

## LIFE NEWS—JANUARY 2024



# LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

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### Life Newsbytes

**Pro-Life Pregnancy Centers Have Helped 1 Million More Women Since Roe Overturned** – On December 15, 2023, Charlotte Lozier Institute (CLI), the research arm of SBA Pro-Life America and America’s premier scientific institute on life issues, released the findings of a robust survey of 2,750 pregnancy centers in the United States to calculate their extraordinary services, material support, and health care contributions to women and families across the country since the landmark Supreme Court Dobbs decision that took down *Roe v. Wade*. As preliminary CDC data suggests 32,000 more babies are born annually ... Key findings in the new report include: In 2022, pregnancy centers met with clients over 16 million times, both in person and virtually, with an estimated total service value of at least \$358 million annually. Pregnancy centers provided services to almost 975,000 new clients. Vital services provided at no cost: pregnancy tests, ultrasounds, parenting education programs, baby diapers, wipes, formula, outfits, and more. Of the over 16 million client sessions that took place, 97% self-reported a positive experience. These numbers speak to why 91% of Americans support pregnancy centers, according to a 2023 Knights of Columbus–Marist Poll. (*LifeNews.com*, 12/15/23)

### Speaking up For Life

“When an abortion is performed, we proclaim that we know better than God. We disregard His wisdom, for He taught us that we should never kill innocent human beings. We proclaim that we do not want or need a gift from God. And in doing so, we seek to make ourselves more powerful than God. We seek to make ourselves God.” *Archbishop Samuel Aquila*

“When someone struggles with the overwhelming guilt of a past sin, like abortion, repentance and reconciliation are the only source of relief. There is hope! ‘If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness’ (1 John 1:9). Through all our days, the Lord never leaves us nor forsakes us. He is a patient God, waiting and wanting all to come to repentance and be saved.” *Deaconess Pamela Buhler and Deaconess Chrissie Gillet, Word of Hope*

“Pre-born babies are patients who deserve the rights and protections applicable to children and adults.” *Dr. William Lile, Pensacola, Florida*

[lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-quotes](http://lutheransforlife.org/resources/life-quotes)



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## Just As ... I AM

by Pastor Michael Salemink

My little brother fell into a cactus as a child. The neighbors had a couple planted among the decorative stones behind their house. He was toddling on their deck next to the landscaping. Bent over to retrieve a toy and tumbled right off. Came up with two-inch spines sticking out of his arms and trunk. Started walking toward me like nothing happened.

Naturally I freaked. What kind of undead monster had he become?

Screamed and ran back next door to get a parent. Returned to find him crying, not from pain but because I had frightened him. Neither the drama nor the danger deterred Dad. Kid obviously needed a hug. Father scooped him up and held him close—prickles and all. (Then of course whisked him away to the emergency room. They extracted every barb-ended needle one by one and prescribed a precautionary antibiotic. Crisis averted.)

Sinful selfishness leaves humankind needing a hug. We clearly make quite a mess of ourselves. That includes all of us, no decisive difference from embryo or aged.

Still, it doesn’t scare away our sanctity-of-life God. He hasn’t forgotten becoming like us Himself. Thorns poked, straps pierced, nails punctured, spear impaled. Embracing such as you and me disfigured Him, but He wouldn’t have it any other way. He’s made Himself just like us to draw us near. In resurrection He remembers all the more His image imprinted within our kind.



**“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).**

Forgiving grace takes us as we are and calls us just. Just—righteous, holy, and honorable the way He is. Our Heavenly Father lends His identity and rights to every human being alive at all. Whatever age, appearance, or ability, I am as much as He is. I am because He is, and so are you, and so are they.

Just as ... I AM.



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