



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

December 2019

Editor: Jim Burke

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We welcome newcomers to our meetings and events

Donate Here

Year's End

We have Unplanned movie DVDs available for \$20 for anyone who wants one. We can also arrange to show the movie at your church or for other groups. Just contact us if you're interested. We have a few coming up in January, with a good chance of one that isn't listed on page 2 yet.

We still have one board position open if anyone is interested in serving to help guide the local pro-life movement.

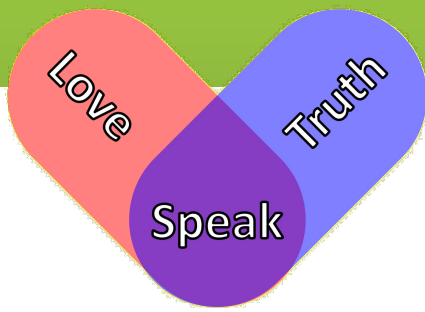
This has been an amazing year! We are getting plans in place to make 2020 even more amazing than this year. We could always use some help. Please take some time to pray for what we do, that we get the help we need and reach the people we need to reach.

Many of you knew Dr. Marty Roach, who recently died. He supported us, prayed with us for many years, and attended many of our events. We will miss him.

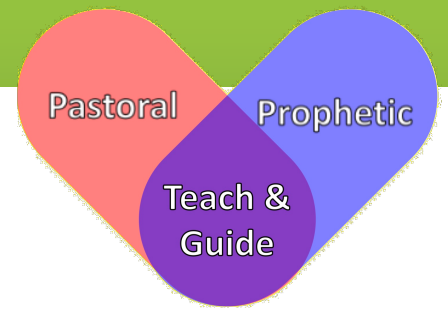
- Coalition for Life of Iowa's Board of Directors

Upcoming Events

<p>Second Tuesdays 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p> <p>Fourth Tuesdays 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>CFLI Board Meetings (2nd Tuesdays) & CFLI Working Meetings (4th Tuesdays) Get involved in our organization! Where: St. Patrick's Celtic Grounds Coffee Shop 120 5th St NW, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com</p>
<p>~ 2020 ~</p>	
<p>Sun, Jan 12 2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Luana Stoltenberg in Mount Vernon Listen to Luana's abortion story before going to the March for Life events! Where: St. John the Baptist Church 212 - 7th St SE, Mount Vernon, IA More info: https://stjohnmv.dbqarch.org/</p>
<p>Sat, Jan 18 Starting at 2 p.m.</p>	<p>“Unplanned” Showing at St. Pius X Parish Come and invite friends to see what really happens in the abortion industry! Where: St. Pius X Parish Hall 4949 Council St NE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: See church bulletin <u>Due to mature content, no one under 18 will be admitted</u></p>
<p>Sun, Jan 19 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. (plus other activities)</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Wed, Jan 22 6 p.m. doors open 6:15 p.m. movie start</p>	<p>“Unplanned” Showing in St. Joseph Parish Come and invite friends to see what really happens in the abortion industry! Where: St. Joseph Church 1790 14th Street, Marion, IA More info: TICKET required, so see church website or bulletin for details</p>



Speak the Truth in Love



There are people who present truth in very blunt ways, even with people they don't know. That rarely works well. It comes across as being unloving, hateful, or confrontational in such a way that just leads to opposition at all costs. Sometimes truth is equated to love, since God is love and God is truth. One might also reason that it's not loving to allow people to live lies or believing untrue things. But if there wasn't a way to convey truth in unloving ways, the Bible would have ended the phrase by saying to "speak truth" without further clarification.

Likewise, there are people who sacrifice truth in order to come across as friendly or loving. In doing so, they may keep people in the dark about the truth, which tends to hurt more long-term.

Imagine if someone flat out told you that your most strongly held religious beliefs were wrong. If they just made the claim with no argument to back it up, you'd probably just figure they don't know what they're talking about. If they followed up with argument, then most people would probably be thinking of the best counter-argument to defend

their existing beliefs. They'd be on defense, and not readily taking in the truth. Yet, if your religious beliefs were wrong and someone affirmed you in them because they didn't want to upset you, but they knew better, then that person isn't doing you any favors.

In the religious realm, we see a similar set of dimensions. Some people use a more prophetic approach, which focuses on revealing the truth of God. Others focus more upon a pastoral approach. This guides people in some way. In the early Church, these were very united, since one needs to guide people to truth, and thus operate at the junction of the two.

