



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

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

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Ramping Back Up!

We will start ramping up our activities in the weeks ahead. We have 40 Days for Life starting up in late September and the National Life Chain in early October.

This has been a crazy year, and this year is clearly a year when prayer is of utmost importance. There are so many churches in our local area that were involved in pro-life activities several decades ago, but so few are as visibly active in pro-life activities. We really want to ramp up the number of churches and people who stand up for this most fundamental of all rights. Please pray for more to get involved, and please invite people to the upcoming events.

- Coalition for Life of Iowa's Board of Directors

Upcoming Events



<p>Second Tuesdays 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.</p> <hr/> <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: Contact us. More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com</p>
<p>Sun, Sep 20 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.</p>	<p>40 Days for Life ~ Manchester Kick-off This is <u>not</u> our kick-off, but the movement has spread to Manchester! Where: theStone Church 181841 222nd Street, Manchester, IA More info: https://40daysforlife.com/manchesteria</p>
<p>TBD</p>	<p>40 Days for Life ~ Cedar Rapids Kick-off Watch your email for details...</p>
<p>Sep 23 – Nov 1 1-hour time slots 24 hours/day</p>	<p>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/</p>
<p>Sun, Oct 4 2 – 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>National Life Chain Spread the pro-life message with signs along 1st Avenue! Where: New location along 1st Ave compared to prior years Cedar Rapids, IA More info: https://NationalLifeChain.org</p>



National Life Chain

We will host the Cedar Rapids segment of the National Life Chain on the first Sunday in October. That's Sunday, October 4th from 2 p.m. until 3:30 p.m.

The chain involves forming a chain of pro-lifers holding pro-life messages. The official signs for the event have been proven to save lives. One key to enabling people to read the signs is to spread out. If you could imagine driving 35 mph and trying to read signs that are held right next to each other for several blocks or miles, you'd have almost no chance of reading them. Thus, they recommend standing at least 10 feet apart from each other. As we will cover some stretches in residential areas, we may have people stand on the sidewalks midway between houses, which ensures even more distance between signs. After several months of people staying at least 6 feet apart from each other, this should be much easier than in past years.

This year's National Life Chain will move to the west side of town for multiple reasons. We

noticed that most people were used to our events in front of Planned Parenthood, and they wanted to be in front of that business, rather than spreading out along the busy 1st Avenue. In addition, we find that most people would start at Planned Parenthood and walk on foot to the other blocks. This left us with few people who would walk to the endpoints of the chain.

This chain used to extend from roughly mall to mall—Lindale to Westdale. We realized we can't keep starting from a singular point if we ever hope to stretch across the city again. This led us to aim to start our stretch across 1st Avenue in the roughly 1-mile stretch between two churches—Saint Patrick's Catholic Church and Trinity Lutheran Church. We plan to line up along the sidewalks on the south side of 1st Avenue, and people of all faiths are welcome to join us.

In the Bible, the Jews had to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem after returning from the exile in Babylon. Nehemiah documents

how the people would each cover the part of the wall nearest their homes, while being ready to defend the city. In the process, the city walls were rebuilt.

Similarly, we need churches or people to sign up to cover one or more blocks of 1st Avenue. Most blocks will only require roughly 8-12 people to consider the block full/covered. It's much more impressive to have people line up for miles than to have everyone crammed onto a few blocks. So we aren't trying to get 50+ people on a block. This is much easier than that!

We would love to overflow the segment mentioned earlier, so we could spread out across even more of 1st Avenue. We aim to grow the chain as much as possible this year and in the years leading up to the 50th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade.

This year has been a year that should really wake us up to the need to pray on a regular basis. If you're interested in having your church participate, please contact us.



Government Update

National Conventions

We aren't here to promote one party over another, or even one candidate over another. However, the national conventions for the two major parties in this nation had significant contrast when it came to the topic of abortion.

On one hand, there was a Catholic nun who claimed that the answer to whether abortion is something we should oppose was above her paygrade. Regardless of what faith one has, I think most people recognize that the Catholic Church has a very clear teaching regarding the sanctity of human life. The implication of that teaching is that abortion is a grave and intrinsic evil. Even if her organization doesn't focus on the largest cause of the loss of human life in the world today, and even if solving the problem of abortion can seem challenging, it should be easy to answer in the affirmative that abortion should be opposed. One doesn't even need religion to come to this conclusion.

