



## LIFE CONFERENCE 2019

JANUARY 17, 2019 | 12-5PM  
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH,  
WARRENTON, VA  
[THENALC.ORG/LIFE](http://THENALC.ORG/LIFE)

Our third annual **NALC Life Conference** will be held on Thursday, January 17th, 2019 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 276 Cleveland St. Warrenton, VA 20186 from noon until 5PM. The event is free, will begin with a free lunch and will conclude with a communion service with Bishop John Bradosky presiding.

This year's conference will be very special. Our keynote speakers are Melissa Ohden, Mona Fuerstenau and Rev. Dr. Dennis R. Di Mauro.

**Melissa Ohden** is the survivor of a failed saline infusion abortion. Believing she was less than five months pregnant with Melissa in 1977, her birthmother attempted to abort her. Miraculously, the abortion did not succeed in ending Melissa's life. Although the doctors initially believed that she would not live past her infancy, and if she did, she would suffer from multiple disabilities throughout her lifetime, she was adopted into a loving home as an infant and she's not only survived, but thrived. As Melissa will be sharing with us her life, her story is so much more than one of survival. Melissa's testimony speaks to the beauty of God's grace in our lives, about the power of love, about hope and healing in the midst of grief and loss, and about the transformational power of forgiveness in answering God's call for your life. Melissa's perspective as an abortion survivor who has had contact with numerous members of her biological family, as a mother herself, highlights the intergenerational impact of abortion on families and communities. Fulfilling the purpose that she believes God set out for her when He saved her from the certain death of the abortion attempt, Melissa is truly a voice for the voiceless.

**Mona Fuerstenau** has been a disability advocate for over 30 years. A retired speech pathologist, parent of two very diverse young adults, champion of the marginalized and a lifelong Lutheran she brings vast experience to her current role as director of ministry partnerships for Bethesda Lutheran Communities. She views most of life through an asset based community development lens and firmly believes that all people have unique and necessary gifts and talents to share.

Her talk is entitled, *Wonderfully Made and Indispensable: Everyone is necessary in the body of Christ, we have a lot of work to do!* Mona will be sharing about why the new partnership in mission of Lutherans for Life and Bethesda Lutheran Communities makes so much sense. She will share her passion for [Psalm 139: 13-16](#) joined with her perspective on [1 Corinthians 12:22](#) and [1 Peter 4:10](#). She will also provide free resources for equipping your ministry to be life affirming for those with disabilities.

**Rev. Dr. Dennis R. Di Mauro** is the founder of NALC Life Ministries and he has been active in the pro-life movement for over twenty years. He is also secretary of the National Pro-Life Religious Council, and he serves on the board of Lutherans for Life. Dr. Di Mauro, holds a

PhD in Church History from The Catholic University of America, and teaches at St. Paul Lutheran Seminary. He is also pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church (NALC), Warrenton, VA. Think abortion started in the twentieth century? Think again.

Abortion is an age old sin that has been in existence in many forms throughout Christian history. But throughout those two thousand years, the Church has passionately sought to protect human life in the womb.

Can a proscription against abortion be found in the Bible? Spoiler alert – Yes! We'll show you how.

Is the Church unclear about its position on abortion? No! In fact, the vast majority of Christians belong to pro-life denominations.

Rev. Dr. Di Mauro leads readers through Christian history in his book *A Love for Life* (Wipf and Stock, 2008), to see how great Christian thinkers like Basil, Augustine, Aquinas, Luther, Calvin, Bonhoeffer and many others spoke out in defense of life in the womb.

### **Itinerary:**

12 p.m. Lunch (Free)

1 p.m. Abortion and the History of Christianity's Consistent Protection of Human Life, Rev. Dr. [Dennis Di Mauro](#)

2 p.m. Wonderfully Made and Indispensable, Mona Feuerstat

3 p.m. Keynote Address, Melissa Ohden

4 p.m. Worship, Led by Rev. [John Bradosky](#) (Chaplain, Rev. [Christopher Porter](#))

There is no registration required. But please email Pastor Dennis

at [dennisdimauro@yahoo.com](mailto:dennisdimauro@yahoo.com) if you will be attending the lunch so we can get a head count.

For those interested, the following day, Friday the 18th, we will be attending the National Prayer Service (DAR Constitution Hall) and then participating in the [March for Life](#) (Meeting at the corner of 12th Street SW and Madison Drive NW at 12 p.m.). I hope that our NALC pastors and members can join our NALC executive council for this very special event!