If we look at the prophets in the Bible, so many of them were rejected by the people they wanted to help, and thus the message was rejected. We've seen people who don't spend enough time learning what is true and so much time interacting with people, and with all of us being imperfect, it's easy to lose sight of the prophetic.

We often categorize these as being left versus right, liberal versus conservative, love versus

truth, or pastoral versus prophetic. Many people create a false dichotomy, treating them as if they are opposites. But we unleash the most power when we communicate in a way that's immersed fully in both. Thus, we don't have to give up either good. Being a moderate or centrist is not necessarily meaningful when we recognize these are not on the same plane. One could be equally lacking of both to become centrist. Let us be fully immersed in both love and truth!

The pro-life apologetics course many of our members signed up for has done a great deal to improve my ability to communicate with other people, even with other pro-lifers.

Finding common ground is one key component. It makes it clear you aren't going against all they care about. When people hear about common ground in matters of abortion, they assume there can't be any common ground. But imagine someone raises the exception in cases of rape. They often do so, knowing rape is one of the worst things they know of, and the consequences are very serious. When we think we can't have any common ground, it can



Government Update

Federal Government

[H.R. 962](#) is the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. There are still attempts to petition it out of committee, where it will otherwise die.

2020 Vision

This past year should give us great foresight to prepare us for 2020. Iowa courts have struck down laws that would have protected life. Many states passed laws to strip virtually all protections for life before birth. Illinois was perhaps the most dramatic and affects border communities. The new Planned Parenthood in Illinois near St. Louis has [already killed a woman](#) after just one week in operation.

Some lawmakers are so dead-set on making abortion accessible that they authorized non-doctors to perform abortions. They will allow abortions up to birth. It's not clear that any protections of life exist for unborn human beings.

The U.S. Supreme Court has

troubled many abortion advocates. We saw the ruthless actions that broke out last year. We've also heard people talk about greatly increasing the number of justices on the Supreme Court to ensure the majority of justices provide unwavering support of the abortion industry. They fear that they have lost that majority, although it hasn't been tested very well.

Because presidents nominate justices, this will bring about a fierce set of campaigns for the presidency. The next president will likely nominate another justice or two. That could either bring a more certain pro-life majority or return the court to having a majority that believes abortion is a right under the constitution that should override the rights actually enumerated explicitly in the document.

The U.S. Senate confirms judicial appointments. The current state of the Senate has granted an astonishing number of judicial appointments throughout the federal courts. These appointments

have led to many judges who defend the right to life. There are ways this can be undone, but those methods may be considered a bit extreme. The Senate used to keep pro-life legislation from passing when the U.S. House had a pro-life majority. But for the last few years, the roles were reversed. We need to maintain a pro-life majority in the Senate.

The U.S. House has blocked voting on reasonable measures to protect human life even after birth! This is an area of grave concern, and we should try to support pro-life candidates any way we can.

Caucuses

We are a little more than a month away from the Iowa caucus, but it's good to plan ahead. The caucus is on Monday, February 3, 2020. A caucus is where each political party takes in party platform planks from caucus-goers and a presidential preference poll also takes place.



It's not too late. There is hope.

Abortion Pill Rescue saves lives!



24/7 Helpline 1-877-558-0333 | AbortionPillReversal.com

Abortion Pill Reversal Risks

A small study on the abortion pill reversal protocol led to conflicting descriptions of what the study concludes. Abortion advocates point to some negative medical circumstances that resulted. Pro-lifers read the data correctly and see that the protocol appears to provide what it claims to provide.

How can this be? Well, the abortion advocates aren't following the normal analysis methods used when following the scientific method or making conclusions from such results.

There's a reason that reputable studies use control groups. It's possible to have a drug that doesn't work 100% of the time, but still works most of the time, or there could be a drug that doesn't eliminate 100% of the side effects of the condition being treated. Think of all the times we've seen ads for anti-depressants that mention that some of the users of

the drug experienced suicidal thoughts. If the anti-depressant caused more of those thoughts than the control group, then that's not a good thing, since it looks like such a drug causes it. But if the control group has more of those thoughts, then the drug might reduce that effect of the condition being treated.

