

April  
2017

www.lutheransforlife.org

**Life Newsbytes**

**After struggling over medical assistance to end their patients' lives, some physicians are having second thoughts.** Many doctors in Canada who initially signed up to provide lethal injections or medication for their patients have found the act “simply too distressing,” according to Jeff Blackmer, the Canadian Medical Association’s VP of Medical Professionalism. “... we’re seeing doctors who go through one experience and it’s just overwhelming, it’s too difficult, and those are the ones who say, ‘Take my name off the list. I can’t do any more.’” Canada’s Medical Aid in Dying (MAID) law went into effect last June, officially legalizing euthanasia in the country. The list of 137 physicians in Ontario willing to participate in MAID continues to get shorter. At least 24 doctors in Ontario have already asked to be removed from the listing and another 30 have opted out temporarily. Meanwhile, the College of Physicians and Surgeon of Ontario (CPSO) has stated that doctors who oppose euthanasia must provide patients with “an effective referral” to a “non-objecting” physician who will kill their patient. The Coalition for HealthCare and Conscience is challenging the CPSO’s policy to protect conscience rights for all medical personnel. (*Euthanasia Prevention Coalition Newsletter, March 2017; CLR LifeWire, 3/16/17*)

For those who have had an abortion—a  
**Word of Hope.** 630.990.0909 or  
www.word-of-hope.org

**Speaking Up For Life**

“On Easter Sunday, Christ became the firstfruits of the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:20). Because He lives ... you and I shall live and never die (John 11:25-26). This joyous message is for all ages because all who believe in Jesus have life in His name (John 20:31).” *Ryan C. MacPherson, Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, Minnesota*

“Let us stand firm for the rights of all people, especially for the most vulnerable, defenseless of them all, the unborn children ... The Church has confessed from the beginning that each life is created by God, that human life is the supreme gift of the Creator. Human life is not given unconditionally but is given under the condition that we will be responsible for preserving it.” *Abbot Tryphon, Vashon Island, Washington*

“Instead of helping people to kill themselves, we should offer them appropriate medical care and human presence. We should respond to suffering with true compassion and solidarity. Doctors should help their patients to die a dignified death of natural causes, not assist in killing. Physicians are always to care, never to kill.” *Ryan T. Anderson, William E. Simon Senior Research Fellow in American Principles and Public Policy*

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## Transhumanism (Luke 20:34-38) by Rev. Michael Salemink

“[T]hey cannot die anymore, because they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection.” (Luke 20:36)

Transhumanism seeks to convert us into superhuman beings. Transhumanists support enhancing human abilities beyond natural limitations. The movement advocates applying technological advancements to expand memory and computation, improve immunity and endurance, and heighten consciousness. Transhumanism claims as its strategies and successes artificial intelligence, assisted reproductive technologies, and genetic engineering. It pursues direct participation in our own evolution until man-machine symbiosis produces an immortal, omnipotent species supplementing or supplanting humanity.

Sounds like science fiction. Smells like science sinfulness. Transhumanism tells the same old story of human hubris. It promises we can become like God and build a tower into heaven. However sophisticated, salvation sought from our works always begins in selfishness and ends in death. This “advancement” of humanity idolizes technology and inevitably leads to the annihilation of humankind.

Transhumanism rightly recognizes that forces beyond our control threaten suffering and destruction. But it overlooks how our own sinful motivations must sabotage anything we attempt.

Jesus has not come to rescue us from being human. God’s Son instead restores our humanity. He made man in His own image. He saw that we were very good. He will not abandon His original creation. He indicates this joyous, hopeful truth by fully sharing in our humanness, including living with limitations, suffering, and dying. Jesus redeems our servanthood not by seizing immortality and wielding omnipotence but by self-giving. His resurrection from the dead and ascension in human flesh confirms His love and salvation of human beings. In Holy Communion’s body and blood, we share in the heaven everlasting of Him who united His divine life to us in substance and spirit. So we neither lust after machines’ might nor fear it. We find our fulfillment in Christ.

*Prayer: Son of Man, join me to You. Amen.*

*This devotion was taken from Christ the Life of All the Living – Devotions for Lent, Item LFL1637. Order at [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org).*



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**Since Roe v. Wade in 1973:  
58,586,256 abortions in America**

Source: [www.lifenews.com/2016/01/14/58586256-abortions-in-america-since-roe-v-wade-in-1973](http://www.lifenews.com/2016/01/14/58586256-abortions-in-america-since-roe-v-wade-in-1973)

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