In contrast, another convention had a nun who is a doctor/surgeon and Abby Johnson, among other pro-lifers. In very few minutes, each pro-lifer made very powerful statements about protecting life and about abortion. Sadly, there was no party platform from this party this time. Yet, the speakers were bolder on life matters than ever before. This was not mere lip service.

Conclusion

This election is very important. Please research candidates and their stances carefully. There are candidates who want to fund abortions with taxpayer (your) funds. They would also like to force doctors and healers to cause death in the form of abortion with no regard to one's faith or conscience. The U.S. Supreme Court could even grow in order to maintain an abortion-friendly majority on the bench. There are candidates on the ticket who have persecuted and prosecuted pro-lifers. More is at stake than ever!

Nebraska

Nebraska enacted a law that prohibits dismemberment abortions. Although this only prohibits certain procedures, this should cause a significant change to the abortion industry in the state of Nebraska. Abortionist LeRoy Carhartt operates an abortion business in the Omaha area, and he has done a very significant number of dismemberment abortions in his career.

Other states have passed similar laws. The abortion industry usually challenges laws that restrict them. We are curious about the way this will affect Nebraska.



40 Days for Life

We are less than a month from the start of our fall 40 Days for Life. With how crazy this year continues to be, we are still working out the details for our kick-off rally.

One of the people who participated with us in Cedar Rapids will lead his own 40 Days for Life up in Manchester. Even though there is no abortion provider up there, this is still a great thing to see. It brings the attention to this grave injustice in places where it might otherwise not come up. They will have a kick-off rally of their own on Sunday, September 20th featuring Luana Stoltenberg. She spoke at our kick-off rally last year.

We want to continue to grow our public prayer vigil outside of the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood. This would be a great year to come pray for a few more shifts. But if you could invite others to participate, whether they join you or fill other time slots, that would provide an even greater benefit to the cause.

Many people have lost their faith and lost their belief that prayer

offers any benefit. 40 Days for Life has brought about many stories where prayer and a peaceful presence has done great good. Even the books from the 40 Days for Life organization's leaders have told of true stories where we have seen the real spiritual battles at play.

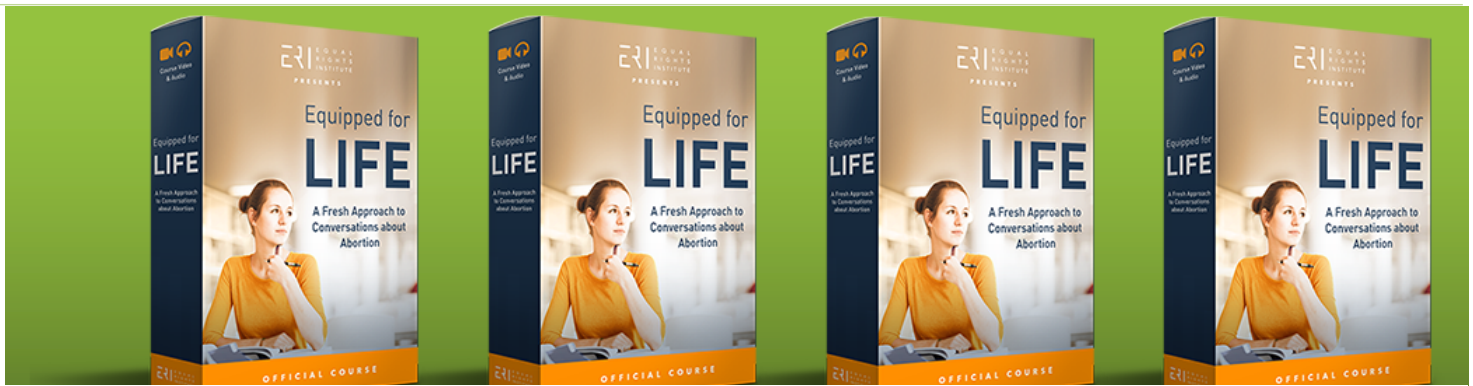
One of the most notable stories involves a demon at a former abortion site in Michigan. I assure you that demons are real. I've encountered them in situations that didn't involve abortion, and bad things tended to follow. I've also seen the miraculous power of prayer to overcome grave matters.

