



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

December 2015

Editor: Jim Burke

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**We welcome newcomers
to our meetings and
events**

End of Another Year!

It's been a wonderful year!

We have followed the development of a child from March through December to track the development of Jesus in the womb. This is the month brings about the transition from prenatal development to life outside the womb! We're grateful for the monthly updates from a doctor.

Our bus to the Midwest March for Life offers a chance to attend an event within Iowa on a Saturday. We would love to see a large number of pro-lifers from our area make it!

If you would like to make a year-end donation to our organization, you may send a check or contact us. It's tax-deductible, and it's a good time to give.

During the holidays, remember to spend time with family.

- Coalition for Life of Iowa Board

Upcoming Events

Tue, Jan 12

7 p.m. – 8:30 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

Sat, Jan 16

7 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Midwest March for Life

Bring the pro-life message to our state capitol this January!

Where: State Capitol Building; bus leaves from Cedar Rapids, IA
Sign Up: <http://goo.gl/forms/SLnfVXz1rY>

More info: <http://www.iowartl.org/midwest-march-for-life/>

Sun, Jan 17

2 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Cedar Rapids March for Life

Bring the pro-life message to Cedar Rapids this January!

Where: St. Matthew's Church to Planned Parenthood and back
2310 First Ave NE to 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA

More info: http://lifeiowa.org/March_for_Life.html

Jan 20 – Jan 24

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

National March for Life

Bring the pro-life message to our nation's capitol this January!

Where: National Mall; bus leaves from Cedar Rapids, IA
Details coming soon

More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

Tue, Jan 26

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

Wed, Feb 10

7 a.m. – 7 p.m. daily

40 Days for Life Starts

Join us in prayer!

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

More info: http://lifeiowa.org/40_Days_for_Life.html

Don't miss out!

Reserve your place on the Midwest March for Life bus!

Registrations are accepted until the bus is full.

<http://goo.gl/forms/SLnfVXz1rY>



Year in Review: 2015

for Medical Progress

This was a rather energizing year in the pro-life movement! Videos that revealed the actions of Planned Parenthood drew attention to the things they do. Public opinion now favors defunding them for the first time.

The videos brought people together to rally for the pro-life cause. We organized a bus to a rally in Des Moines on very short notice. We had such great turnout that we plan to organize bus rides to more events in the future. The Midwest March for Life in Des Moines is an example of an upcoming bus trip. We helped point people to the bus to our nation's capitol for the National March for Life in January.

We offered training to help our members argue the pro-life message effectively. We continued our local 40 Days for Life efforts that take place twice each year. This is our largest activity each year. We continued

our prayer flash mobs. These bring an element of surprise, while maintaining a peaceful, prayerful presence.

Our newsletter followed the progression of human development in the womb. We coordinated the development with the timing Jesus would have had. So often, we see the entire sequence at one time, or it's hidden from view.

We promoted the pro-life message with pro-life billboards in a few parts of town this year. We may consider more in the future.

We helped co-sponsor an event that informed local medical professionals of some of the significant advancements in ethical reproductive healthcare. The event had some protesters. They didn't like how pro-lifers pray outside of Planned Parenthood and the Emma

Goldman Abortion facility, so they protested this event.

People at the event invited the protesters in to learn just how much better women's reproductive health could be. But they refused and continued to protest in complete ignorance. While we oppose the killing of children, and we seek better reproductive health, they support abortion and don't want medical professionals to learn how to treat the underlying medical problems women face. We are planning another event in the year ahead.

Organizations like Planned Parenthood try to perpetuate a public perception that pro-lifers oppose women and women's reproductive health. But we do the opposite, while their supporters oppose such things. The year ahead looks wonderful. Get ready!



Government Update

Iowa

Other states often provide a hint of things to come to other states. Many states don't learn from the mistakes of others, and they merely pass similar laws. The 2016 session could see bills to legalize assisted suicide, force pregnancy resource centers to refer women to abortion providers, or cut funding to Planned Parenthood.

We should strive to protect the right to life. We should value the dignity of human life at all stages, rather than deny dignity by intentionally ending it. It is not good to send mixed messages, where the lives of suicidal teens are valued, but not the lives of people at most other stages of life. Life is not ours to take.

We will watch what happens in the months ahead. It's important to convey your thoughts on such matters to your lawmakers.

Federal Actions

The Supreme Court will hear a challenge of a Texas abortion law that requires abortion doctors to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals, and for abortion clinics to meet the standards of ambulatory surgical centers. Probably a best-case scenario would be the Supreme Court allowing states to put common sense regulations of abortion procedures in place.

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

The Senate voted to cut funding from Planned Parenthood. The President promised to veto such bills, and the House passed a budget that funded Planned Parenthood.

National March for Life

Some of our members will attend the National March for Life in January. The official time for registrations is over. If anyone wants to go who didn't sign up yet, you will need to contact Iowans for Life directly to find out if there are any openings. We can't wait for this year's trip! This is the largest annual pro-life event in our nation.

Midwest March for Life

We will also have a bus to the Midwest March for Life in Des Moines on January 16th. The cost is only \$25 per person, which is hard to beat. You may register without payment, but payment reserves your place on the bus. Let us drive to and from our state's capitol!

<http://goo.gl/forms/SLnfVXz1rY>



Pro-Life Violence?

A man shot people at a Planned Parenthood facility in Colorado Springs. The media was quick to consider it anti-abortion violence. They mentioned Planned Parenthood in every news report, while a shooting in California rarely mentioned the location. Media bias was obvious once again. A man died from the attack in Colorado, but he was pro-life.

