

February 2018



www.lutheransforlife.org



Life Newsbytes

The American Life League (ALL) recently released its annual “Planned Parenthood Facilities Report,” confirming the reduction in the number of Planned Parenthood (PP) facilities during 2017. The latest findings indicate Planned Parenthood closed 32 of its facilities in 16 states, opened five new facilities in five states, and shuttered 36% of its facilities, from a high of 938 in 1995 to 597 facilities today (356 of which offer either medical or surgical abortion, or both—roughly 60% of Planned Parenthood facilities). Despite PP’s strategy in offsetting its loss of facilities by opening larger and more upscale buildings to attract new customers and accommodate individuals who had used the now-closed locations, the report states its plan is not working. Between 2006 and 2015, Planned Parenthood closed 24.9% of its facilities and saw its customer base drop by 23.6%. The abortion corporation has averaged 328,302 abortions a year in the last eight years. (*Live Action News*, 12/19/17; *CLR Life News*, 12/21/17)

Speaking Up For Life

“Why do we speak up for those in the womb who cannot speak? Because they are created, redeemed, and little ones whom God wants to call.” *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former executive director of Lutherans For Life*

“So marriage is a profoundly unique thing that is strengthened by years of shared experiences, trials, triumphs, challenges, and victories. The oneness of marriage is why Grandpa can start a sentence and Grandma can finish it. It’s why when she cries, he tastes the salt. It’s her knowing what’s wrong without him speaking a word. It’s two lives becoming one. It takes time, effort, sweat, and tenacity. But the rewards are like none other on earth.” *Rev. Daniel Domke, Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, Huron, South Dakota*

“Yes, even in the eye of the storm when everything seems turned on its head, we can live L.I.F.E. (Live In Faith Everyday).” *Lynette Auch, president of Lutherans For Life*

For those who have had an abortion—
a **Word of Hope**.
888.217.8679
www.word-of-hope.org

Abortions in America Since 1973: 60,069,971
Source: www.lifenews.com

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Hope For Life – A Life Sunday 2018 Sermon Excerpt

by Rev. Michael W. Salemink

Hearts will ask, “What hope is there in unintended pregnancy?” And we will answer gladly, **“The Word became flesh and dwelt among us”** (John 1:14), and **“He bore our griefs and sorrows”** (Isaiah 53:4). Friends will wonder, “What hope is there in zygotes and embryos?” And we will declare readily, **“God chose what is low and despised in the world so that no human being might boast”** (1 Corinthians 1:28-29). Relatives will inquire, “How is there hope in congenital abnormalities?” And we will proclaim cheerfully, **“We have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us”** (2 Corinthians 4:7). Neighbors will implore, “How is there hope in conflicted marriages?” And we will confess joyfully, **“We are his workmanship”** (Ephesians 2:10), **“made in his image”** (Genesis 1:27), **“chosen and royal and holy”** (1 Peter 2:9). Acquaintances will insist, “Why is there hope for incapacitated or unresponsive cases?” And we will testify heartily, **“He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ”** (Philippians 1:6).

And they will ask. Colleagues will demand, “Why is there hope in miscarriage and barrenness?” And we will happily verify, **“He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all will also with Him graciously give us all things”** (Romans 8:32). Clients will question, “Where is the hope for abortion advocates and euthanasia enthusiasts?” And we will eagerly respond, **“If while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more shall we be saved by His life!”** (Romans 5:10). Critics will object, “Where is the hope in modesty and chastity?” And we will humbly assert, **“He is transforming our lowly body to be like His glorious body”** (Philippians 3:21). Skeptics will speculate, “Can I have hope when the damage is irreversible, the condition incurable?” And we will warmly assure them, **“This light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison”** (2 Corinthians 4:17). Sufferers will plead, “Can I have hope when my diagnosis is terminal?” And we will affectionately promise them, **“If one member suffers all suffer together”** (1 Corinthians 12:26) for **“whether we live or die we are the Lord’s”** (Romans 14:8).

There’s humanity even in suffering. There’s still opportunity in uncertainty. There’s promise even in weakness. And there’s still enjoyment in the unexpected. Wherever there’s life, there is God’s grace and Christ’s compassion. God never gives up and neither do His people. There’s hope for us. There’s hope in this, for life now and the kingdom to come. There’s hope even in this, for them and for you. Amen.

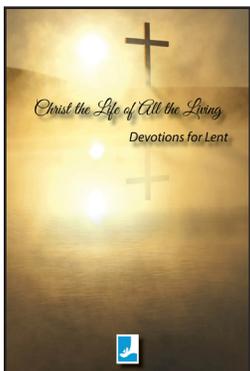
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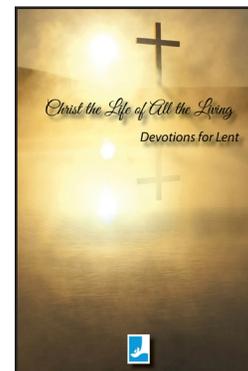
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A devotional booklet from Lutherans For Life for Lent ...

“These devotions aim to help us discipline our minds so that when we see the struggles in our own lives, we see the life of Christ working all to good; so that when we see our neighbor, no matter his skin color or gender or level of development, we see the life of Christ, Savior of the nations; so that when we see the boasting of death, we see the life of Christ, triumphant in resurrection.” Contributors include Rev. Michael Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life. *Item LFL1637. \$1.99 ea.* (Order at www.cph.org)



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