

April 2018



www.lutheransforlife.org



**Life Newsbytes**

**The United States Government Accountability Office has released its report showing Planned Parenthood took in \$1.5 billion in taxpayer dollars between the years 2013 through 2015 ...** During the three years, Planned Parenthood spent over \$288 million in government funds, as well as received \$1.2 billion in Medicaid reimbursements. Nationally, abortions have decreased. Yet the information from the government report shows Planned Parenthood had increased its abortion services while it decreased its health care services. Planned Parenthood’s claim that the organization provides prenatal care is not accurate. A Live Action investigation found that a vast majority of PP locations provide little to no prenatal services. Once the inaccuracy was exposed, Planned Parenthood scrapped prenatal care services from most of its online listings. Adoption referrals are also rarely done: for every adoption referral made by Planned Parenthood, 160 children are aborted. (*Live Action News, 3/16/18; CLR LifeWire, 3/22/18*)

**Speaking Up For Life**

“What do we tell you young people as you struggle with temptations and tough choices, mood swings and confused feelings about your identity? We want you to know whose you are and that you can make good choices because you are created, redeemed, and called.” *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, former executive director of Lutherans For Life*

“The grace of God is more than a message: it’s a Person ... His love given in crucified sacrifice changes minds, claims imaginations, heals hearts, and saves souls. His power shown in resurrected presence assigns infinite value to all bodies and ultimate sanctity to every human life. Not only will He treat the culture, He will cure the people, because He has defeated the devil and hell itself.” *Rev. Michael W. Salemink, executive director of Lutherans For Life*

“Let’s whisper and let’s shout the hope of Christ. Let’s bring hope to those who have been deceived by the world to sin against God, themselves, and their child. Let’s help others look forward to the future with great hope and trust in the Lord of life.” *Sherry Ellis, executive director of The Lighthouse Center of Hope, Iowa Falls, Iowa (www.thelighthousecenter.com)*

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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## The Gospel According to Sex

by Rev. Michael W. Salemink

What does sex have to do with life issues? Every human life happens in a body. Every human body has a sex. Marital sexuality begins life and gives life. Marriage, sexuality, and procreation belong together. Questions about the nature, dignity, and integrity of human life often intersect with questions about sexuality and gender. What does it mean to be a human being? What does it mean to have a body? To whom does this body belong? How ought this body be used? How does sexuality relate to individual identity? What rights and responsibilities does life impart to a human person?

God's Word for sexuality does not amount to simply—or even primarily—“no.” God's “no” always comes with His “yes!” to something better anyway (2 Corinthians 1:19-20). Maleness and femaleness, masculinity and femininity, are good: “[T]he rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man” (Genesis 2:22). Sexual desire and sexual delight are gifts: “Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh” (Matthew 19:5). Serving and pleasing spouse and offspring with one's body is godly: “And God blessed them. And God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion’” (Genesis 1:28a). He designed us for relationship and communion and intimacy. We may find comfort, fulfillment, and reward in each other.

Sexuality symbolizes and illustrates the entire Christian life. The complete self-giving and unconditional acceptance of husband and wife toward each other and toward childbearing and childrearing participate in God's own miracle-working activity. This loving sacrifice and service embody the Trinitarian embrace of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (Genesis 1:26-27). Marriage and family, sexuality and procreation reflect the grace of God in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:32). Therefore, sexuality sought outside of marriage or exercised exclusively to gratify self and flesh's appetites cheaply imitates, poorly substitutes for, and only incompletely apprehends the fullness of God's blessing for it. Celebrating and engaging in the blessings of chastity, modesty, and even celibacy best protect and prepare the heart patiently awaiting His vocation to marriage. And taking one's place within the Christian fellowship, whether as spouse or single, leaves nothing lacking (Mark 10:29-30).

Can we be Lutherans For Life without also being Gospel-motivated voices FOR joyful, courageous, compassionate marriage, sexuality, and procreation? Christians can speak and teach even more enthusiastically about sexuality than the culture does!



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