The gunman was not part of any pro-life group. Had he been part of a pro-life group, he probably would have been exposed to peaceful approaches to cause change. It does lead us to consider how best to approach the abortion issue.

Abortion opponents caused violence in the 1990's, and it

pushed away support for the cause. People don't want to engage in violence or illegal behavior. But they also don't like hypocrites. How can we oppose killing, yet kill?

An interesting consideration involves the way we react to a situation where we can prevent a death without serious consequence to ourselves. It's hard to stand by while someone else is killed. I knew someone who tried to take more direct action, although non-violent. He ended up with a restraining order that made his future pro-life activities much more difficult.

Let us consider the moral perspective. A person who attempts to kill and is stopped by force still has sin on their soul.

We might prevent one death, but our actions could make it harder to protect the lives of other children.

We should seek to save lives and souls. We have confirmed more than 10,000 lives saved and hearts changed through peaceful efforts. If we maintain a consistent message that affirms life, it draws in others. This saves more lives long-term, but it also converts minds and hearts. We need to convert more minds in order to more effectively battle other threats to life. Abortion is just one of many life issues. Protecting life much later in life is harder without the right mindsets.

Protect life consistently, legally, and without violence.



Stages of Life: Weeks 37 - 40

Author: Dr. Monica Minjeur

In the weeks leading up to birth, the organs are fully developed and baby has a full head of hair. Baby's fine hairs over its body are fading and the white layer known as vernix caseosa is also being shed into the amniotic fluid. Fingernails now extend beyond the fingertips as final protection.

Week 37 is considered "full term" and the heart is pumping approximately 300 gallons of blood per day. By now, there have been more than 50 million heart beats, the start of many more to come.

By week 38, baby has developed the ability to have a firm grasp as well as search for its thumb and suck it. The chest becomes more prominent and the placenta continues supplying baby with antibodies that will be crucial to facing the outside world after birth.

Most mothers will begin labor spontaneously and some may notice their water break, but not all. Some women just start to notice contractions, lower abdominal or back pain. On average, first time mothers will have anywhere from 3-36 hours of labor from the start of contractions until

they are holding their baby. Subsequent pregnancies typically have a shorter duration of labor, averaging anywhere from 1-12 hours.

The time we have all been waiting for... time to meet baby face to face! Average weight of babies at birth is 6-9 pounds and average height from heel to top of the head is around 18-21 inches. After birth, babies are typically dried off a bit and then handed to mother to hold, nurse and snuggle. Most babies will begin nursing within the first hour of life, taking in the valuable colostrum that contains many antibodies and nutrients.

Pro-Life Challenge



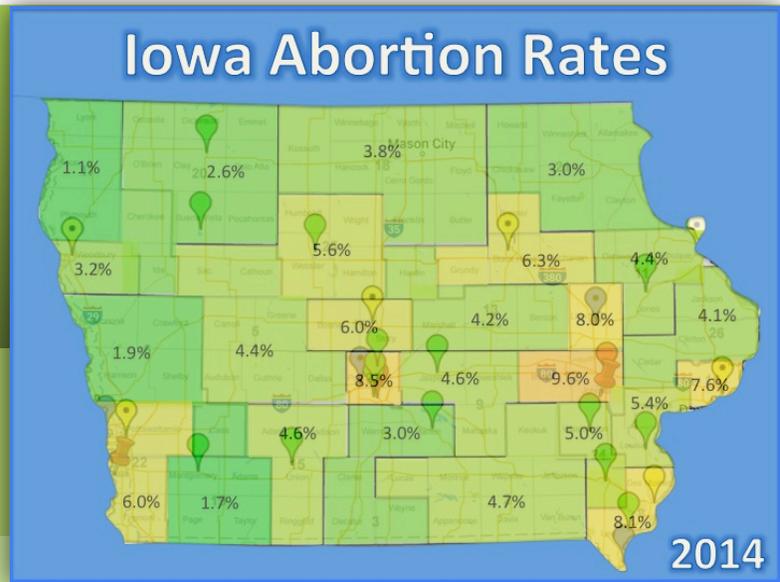
Support Us!

We could use your time, talents and financial donations to achieve more great accomplishments in the year ahead!



Spend Time with Family!

Spend time with family during the holidays. Help others who might not have family of their own. Seek to heal broken relationships. Love life!



Iowa Abortion Statistics

The number of abortions in Iowa dropped by more than 9% from the 2013 to 2014. The numbers dropped by more than 40% since 2008!

But that's nothing when compared to the abortion rate! The abortion rate in Iowa dropped by more than 22% from 2013 to 2014! That's at least 1 out of 5 abortions fewer in a single year! The abortion rate dropped by more than 47% since 2008. That's nearly half!

Linn County saw more significant decreases in prior years when compared against the state statistics. Natural variation often leads to the numbers increasing and decreasing in alternating years. Abortions performed on women who live in Linn County increased by 23 in 2014. The abortion rate increased by 0.5%, bumping it from 7.5% up to 8%.

The downward trend is still evident in Linn County. The abortion rates dropped significantly in the Northwest part of the state, but increased in the Southwest part of the state.

Sioux City stopped performing surgical abortions in 2014, thus cutting the abortion rate in half! But Planned Parenthood was busy in the Council Bluffs and Omaha area. Planned Parenthood likes to promote providing access to women seeking abortion, but it is they who gain access to women.

We love seeing the numbers and rates drop. But we also grow concerned about the likelihood that some of the decrease results from so-called emergency contraception or other abortifacient methods of preventing live births that the state does not track.

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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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Coalition for Life of Iowa

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