



# Life Matters

Discussing life matters,  
because life matters

September 2015

Editor: Jim Burke

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to Grow

We welcome newcomers  
to our meetings and  
events

## Ramping Up Quickly!

September marks the beginning of 40 Days for Life. But it also leads into October, which is Respect Life month. Respect Life month has numerous activities. A listing of those activities appears on the next page. We face some challenges when comparing this 40 Days for Life to many in the past. But it can offer us new opportunities.

We also have billboards popping up around town. We have plans for bigger things in the months ahead. Each of us will have an opportunity to get our voices heard more clearly.

Some lawmakers have watched the videos from the Center for Medical Progress. Other lawmakers continue to avoid watching the videos.

We see so many opportunities to make progress. Larger things than we've ever done are coming your way! We could use your help!

- Coalition for Life of Iowa Board

# Upcoming Events

**WED**  
**Sep 23**

**SUN**  
**Nov 1**

7 a.m. – 7 p.m. daily

## 40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil

Join us in praying for an end to abortion!

**Where:** Sidewalk outside of Planned Parenthood  
3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA

**More info:** [http://lifeiowa.org/40\\_Days\\_for\\_Life.html](http://lifeiowa.org/40_Days_for_Life.html)

**Sun, Oct 4**

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

## National Life Chain

Join the National Life Chain in praying for an end to abortion!

**Where:** Sidewalk along 1<sup>st</sup> Ave near Planned Parenthood  
3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA

**More info:** <http://www.nationallifechain.org>

**Tue, Oct 13**

7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

## CFLI Board Meeting

Get involved in the decisions that guide our organization!

**Where:** St. Patrick's Common Grounds Coffee Shop  
120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA

**More info:** [coalitionforlife@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com)

**Sat, Oct 17**

8 a.m. Registration

## Bridgehaven's Walk for Life

Raise funds for Bridgehaven in their 4<sup>th</sup> annual walk for life!

**Where:** Noelridge Park, Cedar Rapids, IA

**More info:** <http://bridgehavencr.org/events/walk-for-life/>

**Sat, Oct 17**

10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

## Pro-Life Training

Iowa Right to Life invites you to learn from Scott Klusendorf!

**Where:** New Hope Assembly of God Church  
4425 70th Street, Urbandale, IA

**More info:** <http://www.iowartl.org>

**Fri, Oct 23**

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

## Going Natural: A Healthy Choice

Learn about Natural Family Planning! (not the rhythm method)

**Where:** St. Wenceslaus Church, 623 Fairchild St, Iowa City, IA

**More info:** [http://lifeiowa.org/Natural\\_Plans.html](http://lifeiowa.org/Natural_Plans.html)

**Sat, Oct 24**

8:30 a.m. – 12:15p.m.

## God's Plan for Sexuality and Marriage

Get an introduction to Theology of the Body! Open to everyone.

**Where:** St. Wenceslaus Church, 623 Fairchild St, Iowa City, IA

**More info:** [http://lifeiowa.org/Natural\\_Plans.html](http://lifeiowa.org/Natural_Plans.html)

**Tue, Oct 27**

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

## CFLI Working Meeting

Get involved in planning the activities for our organization!

**Where:** St. Patrick's Common Grounds Coffee Shop  
120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA

**More info:** [coalitionforlife@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com)



## 40 Days for Life

September marks the beginning of 40 Days for Life each fall. Construction creates a new challenge for us this time.

The sidewalk along 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue will be closed some of the time. This reduces our visibility along a very busy roadway. One block of 35<sup>th</sup> Street Drive SE is now a gravel construction zone. Parking is not permitted in the construction zone. Traffic picks up the dust. Within the first days of the 40 days, the City of Cedar Rapids posted to Twitter

that the block Planned Parenthood is on will be closed for two months!

You may pray from home. You can join our vigil and tough it out. Some people may want to bring masks to filter out the particles in the air. Other people may be fine without extra items.

Always be aware of construction crews. They are working to move utilities in preparation for a larger road

construction effort that will occur within the year ahead.

40 Days for Life draws our community together in a prayer vigil outside of the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood. We pray and fast for 40 days for an end to abortion. Most people want fewer abortions. They may disagree on public policies to achieve those ends, but we can all pray for abortions to be a thing of the past.

## Billboards, Speaker Systems, and More!

We have had multiple donors approach us to put up pro-life billboards in Cedar Rapids. Look for them along 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue in October.

