



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

December 2020

Writer: Jim Burke
Editor: Jim Burke

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

Donate Here

<https://coalition-for-life-of-iowa.square.site/>

2020 Wrapping Up

This has been a very different year that people expected. We hope the coming year goes more smoothly. We recognize there will be new challenges in the year ahead, especially with the way the elections turned out.

We saw some great turnout this year at the National Life Chain in Cedar Rapids. We hope to continue such strong showings of support for pro-life causes in the year ahead.

We wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

- 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: Contact us.

More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

Sun, Jan 24
2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Outdoors Only

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

Feb 17 – Mar 28
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/>



It is a Wonderful Life

This year has been a tough one for many people. So many people have lost their jobs or at least been unable to work.

Some people have continued to work because their jobs have been deemed “essential”. This leaves many people wondering if their place in this world is non-essential. In the popular film *It's a Wonderful Life*, George Bailey find himself in tough circumstances. He was put into a situation where he owed more money than he could come up with on short notice. George faced financial ruin, faced likely imprisonment, and his family would have to get by without him.

George seemed to lose hope. But he held out hope enough to pray to God. God answered his prayer. If George had been without all hope, he would not have prayed.

In the course of the film, we see that even a man who has so much working against him and doesn't see his value to society has had a significant impact on the lives of just about everyone in town. Indirectly, he saved the lives of

many people elsewhere in the world.

Each of us affect others all of the time. In a world where people seek to be independent, it's our interdependence that gets us through tough circumstances. Even addictions are often found to be linked with a lack of connection with other people. Addictions are easiest to conquer when others are there to help.

This year has denied many people the connections that are critical to good health. It's important to reach out to others to help them. We often find ourselves being helped more than we imagine.

People who are tested by trying times find it difficult to try new things. The prospect of having a child when times are tough can seem overwhelming. This is commonly used to justify abortion. Bad health, bad finances, a lack of support...all of these things can lead to people trying to justify abortion. This year will likely yield more abortions than in recent years because people lived in fear.

Fear not! Do not be afraid. The Bible offers phrases like this hundreds of times. Whether you feel non-essential, overwhelmed, or just depressed for any combination of reasons, you matter. Life is always changing. Things go from highs to lows and back to highs. It's better to ask for help in humility than to suffer alone.

This is a season of blessings. We have experienced nine months of struggles leading up to this Christmas season. To quote a line from *The Butterfly Circus* film short, “The greater the struggle, the more glorious the triumph!” Help others as you wish you would be helped.

We know this year has been a struggle for the pro-life movement, since the abortion industry has made a killing this year, claiming to be essential, while their clients run to them in fear. There's a great deal that needs to be done within the pro-life movement and in society in general. We see value in each of you and wish you a very Merry Christmas!



Government Update

Wisconsin Laws at Risk

Efforts are in progress to try to strike down the laws in Wisconsin that protect life in the womb.

Illinois managed to strike down such laws through the legislative process.

Abortion advocates in Wisconsin are trying to spread that shirking of the primary duty of the government to Wisconsin, but they lack the lawmakers needed to get their way. Therefore, they will attempt to use the courts to legislate or redefine the law.

Lawsuits take a while, so time will tell whether they are successful.

Racist Abortion Laws?

After many years of pro-lifers pointing out how abortion disproportionately kills minorities, pro-abortion lawmakers are starting to refer to abortion laws as “racist”. It stems from their perspective that abortion is a right, and that opposing abortion denies

that right to women. Because abortion disproportionately affects minorities and the poor, a long-standing tactic of justifying abortion uses financial circumstances as the justification for funding abortions in one way or another. When laws make it harder to get abortions, affluent people tend to still find ways to get abortions, even if it means traveling out of state. Thus, laws intended to protect the right to life of innocent children get spun as being racist.

If abortion laws get struck down, it seems likely that it will simply ravage minority populations even more. Activists decrying racist policies could end up getting their way on those policies, but end up with the lives of thousands more minorities than if they didn’t try to spin non-racist policies as being racist.

Anti-Satanic Laws?

The Satanic Temple (TST) has challenged some Missouri laws in recent years, claiming that abortion is effectively a sacrament to them. Thus, they consider it protected under the freedom of religion in the first amendment to the constitution.

Their challenge was not taken up by any of the higher courts. Therefore, the long effort to try to make abortion legal through this means officially came to an end.

Religions cannot get away with killing and consider that a protected right to the free exercise of religion. Also, religions worship gods, and Satan is defined as opposing God. Thus, many people would consider Satanists as not having a real religion, and that they are more of an organization that opposes certain religions.

It’s a win for the right to life that this matter is finally exhausted of appeals.

Donating

Honorable Giving

God loves a cheerful giver. Planned Parenthood has a fundraising campaign that once again recommends to their donors that they donate in the name of Vice President Mike Pence. I hope we never ask for money in such a spiteful way.

If you know someone has a strong stance on one side of an issue, and then you give in their name to a cause that opposes that stance, you are a spiteful giver. Giving with such an evil heart will yield evil, not good. Charity is love, and love is good, so charitable giving cannot be done spitefully.

