

Life News



October
2015

www.lutheransforlife.org



Life Newsbytes

A new review has found that assisted suicide becomes more routine in places where it is legalized. The Anscombe Bioethics Centre has produced the guide which links official data from the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Oregon, and Washington, as well as UK parliamentary reports and journal research. The report notes that in every place assisted suicide is legalized, “numbers have increased over time and continue to do so”; the report also observes “a shift from permitting assisted suicide for cancer victims to include other diseases.” *(Christian Institute, 8/20/15; SPUC 9/9/15)*

A retired woman with no major health problems ended her life this past summer. Gill Pharaoh, a retired palliative care nurse, chose to end her own life at a Swiss clinic, leaving behind a husband and a daughter. Pharaoh said, “I have always said, ‘I am not getting old. I do not think old age is fun.’” Dr. Peter Saunders, campaign director of Care Not Killing (CNK) said: “I think that when we start to promote suicide as a solution for life’s problems, we’re on a very, very dangerous, slippery slope indeed.” *(Yahoo, 8/6/15; Christian Institute, 8/11/15; SPUC 9/14/15)*

Speaking Up For Life

“We are not the ones to determine if a life has value or not, if it is a burden or not, if it should be lived or not. To live is Christ and to die is gain. God, through His creation, through the incarnation of Jesus, through His redemptive death and His resurrection from the dead has proven again and again that His Word in the face of death is life. When the world says ‘no,’ God says ‘yes,’ no matter how helpless or desperate the situation. For that, all we can say is, ‘Thanks be to God!’” *Evan S. McClanahan, pastor of First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas*

“There is no such thing in God’s economy as an ‘adopted child,’ only a child who was adopted into the family. ‘Adopted’ defines how you came into the household, but it doesn’t define you as some other sort of family member. In the book of Romans, Paul defines all Christians, both Jew and Gentile, as having received a common ‘Spirit of adoption’ (Romans 8:15; 9:4).” *Dr. Russell D. Moore*

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I must admit that flying on 9/11 caused a bit of a strange feeling. I thought of those on the ill-fated flights. I thought of those who lost their lives at the World Trade Center towers and at the Pentagon. I thought of those courageous first responders who died in their attempts to save others. Reminders surfaced all around as other passengers discussed it and as I saw various observances being broadcast on airport terminal TVs. It is good to remember tragic events, not only to honor those involved, but also so we can learn from them and take steps so that they do not happen again.

On September 12, many gathered to remember another tragic event—not one in the past, but one that continues day after day: the brutal murder of children in their mothers’ wombs and the callous wounding of so many of those fearful and unsuspecting moms and dads. Those who commit this brutal butchery compound the tragedy and exploit the death of little babies by selling their body parts. It is not easy to think about and remember this ongoing tragedy. But we must. We must remember and pray daily for its end. We must remember so that we are moved to action on behalf of the babies who cannot act for themselves.

Lutherans gathered across the country on September 12 to remember more than the tragedy of abortion and to think about what we should do. They also remembered what God has done that gives value to each and every human being. Remembering what God has done gives us the proper motivation and courage to move forward with what we should do.

In one sense, the book of Deuteronomy could be called the “Book of Remembering.” Moses often reminds God’s people to remember God’s past dealings with them. For example, **“And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not”** (Deuteronomy 8:2). Remembering what God had done in the past gave His people courage to trust in what He would do in their future.

Of course, remembering what God has done that gives life value serves to heighten the tragedy of abortion. Those murdered in the name of choice are more than human beings. They are human beings created by God’s own hand. They are human beings for whom Jesus stretched out His hands on the cross. They are human beings God wants to call into His kingdom through Holy Baptism so He can hold them by the hand.

As I have often said, we are not For Life because we live in a culture that isn’t but because we serve a God who is. It is this service to God that moves us forward in service to others. My thanks to you for understanding this and for helping LFL bring others to such understanding. Thank you for helping us equip them to move forward in service to the Lord of Life through their words and actions.



**2015 LFL National Conference
October 30-31 • Petersburg, Kentucky**

Speakers include: Ken Ham • Dr. David Menton • Buddy Davis
Col. John Eidsmoe • Timothy Goeglein
Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb • John Hawkins • Lori Trinche

This year’s conference will also offer you plenty of time to explore the Creation Museum! Find out more and register at:

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