



### Life Newsbytes

**Abortion continues to decline across the United States, according to most of the nation's state health departments.** The U.S. Centers for Disease Control released its annual "Abortion Surveillance Report," listing abortion data from 47 reporting states—but not including Maryland, New Hampshire, or California (the country's most populous state). According to the latest information for 2013, a total of 664,435 abortions were reported—a decrease of 5 percent from the previous year and a decline of 20 percent from 2004. The figures mark a historic low as recorded by the government agency since abortion was legalized in 1973. The CDC finds that both the abortion rate (the number of abortions for every 1,000 women of child-bearing age) and the abortion ratio (the number of abortions per 1,000 live births) have also declined, indicating that increasing numbers of American women are rejecting abortion as a solution to unexpected pregnancy. Bear in mind, the CDC numbers do not provide an absolute number of abortions performed in the United States; however, they do offer a glimpse of the continuing downward trend. Even so, the CDC report confirms that the welcome drop in the number of abortions continues. (*NRL News Today*, 11/24/16; *CLR Life Wire*, 12/1/16)

For those who have had an abortion—there is a **Word of Hope** for broken hearts. 888.217.8679  
[www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org)



### Speaking Up For Life

"The concept that the lives of some people are not worth living leads to the death of newborns with disabilities and infanticide. This concept also leads to the continued devaluation of the lives of people with disabilities and people with chronic and other vulnerable conditions." *Alex Schadenberg, Euthanasia Prevention Coalition*

"Finding forgiveness in Christ is the first step towards healing everyone who is impacted by the shockwaves of abortion." *From "Healing the Shockwaves of Abortion" by Janet Morana and Georgette Forney (LifeDate Spring 2015)*

"Since the fetus is a creature already alive and in the process of development, to kill it is to choose death over life. At what point shall we allow this choice? For me the answer is—at no point, once life has begun. At no point, I repeat, either as life begins or as life ends, for we who are human beings cannot, for our own safety, be allowed to choose death, life being all we know." *Pearl S. Buck, author of The Good Earth and recipient of the 1938 Nobel Prize in literature*

[www.lutheransforlife.org/media/life-quotes](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/media/life-quotes)

**Keep life issues before your congregation: LifeDate journal • Life News bulletin inserts • Life Notes email • Life Quotes and Life Thoughts in the Church Year**



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## The Tip of the Iceberg

by Dr. Barbara Lane Geistfeld, Lutherans For Life Regional Director of Texas

For many people, Christians (and myself) included, the only life issue we ever really thought about was abortion. As we became more informed about life issues, we discovered that these issues, and the decisions we must make regarding them, really affect humans at all ages and stages of life. If you look carefully at the image below, you will see that abortion is only the tip of the iceberg. Life issues are many, complex, and varied. All of us will face some of these issues in our lifetimes, and as Christians, we want to make decisions that are pleasing to God. How can we do that? Let me suggest one way that really does work.

Lutherans For Life has a new set of video-based Life Team Training Tools designed to help Lutheran congregations develop Life Teams made up of Gospel-motivated people who are trained and certified. A Life Team is the vehicle that helps guide a congregation to become Gospel-motivated voices for Life. Our pastors cannot do it alone. A congregation cannot do it alone. A Life Team cannot do it alone. If we allow God to teach us and expand our view of life issues, He will change our hearts and minds, He will open our eyes to the whole truth, and He will help us begin to minister to others in a whole new way. For those of you already leading the way in proclaiming the Gospel in these issues, may God bless you mightily!

Find out more by going to: [www.lutheransforlife.org/about/life-chapters-and-life-teams](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/about/life-chapters-and-life-teams).



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