

National Donor Sabbath Index

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MICHIGAN ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION PROGRAM

GIVE SO OTHERS CAN LIVE

Sample Bulletin Articles

❖ During this National Donor Sabbath weekend, faith communities throughout the country honor those who have given the gift of life through organ, tissue and eye donation.

Did you know?

- One donor can save and enhance the lives of up to 50 people.
- There is no age limit for donation, nor any medical history that prevents signing up on the Donor Registry.
- Last year, 862 Michigan patients received a life-saving organ transplant, and nearly 1,000 received the gift of sight through cornea transplantation.

Sign up on the Michigan Organ Donor Registry at www.giftoflifemichigan.org or call 800-482-4881.

❖ We encourage members of the (name of house of worship) family to consider organ and tissue donation. Talk it over with your family members and discuss your wishes. Sign up on the Michigan Organ Donor Registry at www.giftoflifemichigan.org or call 800-482-4881.

❖ (Name of Religion) recognizes the life-giving benefits of organ and tissue donation and encourages all members of our congregation to find out more about donation, join the Michigan Organ Donor Registry, and discuss your wishes with family members. Sign up on the Michigan Organ Donor Registry at www.giftoflifemichigan.org or call 800-482-4881.

❖ To think of others in hours of grief and sorrow is truly compassionate and selfless. Please consider the gift of life – organ and tissue donation. (Name of Religion) supports this gift in the spirit of love and generosity. Sign up on the Michigan Organ Donor Registry at www.giftoflifemichigan.org or call 800-482-4881.

❖ Our congregation supports and encourages organ and tissue donation as the ultimate gift from one person to another. Make a miracle. Be an organ and tissue donor. Sign up online at giftoflifemichigan.org or call 800-482-4881.



MICHIGAN ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION PROGRAM

GIVE SO OTHERS CAN LIVE

Sample Announcements

- ❖ This is National Donor Sabbath weekend, a time to talk to your family about organ, tissue and eye donation. We each have the power to change the world...to give hope to others through the gifts of life, sight and mobility. Sign up on the Michigan Organ Donor Registry. Brochures are available at the entrance.
- ❖ Our church recognizes the lifesaving benefits of organ and tissue donation and encourages all members of our congregation to sign up on the Michigan Organ Donor Registry. To help save lives, fill out a donor registry brochure at the entrance.
- ❖ Churches, synagogues, mosques and temples throughout Michigan will celebrate National Donor Sabbath this weekend, to raise awareness about the critical need for organ and tissue donors. Sign up on the Michigan Organ Donor Registry. Brochures are available at the entrance.
- ❖ Our congregation supports and encourages organ and tissue donation as the ultimate faith-based gift of one person to another. The Michigan Organ Donor Registry makes your wish to be an organ and tissue donor legally binding, without the need for additional consent. For more information, stop by the information table after services.
- ❖ To think of others at a time of grief and sorrow is truly compassionate and selfless. Please sign up today to give the gift of life - organ and tissue donation. (Name of Religion) supports this gift in the spirit of love and generosity. The Michigan Organ Donor Registry makes your wish to be an organ and tissue donor legally binding, without the need for additional consent. Stop by the information table after services to sign up!



GIVE SO OTHERS CAN LIVE

Sacred Texts

- John 11:25- I am the resurrection and the life.
- I Corinthians 15:35-58- The spiritual body.
- Luke 6:31-38- Give to others and God will give to you.
- Romans 8:28-29- Seeking the good.
- John 3:16-17- God gave His Son.
- Luke 14:12-14- Giving without reward.
- Genesis 2:26-31- Responsible power.
- Matthew 10:1-8- The Imperative to Heal
- Mark 14:3-9 The Sweet Fragrance of Sacrificial Giving
- Luke 10:27- Donation: The Act of Love
- John 8-32- The Liberating Truth
- Ezekiel 37- The Valley of Dry Bones: “These bones shall live.”
- Matthew 5:7- Blessed are the merciful.
- Matthew 7:7- Ask... seek... knock.
- Matthew 7:12- Whatsoever ye would that men should do unto you, do ye even so to them.
- Matthew 10:8- Heal the sick... freely ye have received, freely give.
- Leviticus 1:7- Though shalt love thy neighbor as thyself
- Mark 9:47- We can enter heaven without having every part of our bodies present.
- Luke 6:37-38- Give and it shall be given unto you.
- John 3:16-17- God so loved the world that he gave...
- John 10:10- Give life that others may live more abundantly.
- John 15:12-13- Greater love has no man...
- 1 John 4:11- If God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.
- Revelation 21:4-5I- In eternity we will not need our earthly bodies: Former things will pass away, all things will be made new.

