

Life News



September
2016



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Life Newsbytes

“Will Embryonic Stem Cells Ever Cure Anything?” is a skeptical headline which you would expect to read in a conservative journal like the *National Review* or the *Weekly Standard*. However, it is a bit surprising to find it in the *MIT Technology Review*, in a profile of Douglas Melton, a Harvard stem cell scientist: “[N]o field of biotechnology has promised more and delivered less in the way of treatments than embryonic stem cells. Only a handful of human studies has ever been carried out, without significant results. The cells, culled from IVF embryos, are capable of developing into any other tissue type in the body, and therefore promise an unlimited supply of replacement tissue. Sounds simple, but it hasn’t been.” Melton’s specialty is diabetes. Because this is a complex and widespread disease, governments and companies are willing to spend huge amounts of money researching a cure. (BioEdge.com, 8/12/16; CLR LifeWire, 8/15/16)

Speaking Up For Life

“Christian fatherhood goes beyond merely ensuring that children are well cared for and provided for. A Christian father will also be actively engaged in the rearing of his children. The apostle Paul gives divine counsel both on how to—and how not to—go about this parental function when he exhorts, ‘Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord’ (Ephesians 6:4 NIV).” Rev. Mark Gullerud, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bowdle, South Dakota

“We can set an example in love by showing love for our neighbor, compassion for those in need, and forgiveness for those who have made mistakes in the past. No sin is too great for God to forgive, and we have the awesome opportunity to share this love and forgiveness with others, especially those who have a sin against life in their past.” Laura Davis, director of Y4Life (Y4Life.org) www.lutheransforlife.org/media/life-quotes



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Here We Stand
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October 21-22, 2016
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Keep the Change by Rev. Michael W. Salemink
(From *LifeDate* – Fall 2016)

“There is nothing new under the sun” (Ecclesiastes 1:9b). The sun rises, the earth turns, and people sin. Sun sets, clouds come, we rinse and repeat. As fond as we are of fantasizing that former means better, previous generations were no less evil than present ones, and our youth was just as wicked as today’s kids are. Our culture may fancy itself particularly creative, but we’re only rearranging deck chairs and recycling retired flavors. Greeks aborted and euthanized millennia ago, and Mesopotamians experimented with sexuality ages before. As Lutherans have sung for centuries,

*All mankind fell in Adam’s fall;
One common sin infects us all.
From one to all the curse descends,
And over all God’s wrath impends. (LSB 562)*

The real problem isn’t novel crimes but corrupt nature. It’s not that these original sins haven’t been around long, but that original sin has been around all along.

In fact, as bad as it is that nothing’s changed, nothing’s better than the fact that nothing changes. The Almighty Maker remains more changeless than anything else:

“For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed” (Malachi 3:6).

“[I]f we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself”
(2 Timothy 2:13).

“But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children’s children” (Psalm 103:17).

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change”
(James 1:17).

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).

*Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. (LSB 809)*

I AM. Alpha and Omega. He was, and is, and is to come. It is finished. Once for all. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. We cannot be uncreated, unforgiven, unaccepted, unreconciled, unbaptized, unjustified, or uncalled any more than Jesus can be unborn, uncrucified, or unresurrected. His rising again and ascending into heaven ensures that His cross’s atonement will align and assimilate everything, and sooner rather than later.

Prayer: O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You have promised, that among the many changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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