Having previously led our local 40 Days for Life efforts, I recognize how much it helps to have people who step up to help. The 40 Days for Life organization does a great job of breaking things down to simple steps, but there's so much to do and it can be overwhelming without a team of helpers. Even with a few helpers, each can help without having an overwhelming load of their own.

If you are willing to help by serving as a shift captain who tries

to fill a set of hours, we would greatly appreciate your help. The role of captain is extremely valuable, and yet I didn't do enough to recruit shift captains or day captains while I led 40 Days for Life locally. A captain doesn't have to be present during the shift, but they are responsible for ensuring a shift of hours are covered by people. They can show up; they may simply show up to fill in for people who can't make it; or they may not have to show up (but can come when they wish).

We don't cover all of the hours we ought to cover. Although it would be great for people to pray more, things work best if we grow in numbers. Please pray for our efforts to have more participation. Please help us by recruiting more people. It's so much more powerful to see people out there all day. The local Planned Parenthood is only open about 24 hours per week. Let's at least cover each hour they are open Tuesday through Thursday! Keep an eye out for info regarding our kick-off rally, and see you soon!



Pro-Life Course

In the months of June and July, we stepped members who wanted to get a bit more out of the Equipped for Life course that the Equal Rights Institute created. It was great to interact during a time when so many places were still closed. It allowed us to discuss the lessons and to practice what we learned.

As with any training, we learned from discussing what we learned with each other. Sometimes the combination of things being taught benefitted by discussing how they might relate to each other. Sometimes clarifications could be made. Some people shared their own experiences or thoughts on matters.

The practice would have been better in person, since we could have paired up and everyone

could have practiced with someone and traded roles partway through. However, we still allowed people to volunteer on our video chat to practice.

I tried to let others practice. However, there was one session where I took an active role in practicing what we learned. One of our members managed to come up with something that caused me to pause for a moment before I could figure out how best to respond. This is the benefit of practicing among fellow pro-lifers. It would have been very awkward in front of someone we really wanted to discuss our views with who may have other views. I learned a great deal in that discussion.

Most of the participants voiced their appreciation for this training. It seems like everyone

got a lot out of the training sessions.

When I first went through the course online, I knew I wanted more people to learn its lessons. It makes it so much easier to consider how so many of our default arguments and approaches to discussing the issue with others work AGAINST us. So many pro-lifers make it HARDER for abortion advocates to view things from our perspective.

Having several people who can argue articulately and convincingly with people with wildly different views is important, especially in the crazy society we find in our world today. Even if you didn't participate in the training meetings, you can always access the course online.

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);
Northern Minnesota's PP sites

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!



Hormone Genius Podcast

Jamie Rathjen has spoken at several events we've promoted or hosted in the past. She teams up with Teresa Kenney to create this new podcast.

Co-hosts Jamie Rathjen and Teresa Kenney desire to be a voice of hope for women across the world. Their mission is to inspire a new generation of women who are educated and informed about the gift and beauty of the feminine design. This is a generation of women who deserve a holistic approach to women's healthcare. Jamie and Teresa want to inspire, inform, and empower their listeners, and to make women the genius of their own hormones!

The podcast has a Medical disclaimer: The information presented in The Hormone Genius Podcast is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be a substitute for actual medical or mental health advice from a doctor, psychologist, or any other medical or mental health professional.

The disclaimer shouldn't detract from the quality of the medical and biological information presented in their podcast though, since they are well-trained in aspects of reproductive health that far too few doctors ever get.

They release a new episode about once per week, and it started within the last few weeks, so it wouldn't be hard to catch up. So far, they don't tend to exceed a half-hour duration, so it's also fairly easy to fit in listening to a new weekly episode at some point during your week.

Jamie brings lots of energy and several years of her experience in being a NaProTechnology practitioner to the podcast. As I've told people before, if I was a woman, I would insist on having a doctor who was trained in NaProTechnology. Anything else seems like it's several decades behind the times.

We love to promote life-affirming things from the area, whether they are events, podcasts, or other things.

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