

LIFE NEWS—JANUARY 2026



**LUTHERANS
FOR LIFE**

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Life Newsbytes

For the fourth year in a row, the number of abortion clinics in America continues to decline. In 2021, just before the fall of Roe, Operation Rescue's annual survey revealed the highest number of abortion clinics in five years, counting 718 across 50 states. At the close of 2025, that number is 657 across just 37 states, an 8.5% decrease in just four years. Operation Rescue President Troy Newman comments, "That 8.5% may seem a small number; however, our opponents know it represents the strong and steady progress of the pro-life movement. Inch by inch, we are winning solid ground for children in the womb. Small numbers over time can have a significant impact. And, right now, 26% of the United States is abortion free." This progress is made even more evident in the comparison of clinics that existed in 1991, numbering 2,176 across the nation, to the number that remains today. A total count of 657 abortion clinics in 2025 shows a whopping 70% decrease in less than forty years. In the last five years alone, 245 abortion clinics have closed. 2025 in focus: A record 54 clinics closed or halted abortions this year, the highest number of closures since 2022, when Operation Rescue verified 88 closures following the fall of Roe. Of those 54 closures, 36 (67%) were pill-only clinics, and 18 (33%) were surgical clinics. (Read more: lifeneews.com/2025/12/22/number-of-abortion-centers-in-america-has-declined-4-years-in-a-row)

Speaking up For Life

"Let the peace of Christ change how you live—clothing yourself with godly virtues reflecting a thankful heart. Carry this peace that the angels proclaimed and Simeon saw. It sets the tone for the coming year, another year you get to live as God's child in the peace of Jesus." *Rev. Peter Sulzle, St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota*

"From the moment you were being knitted together in your mother's womb (Psalm 139:13), God's began His careful construction of His chosen jewel of redemption." *Rev. Adam Osier, Dean, Free Lutheran Bible College, Plymouth, Minnesota*

"No amount of scientific progress can defeat death. No political ruler can promise eternal life. Only Jesus can make and keep that promise. The promise of hope and life is ours to proclaim. It is the promise that a world without hope needs to hear. In Jesus we have hope for the future, the living hope of life in His presence forever." *Dr. Carol Geisler, Lutheran Hour Ministries*

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LOVE, COMPASSION, AND PROTECTION

BY REV. DR. ARIC FENSKE



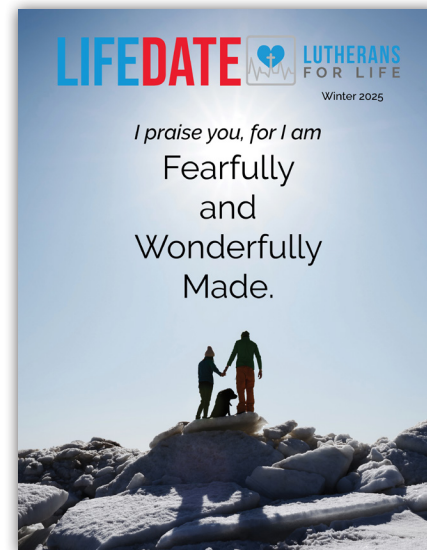
David uses an interesting illustration to describe his creation by the hands of God. He paints the picture of God knitting him together in his mother's womb as a skilled artisan would knit together a beautiful piece of clothing or a colorful tapestry. When I hear these words, I can't help but think of my grandmother, carefully and painstakingly knitting one of the blankets that were scattered throughout my childhood home.

As a young boy, I didn't fully appreciate just how special those blankets were. But now that I am older, and my grandmother is with Jesus, I understand what a treasure those blankets are. Handmade items usually are a treasure. And not because they cost more to produce. In fact, homemade items are usually cheaper than store bought items. The value of a handmade item comes from the one who made it. Hours of carefully planning and then creating a homemade project reveals not only the skill of the maker but also the love that was needed to see the project through. My grandmother would not have spent hours and hours making those blankets for us if she didn't love us dearly. Those blankets aren't simply a memento—they are a lasting snapshot of her talent and her love for us. And that is why we treasure them.

So it is with every single human being. Every person has been carefully knit together by God in their mother's womb, each with our own unique traits and personalities. And even though sin has corrupted every one of us, we can still see within every person a living revelation of the love and wisdom and skill of our God, who has fearfully and wonderfully made each and every person.

It is this loving and careful knitting together that imbues us all with an inherent value beyond our description. That value does not come from something inside of us, as if we were nothing more than the sum of our parts. No, our value comes from the One who loved us enough to make a plan for each one of us (down to the number of hairs on our heads; see Matthew 10:30), long before He uttered the first "Let there be" (Revelation 13:8).

God treasures each person from the moment He begins to knit them together, if not even long before. And so should we. From fertilization to forever, and at every stage in between, regardless of nation or race, size or ability, each person is a treasure worthy of our love, compassion, and protection.



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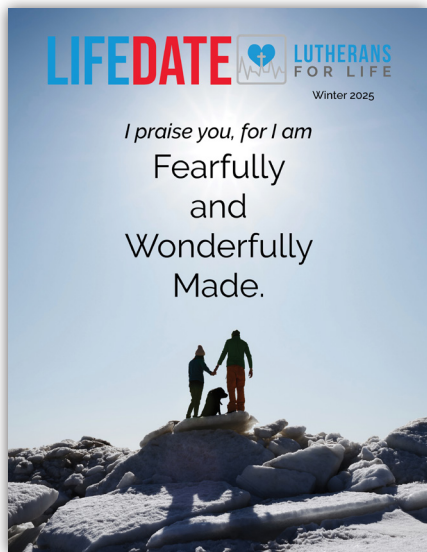
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