

Continuing a pregnancy that will end in the death of your beloved infant, or that has an uncertain conclusion, can bring with it a mix of strong emotions: hope and grief, pain and joy, fear and love, all at the same time. Many times, parents do not know whether they will get to meet their child alive, for a brief life, or for a longer period than expected. In each case, plans and hopes may have to be adjusted or fine-tuned along the way. Often, families find that planning the best possible life and death for their child can help them begin to heal.

We offer care and support to you and your family throughout your grief journey—before, during, and after your loss. We are also here to support you into another pregnancy, if desired, because we know that a pregnancy loss can lead to anxiety about a following pregnancy.

Even in the midst of your grief, we want you to know that it is appropriate to celebrate this life that was so wanted, this child who is so beloved, even when the life is so brief. And we want you to know that your life, and the life of your family, can be filled with healing and meaning even while you mourn the loss of your child.

Contact Us

Perinatal Palliative Care services are available by appointment. This service is not available for 24/7 emergency response, but we will respond to your request as quickly as possible.

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Butterfly's Embrace

Perinatal Palliative Care



Your care provider has given you this brochure because you may be a candidate for Butterfly's Embrace.

Butterfly's Embrace is a service designed to meet the needs of parents who experience miscarriage, tubal pregnancy, stillbirth, or neonatal death. This service is available to any family receiving care at St. Luke's.

We are here to provide support, information, care planning, and understanding for this difficult journey, and are dedicated to meeting your unique needs as a family experiencing the loss of your baby or pregnancy.

"When we were in the process of sorting through all the emotions that accompanied the news that our sweet baby would not be able to live after birth, we were offered the contact information to the Butterfly's Embrace program from our doctor.

Contacting Jennifer from the program was one of the best things we did to prepare for the arrival and death of our unborn daughter. Jennifer offered a sweet understanding of our broken hearts. She had a perspective that no one else had, and it was a great comfort and resource to our family.

We were given guidance and suggestions to help our other 3 small children make memories with our baby while in utero. She not only helped us make intentional and meaningful decisions while we prepared for the birth of our daughter, but also had a wealth of knowledge to comfort us during her short life, and guided us through to the end.

Our family feels a great deal of gratitude for the perinatal loss support program at St. Luke's. This program helped us to recognize all the sweet and tender moments that accompany the loss of a most beloved child."

—Jessica T., Mother of Annie

What is Perinatal Palliative Care?

Palliative care is "comfort care" that provides relief from pain and other distressing symptoms. It is an affirmation of life during dying and occurs when birth is near death for your child.

Perinatal palliative care is a philosophy of care that provides physical, emotional, and spiritual comfort for the mother, father, baby, and family. We are by your side as much or as little as you need us, from the time of diagnosis, throughout decision-making and into bereavement, no matter what your decisions or pathway may be. Our service is a way of embracing and honoring your child's life—no matter how brief—with as much love as possible.

The butterfly symbolizes the passing of a loved one. All are celebrated; all are mourned.

Facing Difficult Decisions

When tragedies such as this occur, parents may be facing end-of-life and final decisions. We offer guidance and support as you make and process these difficult decisions. We know that every situation is unique, and every family will make the individual choices that are best for them.