One donor also helped fund some of our new signs many of you saw at our 40 Days for Life Kick-off Rally. Other donors

helped fund the speaker system that we also used at the rally. These donations will help get the pro-life message out there, and the speakers will help everyone hear us more clearly at future events.

We listened to your feedback about not being able to hear us

in noisy conditions at some of our events. We also want to reach the community in bigger ways.

It's our hope that we will reach the community in even bigger ways in the months ahead. We thank our donors for their generosity!



## Government Update

### **Iowa PPH Funding**

Several people have contacted Governor Branstad to ask him to end contracts with Planned Parenthood of the Heartland. People are also contacting their representatives and senators to achieve the same result. We will watch what happens in the months ahead. It's important to convey your thoughts on such matters to your lawmakers.

### **Nebraska's Death Penalty**

Nebraska may vote on the death penalty on next year's ballot. Nebraska's legislature overrode the veto of their governor in May on a bill that eliminated the death penalty in Nebraska. Overriding the veto abolished the death penalty. But pro-death penalty activists circulated a petition that would place the issue on the ballot of next year's elections. If passed, the legislature would need a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> vote to override voters.

### **Federal Actions**

HR7 (**No Taxpayer Funding for Abortions Act**) still sits, waiting for the Senate to act.

HR36 (**Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act**) was brought up in the Senate, but it was blocked by a cloture vote that fell mostly on party lines. The cloture vote required 60 votes in favor of proceeding with the bill, but it failed with 54 in favor, 42 opposed, and 4 not voting. The results appear at:

[http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll\\_call\\_lists/roll\\_call\\_vote\\_cfm.cfm?congress=114&session=1&vote=00268](http://www.senate.gov/legislative/LIS/roll_call_lists/roll_call_vote_cfm.cfm?congress=114&session=1&vote=00268)

The House of Representatives began hearings about Planned Parenthood and fetal organ/tissue trafficking. The first hearing included survivors of abortion. Their testimony was good, but was not specific to the contents of the videos.

Other people who testified were not directly involved with creating the videos, but provided general information for each side of the matter.

As usual, people on opposing sides of the abortion issue made claims that the others disagreed with. One side focused on what was bad about abortion in general. The other side focused on whether the videos were obtained legally, and they tried to dismiss the claims made. They repeatedly used the phrase, "heavily edited," and they suggested that there was nothing bad in the videos they didn't watch. It was hard to take people seriously who failed to watch the videos.

Future hearings will need to focus on the matter at hand in order to satisfy the purpose of the hearings. Without focusing more on the things that led up to the hearings, it will be much harder to change minds on the matter.



## God's Natural Plan

There are some upcoming conferences on Life, Marriage and Family. Here are the details!

### **"Going Natural - A Healthy Choice" Conference**

This conference is on Friday, October 23 at St. Wenceslaus Church, Iowa City. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and the conference runs from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. This conference will present a scientific analysis of sex, fertility, and relationships. Speakers include Vicki Thorn, M.S., Jamie Rathjen, M.A., Monica Minjeur, D.O., Robert Pranger, M.D. and Fr. Ray Atwood.

Everyone is welcome! CEUs are offered for medical

professionals. The cost is \$50 for the conference, materials, lunch and CEU credits. The cost is \$30 for students. Financial scholarships are available.

Registration deadline: October 9. Please contact Sheryl Schwager at (319) 855-8475,

[director@jcrtl.org](mailto:director@jcrtl.org) or visit [www.jcrtl.org](http://www.jcrtl.org) for more information.

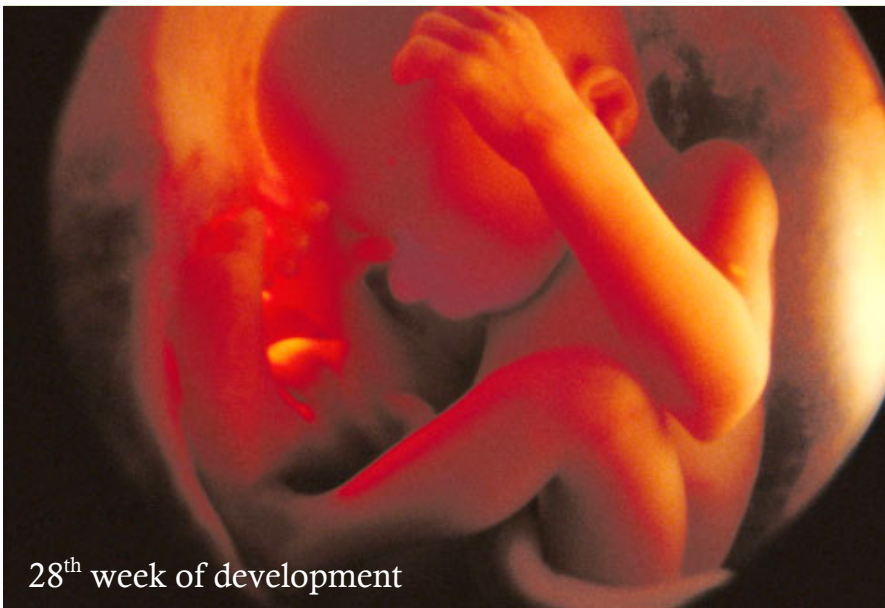
### **"An Invitation to Love - God's Plan for Sexuality and Marriage"**