GIFT OF LIFE



MICHIGAN ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION PROGRAM

GIVE SO OTHERS CAN LIVE

Sample Prayers

O God, we thank Thee for the gift of life. May we always cherish this gift and protect it in the candle of responsibility. May we understand that our bodies are the houses of Thy infinite spirit. The mortal house is a temporary abode, but within is the brilliant light of eternity. Every chamber is a repository of vitality. Each is a place of life. Together, they form a temple of God. Amen.

Good and gracious God, each day is an occasion for giving thanks for life. But on this day we pause to thank You for particular lives. We give You thanks for compassionate people who are willing to be organ and tissue donors. Bless those who donate life. May their gifts bring others the golden light of hope. Comfort each donor's family with the knowledge that their loved one gave life, even at the end.

Let us follow the Lord's example, who laid His own life down so that others would live. Oh Heavenly Father, your Son gave his own life so that we may have eternal life. Help us to be generous with our *gift of life*, to be like the Samaritan who cared enough to make a difference, who bound wounds, and brought comfort. Let us know the joy that comes from seeing a person's life change for the better. Give us the opportunity to renew life for those who suffer.



GIVE SO OTHERS CAN LIVE

Hymns

*Amazing Grace
Lift Up Our Hearts, O King of Kings
Blest Be The Tie That Binds
Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service
Come, Sinners, To The Gospel Feast
O God, Whose Will Is Life
Have Thine Own Way, Lord
O Son of Man, Thou Modest Known
Heavenly Father, Bless Me Now
O Thou Who Art the Shepherd
Hope Of The World
O Young and Fearless Prophet
I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath
Open My Eyes, That I May See
Immortal Love, Forever Full
Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated
Jesus, Lord We Look to Thee
We Give Thee But Thine Own
Jesus, Love of my Soul
What Wondrous Love Is This
Jesus, United By Thy Grace
The Voice of God is Calling
One Bread, One Body*



Ideas to Help Support Donation

1. Announce National Donor Sabbath before or after services.
2. Staff a Donor Registry sign-up table during social hour or after services.
3. Have a church member who has been affected by organ donation write a personal story and put it in the bulletin.
4. Recognize and honor organ donors and recipients.
5. Hold a candlelight vigil.
6. Organize a prayer breakfast where donor families and recipients put on presentations.
7. Host donor awareness workshops.
8. Coordinate a community health fair.
9. Candle ceremony (two suggestions follow):

Seventeen Candles

Seventeen people stand before the congregation, each holding a lit candle. One by one, each person blows out his or her candle. After the last candle is blown out, there is a brief moment of silence. The clergy person then says, "This is a visual representation of the seventeen people who die EVERY DAY in the United States while waiting for an organ transplant." This statement is followed by another brief moment of silence.

Seven Candles

Seven people stand before the congregation, each person is holding a candle. One by one, each person lights his or her candle. After the last candle is lit, there is a brief moment of silence. The clergy person says, "One organ donor can save the lives of up to seven people. An organ and tissue donor can save the lives of up to 50 people." This statement is followed by another brief moment of silence.

10. Hang up posters. Click the following link to download posters.
<http://www.giftoflifemichigan.org/eheart/eHeartIndex.htm>



