

Life News



January
2014

www.lutheransforlife.org



Life Newsbytes

Abortions in the U.S. have continued a downward trend and possibly by a significant margin. According to the latest Center for Disease Control's "Abortion Surveillance," 765,651 abortions were reported to the government agency by state health departments for 2010. This number represents a drop of 3.1 percent from 2009 statistics (in 2008 the numbers were already down 4.6 percent) ... The statistics, however, exclude the states of Maryland, New Hampshire, and California which did not report abortion data to the CDC. These non-reporting states constituted over 15% of the 2010 U.S. population and also housed a relatively high number of abortion clinics. The CDC totals continue to reveal substantially lower abortion numbers than data obtained by the Guttmacher Institute which contacts abortion clinics directly. Guttmacher's most recent abortion figures show an annual total of 1,212,400 for 2008. (CDC's Abortion Surveillance, 12/3/13; National Right to Life's News Today; CLR Life News 12/5/13)

Speaking Up For Life

"The Bible has much to say about God's concern for the defenseless. And the most defenseless of all people are unborn children. They are speechless to plead their own cause and helpless to protect their own lives. So it is our responsibility to do for them what they cannot do for themselves." *John Stott, English Christian leader and Anglican cleric*

"Adopting one child won't change the world; but for that child, the world will change." *David Avilla, executive director of Advocate for Orphans*



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An unborn child seven weeks from conception.

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Some anniversaries you wish you did not have to observe. This month marks the 41st anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision. Around fifty-eight million abortions have been committed since. Fifty-eight million babies destroyed and even more lives affected forever because they believed the lie of “choice.” As one young woman wrote to me said: “I really could not see beyond the moment. All I could think of was abortion.”

We look back at forty-one years and millions of brutal deaths and wounded hearts. This great darkness deepens when we realize it goes beyond morality. It is a spiritual issue that involves souls. Every child aborted is someone created by God, someone for whom Jesus died, and someone the Holy Spirit wants to call into eternity.

As I look back, I realize, that like so many in our society, I can grow numb to the magnitude and implications of this slaughter. While in Latvia and Russia in 2012 I saw how abortion can become, as so many said to me, “Just a part of our lives.” The perceived need for abortion covers the reality of abortion. In order to keep that reality covered, “We just don’t talk about it.” That’s an easy but deadly place to go. I don’t want to go there. I don’t want our country to continue to go there, and I most certainly do not want the Church of Jesus Christ to go there.

At LFL we concern ourselves with the latter. We do not want to see the Church, particularly Lutheran churches, opt for the easy way out. For those who may have already taken that course, we want to bring them back to being a voice For Life. Then, and only then, will there be a chance to help influence our society and stop the move toward the idea that killing babies is “Just part of our lives.”

Some anniversaries you wish you did not have to observe. But neither do we wish to cover up its horrible reality. With your continued help, LFL will strive to do even more to carry out our mission to “equip Lutherans to be Gospel-motivated voices For Life” in this anniversary year of *Roe v. Wade*. How do we use your gifts?

After His baptism, the Holy Spirit compelled Jesus to go into the wilderness for forty days. He prayed and fasted in preparation for His ministry. He did something else there, He faced Satan. He faced Satan’s temptations and won. He did it with a simple, Satan-crushing, life-changing phrase, “It is written.”

That is what your gift of support helps us do. It helps us apply “It is written” in the life arena so that hearts and lives are changed. We carry out our mission of equipping Lutherans by providing Word-based and Gospel-centered “equipment”—DVDs, Bible studies, curricula, brochures and booklets, speakers, post-abortion counseling through our Word of Hope ministry, our website and Life Blog, our Facebook page, our Twitter feed, YouTube channel, downloadable materials, and more. We provide scholarships to enable the younger generation to attend educational and motivational events. We produce age-appropriate materials for preschoolers to the elderly. Please accept my continued thanks for your prayers and for your love-for-life motivated gifts. All of us here at LFL wish you the Lord’s presence and peace in this New Year.

Lutherans For Life is approved as a Thrivent Choice Dollars® Recipient Organization! If you are an eligible Thrivent Financial member, you can direct Thrivent Choice Dollars to Lutherans For Life either by phone or online. Give us a call at 888.364.LIFE if you need more information. Note: If you are a Thrivent Choice Dollars® participant, please remember that you must re-sign up for this on a quarterly basis.

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