

# Life News

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## Life Newsbytes

**Abortions continue to show a sharp decline in the United States** – Statistics show that abortions are on the decline in the United States. According to pro-abortion activists, it's because fewer women are facing unintended pregnancies. But is that the whole story? Data shows that unintended pregnancy has declined, but the level of change is moderate. The number of abortions, however, have seen a sharper decline from over 1.6 million in 1990 to less than 1 million based on current estimates ... in the early 1980s, about 30% of U.S. pregnancies ended in abortion compared to less than 20% today. (Abortion data via Guttmacher and state reports; Birth data via U.S. CDC.) (*Live Action News*, 5/10/16; *CLR LifeWire*, 5/13/16)

**The Dutch Health Minister, Edith Schippers, has earmarked almost 400,000 Euros for a study of whether to expand eligibility for euthanasia to children between one and twelve.** At the moment, children under one may be killed with the consent of their parents following criteria set out in the Groningen Protocols. Children older than twelve are already eligible. After neighboring Belgium passed legislation in 2014 enabling child euthanasia, doctors and activists in the Netherlands are keen to catch up. (*NRL News Today*, 5/2/16; *CLR LifeWire*, 5/4/16)

## Speaking Up For Life

“We can be a witness to the world around us by simply living the lives God has called us to live. By doing so, we show the world there is a reason to be For Life, that there is something different and good about it.” *Laura Davis, Director of Y4Life (Y4Life.org)*

“The primary goal in fatherhood is to help children grow in the Lord so that throughout their lives they will look to the Savior in faith and follow Him in Christian love. Our most fervent hope and prayer is that they will be and remain members of God’s eternal family. May God bless our fathers in carrying out their crucial role in Christian fatherhood!” *Rev. Mark Gullerud, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bowdle, South Dakota*

“There is no future in gay marriage, nor in any sexually permissive culture—not for very long, despite new drugs and technologies. Christians are called to sexual purity. It’s there in Genesis, right on through to Revelation (see 22:11, 15). Fortunately, God is able to forgive and heal us of our failings when we repent. He is merciful and gracious. No need for despair, but always hope in the Lord!” *James M. Kushiner, the Fellowship of St. James*

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## Turned Hearts

Fatherhood takes a lot of “heart” work! Sometimes fathers’ hearts can be turned—turned toward job, career, selfish ambitions, or selfish pleasures. Fathers’ hearts can be turned toward feelings of guilt or inadequacy as they struggle with trying to do their best.

## Turning Hearts

Turning hearts is the work of God’s law and Gospel. Too often we overdo the law. We try to turn a father’s heart by overwhelming him with what he should do or should be like or should say, and we even back our assertions up with a string of Bible passages. But a steady diet of law will only cause a father to rebel in defiance or relinquish in despair.

## The Heart of God

For Christian fathers, the single most important thing in turning their hearts to their children is the Fatherhood of God. God loves fathers. He is one! He is the Father of Jesus Christ, and His love for fathers flows through His Son. Through Jesus, fathers understand they live in grace. This is where they find the love, motivation, and strength to turn their hearts to their children. This is where they find forgiveness when they fail and the courage they need to try again.

## Fathers’ Day Prayer

Our Father in Heaven, thank You for the vocation of fatherhood. Thank You for turning Your heart toward fathers and all of us in Your Son, Jesus. Through Him, turn the hearts of fathers toward their children. Strengthen fathers to know and do Your will when it comes to rearing their children to know You. Strengthen fathers to know and share Your grace when it comes to rearing their children to know You. In the name of Your Son and our Savior, Jesus. Amen.

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