MICHIGAN ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION PROGRAM

GIVE SO OTHERS CAN LIVE

Religious Views on Organ Donation

Religion	Donation	Transplantation	Comments
AME and AME Zion (African Methodist Episcopal)	Encouraged	Supported	Organ and tissue donation is viewed as an act of charity and a form of neighborly love.
Amish	Acceptable, unless the transplant outcome is known to be questionable.	Acceptable, if for the welfare of transplant recipient.	The Amish will consent to transplantation if they know that it is for the health of the transplant recipient. Nothing in the Amish understanding of the Bible forbids them from using modern medical services, including surgery, hospitalization, dental work, anesthesia, blood transfusions or immunization.
Baha'i	Bahaists are permitted to donate their bodies for medical research and restorative purposes.	Acceptable, if prescribed by medical authorities.	None
Baptist	Individual decision	Accepted	Donation is considered an act of charity and the church leaves the decision to donate up to the individual.
Buddhist Church of America	Individual decision. The Church places a high value on compassionate acts.	Individual decision	The Buddhists believe that organ donation is a matter of individual conscience. They stress the importance of letting your loved ones know your decision.
Christian Scientist	Individual decision	Individual decision	The Church of Christ Scientist takes no specific position on transplants or organ donation as distinct from other medical or surgical procedures. Christian Scientists are free to choose whatever form of medical treatment they desire, including an organ transplant. The question of organ donation is the individual decision of church members.
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon)	Individual decision	Individual decision	The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) believes that the decision to donate is an individual one made in conjunction with family, medical personnel, and prayer. They do not oppose donation.
Episcopal	Encouraged	Individual decision	The Episcopal Church recognizes the life-giving benefits of organ, blood, and tissue donation, and encourages all Christians to become donors as part of their ministry to help others in the name of Christ.
Evangelical Covenant	Acceptable	Acceptable	A resolution passed at the Evangelical Covenant Annual Meeting in 1982 encouraged members to sign and carry Organ Donor Cards. The resolution also recommended that pastors, teachers and counselors promote organ and tissue donation to their congregations.
Greek Orthodox Church	Not opposed if it will be better for human life.	No objection	According to Reverend Dr. Milton Efthimiou, Director of the Department of Church and Society for the Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America, "The Greek Orthodox Church is not opposed to organ donation as long as the organs and tissues in question are used to better human life, i.e. for transplantation or for research that will lead to improvements in the treatment and prevention of disease."

Gypsies	Generally opposed	Generally opposed	Gypsies are, on the whole, against organ donation. Gypsies do not have an exclusive religion but they share common folk beliefs which include the sanctity of a deceased person's body. Although they have no formal resolution, they oppose donation because they believe that the soul retraces its steps after death. The soul retains a physical shape and all body parts must be left intact.
Hinduism	Acceptable	Acceptable	Hindus are not prohibited from donating their organs, according to the Hindu Temple Society of North America. This is an individual decision
Islam	Acceptable	Acceptable	The religion of Islam believes in the principle of saving human lives. There is no policy against organ donation as long as it is done with respect for the deceased and for the benefit of the recipient.
Jehovah's Witness	May be considered acceptable	May be considered acceptable	According to the Watch Tower Society, the legal corporation for the religion, Jehovah's Witnesses do not encourage organ donation, but believe it is a matter for individual conscience. Although the group is often assumed to ban transplantation because it is against blood transfusion, it does not oppose donating or receiving organs. All organs and tissues, however, must be completely drained of blood before transplantation.
Judaism	Encouraged	Supported	Judaism teaches that saving human life takes precedence over maintaining the sanctity of the human body. All four branches of Judaism (Orthodox, Conservative, Reform, and Reconstructionist) support and encourage donation.
Lutheran	Encouraged	Supported	The Lutheran Church believes that donation contributes to the well-being of humanity and is an expression of love of one's neighbor. According to a 1984 Lutheran Church of America resolution, the Church encourages its members to sign donor cards, inform their families and make any legal arrangements necessary in support of donation.
Pentecostal	Individual decision	Individual decision	None
Presbyterian	Encouraged	Supported	The Presbyterian Church encourages donation and respects the individual's right to make their own decision concerning their body.
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)	Acceptable. Individual decision.	Acceptable. Individual decision.	None
Roman Catholic Church	Acceptable	Acceptable	Catholics view organ donation as an act of charity, fraternal love and self sacrifice. Transplants are ethically and morally acceptable to the Vatican.
Seventh Day Adventist	Strongly encouraged	Strongly encouraged	The Seventh-Day Adventist Church strongly supports donation and transplantation. They have a number of transplant hospitals throughout the country, including Loma Linda Hospital in Southern California.

Shinto	Not supported	Unclear	The Shinto religion does not support organ and tissue donation because any act of dissection is regarded as injurious to the body of the dead.
Unitarian Universalist	Acceptable	Acceptable; no restriction when the patient and the physician believe the operation will be of benefit to the patient	None
United Methodist	Encouraged	Supported	The United Methodist Church encourages organ and tissue donation. It is part of their ministry to help others in the name of Christ. Signing and carrying donor cards is viewed as a testament to their commitment aid those in need.



Inspirational Writings

To Remember Me

By Robert N. Test

The day will come when my body will lie upon a white sheet neatly tucked under four corners of a mattress located in a hospital busily occupied with the living and the dying.

