

Life News



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www.lutheransforlife.org



Life Newsbytes

The latest abortion figures show that on average, 509 unborn babies were killed by abortion every single day in 2015 in England and Wales alone. The figures released May 17 by the Department of Health show that the overall number of abortions taking place in England and Wales in 2015 was 0.7% higher than in 2014. In total, 185,824 babies lost their lives to abortion in these two countries last year. Additionally, the figures show a rise in repeat abortions and abortions carried out on the grounds of disability. There were 3,213 abortions for disability—a 3.7% increase from 2014. (SPUC, 5/17/16)

Gallup released their newest poll on abortion, finding that American attitudes towards abortion have mostly remained steady ... While the percentage of Americans identifying as “pro-choice” or “pro-life” is virtually tied, at 47 percent to 46 percent, respectively, the number of Americans identifying as pro-life has grown over the past year, while the number of Americans identifying as pro-choice has dipped. This time last year, 50 percent of Americans called themselves pro-choice; 44 percent of Americans felt they were pro-life—an increase of around 4.5%. Meanwhile, more Americans feel that abortion is morally wrong. (5/26/16 - Live Action News, 5/26/16; CLR LifeWire, 6/2/16)

Speaking Up For Life

“Is the church today perhaps something like it was in the sixteenth century with all the corruptions that have come in, all the adjustments that have been made to fit into the lifestyle of the day? If it is, we need a reformation so everything contrary to the Word of God can be swept up, and we can start again. If there is any other teaching than the only way to heaven is through faith in Jesus Christ, then it has to go. Anything that cheapens grace has to go.” *Rev. Homer Larsen, The Christian Crusaders radio program*

“Are you ‘pro-life’ or ‘life-affirming’? Undoubtedly your answer is ‘Yes!’ However, I believe we will have a greater impact on our congregations and culture if we see ourselves as ‘life-affirming.’ But this must be more than changing an adjective. It must also reflect a change in perspective—affirming life because that is precisely what the Gospel of Jesus Christ does!” *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former executive director of Lutherans For Life*

“Parental love is vital. In homes where children are not adored by at least one parent (or a parent-figure), they wither like a plant without food.” *The New Dare to Discipline*
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The Numbers by Rev Michael W. Salemink

The numbers intimidate. For more than 40 years, we’ve struggled to guard life. For almost 500 years, we’ve stood for the God-given value of life. For over 2,000 years, we’ve spoken the Gospel of life in Jesus Christ. Millions more lives get taken day after day and in multitudes of new ways. Billions of dollars get invested in advertising, entertaining, educating, and legislating away the precious value of every last person. Majority percentages of popular opinion, public officials, universities, newsrooms, internet websites, Facebook pages, and even our own acquaintances align against us. Even those who aren’t actively aligned against us still apathetically abandon these issues altogether.

The math discourages.

We won’t change the world.

You and I can’t change the world—not any of us on our own and not all of us together. The needs have become too many and the hurts have gone on for so long. We have but one voice, while earthly pursuits proliferate and universal selfish desires drown us out. Even our own sinful hearts compound the very problems we’re attempting to counter. We can’t stop sin even with laws and threats. We can’t make death end even with arguments and alternatives. Our mouths won’t open big enough to bite off that much. Our hearts won’t beat fast enough to keep up. Our spines won’t stay strong and straight enough to withstand the onslaughts. We ourselves may weather it steadfast and intact, but the weaker and vulnerable ones will still suffer. We cannot turn it around or even just slow the thing down.

But we don’t have to.

We don’t have to save the world. We don’t even have to change the world. We don’t have to overcome the numbers. We don’t have to make the math work. We don’t even have to save or change ourselves. The only number that matters is “one.”

First, one God and Father, one Lord and Savior, one Mediator, one Man works the change. One deed, one death, one obedient offering, one act of sacrifice works all the changes. One scientific fact, one historical event of resurrection, one Way, one Truth, one Life works the changes every time.

Next, one Baptism, one Spirit, one faith claims you once and for all; declares one more His beloved child; includes this one in the one holy body; and connects you to the same one hope hereafter. Finally, one Gospel message provides the grace, forgiveness, salvation, and resurrection to an everlasting heavenly kingdom that nothing else can. One mission focuses solely on love—no matter how long it takes, how slight the odds, or how steep the opposition. One moment, one opportunity, one interaction at a time never comes up empty. Heaven rejoices over the one.

The only number that ever matters is the one right in front of you.

Hurting from Abortion?

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Word of Hope is a ministry of Lutherans For Life