



## Life Newsbytes

**62,000 Babies Older Than 15 Weeks Are Killed in Abortions Every Year** – Although historically many doctors believed that unborn babies could not feel pain until the third trimester or even well after birth, the modern scientific literature shows that unborn babies can feel pain by 15 weeks gestation, and possibly as early as 12 weeks. The majority of abortions occur in the first trimester, but a substantial number are performed at 15 weeks or later on unborn babies who are capable of experiencing pain. Due to significant limitations with U.S. abortion data, the precise number of abortions after 15 weeks is unknown, but available data suggests that tens of thousands of abortions on unborn babies who feel pain are performed at 15 weeks or later each year.

*How many abortions take place in the U.S. at 15 weeks of gestation or later?*

2022 abortion data from the states and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicate that approximately 6% of all reported abortions take place at or after 15 weeks of gestation. When applied to the Guttmacher Institute's most recent estimate of 1,032,150 abortions nationwide in 2023, this is approximately 61,900 abortions at 15 weeks or later each year. (Read more: [www.lifenews.com/2024/12/23/62000-babies-older-than-15-weeks-are-killed-in-abortions-every-year](http://www.lifenews.com/2024/12/23/62000-babies-older-than-15-weeks-are-killed-in-abortions-every-year))

## Speaking up For Life

"What is it that is essential for your life this New Year? What gifts do you cherish? Certainly, Jesus is the most precious gift we have! Let Him shine through your whole life this year. Take Him with you everywhere. Remember whose family you belong to! Cling to Jesus, our Father's Son, this New Year! Our Father goes with you and promises His blessings, now and forever!" *Rev. Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota*

"Abortion has only ever represented a symptom. The sickness has always consisted of the deeper reality of sin. So, law never embodied the finish line or the prize. Our Savior's victory invites us to settle for nothing less than sharing life, abundant and everlasting, with each human being and receiving them all as gift and privilege. Let's press ahead with renewed enthusiasm!" *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life*

"As Christians, each one of us should be deeply steeped in God's Word. That is where the truth lies. We don't want to be 'right' for our own sake so we can boast in our 'right-ness.' We should want to be 'right' because God is revealing His truth to us, and we have been aligned with His truth. As we labor together in the life arena, let each one of us be so grounded in God's Word that we recognize God's truth and speak it in love." *Barbara Lane Geistfeld, DVM, Lutherans For Life*

## Life Shines in Darkness

by Pastor Michael Salemink



"In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:4-5).

The 1993 blockbuster film *Jurassic Park* didn't just spawn dinosaurs. It also gave us two of the most poignant sanctity of life affirmations in popular culture. Dr. Ian Malcolm, a chaos theorist played by Jeff Goldblum, laments that "Scientists were so preoccupied with whether or not they could, they didn't stop to think if they should." And the same character appreciates how "Life, uh, finds a way."

Nobody can deny that life issues involve difficulties. Surprise pregnancy and terminal diagnosis bring significant suffering. Bearing a child is hard. Injury, illness, and impairment hurt. They impose and deprive. Feeling afraid, ashamed, impoverished, abused, or abandoned sometimes complicates the circumstances. Even Jesus recognizes the reality: "**When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come**" (John 16:21). "**In the world,**" He goes on to acknowledge, "**you will have trouble**" (John 16:33). The Darkness is real, and it is deep.

It's just that it does not negate the light. The burdens do not cancel the blessings. The sorrows don't even equal the celebrations. God always makes life, and He always makes life worth it. The Good Giver of Life also accompanies each one as the Almighty Lord of "**my power is made perfect in weakness**" (2 Corinthians 12:9). The crucifixion forgiveness of Jesus Christ proves that He constantly populates the adversities themselves with delights.

However compromised—and we all are—every neighbor embodies a gift. However imperfect, every day comes as opportunity and privilege. They usually require patience and persistence, of course, and not a little bit of shared sweat and tears. But they turn out the sweeter for it. "**When she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world**" (John 16:21). "**Take heart; I have overcome the world**" (John 16:33)!

