

# Life News



July  
2015

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



## Life Newsbytes

After 37 straight Gallup surveys over a 21-year period, most Americans continue to say abortion should be illegal in nearly every circumstance. In Gallup's most recent survey conducted between May 6 and May 10, a combined 55 percent of respondents said abortion should be illegal in all or all but a few cases. A breakdown of the numbers finds 29 percent who agreed abortion should be legal "under any circumstances"; 13 percent who felt it should be legal "under most circumstances"; 36 percent who said it should be "legal only in a few circumstances"; and 19 percent who said it should be illegal "in all circumstances." Two percent stated they had no opinion. In a data sheet released with the May survey, Gallup provided results of 37 surveys dating back to September 1994 in which respondents answered the question, "Do you think abortions should be legal under any circumstances, legal only under certain circumstances, or illegal in all circumstances?" Every survey since 1994 revealed a combined percentage of respondents agreeing that abortion should be illegal in all or most cases. (CNSNews.com, 6/2/15; CLR Life News, 6/4/15)

## Speaking Up For Life

"The Declaration of Independence ... claims ... the ultimate source of authority by stating ... they were ... 'appealing to the Supreme Judge of the World for the rectitude of' their 'intentions'... The foundations of our independence and our Government rest upon basic religious convictions. Back of the authority of our laws is the authority of the Supreme Judge of the World, to whom we still appeal. It seems to me perfectly plain that the authority of law, the right to equality, liberty and property, under American institutions, have for their foundation reverence for God. If we could imagine that to be swept away, these institutions of our American government could not long survive." *President Calvin Coolidge, September 21, 1924*

"God has put us into community, into church and family and state precisely so that we will learn to love our neighbor, so that we will set aside the delusion of autonomy and our selfish desires to serve our neighbor ... (Romans 14:7) ... To be the Lord's, to belong to the Lord Jesus Christ, is to love the weak, the wretched, the burdensome, the annoying, the stinking, the foolish." Rev. Christopher Esget, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Alexandria, Virginia

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**2015 LFL  
National Conference  
October 30-31  
Petersburg, Kentucky**

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## Liberty by Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb

My pastor recently shared a very good devotion for our ladies' group centered on the song "The Statue of Liberty" by Neil Enloe. Allow me to share the lyrics.

In New York Harbor stands a lady  
With a torch raised to the sky;  
And all who see her know she stands for  
Liberty for you and me.

On lonely Golgotha stood a cross  
With my Lord raised to the sky;  
And all who kneel there live forever  
As all the saved can testify.

I am proud to be called an American,  
To be named with the brave and the free;  
I will honor our flag and our trust in God,  
And the Statue of Liberty.

I am proud to be called a Christian,  
To be named with the ransomed and whole;  
As the statue liberates the citizen,  
So the cross liberates the soul.

Oh, the cross is my Statue of Liberty,  
It was there that my soul was set free:  
Unashamed I'll proclaim that a rugged cross  
Is my Statue of Liberty!

Now in my theological musings, I wish there was an additional verse about the resurrection, for without that, our faith in the cross is futile (1 Corinthians 15:17). Nevertheless, the *price* for our liberty was most certainly paid on the cross. Plus, the song contrasts the two liberties we enjoy as Christian citizens and as American citizens. I, for one, too often take both for granted.

The two came together somewhat, last year, in the Supreme Court ruling in *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby, Inc.* Based on their Christian citizenship, the owners of Hobby Lobby took a stand when their freedom of religion, inherent in their American citizenship, was denied by regulations added to the Affordable Care Act. Thankfully, the court ruled in their favor.

The ruling, coming so close to the celebration of our country's independence, was a timely reminder to take both our citizenships seriously. While this ruling was favorable, attacks on our religious freedom and, subsequently, challenges to our Christian faith continue. Like David and Barbara Green, founders of Hobby Lobby, we must be constantly ready to take a stand to protect our liberties in this country, a stand that flows from the liberty we have been given by God through Jesus Christ.

Folks like you who take a stand for the rights of the unborn, the vulnerable, and the infirm in the midst of an anti-life culture are champions of conviction and action. I thank you for this and for the support of LFL that flows from it.

After a sermon that specially emphasized God's forgiveness in Jesus for the sin of abortion, a woman wrote, "I felt a freedom in my heart that I hadn't had for years." This is the kind of liberty no one can take away. This is the kind of liberty that can only come from the cross and the empty tomb. This is the kind of liberty you help share as you continue to provide for LFL's Gospel-centered ministry.

I pray your celebration of the freedom we have in this country will be ongoing. I know that your celebration of the freedom we have in Christ will never end!

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