

people with these words: “...I know the plans I have for you... plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV) **Even in your life, no matter how difficult it may be, God has a plan!**


- a. ^{NIV} **Proverbs 16:3** “Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.”
- b. ^{NIV} **Proverbs 16:9** “In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.”
- c. ^{NIV} **Proverbs 20:18** “Make plans by seeking advice...”

Conclusion: Let's take gospel-motivated action:

- Pray for repentance (CHANGE) for ✦our nation, ✦our president, and ✦the horrible sin of legalized abortion!
- Give thanks for life now and life forever in Christ; *then live FOR CHRIST and POINT OTHERS TO CHRIST!*
- God definitely has a plan for YOU (Ephesians 2:10), SO – *from the Bible and Bible-smart Christians* – search for it and watch for God to reveal it, *then live it!*

Let me conclude with these facts about Tim Tebow: ✦He is a Christian, ✦He played quarterback for the Florida Gators, ✦He won the Heisman Trophy, and ✦He and his mother will appear in a TV commercial on Super Bowl Sunday. **Why are those things significant TODAY?** Because, *when Tim was in his mother's womb and she was sick*, the doctors advised her to get an abortion – *to murder her baby!* Praise God she said no; *may many others do the same!* For those who have said yes, *may they receive God's forgiveness in Christ!* Amen!

This and other sermons are available on Bethlehem's website: www.blc7500.com
Please share them with your family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers!
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Rd., Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230



**“God Gives Life
AND
Has a Plan!”**
Jeremiah 1:4-10 NIV
4th Sunday after the Epiphany – 2010
Sunday, January 31 → 9:00

Introduction: Dear fellow Americans, over the past 37 years – *right here in American* – **approximately 50 million children** have been legally murdered in their mother's wombs! **Let's compare → Americans who died in war with → Americans who died in abortion:**

- **Americans fought in these wars over a total of 63 years:** Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican-American War, Civil War, Philippine-American War, WWI, WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War, and Iraq War? **All together approximately 1.3 million Americans died; on average about 21,000 per year, 57 per day!**¹
- **Americans have been legally aborted over a total of 37 years: All together approximately 50 million have been murdered; 1.3 million PER YEAR, 3,700 PER DAY!**

What has happened to our nation? We have forgotten that famous phrase from the Declaration of Independence: **“Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness...”** Forgetting that **life** is FIRST, *we have exercised our liberty to pursue happiness at the cost of the lives of 50 million innocent children!*

¹ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_casualties_of_war

Ten days ago the President of our nation said these words:
“Today we recognize the 37th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*, which affirms every woman’s fundamental constitutional right to choose whether to have an abortion... I have, and continue to, support these constitutional rights.... Today and every day, we must strive to ensure that all women have limitless opportunities to fulfill their dreams.”² *Even if the dream includes murdering their children!*

We AS A NATION have become so *sinful* and so *selfish*; nevertheless, *the Almighty God continues to shower us with His mercy!* **Even today, GOD is still in the business of giving life and GOD still has a plan for every life He gives!**

1. **God Gives Life:** David prayed: “...you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.” (Psalm 139:13 NIV) **GOD GIVES LIFE!** Here are some stunning examples; *we give GOD all the glory:*
 - a. When Abraham was 100 years old, Sarah was 90 years old, and her womb was dead, *GOD blessed them with* → **Isaac** (Genesis 17:17; Romans 4:19)!
 - b. “When the LORD saw that Leah was not loved, he opened her womb...” → **Reuben** (Genesis 29:31 NIV)
 - c. “God remembered Rachel; he listened to her and opened her womb.” → **Joseph** (Genesis 30:22 NIV)
 - d. “Hannah... the LORD had closed her womb.” But He opened it and blessed her with → **Samuel** (1 Sam. 1:5 NIV)
 - e. The angel said to Zechariah: “Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name → **John** [the Baptizer].” (Luke 1:13 NIV)

- f. Gabriel said to Mary, *a virgin*: “...you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name Him → **Jesus.**” (Luke 1:31 NAS)

In every case becoming pregnant seemed impossible, *but GOD gave the gift of life!* Even when heaven seems out of reach, *GOD can give the gift of spiritual life in Christ!*

2. **God’s Gift of Life and Plans for Jeremiah:**

- a. A person’s life is known by God, even before conception – The Lord said to Jeremiah: ⁵ “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you...” David prayed: “Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book they were all written, The days that were ordained *for me*, When as yet there was not one of them.” (Psalm 139:16 NAS – *adapted*)
- b. God had definite plans for Jeremiah – The Lord set him apart and appointed him to be a prophet – *even before he was born!* Then, *when Jeremiah was young*, the Lord said to him: ⁷ ...You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. ⁸ Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you...” ¹⁰ ...I appoint you over nations and kingdoms to uproot and tear down, to destroy and overthrow, to build and to plant.” God’s plans were **HIGH** and Jeremiah’s expectations of himself were **low**; nevertheless, **GOD granted success!**

3. **God Has a Plan:** Because of sin God allowed many from the southern kingdom of Judah to be taken captive to Babylon; HOWEVER, He was not done with them, *the Savior had not yet come!* So the Lord encouraged the

² <http://www.hvpress.net/news/126/ARTICLE/8669/2010-01-27.html>