

March
2020



www.lutheransforlife.org



Life Newsbytes

The most recent data available shockingly reveals that in 2016 more black babies were killed by abortion than were born in New York City. The data also shows that in 2016 black abortions accounted for nearly 40% (38.7%) of all abortions in NYC. These alarming statistics reveal how abortion is decimating the black community and is also hurting other minority groups. Out of 60,000 (59,854) total abortions reported in NYC, nearly 67 percent (66.7%) were committed on minority black (23,209) and Hispanic women (16,718), leaving some to speculate that there is a targeted eugenics agenda at work ... According to the CDC, in 2016, NYC also had the highest overall abortion ratio of the selected states they reviewed, committing 519 abortions per 1,000 live births (59,854 abortions v. 120,367 live births). (Source: Carole Novielli, *Live Action News*, 2/16/20; www.liveaction.org/news/black-babies-aborted-new-york-city-born)

Speaking up For Life

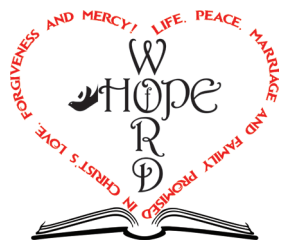
“To be pro-life is to show that all life is precious, that the community of faith is there to support and help with every child. To be pro-life is to visit the elderly in the nursing home, to give them the dignity that they have as children of God. To be pro-life is to love the mothers, to love these women who are caught by circumstances, to help them with physical as well as spiritual needs.”
Rev. Christopher Maronde, Pastor of Saint John Lutheran Church, Decatur, Indiana

“People with disabilities and their families have much to offer the Body of Christ, but often the Church sees them as needy—as a mercy ministry—not as valued contributing members. Look for ways for each of them to serve, including the person with disability.”
Mona Fuerstenau, Bethesda Lutheran Communities

“God is the ultimate Designer. He designed the greatest good the world has ever seen to come from the most heinous evil mankind has ever produced. You are never too stained for God to love. When you are feeling weak and foolish, give thanks to God for that, because that’s exactly the kind of person that God likes to use.”
Rev. Dan Larsen, Pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church, Wabasso, Minnesota, and Trinity Lutheran Church, Sanborn, Minnesota

Order LFL Resources at www.cph.org or 800.325.3040. Shipping/handling applies to all orders. Quantity pricing on select resources.

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



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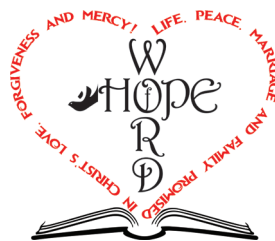
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Plenty of Good News

by Pastor Michael Salemink

How about some good news? There's plenty to go around! IU Health Arnett operates hospitals and clinics in Lafayette, Indiana. Recently the religiously unaffiliated health-care system introduced a new program to address end-of-life suffering. The "No One Dies Alone" initiative invites volunteers to accompany patients who have no family available. Each "compassionate companion" will stay with the dying patient during the last few days of life. They'll listen, read, sing, pray, and give the comfort of human contact. Helpers will relieve one another in shifts so that someone sits at the bedside around the clock.

Officials advertised an informational meeting for early January. They expected a couple handfuls of people, maybe a dozen. More than two hundred individuals came. The shocked organizers had to relocate the gathering to a larger space. Not only did the turnout overwhelm the hosts, participants indicated it encouraged and energized the attendees as well. The number of folks who wanted to help impressed the entire community (and made the local news). And they're talking about expanding the program to even more areas.

Physician-assisted suicide hasn't been decriminalized in Indiana. And it obviously doesn't have to be. Surveys and records regularly confirm that persons who ask for assisted suicide (in the eight American jurisdictions that sanction it) do so because they feel afraid and alone and not because they desire to die. The best remedy for their sorrow and distress is not authorizing doctors to prescribe poisons. Instead we can offer the relationships they really seek and the servanthood they truly need. No terminal diagnosis and no chronic discomfort can compete with that. Christians have known it and done it for centuries.

Our nation remains divided and our culture conflicted. The sanctity of life seems to particularly confuse the public. Clear and courageous witness to the worth of every human being—no matter what age, appearance, or ability—makes more difference now than ever before. The Gospel-motivated voice of Lutherans For Life stands out. And how refreshing to observe amid the turmoil a compassion that makes it unnecessary to view death as a solution! Our people still remember how to come together so that strangers become neighbors the way our Maker meant us to be!

Life Teams and Life Chapters are putting this into practice across the country. They derive as much joy from it as they deliver. Great delight—that heals hearts and saves lives—comes in receiving even the least of these as the precious treasures God creates, redeems, and calls them to be. And thank you for enabling us to proclaim it with resources such as our *Going Gracefully – A Better End-of-Life Approach Than Assisted Suicide* brochure (Item LFL811T) and our booklets *Ventilators, Feeding Tubes, and Other End of Life Questions* (Item LFL800B) and *A Christian Guide to End of Life Decisions* (Item LFL801R).

Who needs assisted suicide? Who needs autonomy when you've got community? Who needs painless when you can have purpose? Quality of life can't hold a candle to sanctity of life! And life with grace always tops "death with dignity!"

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

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