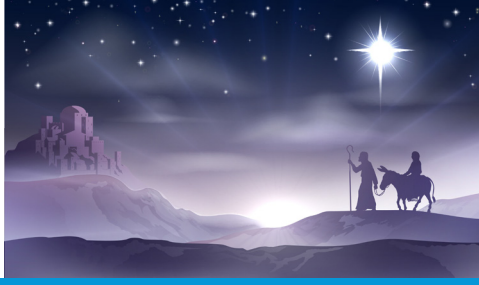


December  
2019



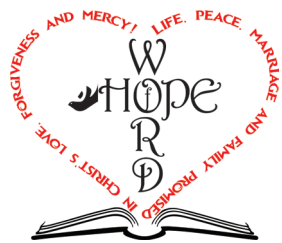
[www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org)



### Life Newsbytes

In October, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported startling data about the youth suicide rate. It found record rates of suicide among people aged 10 to 24 years of age—a 56% increase in the last decade. From 2007 to 2017, the number of suicides among children, teens, and young adults suddenly increased after years of stability, from 6.8 deaths per 100,000 people to 10.6, according to the new report. For children aged 10 to 14, the suicide rate tripled during that same decade after years of decline. For teens between 15 and 19, the rate increased by 76% in that same time period. Suicide was the second-leading cause of death for people aged 10 to 24 in 2017. Researchers say the sharp increase in teen deaths by suicide might be attributed to changing social structures, lack of community, the rise of social media and smartphones, bullying, and lack of sleep. (CDC Report Accessed, *CLR LifeWire*, 11/14/19)

For those who have had an abortion—a **Word of Hope**.



888.217.8679  
[www.word-of-hope.org](http://www.word-of-hope.org)

### Speaking up For Life

“The very best light show comes from the smile on the Baby’s face in the manger. He is smiling because He likes you and has come to rescue you. ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life’ (John 8:12 NIV).” *Rev. Mark Jeske, Time of Grace*

“Christmas celebrates more than just Jesus’ birthday. This historical event testifies to unchangeable truth about humankind and our Almighty Maker. It bestows upon us the honor of a special connection to the Lord God that makes us more precious than any other creature. It forms the foundation for all peace and love and joy and hope by revealing His salvation and testifying to how we participate in His everlasting life. Christmas profoundly proves the Gospel to be our history, identity, and destiny, and it proclaims a distinctly life-affirming reality.” *Rev. Michael W. Salemink, Executive Director of Lutherans For Life*

“God’s time is not our time. He sees the whole, but also more than the whole, as each whole life is a part of a larger picture beyond our sight lines. To accomplish His purposes, God takes His time, not ours.” *James M. Kushiner, The Fellowship of St. James*

For more life-issue news go to:  
[www.lutheransforlife.org/life-blog](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/life-blog)

“[F]or behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day ... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10b-11).

**F**ear not! Our God Whose love caused Him to become a tiny embryonic speck inside Mary’s womb; our God Who was knit together in the womb and shaped and formed as a human being; our God Who was laid in a manger; our God Who was tempted as we are; our God Who paid the awful, bloody price for our redemption; our God Who rose victoriously from the dead—our God will not forsake those for whom He demonstrated this kind of love.

**F**ear not! Fear of an unknown future drives many young women to the abortion mills where daily 3,000 babies are sacrificed because of fear. Fear of suffering drives many people to feel it is compassionate to hasten death. Fear of not being forgiven drives many who have sinned against life to despair.

- **To the pregnant young woman we say “fear not”!** Jesus was born for you. He loves you and will give you strength. He will help you do what is best for you and your baby, and He will support you through the loving arms of His people.
- **To those who are suffering we say “fear not”!** Jesus was born for you. He knows about suffering. He knows how the love of God works in suffering. He will be with you and care for you through His caring people.
- **To those who have sinned against life we say “fear not”!** Jesus was born for you. He demonstrated His love for you and paid for your sins on the Cross. He comes to you even in the depths of your grief and guilt to lift you up into His merciful and forgiving arms.

**F**ear not! The message of Christmas changes hearts and lives. After all, we serve the true God Who works best in weakness—even in poverty—you know, like showing up in a manger!