

Life News



September
2014

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Life Newsbytes

Census Bureau analysis of 65-and-older population shows a dramatic shift in the age composition among the “baby boomer” generation. The United States’ 65-and-older population is expected to reach 83.7 million in the year 2050 -- almost twice in size from the 2012 level of 43.1 million, according to the Census Bureau ... “The United States is projected to age significantly over this period, with 20 percent of its population age 65 and over by 2030,” said Jennifer Ortman, chief of the Census Bureau’s Population Projections Branch. “Changes in the age structure of the U.S. population will have implications for health care services and providers, national and local policymakers, and businesses seeking to anticipate the influence that this population may have on their services, family structure and the American landscape.” (*U.S. Census Bureau Website Accessed 8/14/14; CLR Life News, 8/15*)

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 and **LifeDate** journal at www.lutheransforlife.org.

Speaking Up For Life

“In my view, the Christian religion is the most important and one of the first things in which all children, under a free government ought to be instructed ... No truth is more evident to my mind than that the Christian religion must be the basis of any government intended to secure the rights and privileges of a free people.” *Noah Webster, the “Father of American Scholarship and Education”*

“Let us be who we are in Christ: a safe haven for every sinner’s confession and a vehicle of God’s mercy!” *Kristin Wassilak, Word of Hope*

“In the short-term, it appears that the ungodly will prevail. Christians, however, must begin to think long-term; while the ungodly burn themselves out, the godly steadily influence their world: ‘You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of ... And let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we shall reap if we do not grow weary’” (2 Timothy 3:14; Galatians 6:9 NASB®). *Gary DeMar, president of The American Vision*



Lutherans For Life National Conference
October 24-25, 2014 • Grand Rapids, Michigan
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Dr. John Patrick • Rev. Robert Fleischman
Laura Davis • Rev. Jonathan Fisk • Rev. Max Phillips
Diane Schroeder • Grace Kern • Rev. Dr. James Lamb
Katie Schuermann

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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

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David often prays for deliverance from his enemies. He does so in Psalm 17. **“Arise, O LORD! Confront him, subdue him! Deliver my soul from the wicked by your sword, from men by your hand, O LORD, from men of the world whose portion is in this life”** (Psalm 17:13-14a). I suppose today we would describe such folks as “worldly,” the “eat-drink-and-be-merry” crowd concerned only for this life.

Still, God blesses them. **“You fill their womb with treasure; they are satisfied with children, and they leave their abundance to their infants”** (14b). David’s point seems to be another cliché, “You can’t take it with you.” But in the midst of David’s jab at his enemies, the Holy Spirit’s pen inscribes an indelible truth—children in the womb are a *treasure!* Actually, they are a *treasure from God!*

Our culture holds children up as a treasure. We say so in our headlines. “Five Die in House Fire—Including Two Small Children.” Child victims compound the tragedy of a mass killing. We see children in the womb as treasure too. Entire industries exist marketing products we just cannot do without as we care for pregnant moms and their precious unborn. Yes, we see children as treasure—if we want them, if they are convenient, if they do not get in the way of our “portion in this life.”

How can our culture move so quickly from treasure to trash? How can we have hospitals delivering precious treasures in one wing and discarding the product of conception into the trash in another? I believe one answer to our ability to maintain this treasure/trash dissonance lies not merely in the corruption of the culture, but in the silence of the saints. We have forgotten the “from God” part of the equation.

It is too easy to view the unborn treasure as coming from us, the *product of our* lovemaking, the result of *our* will and *our* design and fulfillment of *our* desires and *our* plans. When the unborn is a treasure *from us*, then we control the meaning of “treasure.” If our parameters are not met, then the path to the “trash” becomes easier to justify and navigate.

But (I love that word!) when we see the unborn as a treasure *from God*, then He controls the meaning of “treasure.” It becomes all about *His* love and *His* will and *His* design and *His* plans. Anyone can see the unborn as a treasure. Only the Christian can see the unborn as a treasure *from God*, created by Him, redeemed by Him in the blood of Christ, and someone to be called by Him in Holy Baptism.

Life is *from God*. New life is *from God*. Life’s quality is *from God*. Life’s purpose is *from God*. Life’s span is *from God*. That makes life, born and unborn, a treasure! The more we equip the saints with resources to understand this message, the more that message will translate into changed hearts and into actions that can change lives and, eventually, we pray, influence our culture.

You are a treasure *from God!* God uses you and people like you to provide the financial resources necessary for us to continue His equipping ministry. So once again I thank you! I invite your continued prayers and your continued support as we strive to uphold not just the treasure of life, but the treasure of life *from God*.

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