At a certain moment a doctor will determine that my brain has ceased to function and that, for all intents and purposes, my life has stopped.

When that happens, do not attempt to instill artificial life into my body by the use of a machine. And don't call this my deathbed. Let it be called the Bed of Life, and let my body be taken from it to help others lead fuller lives.

Give my sight to the man who has never seen a sunrise, a baby's face, or love in the eyes of a woman.

Give my heart to a person whose own heart has caused nothing but endless days of pain.

Give my blood to the teenager who was pulled from the wreckage of his car, so that he might live to see his grandchildren play.

Give my kidneys to one who depends on a machine to exist from week to week.

Take my bones, every muscle, every fiber and nerve in my body and find a way to make a crippled child walk.

If you must bury something, let it be my faults, my weaknesses, and all prejudice against my fellow man.

Give my sins to the devil.

Give my soul to God.

If, by chance, you wish to remember me, do it with a kind deed or word to someone who needs you.

If you do all I have asked, I will live forever.



Bequest
By Herbert Nelson

So white. Now I lay me down upon a sheet so white.
No more. My brain can hear your voice no more.
But wait.
These eyes,
This heart,
This kidney;
These bones, skin, blood, nerve
Still can serve.
As Christ gave His body and His blood for me,
Now let me give this gift to thee.
Take these eyes and let them see.
Let this skin feel again and be.
Accept this organ to make her whole,
This blood to speed him on his way,
Then Blessed Lord, receive my soul.



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The Pope's Message on Organ Donation

“Over and above such outstanding moments there is an everyday heroism, made up of gestures of sharing, big and small, which build up an authentic culture of life. A particularly praiseworthy example of such gestures is the donation of organs, performed in an ethically acceptable manner, with a view to offering the chance of health and ever life itself to the sick who sometimes have no home.”

Pope John Paul II, His Encyclical: For a New Culture of Human Life (Par. 86)

“To donate one's organs is an act of love that is morally licit as long as it is free and spontaneous. To be an organ donor means to carry out an act of love toward someone in need, toward a brother in difficulty. It is a free act of love, of availability, that every person of good will can do at any time and for any brother. As for myself, I have agreed to give my organs to whomever might be in need.”

Pope Benedict XVI



GIVE SO OTHERS CAN LIVE

Facts and Questions

- Last year in Michigan, 1,081 organ and tissue donors gave the *gift of life*, saving and enhancing the lives of thousands.
- In 2007, 863 Michigan residents received life-saving organ transplants.
- In 2007, through the generosity of donors and their families, the Michigan Eye-Bank provided the gift of sight to 1,067 Michigan patients.
- More than 8,000 Michigan patients have received a life-saving organ transplant in the last 10 years.
- Each donor has the ability to save and enhance the lives of up to 50 people.
- Cornea transplants have been successful for over 100 years.
- Organ transplants have been successful for over 50 years.
- Corneas restore sight for nearly 10% of people affected by blindness. Whole eye donations are utilized for eye and vision research into blinding eye diseases like glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and macular degeneration.
- On average, 17 Michigan patients receive an organ transplant each week.
- An estimated 220,000 Americans are treated with transplanted bone and tissue each year. Tissues include tendons and ligaments, skin, heart valves and corneas
- The *gift of life* is ageless - everyone can sign up to donate life, at any age!
- Organ and tissue donation can provide families that are sadly confronted by the death of a loved one the comfort of knowing the gift of donated organs and tissues endows another person with renewed hope for a healthy life.
- African Americans, who represent 12% of the national population, make up 29% of those waiting for an organ transplant nationally. In Michigan alone, 38% of those waiting for an organ transplant are African American.



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Will my religion approve of donation?

Most religions approve of organ, tissue and eye donation, and consider donation one of the highest acts of compassion and generosity.


Who can become a donor?

People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential organ, tissue and eye donors. Your medical condition at the time of death will determine what can be donated. Medical criteria changes regularly.


Why donate?

Almost 100,000 people are waiting for an organ transplant in the United States. Your decision to donate your organs can save the live of up to eight people, and directly improve the lives of up to 50 people through tissue donation. After an organ or tissue transplant, people can return to work, school and their family, all because an unknown hero gave them the gift of life.

How do I express my wish to become an organ, tissue and eye donor?

1. Fill out the [Michigan Organ Donor Registry](#) form.
2. Once received, the Michigan Secretary of State will mail you a  Donor sticker to place on the front of your driver's license or state ID.

