

LIFE NEWS—MARCH 2025



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FOR LIFE

[lutheransforlife.org](http://lutheransforlife.org)



## Life Newsbytes

**Alex Schadenberg:** On December 11, 2024, Canada's Ministry of Health released the Fifth Annual Report on Medical Assistance in Dying, which found that there were 15,343 reported euthanasia deaths, representing 4.7% of all deaths in 2023. The number of Canadian euthanasia deaths was up from 13,241 in 2022 and 10,092 in 2021. Based on the 2024 MAiD data from Ontario and Alberta, I predict that there were approximately 16,600 Canadian euthanasia deaths in 2024. How did I make my prediction? The Office of the Chief Coroner of Ontario released the December 2024 MAiD data, which indicated that there were 4,957 reported euthanasia deaths in 2024, which is up from 4,641 in 2023 and 3,934 in 2022. Ontario represents almost 40% of Canada's population. The data indicates that, as of December 31, 2024, there have been 23,333 Ontario euthanasia deaths since legalization. The city of Alliston had a population of 23,253 in 2021. Alberta Health Services released their MAiD data, indicating that there were 1,116 reported euthanasia deaths in 2024, which is up from 977 in 2023 and 836 in 2022 ... [We] will be trying to obtain the provincial euthanasia data to provide insight into Canada's experience with killing. (Read more: [www.lifenews.com/2025/02/12/almost-5-of-all-canadians-who-died-in-2023-were-euthanized](http://www.lifenews.com/2025/02/12/almost-5-of-all-canadians-who-died-in-2023-were-euthanized).)

## Speaking up For Life

"[W]e were made for light and life. God's Word and Sacraments cast darkness aside in our lives; they draw us closer to Him and make us strong unto salvation ... Cling to the promises of Christ. May we recognize that we are blessed For Life even when we are surrounded by darkness, and may we in our darkest seasons, through the work of the Holy Spirit, lean toward the Son for light and for hope." *Michelle Bauman, Director of Y4Life*

"With gentleness and respect, we witness to our faith in Jesus so that others will come to believe in Him and eagerly await His return. All who confess Jesus as Lord look forward to His Second Coming with a joy far greater than idle mirth. We are encouraged as we remind each other that our Savior is coming back, and we pray that He would 'hear and grant our fervent plea.' Come, Lord Jesus!" *Dr. Carol Geisler*

"God loves everybody. God loves people that are big and small. God loves people that are every age. God loves people no matter where we live. All people are special to God. The Bible says, 'For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand' (Ephesians 2:10). God has good things for each of us." *Timothy, a sixth grader from southern Minnesota, who has Down syndrome*

## Lutherans For Life | Love Life | House of Refuge

by Pastor Michael Salemink



Lutherans For Life is delighted to announce an exciting new opportunity! Save the date for spring 2025, because we'll be inviting your congregation to participate in the House of Refuge initiative.

We're collaborating with our friends at a fellow sanctity-of-life ministry known as **Love Life**, who developed the **House of Refuge** project. The House of Refuge represents a brilliantly simple Gospel-motivated witness and service to our communities. A House of Refuge congregation commits publicly and lovingly to active surrounding and ongoing supporting of neighbors experiencing surprise pregnancies.

They undertake this by:

- registering their leadership's consent to readiness and pastoral endorsement of it with Lutherans For Life;
- declaring the House of Refuge pledge in the worshiping assembly at least twice annually and displaying it in a prominent location in their facility;
- designating a parish House of Refuge ambassador;
- publicizing their contact information on Love Life's online nationwide House of Refuge locator;
- and preparing access to material, emotional, social, and spiritual assistance in the event that a community member accepts the House of Refuge invitation. (This may include companionship and mentoring, pastoral counsel, referrals to aid agencies, transportation and housing arrangements, facilitating medical care, and the like.)

The House of Refuge pledge promises to anyone undergoing surprise pregnancy that this congregation regards the condition as a blessing instead of a sin and the child as a privilege rather than a punishment. The congregation affirms they hold precious both the child's life and the welfare of the parents and asserts they will unite their efforts toward whatever it takes to help mother and father carry and care for the little one. The congregation also vows not to subject mother or father to gossip or shame or pressure toward abortion. The congregation devotes themselves to sympathy and solidarity for mothers, to encouraging and commending, and to holding men accountable for their God-given vocations. And the congregation insists on extending the Heavenly Father's forgiveness and healing in Christ Jesus to any who mourn already having aborted their own children.

We believe that formally and frequently proclaiming this pledge makes churches safe places. Rather than running from the household of faith when surprise pregnancy occurs, neighbors both within and without the Body of Christ will turn to them as a first resort. Young people will come of age formed to know that this security awaits them should they fall into such a situation, and the fellowship will gain a public reputation for the kind of compassion that renders abortion unnecessary. And we hope this gentle and winsome entrance into sanctity-of-life advocacy, devoid of any political dimensions, will lead to greater courage for both the entire congregation and individual members to voice their convictions about these matters.

We are currently completing the process of finalizing program parameters and preparing orientation materials and support resources. Please begin getting ready by informing your congregation that House of Refuge is forthcoming and monitoring Lutherans For Life communications for further details!