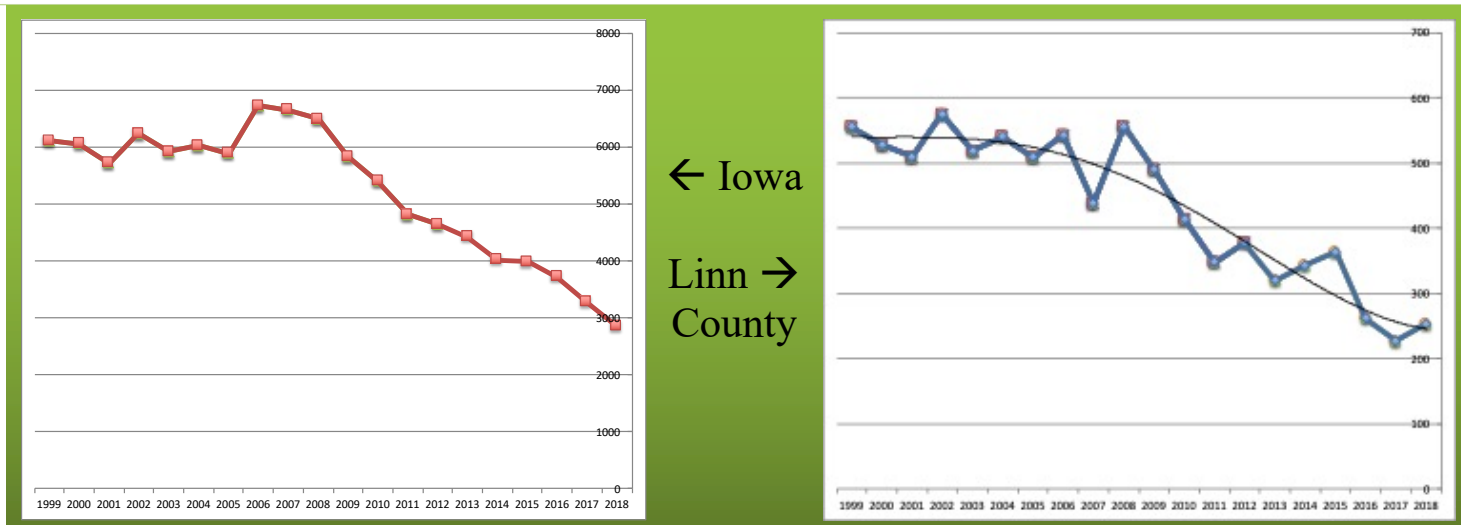
When the reversal protocol was compared to the placebo control group, it revealed that the drug did lots of good. But some patients had hemorrhaging.

That's a common side effect of the abortion pill itself, which was more popularly made known in the *Unplanned* film. The hemorrhaging cases were much fewer in number for women who took the pills to reverse the abortions. But abortion advocates make it sound like the side effects of the abortion pill they advocate for is an unacceptable

side effect of the protocol that greatly reduced the incidence of the side effects, all while saving the lives of children.

Pro-lifers are often accused of being anti-science. But those opposed to our views often have to go against science in order to make good things look bad. Admittedly, the study only included a few women. Future studies should strive for larger numbers of participants. But this study shows some good promise as a small study.

Regardless of what side of an issue people find themselves, they really need to treat data honestly. If the study had shown that this protocol didn't work, then pro-lifers would want to seek something that DID work. But when it DOES work, then abortion advocates just discredit themselves by using abortion's side effects against this protocol.



Iowa Abortions in 2018

Earlier in the year, the State of Iowa provided a preview of the total number of induced abortions in Iowa, and it lined up with the relatively linear drop in abortion numbers we have seen for several years. Some people question what leads to the continued drops, since abortion advocates and abortion opponents both made significant changes in the year that started the downward trend in numbers. But the complete data from 2018 contains an unusual change in the data that should cause people to ask some questions about what really happened in 2018.

We normally look at the number of surgical abortions plus the number of medical (often webcam) abortions to yield the number of induced abortions. The state also collects the number of spontaneous abortions, more commonly referred to as miscarriages. The number of miscarriages in Iowa each year usually amounts to a little more than 400. The 2018 report indicates

that the number jumped up into the 1,400 range.

With the continued drop in the number of induced abortions, but a sudden spike in the number of miscarriages, it led us to wonder what was really happening. After reaching out to the state, we've heard there was a change in how things get reported that first appears in the 2018 report. We still await a response from them to understand what the difference is.