What if I am already on the Michigan Organ Donor Registry?

You must sign up again to receive the  Donor sticker for your driver's license or state ID.

Can I indicate specific organs and/or tissues for donation?

No, because of medical technology advancements, the types of organs and tissues used for transplantation research may change. It is best to share specific organs and/or tissues for donation with family and/or your patients advocate.

Can normal funeral arrangements be made?

Yes. Donation does not interfere with having a funeral, including open casket services.

Will doctors work as hard to save my life if they know I am an organ, tissue and eye donor?

Yes. Every effort is made to save your life before donation is considered. By law, the medical team treating you must be separate from the transplant team.



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GIVE SO OTHERS CAN LIVE

Why is it important to register my wish to become a donor?

Upon every hospital death, Gift of Life Michigan is notified. Having your donor registry form on file helps to ensure that your decision to become a donor is carried out. Even when you sign the donor registry it is **ESSENTIAL THAT YOUR FAMILY KNOWS** your wishes.

Are there any costs to my family?

No. It costs nothing to donate organs or tissues, and no costs associated with the donation are passed on to the donor's family or estate.



How to Talk to Your Family About Your Wish to Donate

1. Tell your family that they are an important part of a personal decision that you want to share.
2. Tell them why you want to be a donor. Explain that organ and tissue donations are consistent with your values and it feels like the right thing for you to do.
3. Tell them how one person can make a difference in the lives of dozens of people. One donor can potentially help 50 others.
4. Explain that your religion supports donation. If they are doubtful, ask them to speak with their spiritual leader.
5. Remind your family that donation is a gift, and there is no cost to the donor family. Donation need not interfere with funeral arrangements, and does not change the appearance of the donor's body.



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GIVE SO OTHERS CAN LIVE

First Person Consent

First Person Consent makes the donor's wishes the priority. Upon every hospital death, Gift of Life Michigan is notified. Hospital staff can contact Gift of Life Michigan around the clock to verify your wishes. Michigan law does not require family's consent to carry out your documented wishes to be an organ and tissue donor. However, discussing organ donation with your family will help avoid confusion or delays. Your family will be asked to provide information about your medical history in order for your donation to occur.



How Organ Donation Touches Lives



Steve Kemp, Jacqueline Lewis-Kemp and their son, Stephen Kemp.

"When my mother suffered her second stroke, she was declared brain dead. My friend helped us to understand that losing my mother is a tremendous loss, but knowing that we are giving someone else a second chance at life helps to comfort our soul. We further understood that mom's spirit was with the Lord, and her body was merely her earthly packaging. Knowing myself what it is like to receive two gifts of life, a kidney and a pancreas, and then being in the position to carry out my mother's wishes to give the gift of life to someone else, has been incredibly rewarding for me."

*-Jacqueline Lewis-Kemp
Hope United Methodist Church Southfield
Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Recipient
Donor Family member*



Beth Ann Dalrymple, liver transplant recipient and Rev. Gerald Stockhausen, S.J., Ph.D., president of the University of Detroit-Mercy (Michigan's largest private, Catholic university).

My husband, Barry, had Hepatitis C (from a Navy blood transfusion). He had 2 liver transplants in October 2007, then developed a rare disease (GVHD) and passed away on 12/27/07 at age 49.

"Faith, Family, and Friends make our lives complete." At the time we did not know that Barry was dying. When someone asked Barry what got him through the two transplants he responded, "It was the Lord and my wife." We kept our strong hope until he took his last breath.

Chop wood, carry water. These words kept me doing the everyday things – even when the day was late. I spent months at the hospital with Barry. My father told me years ago, "Do not pray for an easier way, pray for strength for the day." That's what I did. The doctors at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit never gave up on my husband. The doctors told me, "We have seen your husband bounce back before." They kept trying to save his life.

*-Jill Stodola
Lutheran Evangelical faith*



*Joseph Patrick Tolin
Cornea Donor*

Joseph Patrick Tolin, "Joey", who died at 27 months old, is a cornea donor. His corneas gave sight to a child and an adult in the Chicago area. He died February 18, 1996. All I have ever said is how much it meant to us "that his beautiful big brown eyes never closed, they just shut momentarily, reopening to allow others to see our beautiful world." With having 5 visually impaired children (one totally blind and 4 legally blind) still at home, this has meant a lot to us and our family.

*-Sue
Presbyterian faith
Donor Family member*