



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

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Writer: Jim Burke

Editor: Jim Burke

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

Donate Here

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

Getting Back

We were able to resume our annual Mother's Day fundraiser this year after not being able to do that last year. We are continuing to prepare for other activities in the future.

We invite people to participate in an event going on in the Dubuque area. We also hope all of you watch the Roe v. Wade movie that should be available at some local churches soon.

We continue to deal with challenges from the federal government, including a proposed budget that would fund abortions directly for the first time in decades. We have a long way to go to achieve what could be.

- 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, June 13

Starts at 1 p.m.

DCRTL Bike Ride

Join the Dubuque pro-life group in a bike ride!

Where: See page 7 (near Dubuque)

More info: dctrl@dctrl.org

We are planning more events.

Care to join our planning efforts?



Two years ago, our board approved the purchase of enough online course licenses for our members to learn some of the best methods to use when talking to others about pro-life matters. It was a desire of mine for many years to equip our members with the tools that would help us convert more people to the pro-life position.

The Equal Rights Institute program provides some tips to make controversial topics easier to discuss. Then it adds arguments specific to the pro-life cause. They also help us understand what not to say. Many of our default arguments are not effective. By using their methods, I personally saw it work. I know of people who think that abortion advocates are too hard-headed and stuck in their way of thinking to change. But I've seen changes occur. It was that which made me want to see our group provide this training.

Therefore, last summer, we offered to step our members through the

course. I led the group through the material.

As impressed as I had always been with the course, one thing always bothered me. While the videos were great, the printable material to accompany the lessons wasn't up to the same standard as the rest of the course. Having dealt with lots of documentation before, I wanted to enhance the materials a bit for our members. I wanted to let ERI in on it, as well. They liked what I was doing.

Although the enhanced workbook materials were only in a draft state last summer, the people who went through the course with us got a preview of something close to the final product. At least one module has been revamped since then, and thus the workbook had to undergo a more significant change even before the finished product.

The good news is that the upgraded workbook is complete! For members who have access to the course, there's a link to the workbook from the online course's

pages for each lesson. It's 96 pages at this time. It's more thorough than before. ERI's branding colors were used throughout. There are a few more images throughout the document. There are more discussion questions for group settings. There are some extra tips in each module. Each module now ends with a section of extras, which tend to include some content not contained in the videos.

There are also some spaces for taking notes. There are very faint lines to help people avoid drifting up or down as they jot down their notes, but not so dark as to make people feel like they can only write a few lines of notes.

If you went through the course before, it's worth looking over the new workbook. If you have access to the course, but you didn't go through it yet, this could be a good time to go through it. If you'd prefer to go through it as a group, please contact us, so we can consider whether we have enough people to do this again. 🍷



Government Update

National

The U.S. Supreme Court agreed to hear the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case that will directly challenge *Roe v. Wade*. It takes four justices to agree to take up a case, and this case had been sitting there for quite a while. Based on the current composition of the court, it seems very likely that the ruling will be favorable to the pro-life cause, but to what extent has yet to be determined.

There wasn't any major conflict at the lower courts, and the rulings had favored the abortion industry. The main reason for four justices to take up such a case is if they thought there was something unjust that the lower courts didn't address.

Despite this optimism, we should not become complacent. Even as the *Roe v. Wade* movie depicts quite well, most people who could have done something to prevent *Roe v. Wade* from upending the laws of every state in our country didn't consider that the courts might allow children to be killed without any

legal consequence to the person performing the abortion. Some obvious things were missed that could have helped the pro-life side of that case.

This is not a slam dunk. It's also out of fear of *Roe* being overturned that there was talk about court packing and trying to codify *Roe* in laws. States like Illinois and New York already passed laws that undercut the right to life of vulnerable children. More states could try to move in that direction, depending on what new precedent might result from this case.

Iowa

The Life Amendment passed both the Iowa House and Senate! The same text will need to pass either 2 or 3 years from now in order to then send it to the voters to approve on a ballot. If the legislature would have passed this last year, we would already be preparing for it to show up on ballots.