We've greatly appreciated our donors who give either in their own name or anonymously to enable us to

do life-affirming and life-saving work. Some donors have helped pay for the costly billboard campaigns we've had. Some funds have helped us acquire the pro-life training that is helping our members argue more calmly and persuasively with people who have differing views.

We've even had some members donate money for us to get more signs both a few years ago and a few weeks ago. We need many more signs to provide enough for the next National Life Chain as our numbers continue to grow.

We try to do the most we can with the money we receive. Many of our board members contribute, and we don't want our own money

wasted, so we naturally seek to do the most with all of the money we receive.

We already plan to scale back some of the most expensive things we do. We don't want to just shrink in what we do. We continue to find ways to grow, such as when we provided the pro-life training this past summer and the access to the course online as early as last fall.

This is a good time to consider donations.

Regardless of how much you give and to what organizations you give, do it for the right reason. Give charitably, not out of spite. If you wish to donate to us, you may donate at the link below.

<https://coalition-for-life-of-iowa.square.site/>

Vaccine Ethics

Several vaccines use aborted cell lines in some stage of development. There are different ways they can be used. Rest assured that the cells do not end up in the actual vaccines.

Some are used in the development. Sometimes they are used to grow the viruses as they attenuate them in some way, such as gradually shifting the temperature to a point that they won't survive at one's normal body temperature. Sometimes they are used in production, such that some cells are required for the ongoing production of the vaccine.

Some avoid their use throughout the research and production, but might use it in testing. In many cases, it's used only as a part of testing. Some results may already indicate that a vaccine is effective, and aborted cell lines may be used to confirm the result. That's the case for some vaccines for COVID-19. It's very disappointing that some vaccine development was done using ethically sourced cell lines, but then blew it in the testing phase.

Many people have pointed out that the use of the Human Embryonic Kidney (HEK293) cell line is a remote involvement. The cell line was created roughly half a century ago. The cell line was immortalized, which makes it able to replicate seemingly forever,

although it will likely reach some limit in the future. Some people have cast doubts about whether or not the cell line came from an abortion or just a miscarriage or something. But it's traditionally been thought to be sourced from an abortion.

Indeed, it is very remote if cells from a line from nearly 50 years ago are used for a vaccine that wasn't even thought of at the time, and no new killing had to take place since then to make this possible, and that in many cases, it's only used as a confirmatory test. This is how many people have justified it from a moral perspective.

The thing that bothers me is that the controversial cell line didn't have to be used at all. In addition, there are other vaccines being developed that have avoided such cell lines. If they get approved before someone receives the vaccine, it would be best to receive one of those.

Another thing that is troubling is that although the existing cell line doesn't require new killing to take place, there have been cell lines created since then. Continued use of an old cell line can provide incentive to create new cell lines.

This is all the more reason people should contact the companies that have used the objectionable cell line sources and voice disapproval of them. If two vaccines were available and one was ethically

sourced and the other was not, it would be very easy to have people boycott one of the two, and that would send a strong message to the industry.

All of this is just focused on the sourcing of the vaccines. Some people are concerned about the newer mRNA vaccine approach, plus all of the normal concerns people have with vaccines in general.

There are even people who point out that the survival rate is so high for COVID-19 that the vaccine may have a higher complication rate than the death rate from the virus. Keep in mind that the hospitalization rate is higher than the death rate from the virus, and not all vaccine complications are lethal. So one should compare the lethality rates of the two, and the hospitalization rates of the two if one looks at that aspect.

So far, AstraZeneca's vaccine is the worst from an ethics perspective. Johnson & Johnson is close to having one that is also just as bad. Moderna and Pfizer have vaccines that are being distributed now, which only used the HEK293 lines in the confirmatory testing phase.

Sourcing is only part of the ethical concerns. Some people are concerned about fertility and other matters that haven't been studied as thoroughly.

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; a good start for UNI Students for Life

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!



Ethics Beyond Vaccines

Many pro-lifers are concerned about any attempts to justify allowing even remote connections to abortion. I share the concern, but also have to consider the world we live in today.

If anyone can identify a combination of a computer company and operating system where we know the company hasn't supported abortion, I'd love to know that combination. Even if a company hasn't supported abortion providers in some way, odds are very high that at least one of their employees has, using the money they make at their job. Even if one looks at the freely available systems like Linux, that's open source, which allows tons of people to contribute. Among them will certainly be at least some abortion supporters. Everything is interconnected in some way. So, it's nearly impossible to remain totally free from even remote evils, but we must do what we can to avoid evils.

Many people have pointed to hydroxychloroquine as a potential

treatment for COVID-19 that might prevent the need for a vaccine. Some people have also said it's not effective. There have also been very suspicious fires and other issues that could play well into a conspiracy to force vaccines to be the only option. I'm going to set all of that aside for now. What do we know about the cloroquine family of drugs?

It turns out that cloroquine drugs were studied by the Nazis using terrible experiments. The results have advanced our knowledge and helps us know just how effective drugs like Hydroxychloroquine can be against viruses in general and other conditions.

If we hold a very absolutist approach to what we accept or avoid, it could leave us with nearly no options for many things we depend on in society today. However, we must do what we can to convince businesses to act morally. Even I am picky about what I buy in order to avoid funding businesses that support intrinsic evils like abortion.

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Coalition for Life of Iowa

P.O. Box 864
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406