



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

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We welcome newcomers to
our meetings and events

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Building Momentum!

We've had many local churches showing the Unplanned film. We even found out about one just a few days before their event, and another we learned about just hours beforehand. We would love to help promote such events. So, if you know of a showing, please let us know! Dozens of people attend each showing.

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. The movie seems to wake up one church after another, with some viewers being converted on the issue. It's helping build momentum!

We still have one board position open if anyone is interested in serving to help guide the local pro-life movement. We also plan to greatly increase our activity level this year, so we could use help planning and putting on our events.

- Coalition for Life of Iowa's Board of Directors

Upcoming Events

Second Tuesdays
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Fourth Tuesdays
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**CFLI Board Meetings (2nd Tuesdays)
& CFLI Working Meetings (4th Tuesdays)**

Get involved in our organization!

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

More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

Sat, Feb 22
5 p.m. – 9 p.m.

31th Annual Birthright Celebration

Come to the Knights of Columbus’s annual benefit for Birthright! (\$8)

Where: Knights of Columbus Hall
5650 Kacena Ave, Marion, IA

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

Feb 26 – Apr 5
1-hour time slots
24 hours/day

40 Days for Life Prayer Vigil

Join us in praying for an end to abortion in a peaceful prayer vigil!

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

More info: <https://40daysforlife.com/local-campaigns/cedar-rapids/>

June – July
Thursdays

Pro-Life Apologetics Class!

This is an early notice of our pro-life apologetics class where we will step through the Equal Rights Institute’s Equipped for Life class! It’s an amazing course that many of our members already have access to online. We recognize the added benefit of watching the course together, discussing what we learned, and a chance to practice what we’ve learned. We will have sign-ups in the coming months, but space is limited, due to the size of the room we reserved. So keep an eye open for the registration invite!

Roe vs. Wade

The majority of Americans support keeping Roe vs. Wade's legal precedent. But a majority of Americans have supported restrictions on abortion that would go against Roe vs. Wade and Doe vs. Bolton. This is because most people don't know much about Roe vs. Wade.

In the years before the Roe vs. Wade case, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on cases that read into the U.S. Constitution a right to privacy. They reasoned that other enumerated rights couldn't be realized without privacy. Rather than recommend that Congress push for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the justices functioned off their own precedent.

When Roe vs. Wade came along, abortion was legalized because the justices ruled that laws restricting abortion were unconstitutional. The foundation of that ruling was the penumbra of the right to privacy that unleashed a right to abortion. They pointed to the 14th Amendment as justification.

The 14th Amendment contains an equal protection clause. When abortion is treated as healthcare and one applies equal protection, then it helps them justify abortion. This is one of the concerns with the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) that some people are also trying to ratify many decades after the deadline expired.

The 14th Amendment has a more prominent protection for people earlier in that sentence. The Constitution says a state shall not "deprive any person life". It continues the list as "life, liberty, and property". But one cannot have the other two without life itself. That makes it a more fundamental right. After this list is where the equal protection clause applies to the depriving of people these rights.

Finding some "right to abortion" in the 14th Amendment also requires us to ignore the context of the ratification of the amendment. Ohio lawmakers voted to ratify the amendment in January of 1867. The same legislators that ratified it

passed laws against abortion that year. If they opposed abortion and believed the 14th Amendment created a right to abortion, they wouldn't have ratified it. There's a conflict here.

Oh, and oddly enough, the Ohio state election later that year resulted in a shift in party power. The party that took control voted to rescind the ratification, which was not reinstated until 2003. The same party presently supports abortion in their national party platform. So there's another conflict when they rejected the equal protections intended for all people, and particularly slaves and minorities, and then depend on that amendment to justify legalized abortion.

People on both sides of the issue consider Roe as having been poorly decided. "Jane Roe" was the name given to Norma McCorvey to provide what else but privacy. She became pro-life a few decades ago and advocated against abortion until her death.



Government Update

Iowa Caucuses

We are days away from the Iowa caucus, and 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.

You may propose party planks for whatever party you are registered. We encourage people to participate in this process by proposing pro-life planks. You may include other planks, too.

In addition to these activities, one can also sign up to join the platform committee, which is where the party platform gets worked out. If pro-lifers are not involved at that stage of the process, conflicting planks could lead to pro-life planks being dropped in favor of the others.

Each role you can take on offers some value. The more you engage the process, the more good you can bring to the process.

Iowa Amendment

The Iowa legislature is trying to pass the Life Amendment. It states, **“We the people of Iowa declare: Nothing in the Constitution shall be construed to recognize, grant, or secure a right to abortion or require the public funding of it.”**

Many people misunderstand what it intends to do and the media doesn't help. The subject of the amendment is the constitution itself in an effort to clarify that the so-called “right to abortion” that is not enumerated in its texts is not to be viewed as a part of the constitution. When a state supreme court justice struck down the heartbeat law, he effectively did it by declaring that it violated the right to abortion.

When KCRG reported on the subject, they said:

“A proposed amendment to stop abortions in Iowa has cleared its first legislative hurdle. The amendment passed through

committee earlier today. The resolution would change the state constitution to say that Iowans do not have the right to an abortion. A constitutional amendment must pass this year, in a separately-elected legislature and then win approval of voters in a statewide election.”

Note that they claimed the amendment is aimed to stop abortions, as if it intended to do it directly. And when coupled with making the subject “Iowans” rather than the constitution, it makes it sound like it strips Iowans of a right, which could stop abortions upon passage.

This would only go into effect if the legislature passes this, and if passed again after this year's election when a new legislative body takes office, and IF Iowans are accurately informed about the implications so they might vote in favor of it once on a ballot. If enacted, it would just clarify the constitution for activist judges.



