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.

For more life-issue news go to: www.lutheransforlife.org/life-blog


Fear 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.

Fear 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 your 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.

Fear 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!