



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

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Contents

- Page 2 Upcoming Events
Page 3 Ready for What's Next?
Page 4 Government Update
Page 5 Pro-Life Flag

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

Donate Here

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

Growing and Shrinking

You might notice that this newsletter has shrunk by two pages to the size it was a few years ago. It takes significant time to come up with topics, write about them, size it for the available space, and find or create appropriate photos/images to go with the articles, and sometimes running it by people to review. Then there's posting it to the website and sending out the emails. With the other responsibilities I have, I needed to scale back. I would like to free up time to do other pro-life and religious things, but each time I take on something, it's rare to get lasting help to free me up for the next endeavor. Still wanting to make this monthly, that means scaling back the size. If anyone wishes to contribute content monthly, quarterly, or at all, please let me know.

We're also going to be planning some of the fall events, and some of those have grown nicely in the past year. We would like to continue to grow those events. That takes more coordination. We have a growing group of people planning these activities, but we welcome newcomers!

- Jim Burke & the 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, Sept 19

TBD

40 Days for Life ~ Kick-off Rally

Featuring Rev. Michael Salemink,
Executive Director of Lutherans for Life!

Watch your email for details about the time and location...

Sept 22 – Oct 31

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/>

Sun, Oct 3

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

National Life Chain in Cedar Rapids

Join us as we pray and witness for an end to abortion!

Where: Sidewalks along 1st Avenue
Cedar Rapids, IA

More info: <https://NationalLifeChain.org>



Ready for What's Next?

We are planning our fall events and preparing to continue to grow each event. The two things we focus on most is the 40 Days for Life campaign and the National Life Chain.

40 Days for Life

We had hoped to do more than just the fall 40 Days for Life and gain the advantages of their planning tools year-round. However, they look at our online vigil calendar sign-ups, and they didn't see anywhere near the time slots filled that needed to be filled. That caused us to get rejected for the year-round program, but we still plan to do the fall campaign.

The requests for people to sign up online are for multiple reasons. One is so we know who is there and that we know what time slots are covered or still need people to cover them. It can also help us realize when we have a long stretch of time when people will be onsite, such that we can have a bin with items that are useful. I've seen these at other sites, but even when we've

had hours of people present in a row, we almost never had people sign up in advance to allow us to plan for it. And now there's the fact that the national team uses such data to determine if we are ready for the year-round program they have.

Even though I'm not in charge of 40 Days for Life, I strongly urge people to sign up using the online vigil calendar. You can always cancel if something comes up. I know of people who don't like to commit to things. But defending life requires some commitment.

We are planning the kick-off rally, and hope to have more people out there during the 40 days. If you know of people who might be interested, please invite them to the kick-off rally and/or to join you in the first week or so of the fall 40 Days for Life campaign. That's when the weather is often very comfortable, and it's easier to recruit people to join you.

National Life Chain

The other thing we are planning is the National Life Chain in Cedar Rapids. Last year, we grew from the 2-4 blocks of recent years to stretching at least 1.3 miles!

We would love to continue to stretch this event out even farther, and we are quite certain we will. Unlike 40 Days for Life, where people often pray together, the main distinction for the life chain is to form as long of a chain as possible. It took me about three minutes to drive the length of last year's chain. People don't just see you one second and move on. They see hundreds of pro-lifers with signs with messages that have saved lives before. People wonder how long the line of pro-lifers will go when they look ahead and don't see the end of the chain. The key is for us is to spread out.

We will provide details on both events in the coming month or so. 40 Days for Life starts in late September, and the National Life Chain is in October. 🍷



Government Update

National

The United State House of Representatives passed an appropriations bill, H.R. 4502. It was passed on party lines in great part due to the lack of the normal protections for life. It lacks the following amendments: Hyde, Dornan, Hyde-Weldon, and Smith. These protect our taxpayer funds from being used to kill innocent children through abortion. They also protect conscience rights of medical personnel. They protect many important rights.

The bill goes to the U.S. Senate, where things could get more interesting. We will see who the pro-life lawmakers really are, or at least who respects us enough to not force us to fund what many of us recognize as an intrinsic evil. If it passes the Senate, it's very likely to gain the signature of the President. Although he used to settle for a compromised position in the middle, his campaigning and early actions in office made it clear that he has either shifted to the extreme, or won't stand up for what's right.

Iowa (regarding National)

The governor of Iowa has signed onto an amicus brief to the United States Supreme Court in the Louisiana case that is challenging the status quo of the federal abortion precedents. At least a dozen state governors have signed onto the brief that asks the court to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

This is good news, since it became clear in recent weeks that the person from Louisiana who is assigned to argue the case made it sound like she was NOT going to ask the court to consider doing such a thing. This was a very serious concern, since the current court has minimized the scope of many of their rulings. In cases that could have far-reaching effects, they often find justifications in their rulings to strike down a law if it failed to follow even one procedural requirement. Thus, they side-step the bigger matter at hand, and simply cause states to try to pass a law following all of the rules.

This suggests that the court has continued in following the Roberts'

Court approach of not wanting to upset the status quo of the laws wherever possible. Many conservatives were upset when Roberts went through exceptional measures to justify the Affordable Care Act, and was only able to do so by considering it a tax (even though people owed what was referred to as a penalty by not engaging in a purchase or ownership of health insurance). In other words, if the court can do so, it will try to avoid making big waves. It prefers little ripples.

This is not to say they never make big waves. It's just that they rarely do so. They find every opportunity to avoid doing so.

With multiple justices on the court that seem eager to correct the wrongs of the *Roe* case, there's a chance that this, in combination with the amicus brief might give the court just enough reason to make a big splash. This remains to be seen. We know far too many times that we have been disappointed in the past, such as in the 1990s case of *Planned Parenthood vs. Casey*. 🍷



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!



The Pro-Life Flag Project pulled together numerous pro-life groups and put out a call for people to develop a pro-life flag that could be used internationally. It focuses on the abortion issue in particular.

Certain other causes have grown very popular that had a clearly recognizable flag. Some pro-life groups tried to make their own flags, and often weren't that great (in my personal opinion).

The winning design was created by Nanda Gasperini. The designer is a graphic designer from Sao Paulo.

The colors call to mind girls and boys, although the hands are the hands of the protective mother. This stresses the lives at stake in pregnancy and abortion, both mother and child. The feet remind us of the Precious Feet pins. The feet include a modification in the form of a heart in the center. This represents the love we have for both mother and child.

The two color bands form an equal sign, representing the equal right and value of life. The two colors continue

to stress the lives involved. The white background is a color of innocence and non-violence.

The resulting flag has a pleasant appearance. It's easily recognizable, in great part because of the precious feet. Expect to see this flag appearing in some of the major pro-life events that occur around the world, and especially in the United States.

It was important that good flag design elements were incorporated. Many people make the mistake of including text on flags, even though a flag in the wind or when viewed from the back can make text hard to read. Many flags have too much going on, with details that can't be seen from a distance. Even the City of Cedar Rapids has used a flag that faced such widespread criticism from flag enthusiasts that the city felt pressure to design a new flag. This international pro-life flag is better than the finalists for the city's flag (again in my opinion). The choice of meaningful and classic pro-life symbols, colors, and a clean layout makes it easy to interpret compared to most other flags. 🌍

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Coalition for Life of Iowa

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