

LIFE NEWS—MAY 2025

LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE

lutheransforlife.org

Life Newsbytes

Research Confirms 95.9% of Abortions Are Killing Babies as Birth Control, Just .4% for Rape – After the Supreme Court ruling in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, states across the country have enacted laws that limit abortion. Frequently, these state laws make exceptions for abortions for certain reasons, such as rape and incest, risk to the mother's life or health, or a fetal abnormality ... To develop an estimate of the percent of abortions performed for a given reason, data was combined from each state reporting that particular reason. Overall, common exceptions to abortion limits are estimated to account for less than 5% of all abortions. *Rape and incest: 0.4%. Risk to the woman's life or a major bodily function: 0.3%. Other physical health concerns: 2.2%. Abnormality in the unborn baby: 1.2%. Elective and unspecified reasons: 95.9%* ... The CDC does not request information on reasons for abortion from the states, and so this data is not included in the national reports. As the *Dobbs* decision has resulted in a shift in where and why abortions are performed and the complications that are associated with them, the CDC should strengthen reporting requirements and request additional data from the states. Read the complete story at www.lifenews.com/2025/04/18/research-confirms-95-9-of-abortions-are-killing-babies-as-birth-control-just-4-for-rape-2.

Speaking up For Life

"The Ascension assures us that Jesus has finished His work of salvation and now rules ALL things in this world for the good of His Kingdom and His Church: that is, you and me! What is Christ's goal that the song highlights? Jesus wants His Body, us, to be with Him where He is in paradise, in heaven." *Rev. Darren Green, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota*

"Now we get to receive and enjoy our times and our lives as blessings. And we get to do the same with the gifts and privileges that each of our neighbors embodies, from unborn to elderly and from fertilization to forever. The Lord our God has blessed us for the purpose of life, and He has blessed us for the duration of life. So, let's partake in the blessing of proclaiming God's truth and putting Christ's love into practice, even as the Psalmist himself does!" *Pastor Michael Salemink*

"May God send an army of angels to protect the babies in the womb from the laws being enacted in some states that are taking away protections for God's smallest, most vulnerable humans. May hearts be changed with the truths found in Scripture. And may the influence the devil has on our society, with his culture of death, be deposed." *Virginia Flo, Director of Volunteer Relations, Lutherans For Life*

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Moving On

by Pastor Michael Salemink



At the end of this month, I'll be moving on from my vocation with Lutherans For Life. A delightful decade is drawing to an end. It makes me somewhat sentimental to reflect on what the time together with you has taught me. No doubt I have learned far more than I have delivered and gained well beyond what I've given. As I consider how I can best orient and prepare the incoming successor, I want to share with you a few of the priceless insights and experiences our Gospel-motivated Christian fellowship has brought me. (And there are more!)

People are gifts and privileges. Every human life and person embodies a treasure to Almighty God and a blessing from the Heavenly Father. The best dimension of my undertakings and experiences in this ministry has come from interacting with neighbors, acquaintances, brothers, and sisters across the country. I've had no greater enjoyment than sharing life—celebrations and sorrows—in an abundance of capacities with such a multitude of individuals. And I take the greatest pride in the Gospel-motivated servants we have assembled as the staff and leadership of Lutherans For Life.

Lutherans are hurting. Life issues like surprise pregnancy, terminal diagnosis, infertility, abortion grief and guilt, living with disability, and so many more confront the sisters and brothers of our congregations. I continue to hear their stories within every imaginable demographic. Church membership doesn't make anybody immune. Often they're suffering silently and secretly.

We cannot neglect listening and affirming. Everyone has a story that informs their convictions and their complaints. The sanctity of life means relationship, not just argument, and so we welcome opportunities to enter another's world and inhabit their space, standing alongside instead of staring down at. No matter how different our conclusions, each conversation offers some common ground to which we can agree.

We don't have to leave out the Gospel and doctrine. Of course, nations ought not legislate the faith or forcefully impose Baptism and belief upon the population. Our persuasive case has to incorporate science, logic, history, and the common good. But the Lord's own words about sin and salvation give us the most convincing reasons for what we proclaim and practice. Why would we ever disregard it?

Government doesn't have the answer. Elections and legislation comprise only a component of our mission. Controlling behavior may prove quicker and easier, but it pales in comparison to the lasting effects of converting hearts. Civic action serves neighbors in necessary ways, as a partial means to a superior end. A safe, free, and fair land allows for declaring God's truth and demonstrating Christ's love.

We have company. A noble and untold host across countries and centuries stands with us. Humble but steadfast, they echo and amplify the same testimony as we do in every age and location. They know our hurts and our hopes and bear them beside us. The Holy Spirit of Christ Jesus abides, guides, and energizes the sanctity of life, and very soon every tongue will acknowledge it. We belong not only to an army but to a family. The kingdom of Almighty God is already prevailing.

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