This conference is on Saturday morning, October 24 at St. Wenceslaus Church, Iowa City. Continental Breakfast and registration begin at 7:45 a.m. and conference runs from 8:30 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. Topics

include an Introduction to Theology of the Body, "What They Didn't Tell You in Sex Ed," Catholic Response to Sexual Chaos in Our Culture, and NFP personal testimony. Speakers include Vicki Thorn, M.S. and Fr. Jerry Kopacek.

Everyone is welcome! Freewill donations accepted. RSVP by Oct. 16. Please contact Sheryl Schwager at (319) 855-8475, [director@jcrtl.org](mailto:director@jcrtl.org) or visit [www.jcrtl.org](http://www.jcrtl.org) for more information.

Conferences sponsored by: Johnson County Right to Life, Dubuque County Right to Life, Coalition for Life of Iowa, and the Knights of Columbus.



28<sup>th</sup> week of development

## Stages of Life: Weeks 25 - 28



Author: Dr. Monica Minjeur

This month marks a major milestone in terms of what many medical professionals consider “viability”. If a baby were to be born prematurely at this point, baby’s lungs may be mature enough to survive, although they would likely still need a great deal of medical support. Baby is putting on lots of extra layers of fat this month in preparation for birth and on average, weighs in at a little over 2 pounds and 15 inches in length.

Hair continues to develop and becomes a characteristic color and texture that is unique, although it may change after birth. Nerve pathways in the ears are developing and baby can even respond to sounds more consistently from outside of the womb.

Eyelashes form during this month and the eyes can open and close. A curious baby can even rotate its head in response to a continuous bright light

from outside the womb, looking for the source of light!

Billions of neurons are developing in the brain, which are responsible for basic functions as well as movements of the smallest muscles. Baby may even start to suck their fingers and many mothers notice the baby has hiccups occurring more frequently. In fact, many babies have a regular sleep and wake cycle that mothers notice as periods of increased movement.

## Pro-Life Challenge



### Join 40 Days for Life

Come out to pray at  
our 40 Days for Life  
prayer vigil!



### Invite Others to 40 Days for Life

Invite your friends and family to join you in participating in 40 Days for Life. Personal invitations are the most effective. If we don't ask others to participate, then our message goes silent.



## The Tree Continues to Grow

By Marty Lammers

We all learned when weeding our garden that the root must be removed or the plant will simply grow back bigger and more vibrantly.

I must ask if the same isn't true with respect to the life issue.

The undercover videos recently released by the Center for Medical Progress (CMP) have exposed one rotten fruit of the abortion industry callously harvesting organs from recently aborted human fetuses for profit.

The harvesting has brought the abortion issue to the fore. Very telling is the amount of hatred toward those who have exposed this situation. The root of this plant, the real source of this issue is contraception.

From the Planned Parenthood v. Casey 1992 SCOTUS decision - "people ... have organized intimate relationships and made choices ... in reliance on the availability of abortion in the event that contraception should fail."

Planned Parenthood's Guttmacher Institute confirmed that 95% of abortions are abortions of convenience as most women who have abortions were using contraception when they became pregnant.

Our nation's highest court has endorsed the separation of sex from procreation. Is it any wonder that the court has moved further down this path and legitimized same-sex "marriage."

Is it not time to identify the real cause of the problem?

**CFLI Board**

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## Spread the Word!

Do you know other pro-life people who might like to subscribe to this newsletter?

- Tell them about it
- Forward a copy to them
- Print a copy to hand to friends

Do you have ideas you want discussed in future issues? Contact us with your suggestion. We may consider including your article if you prefer to write your own.

Did you spot some issues with this newsletter that really bug you? Then perhaps you'd like to help edit it. Contact us to see how you can help.

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**Remember, Life Matters!**

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Coalition for Life of Iowa

P.O. Box 864  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406