Responding to Adversity

We occasionally encounter fellow pro-lifers who find themselves opposed or challenged. Even in churches that officially recognize the dignity of human life from conception onward, there are often people who are in positions that prevent the pro-life ministries from achieving what they could otherwise accomplish. It seems like most pro-lifers encounter this.

But how do we respond to adversity? When I moved here many years ago, I sought out pro-life groups and couldn't find any. It looked like the one I tried to contact had just ceased to exist. I saw a group existed at the church I attend. But I never saw any announcements of meeting times. I knew it was a subcommittee, so I went to the committee above it. That's where I found out the subcommittee was just one person, and he was about to hand off the position to the next person interested. That was me. He pointed me to another organization that was the one I thought ceased to exist. That led me to meet a co-founder of the Coalition for Life of Iowa before its founding.

When someone in the higher-level committee suggested no longer funding a national pro-life group because they were too "political", I failed to defend it. I knew it was still a 501(c)(3) organization, and thus not "too political" for the IRS. I didn't realize there were organizations that did lobbying at that time, or I would have recognized it as an effort to cut funding to a pro-life group while the new guy was oblivious.

I struggled and felt ineffective. I focused my efforts on the other organization. When the Coalition for Life of Iowa started up, I focused even more attention on it.

As a result, I found myself being a board member when I was still in my 20s. When we started to participate in 40 Days for Life, I led that for many years. I also wrote numerous newsletters and spent years as the vice president.

If I hadn't faced obstacles and someone who seemed to get in the way of pro-life activities, I doubt I would have had much of an impact outside of my church, because I would have stayed

focused on that. I would have doubted I could serve on a board so early in life.

There are things I regret about not achieving more within the church, but I'm grateful for some adversity that led me to do much more. I have also learned not to trust someone, and watched every move when they put something important out of sight when the church again considered donating to a pro-life group. I wish I could trust her more. But my distrust led me to know what was needed to persist and defend the pro-life cause.

God calls us to various ministries. We are part of the Body of Christ. When anyone tries to shut down the actions of someone following God's call, it's as if that person is trying to amputate Christ. We all need to respect each other's callings.

Many obstacles get in the way of pro-life ministry. But when faced with adversity, how do you respond? If you give up, then I urge you to try again. Adversity can make us stronger!



Charity Mobile

After sharing information about 2nd Vote, which helps people identify companies that support good or bad causes, it seemed easiest to look at purchases and decisions that aren't made on a daily or weekly basis. Some things like healthcare or cellular service providers tend to happen annually or less often. A one-time action can redirect what is often significant amounts of money. That's much easier than trying to remember a long list of companies, products, etc. while in a store.

When looking at the Communications category, there were only two cellular providers at the time that earned a perfect "5" rating for life and marriage. They were Patriot Mobile and Charity Mobile. Patriot Mobile received a higher rating overall, since they had ratings in all categories, while

Charity Mobile had fewer categories, and many of the unrated categories counted as a 3 by default. (They seem inconsistent, since some companies are only rated by the categories that have ratings, which would have yielded a "5" for Charity Mobile.)

I've heard Charity Mobile advertised on KMMK 88.7 FM radio, but hadn't given them serious consideration before. They have the same coverage as Verizon, which has great national coverage. One thing that distinguishes them is the way you can designate which pro-life organization receives 5% of your monthly bill amount. The Coalition for Life of Iowa is now listed with them, so you may designate us if you choose to use Charity Mobile.

Their rates also make me want to switch, since I anticipate saving

about \$30 per month or \$360 annually. And you aren't even locked into a 2-year commitment.

What could be better than saving money, having the same or better cellular coverage (better in my case), and switching from a company that supports bad causes to one that supports a local pro-life organization that I know does good work? Please give Charity Mobile your consideration. And we would greatly appreciate it if you select the Coalition for Life of Iowa (based here in Cedar Rapids, Iowa) as the beneficiary of the donations that occur as a result.

Visit charitymobile.com for more information and to switch. It's such an easy way to support the cause of protecting life.

Pro-Life Challenge



Prayers

Please pray for God to work in the lives of people.

In particular:

Jenifer (pro-lifer with health issues);

Çantana (pro-lifer);
St. Louis, MO PP;

Cedar Rapids, IA PP;
University of

Minnesota pro-life group

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!



Unforgivable?

Many pastors avoid mentioning abortion. Some might think it's too political. Others might consider the statistic that 1 in 3 women have had an abortion by age 45 and not know how to say what needs to be said. Some might not know how to touch on the subject in the presence of children. There are many reasons pastors might remain silent.

But the silence has a grave effect. Many post-abortive women hear about all sorts of other sins and struggles at church. But when abortion goes unmentioned, it comes across as something so bad that it might be an unforgivable sin.

Some churches have been showing the Unplanned film in recent months. I loved how much discussion followed the showing at St. Jude Catholic Church. It went on much longer than I would have imagined. Another church that stood out was Hillside Wesleyan Church. Their pastor intentionally held off watching the film until the showing at their church. At the end of the film, there's a number to text if one

is in various circumstances. The pastor told the people present that NO ONE should have to text that number. He said that there was help right there at the church and at Bridgehaven. It was my favorite statement from a pastor to his congregation.

God can do all things. God can forgive abortion. Abortion yields many wounds, and God can heal those wounds so sorely needing healing.

Some suggestions for pastors appear in episode 39 of the Equipped for Life Podcast. If you know a pastor who doesn't broach the subject, please consider sharing this resource. But be ready to do your part as well. You may subscribe to the podcast at: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/equipped-for-life-podcast/id1485883460>

If you don't use Apple Podcasts, then just search for "Equipped for Life Podcast" and look for the logo at the top of this page.

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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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