The text of the amendment that passed through both chambers of the Iowa legislature stated:

To defend the dignity of all human life and protect unborn children from efforts to expand abortion even to the point of birth, we the people of the State of Iowa declare that this Constitution does not recognize, grant, or secure a right to abortion or require the public funding of abortion.

The Linn County lawmakers voted:

For: McClintock

Against: Hogg, Mathis, Taylor; Bennett, Donahue, Gjerde, Running-Marquardt

Absent/Not Voting: Ehlert, Staed

The Linn County senators unanimously opposed the amendment. The Linn County representatives split on party lines, with two not voting on the amendment. It will be interesting to see how they vote in 2-3 years. 🗳️



Roe v. Wade Movie

A film recently came out that provides some background into the Roe v. Wade case that most people don't know about.

The early part of the film tries to quickly provide some background on some key players. We see some of the lies and deceptions from those fighting to make abortion legal. We also see the complacency of the pro-life defenders.

Some people have called into question many of the facts the movie portrays. It even led to the official movie website adding a fact checking page. The key details tend to align with factual historical accounts. That was one of the main points that led the filmmakers to make the movie. Too many people don't realize just how messed up the case and ruling were.

The Coalition for Life of Iowa has purchased several DVDs of the movie and we are in the process of distributing them to some local churches. We are hoping that we can get more people to see the videos this way. Some churches

have lending libraries, or might allow committees to watch the film, or work out some other arrangement.

Do you know the circumstances of the Jane Roe of the case? Do you know the legal qualifications of the people who argued the case?

Do you know how many times the case was heard before the U.S. Supreme Court? (It wasn't just once.) Do you know how the court likely would have ruled if it had been ruled upon based on just the first hearing? Do you know why it was heard more than once? Do you know why the rulings of the justices swung the way they did in the end?

Do you know what forces banded together to make abortion legal? Do you know how they did it? Do you know what happened to one of the key people who pushed to get abortion legal, in terms of where they stood on the issue just a few years later?

Do you want to know?

The Roe v. Wade film can help you understand things much better. It's the kind of movie that should lead to everyone learning at least a few things.

From my personal viewing of the film, I'll admit that the flow is a bit choppy in the early part of the film. It gets better after about 20 minutes, and it gets much better in the latter half. The choppy feeling early on results from the need to provide background rapidly about the numerous people who were taking part in the events that would transpire. With their varied backgrounds, it created a challenge for the filmmakers to convey as much as they needed in the early part of the film.

Despite that aspect of the film, the value of the film that follows that part is well worth watching Roe v. Wade. The film has some big-name actors, such as Jonn Voight and John Schneider...yes, one of the Dukes of Hazzard. Check out the movie, and see what you might learn about a barely understood case. 🌱

What would a pro-life world look like?

What Could Be?

So often, the pro-life movement is cast as simply being opposed to something, which is reinforced by the style guide the Associated Press uses that leads any “reputable” writer to avoid the term “pro-life”. Individual laws might look uncaring, but what’s the whole picture?

Rather than sexual education programs that teach women that their natural fertility cycle is a problem and needs to be stopped, there are ways to help women learn about their cycle. Most programs expose children to sexual content at an earlier age than they are ready for it. Yes, there are always some children that may have already faced sexual abuse or other early sexual exposure. But it’s important to time lessons for the particular student. A good curriculum affirms the good, and helps them identify health issues by knowing what is healthy.

With NaProTechnology, we could greatly improve the reproductive health of countless women. It can also be used to reduce certain

miscarriages, which avoids the unnecessary loss of life.

When miscarriages still occur, the pro-life approach includes grief management, just as one would have when suffering from the loss of a newborn or other young child.

During pregnancy, mothers receive good prenatal care. First-time mothers and fathers learn parenting tips so they are more prepared following the birth of the child.

Speaking of fathers, when there’s more respect for each other’s bodies, and if we didn’t allow no-fault divorce, among other things, we could go back to having more pregnancies from married couples, and not have men who abandon women and their children.