The Heartbeat Law was signed into law in 2018, but never enforced due to a legal challenge. Abortion pills can cause abortions in a way that resembles a miscarriage. Those pills are available illegally on the internet. There are also abortion advocates who make information available on the subject of self-induced abortions. The old slogan of "safe, legal, and rare" changed to "safe, legal, and accessible". But the "accessible" part is the goal they seek the most.

Could the miscarriages be the result of women inducing abortions on their own? Could abortion providers have tried to play it safe for a while by reporting abortions as miscarriages? Is this only a matter of modified reporting rules? Is there something else that led to this unusual anomaly in the numbers?

The data of interest appears in Table 56 that's just three pages from the end of the Vital Statistics report. Linn County is region 10. While the state's official numbers of induced abortions dropped, they may have increased if most of the miscarriages are really abortions. Linn County's numbers increased by 26.

See the 2018 report for yourself.

http://idph.iowa.gov/Portals/1/use_rfiles/68/HealthStats/vital_stats_2018-20191216.pdf

Pro-Life Challenge



Prayers

Please pray for God to work in the lives people.

In particular:

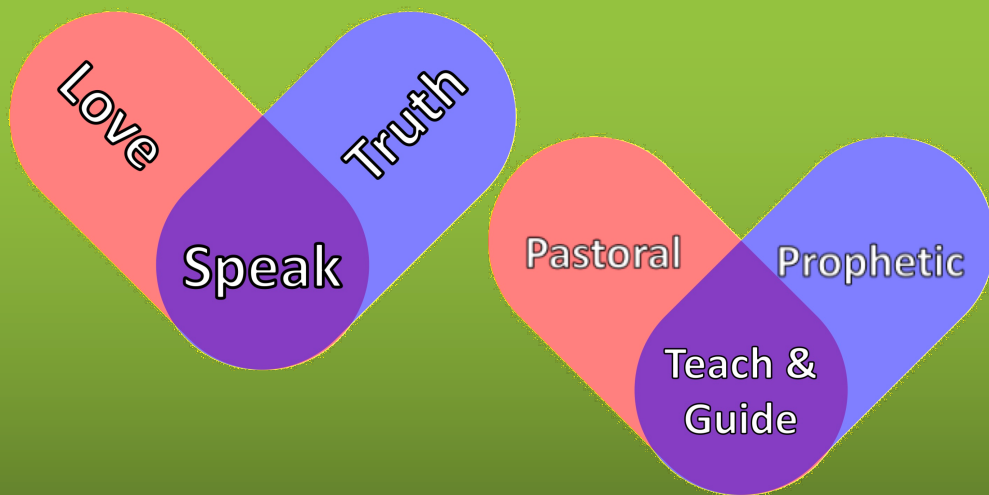
Jenifer (pro-lifer with health issues);
 Çantana (pro-lifer);
 St. Louis, MO PP;
 Cedar Rapids, IA PP;
 College pro-life groups

VOLUNTEER



Help Us!

Use your skills to help pro-life efforts, and invite friends and family to attend our events. Invite them to help us out. Many hands make for light work!



Truth & Love (continued)

come across as if we think nothing of rape. We BETTER have common ground in recognizing rape as a terrible thing. That’s just one example.

Sometimes people get distracted by picking on trivial errors. Many people misspeak or say something that can be taken the wrong way. It’s much more productive to give people the benefit of the doubt and to avoid criticizing typos or misstatements. The world of politics is full of cheap shots, where people point out every honest mistake possible, rather than focusing on the serious issues where we want to see some change and results.

Sometimes, if circumstances aren’t overly time-sensitive, one might reveal just a little truth, and incrementally introduce someone to more truth.

Even God rebuked offenders little by little. A few years ago, there was

an Exodus movie that had Moses and Aaron confronting Pharaoh once before the plagues began. I hated the exclusion of the daily ultimatums, because God gave Pharaoh a warning each day about what would follow if he didn’t change his mind, and Pharaoh refused to change until the end, and then turned back on his word.

It is hard to convince people (including ourselves) of what is right if hit with all of it at once. A few years ago, I came to realize there are people who quite seriously don’t care about being the most effective at changing people’s minds about abortion—they care only about truth with no consideration of how it will be taken. They speak the truth. But by not speaking in love, the message is lost on the recipient or even more earnestly opposed. Let us approach the new year with love and truth!

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