

LIFE NEWS—JULY 2024



LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

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Life Newsbytes

Newly released data from the S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control shows abortions occurring in South Carolina declined by about 80 percent once the protective Fetal Heartbeat Act became legally effective. "These are our little neighbors who have heartbeats —the most basic manifestation of human life ... The 80% reduction of abortions in South Carolina is a stark reminder that public policy saves lives ... May this be a reminder that lifesaving legislation requires policymakers' commitment to the lives of the unborn. May it remind us again that elections have consequences especially for life," said South Carolina Citizens for Life President Lisa Van Riper. During the first eight months of 2023 when abortion giant Planned Parenthood was fighting the law, DHEC statistics show an average of 954 abortions occurred every month in the three state-regulated abortion facilities, including Planned Parenthood centers in Columbia and Charleston and a privately owned abortion business in Greenville. Once the State Supreme Court upheld the Heartbeat law, allowing it to take effect on August 23, 2023, the number of abortions dropped to about 186 per month, DHEC data shows. (LifeNews.com, 6/14/24 | lifeneews.com/2024/06/14/south-carolina-abortions-drop-80-as-heartbeat-law-saves-thousands-of-babies)

Speaking up For Life

"Announcing a pregnancy, feeling a fetus kick, cradling a newborn, attending a Baptism, what happens and what we experience defy description. Grieving and believing over a terminal diagnosis, listening to an aged neighbor's wisdom and reminiscences, holding a loved one's hand at a hospital bedside, singing hymns and reciting Scriptures as a relative enters eternity, the encounter exceeds even the beauty and power of words." *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life*

"Waiting is difficult; in Christ, we have the now and not yet. But as we learn and relearn to wait on Him, we find joy in His good work and patient craftsmanship in our lives. Though under construction, God works through us to bless the world. May you find great joy in fruit-bearing as you faithfully wait on HIM." *Michelle Bauman, Y4Life*

"The Church is under an incredible assault, but perhaps never has the opportunity been greater. The question is whether we wish to take it, whether we want to be salt, or whether we'll just mark time, leaving nothing but ruins for those who follow in our footsteps." *Rev. Peter Scaer, Concordia Theological Seminary*

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A Lament for the Church

by Deaconess Janet Nicol

Fellow Christian Lutherans, consider the importance of lament in our lives. The fact that we, as Christians, are called to be faithful to Christ and His Word means that we call out to Him in **every** situation, including deep despair and anger. This is living under the first and second commandments and part of our prayer life as we pray the first petition of the Lord's Prayer, "Hallowed be Thy name."

Now let us look at a psalm which is a lament for the Church. Psalm 10 (which also can be placed under the second commandment and the first petition of the Lord's Prayer) laments over the enemies of the Church. Who are those enemies? Make no mistake: They are the devil and all those who follow his ways. Now open up your Bibles, everyone, and look at Psalm 10.

Verse one starts out with a question that we often ask: Why does it seem that God is far off, hiding in times of trouble? This is an oft-asked question. It is seen many times in Scripture. This is comforting because it tells us that it is okay to question, to express disappointment or frustration. The truth is that He isn't far off; perhaps He is hiding, but as we have discussed before, God has His ways and reasons for doing things that we cannot always understand. We are, after all, creatures, not the Creator. Again, I reiterate that it is desirable to the Lord that we ask, even if we don't get an answer.

The following ten verses speak of the wicked and their boasting, arrogant, greedy, and oppressive ways toward the poor, the innocent, and the helpless. The wicked say in their heart, "There is no God," or "God has forgotten, He doesn't see me." This is the self-justification mode kicking in. "Since God doesn't exist, or even if He did," we say, "He's not looking at anything I do. I can do whatever I please in order to gain for myself." Not only the devil plays a part in this, but even our own Old Adams sink to low levels. Look at verse two where the psalmist says, "**Let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised.**" This is a prayer in which we ask God to fulfill His promise to make sure the unjust get their due rewards.

Verse twelve picks up again the prayer that God will see to it. "**Arise, O Lord; O God, lift up your hand; forget not the afflicted.**" It continues with the comfort that the Lord will hear, will act, and will give strength to the poor and afflicted Church. He will not let His Church die. We are His bride, and He is the perfect Husband.

Take heart and have hope, God's people! Even though it appears as though we have been abandoned, that our existence here seems innocuous, not making a difference to our communities, we are not those things. God is not done with us yet. He only asks that we remain faithful because He is ALWAYS faithful. So, pray the lament of Psalm 10 and rejoice!



Coming this fall:

2024 LFL Regional Conferences

September 14, 2024 • Bristol, Connecticut (Hartford area)
 October 12, 2024 • Shawnee, Kansas (Kansas City area)
 November 9, 2024 • Winter Garden, Florida (Orlando area)

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