

# Life News



November  
2015

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



## Life Newsbytes

**The US House of Representatives voted October 7 (242-184) to create a special panel to investigate the handling of fetal tissue by Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers....** The latest controversy over Planned Parenthood began this past summer after the release of undercover videos showing employees of the nation’s largest abortion provider discussing the sale of tissue and organs from aborted babies for profit. (Source: *LifeSiteNews.com*, 10/7/15; *CLR LifeWire*, 10/9/15).

**The 2014 Netherlands euthanasia report was released, indicating that there was another ten percent increase in assisted deaths [euthanasia] and assisted suicide....** The 2014 report stated that there were reported 5,306 assisted deaths, up from 4,829 reported assisted deaths in 2013. These numbers do not include the unreported assisted deaths. Other stats:

- 2,331 reported assisted deaths in 2008
- 2,636 reported assisted deaths in 2009
- 3,136 reported assisted deaths in 2010
- 3,695 reported assisted deaths in 2011
- 4,188 reported assisted deaths in 2012

(Source: *NRL News Today*, 10/13/15; *CLR LifeWire*, 10/14/15)

## Speaking Up For Life

“[A]s long as God gives life, then God is at work giving life meaning and purpose. As long as God gives life, life has value and it is ‘more necessary’ to keep on living.” *Rev. Dr. James I. Lamb, executive director of Lutherans For Life*

“Adopted children, like all children, are a blessing from God, and we are privileged indeed to be granted the honor of raising one of His precious kids.” *Solid Answers/Bible Gateway*

“These blessings have not descended upon us in restricted measure, but overflow and abound. They are the blessings and bounty of God.... In accordance with the wise custom of the civil magistrate since the first settlements in this land and with the rule established from the foundation of this Government ... do appoint ... a day of National Thanksgiving and Prayer, enjoining the people upon that day to meet in their churches for the praise of Almighty God and to return heartfelt thanks to Him for all His goodness and loving kindness.” *President William Howard Taft, November 5, 1910*

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For news and commentary about Planned Parenthood go to:  
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“**M**aggie was a woman possessed.” So said seminary professor Rev. John Pless in his sermon at the memorial service for Maggie Karner held at the Fort Wayne seminary chapel October 3. He preached on Colossians 3:3, **“For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”**

Maggie was head of LCMS Life Ministries, and I served with her on this committee for many years. She was both a colleague and friend. Maggie died of brain cancer September 25. Maggie truly was “possessed.” In her Baptism she was united with Jesus, “hidden” in Him, and He in turn dwelt in her. She was possessed by Christ’s mercy and love and shared these freely with others, both in her living and in her dying.

She drew national attention when she reached out to Brittany Maynard, a young woman also dealing with inoperable brain cancer. Brittany chose to end her life through suicide, using Oregon’s physician-assisted suicide law. Prior to this she produced a very emotional video describing her plight and her reasons for choosing suicide. The impact of this video continues to be felt. For example, it was instrumental in moving the recently passed assisted-suicide bill through the California legislature. That bill was signed into law in October.

Maggie wrote a letter to Brittany and also produced a video. She wrote several articles on this as well. She did not minimize Brittany’s or her own struggles. She admitted openly, “Cancer sucks” and “Death sucks.” But her perspective on these differed markedly from Brittany’s. Her perspective did not come from the cancer inside her and the certainty of future suffering. It came from the Christ inside her and the certainty of future glory. She was indeed possessed.

Maggie taught us how to live with dying. She fought for and clung to life as a precious gift from God. She participated in experimental treatments, hoping they would help her live longer and, if not, that they may someday help others to live and beat this disease. And then Maggie taught us how to die. As she had been Christ to so many in the course of her life by sharing His mercy, in her final months she became Christ by letting others share His mercy with her. Her family and friends will value and treasure these times, and the impact of this possessed woman will live on.

When we intervene and end life in the name of compassion, we eliminate so many opportunities for true compassion. Compassion literally means “suffer with.” That is what God calls the Christian to do. He calls us to **“bear one another’s burdens”** (Galatians 6:2) and not to see others or ourselves as burdens. As long as God gives life, He gives life meaning. As long as God gives life, He works in and through that life to accomplish His will and glorify His name.

I am grateful to all of you “possessed” people for your support of a ministry that strives to keep Jesus central in all the varied aspects of the life arena. Like Maggie, we want to equip people to choose life and to live life to the fullest, serving others in the name of Jesus. We want to equip people to serve the dying as they see the face of Jesus in them and help them see God at work in their lives. We want to equip people to die with true dignity by being Jesus to those we serve, trusting in God’s purpose, and hoping in the certainty of the resurrection of the dead.

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