

# Life News



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



## Life Newsbytes

### A number of Planned Parenthood locations plan to close because of a lack of patients -- not as a result of increased clinic regulations.

OREGON: Planned Parenthood says it plans to shutter three clinics in the Portland area: in Clackamas, Gresham, and Clark County. In April, it closed an office in McMinnville. The organization reports a 30 percent drop in patient visits. IOWA: The Planned Parenthood of the Heartland affiliate announced plans to close facilities in Red Oak and Creston, saying the centers each averaged about one patient per month. (CLR Life News, 6/12/14; Life Action News, 6/9/14)

Keep up to date on life-issue news, commentary, and audio and video through our **Life Blog**. Also be sure to follow us on **Facebook** and sign up for our **Life Notes** newsletter at [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org).

## Teaching For Life®



[www.lutheransforlife.org/media/teaching-for-life-online](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/media/teaching-for-life-online)

Since 1973 over 56,662,169 abortions in the United States

Each year over 1,120,775 abortions in the United States

Source: National Right to Life

## Speaking Up For Life

“The rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God.” *President John F. Kennedy, 1961*

“Life has its question marks and scary moments that can cause us anxiety and make us feel insecure. However, we have a wonderful Shepherd who laid down His life for you, rose again, and lives to walk with you. He knows you and wants to hold you close in all circumstances. He promises that no one and nothing will snatch you from His nail-pierced, loving, strong hands.” *Rev. Steven Kramer, speaker on “The Christian Crusaders” radio program*

“While not always easy, foster parenting is a wonderful way to share your time and natural parenting abilities with those who need it the most! ... Are these children tugging at your heart? Find out more. God has plenty of promises that your love will be returned, not only today, but in eternity!” *Rick Fey, foster and adoptive dad*

“It is true that God can take what seems like the worst of all circumstances and turn them into the best. A healthy adoption is a shining example of this miracle!” *Janette Clausen, Lutheran Family Service of Iowa*



Lutherans For Life National Conference  
October 24-25, 2014 • Grand Rapids, Michigan  
[www.lutheransforlife.org/conference](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/conference)

Order LFL resources for yourself, your congregation, and school at [www.cph.org](http://www.cph.org).

## Freedom-Giving Adoption by James I. Lamb

Ever been enslaved? Paul writes, “In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world” (Galatians 4:3). And again in verse 8, “Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods.” Paul wants his readers to know how hopelessly far from God they were so they could understand the incredible grace of God in bringing them from slaves to sons of God through adoption in Christ (Galatians 4:7).

Ever been enslaved? Yes, we have, and if our freedom-giving adoption happened at our baptisms, we still know what that enslavement was like. Our sinful nature constantly seeks to enslave us every day. Those pesky sins keep popping up again and again.

Our dog, Chew-E, when he was a puppy, illustrated this. One of the “elementary principles” that enslaves puppies is biting. We made progress in freeing him from this enslavement with loud “NO’s!” and raps on the nose. Then the grandkids came. Their excitement excited Chew-E and the biting was back with fervor. Our grandchildren bear the marks of this over enthusiastic good puppy gone bad.

Ever been enslaved? Yes, we have, “But ...” Galatians 4:4 begins with this very powerful Gospel word. The chasm between enslavement and sonship is impossible for us to bridge. We don’t even want to try. BUT God did bridge the gap through His adoption process. “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.”

Ever since the fall into sin, God worked through historical events according to His redemptive purpose. When all was ready, He sends His Son, not in some spectacular way, but as a speck conceived in Mary’s womb. He was born true man and true God. Born under the law to keep it in our stead and to bear the weight of our transgressing it and then to pay the price of our redemption with His suffering and death. His resurrection validated it all. Not only are we freed from our enslavement, we are declared holy, sons of God through adoption.

Now a word to you ladies feeling uncomfortable with the use of “sons.” Some translators change this to “children.” That does a great disservice to you. For in Jesus’ day, only sons received the inheritance. But that is not the case when it comes to salvation. We all are sons, heirs of eternal life. And in this life we have a brand-new, intimate relationship with our Father as the Spirit enables us to call Him, “Abba! Father!” (vs. 6) “Abba” being a less formal term of endearment, perhaps akin to our “dad.”

Thanks to you, LFL continues to apply this “slave to sonship” message to the life issues and equips others to do the same. Many are enslaved to the elementary principles of our god-less culture. Others are enslaved to the god of death to rescue them from problems. We all know how easily we fall back into such slavery. But we also all know the message of our adoption into sonship.

*Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb is the executive director of Lutherans For Life.*  
[www.lutheransforlife.org/about/speakers-bureau-concerts-for-life](http://www.lutheransforlife.org/about/speakers-bureau-concerts-for-life)



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