

March 2018



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**Life Newsbytes**

**Lucas Warren, a one-year-old child with Down syndrome, was selected by the baby food company Gerber as the newest Gerber Spokesbaby.** Lucas is the first child with Down syndrome to be named a Gerber baby since the contest's start more than 90 years ago ... "Since the inception of Photo Search seven years ago, Gerber has awarded eight (twins in 2013) tiny tots the Photo Search crown." This year's winning photo was submitted by the child's mother, Cortney Warren. "He's always been such a good baby. I've never met anyone to come into contact with Lucas and not smile ... We didn't actually find out he had Down syndrome until he was born...It's never once changed how we felt about him; he was always our son ... He may have Down syndrome, but he's always Lucas first ... He's got an awesome personality and he goes through the milestones of every child... we're hoping when he grows up and looks back on this, he'll be proud of himself and not ashamed of his disability." (*Life Action News, 2/7/18; CLR LifeWire, 2/9/18*)

**Speaking Up For Life**

"What do we teach our little children so that when they are older, sexual promiscuity and abortion will be unthinkable? They are very special because they are created, redeemed, and called." *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former executive director of Lutherans For Life*

"We are carved in the palm of His hand, and the unborn child has been carved in the Hand of God from conception." *Mother Teresa*

"You might think you've made mistakes that can't be forgiven, you've been broken beyond repair, you've been lost in the eyes of the world. But God has loved you so deeply that He created you, He redeemed you, and He called you to new life through that same Holy One of Israel. Live this new life of faith to the glory of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, today and forever, Amen." *Rev. Paul J. Frank, Hosanna Lutheran Church and School, Mesa, Arizona*

For those who have had an abortion— a **Word of Hope.**  
888.217.8679  
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## Speaking Up, Speaking Out

by Rev. Michael W. Salemink

Only 36% of conservative (Bible-believing, life-affirming) Christians have heard their pastors address abortion in the past few months (according to the Pew Center). Is it because abortion often involves politics? Speak truth and love about its theology and morality instead. Appeal to hearts and souls rather than courts and bills. Is it because we don't want to offend or divide? God retains responsibility for the offense His Word causes. How much more undiplomatic and impolite to proclaim everyone's sinfulness and Christ's grace as humankind's only Savior! A wound never uncovered cannot be alleviated. He divides that He may treat and heal, humbles that He may honor, and puts to death that He may bring to life. We could not empty the Gospel of such power even if we wanted to.

Is it because we feel insecure addressing such complicated matters? Let God's Word simplify fears and confusions with faith, temptations and transgressions with grace. **"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness"** (2 Timothy 3:16). Is it because we don't want the Gospel limited to a particular issue, especially one that is either irrelevant or overemphasized to our congregation? Yet our Heavenly Father does not ever tire of teaching about sin and forgiveness, nor do Christian hearts ever grow weary of hearing Him tell it.

Abortion destroys lives. Abortion decimates relationships. Abortion devastates consciences with guilt and grief. The Gospel of Jesus Christ has a Word for that; in fact, the Gospel is the Word for exactly that. If we don't believe or behave as if this message, doctrine, and faith are for those suffering abortion's enticements or consequences, and if we don't love the deliverance and delight that this Good News of ours gives to those facing life-or-death situations, then we ought to ask ourselves if we are even Christians.

The world is speaking shamelessly about abortion. The devil is speaking deviously about it. False prophets are speaking persuasively. Our own sinful nature is speaking endlessly, directly, loudly. And the Gospel of Jesus Christ is speaking fiercely. God's work of creating proclaims every human being special from the invisible miracle of conception onward. His labor of redeeming proves every human being precious, in every state and at every stage. His activity of calling pronounces every human being priceless, regardless of circumstances. His grace, rather than a person's age, appearance, ability, or history, gives human life sanctity and significance. Why wouldn't we speak courageously and compassionately for these treasures of God, blessings and privileges and gifts from Him to us, especially when He assures us that this Word will change hearts and save lives?

## Speaking Up, Speaking Out

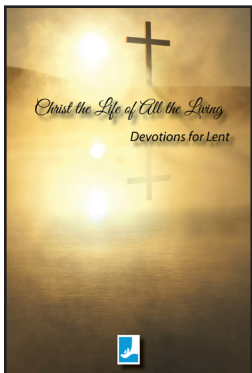
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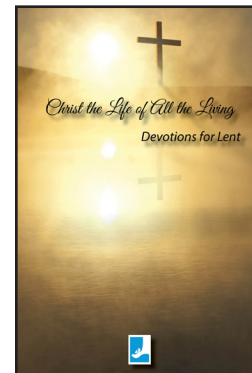
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### **A devotional booklet from Lutherans For Life for Lent ...**

"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](http://www.cph.org))



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