For women who might need more help, churches could play a part in helping. Here’s a 10-minute video with that suggestion.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szw8ASoUZGw>

It sad that so much of what is seen of the pro-life movement from the other side is one law at a time. Out of context, these come across as being uncaring and can even appear to make problems worse.

If the underlying causes of abortion aren’t addressed and abortion is made harder to access, this makes abortion advocates assume do-it-yourself abortions will increase, and more harm will occur, even if fewer lives will be taken. If we don’t continue to spread pro-life approaches to healthcare that are decades ahead of the rest of the reproductive health industry, then any cut to abortion, contraception, or other services can appear to diminish women’s health.

The pro-life movement has many parts, but one movement. Its members have different areas of focus, different skills, etc. The combination is what we need to move the world in the right direction. How are you able to contribute to the pro-life movement? Are there things you could do, but haven’t? 🍷



Please pray for God to work in the lives people, in particular:

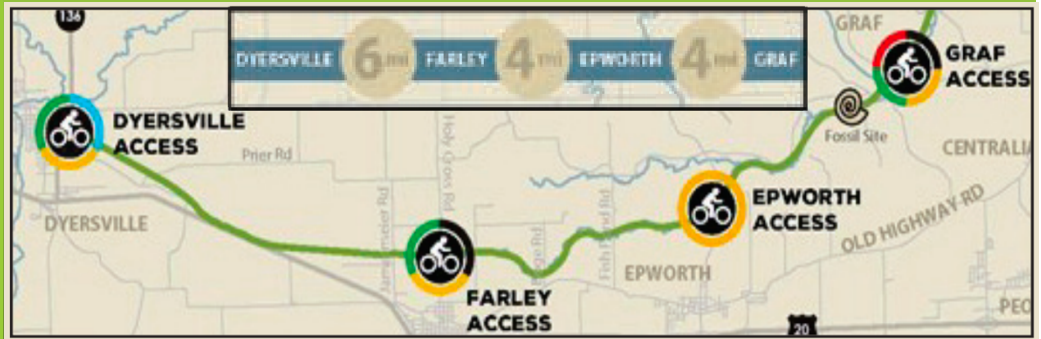
- Jenifer (pro-lifer with health issues);
- Çantana (pro-lifer);
- Northern Minnesota’s PP sites; a good start for UNI Students for Life; lawmakers & judges

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!



Pro-Life Bike Ride

Sunday, June 13th » 1:00 PM

We like to make pro-lifers aware of a variety of activities within a reasonable distance, even when we aren’t the coordinators of the events. If you like biking, Dubuque County Right to Life (DCTRL) has an event coming up in a few weeks.

Heritage Trail: Starting at Graf Park, riding to either Epworth, Farley, or Dyersville, & back to Graf

Join DCTRL for a pro-life bike ride along the Heritage Trail! Everyone will park their vehicles and gather at Graf Park by 1:00 pm to begin the day with a pro-life talk given by Nikki Biese, the Executive Director for Biking for Babies (her talk will begin at 1pm!).

After the talk, we will begin the bike ride! You can bike from Graf to either:

- **Epworth** (out & back: 8 miles)
- **Farley** (out & back: 16 miles)
- **Dyersville** (out & back: 28 miles)

You’re welcome to ride more or less if you’d like! Walkers, joggers, and runners are welcome too!

Not interested in joining on the trail? No problem! Hang out at the Graf Picnic Shelter for activities, cornhole, and ladderball! There is also a big jungle gym for the kiddos! Bottled water, apples, bananas, oranges, cookies, and granola bars will be provided for all.

FYI: Graf Park has sufficient parking, a picnic shelter, restrooms, and even a fix it station for bikes! There are no restrooms along the bike trail.

This is pro-life fun for ALL ages, so please bring the whole family! You WON’T want to miss it! Please RSVP by **Thursday, June 10th** if you would like to join us so we know how much food to bring.

Please call (563-556-5960) or email (dctrl@dctrl.org) to RSVP.

THANK YOU!



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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.

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Coalition for Life of Iowa

P.O. Box 864
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406