

Life News



February
2014

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Life Newsbytes

A new study of women from India shows women who get an induced abortion are 626 percent more likely to have breast cancer compared with women who carry their pregnancies to term and have the baby ... This study follows closely after a bombshell meta-analysis of breast cancer studies found a 44% increased risk of contracting breast cancer for women who had abortions ... [The] report, published in the *Indian Journal of Cancer*, confirms what previous studies have shown, namely that an abortion weakens the breast's muscle tissue in a way that makes it more susceptible to cancer. (*LifeNews.com*, 1/3/14)

The number of abortions in New Zealand have fallen to their lowest levels in 20 years as fewer doctors want to do them ... "and significantly fewer teenagers are having the procedure. In 2012, 14,745 women had abortions in NZ, down from 18,382 five years earlier. The number of abortions is at the lowest level since 1995, according to a report from the Abortion Supervisory Committee ... in New Zealand." (*LifeNews.com*, 1/3/14; www.stuff.co.nz, 1/4/14)

The Fort Wayne Women's Health Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana, was the first surgical abortion clinic to officially shut down in 2014 following a record-breaking year where 87 surgical abortion clinics permanently closed. (*LifeNews.com*, 1/3/14)

Speaking Up For Life

"As Christians, we know that [marriage] is for the permanent joining of man and woman for the purpose of mutual love and support and the raising of children; that it exists within the context of the family of faith, the Church, and that it is a symbol of the union of Christ and His Church. In other words, marriage is much more than just a 'relationship.'" *Eric Metaxas, Prison Fellowship*

"Our Savior became a holy, one-celled human being and passed through all the stages of our development as part of the price for our redemption. What value His journey gives to all who make this journey from conception to birth and beyond. The path to the cross did not start in a manger, but in a fallopian tube!" *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, Lutherans For Life*

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Confidential
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Our Underwater Worlds *by James I. Lamb*

After devotions on vacation, granddaughter Jamie asked, “Since Iron Man does not have a heart, where does Jesus live?” Her brother, Zane, added his inquiry, “If Jesus lives in us, how does He get out?” (I think I would rather answer questions at a pastors’ conference!) We finally agreed that since Iron Man was pretend it didn’t matter. Zane seemed satisfied that we do not *want* Jesus to “get out”!

Jesus’ mode of presence is hard to visualize for little ones—and big ones too! In John 14:20, Jesus says to His disciples, **“In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.”** He compares His relationship with us to the mystery of His relationship with His Father. Then two pictures: Jesus in us and us in Jesus. The latter helps us **Live In Faith Everyday**.

Living in faith every day flows from living in Christ every day. Living in Christ every day is like living in the womb every day! We live a good portion of our life in the womb under water. We live surrounded by amniotic fluid. We live in a safe (except for abortion), protected place. God shapes and forms us there. Nothing can touch our lives without passing through this watery cushion. Our mom removes our waste and nourishes us through the umbilical cord. As we grow, we become more and more active—swimming, doing somersaults, kicking our mom, and so much more. Living underwater in our mom is, to quote a modern descriptive, “sweet”!

When we leave this underwater world and are baptized, we live underwater again! We live in Christ. We are **“baptized into Christ Jesus”** (Romans 6:3). We live surrounded by God’s grace. We live in a safe, protected place. He shapes and forms us there using even the suffering in our lives. We have the assurance that nothing can touch our lives without passing through His grace. God removes our “waste” through His daily forgiveness. He nourishes us with His Word and Sacraments. As we grow, we become more and more active—rejoicing in Him, obeying His commands, loving our neighbor, loving our enemies, witnessing to His love, speaking up for the vulnerable, and so much more. Living underwater in Christ is, to quote a theological descriptive, “faith”!

Living in faith every day is not so much striving to gain something as it is striving *in* something already gained for us in Christ. We live in faith, not trying to secure His favor, but *in* His favor. We live in faith not hoping for victory, but *in* His victory. We live in faith, not based on a righteousness of our own, but *in* His righteousness. We live in faith, not in the absence of suffering, but *in* His suffering on the cross which helps make sense out of our suffering. We live in faith, not seeking purpose for our lives, but *in* the purpose to which He calls us. We live in faith, not motivated by fear, but *in* His promises that move us to make good decisions trusting in Him. We live in faith, not wishing to secure eternal life, but *in* eternal life already secured.

So live under water every day! **Live In Faith Everyday!** For you live in Christ every day!

Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb is the executive director of Lutherans For Life.

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