. “We are happy to have people volunteer for anything that helps us save money,” Lesnoff said.

Forty years ago, Lesnoff herself worked in an abortion clinic in Granite City. During that time, she became a Christian and joined a church. “But I still didn’t do anything with that faith and church membership in regards to my work in an abortion clinic for five years. I finally realized what I was doing was contrary to God’s teaching and my faith.”

Lesnoff first became a client advocate at a crisis pregnancy center in Missouri before opening Mosaic in the metro east.

“I wanted to offer not just an alternative to abortion, but a Christ-centered answer to abortion in our area,” said Lesnoff. She said that last year, 51 women returned to their church or became Christians after Christian counseling from Mosaic.

To learn more, to donate or to volunteer, please visit supportmosaic.org.



Zach Schnare, a teacher at Metro East Lutheran High School, Edwardsville, carries his son, Isaiah, as they participate in the March on the Arch on Saturday, March 7, in St. Louis.