

Life News

February
2016



www.lutheransforlife.org



Life Newsbytes

The Netherlands government has decided to extend euthanasia to people with dementia who are incompetent to request death by lethal injection if the person requested euthanasia while still competent. The 2014 Netherlands euthanasia statistics state that out of 5306 euthanasia deaths, 81 people were lethally injected for dementia, and 41 people died by euthanasia for psychiatric reasons. To lethally inject a person who is unable to request death undermines the “safeguard” of consent. Even if the person, while competent, requested euthanasia for dementia, now the person is unable to change their mind. (*LifeSite-News.com*, 1/8/16; *Christian Life Resources*, 1/13/16)

The latest report from the Centers for Disease Control found that in 2012, 699,000 unborn babies lost their lives to abortion. That’s a decline from the previous year when that number was 730,322 ... According to the report, “The abortion rate for 2012 was 13.2 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years, and the abortion ratio was 210 abortions per 1,000 live births.” The report also notes that chemical abortions (RU-486) rose in 2012 and now constitute 20.8% of all abortions. As National Right to Life Director of Education Dr. Randall K. O’Bannon explained, “Relying on reports from 47 state health departments, the CDC reported the lowest figure the agency has recorded since 1973, the year the Supreme Court first legalized abortion on demand.” (*National Right to Life News*, 12/31/15; *Christian Life Resources*, 1/7/16)

Speaking Up For Life

“The danger of Roe [v. Wade] is that it legalized the idea that MIGHT makes RIGHT.” *Dr. Jean Garton, past president of Lutherans For Life*

“Time and experience have taught me a priceless lesson: Any child you take for your own becomes your own if you give of yourself to that child. I have borne two children and had seven others by adoption, and they are all my children, equally beloved and precious.” *Dale Evans, writer, film star, and singer-songwriter*

“[W]e can set an example in purity by honoring God’s plan for sexuality and relationships. For those of us who are single, we do this by living a pure and chaste life and not being ashamed of it. This can be a daily challenge and struggle, but, by living differently, we show others how different and wonderful love in Christ can be!” *Laura Davis, director of Y4Life (Y4Life.org)*

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Meet Rev. Michael Salemink

Rev. Salemink assumed the duties of executive director of Lutherans For Life in January.

I owe my life, my salvation, and my sister to Lutherans. A year and a half after *Roe v. Wade* was decided, my mother was sixteen and pregnant. Her boyfriend's priest refused to perform a wedding. She married my father in her living room, moved into his parents' basement, and withdrew from high school. By the time she turned seventeen, Mom was a wife and a mother to a four-pound, twelve-ounce daughter. This year my parents celebrated their forty-first wedding anniversary. Mom is a grandmother of twelve (half of them my sister's!), and Dad's been a Lutheran pastor for fifteen years (after nineteen years in grain processing). I came along in 1978, the same year Lutherans for Life was born.

That was also when my parents were received as members at Zion Lutheran in Wilton, Iowa. They renewed their vows before God and His Church and had both of their kids baptized (as well as my younger brother three years later). Pastor Baker reached out to them and refused either to condone or to abandon them in their sinful behavior. The whole congregation accepted them unconditionally and persistently. Had it not been for such Gospel-motivated patience and life-affirming compassion, my parents would not be together today, and neither I nor my family would be here at all. A homeschooling housewife (my sister), a veteran of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan (my brother), an adult convert to the Lutheran communion (my brother's wife), five congregations (pastored by my father and me combined), and nine students of Lutheran parochial schools (my siblings and me, my brother's children and mine) thank them and you.

This Lutheran faith and this family life have prepared me well. My work is my passion, and my responsibility is my privilege. As executive director of Lutherans for Life, I get to speak truth, especially in controversy, and show love, especially in crisis. My wife and children have enthusiastically assumed this mission with me. Heather and I met while attending Concordia University in River Forest, Illinois. In fifteen years of marriage we've become proud and appreciative parents of Christian (12), Nathan (9), and Luke (7). After graduating from Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, I have served congregations in Minnesota and Indiana. For about the last five years, I was active with our local pregnancy resource center as a board member, relationship counselor, fatherhood mentor, and abstinence educator. Now I and my family gladly offer our experiences and abilities to serve alongside you because the Gospel is not just a movement or an institution but a Person, and Lutherans for Life is not simply a message or a cause but relationships.



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