



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

August 2021

Writer: Jim Burke

Editor: Jim Burke

Contents

- Page 2 Upcoming Events
- Page 3 Fall Events
- Page 4 Government Update
- Page 5 No Need to Kill to Win

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

Donate Here

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

High Gear

We're shifting into high gear as we make our final preparations for this fall's pro-life activities! We have 40 Days for Life and the National Life Chain coming up within the next few weeks. We are really trying to reach out to get as many churches and people involved as possible.

Get ready for a great time, and don't forget to invite some friends to join you!

- 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

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

40 Days for Life ~ Kick-off Rally

Join us to kick-off 40 Days for Life, featuring Rev. Michael Salemink, Executive Director of Lutherans for Life!

First Open Bible Church

1911 E Ave. NW Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

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

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>

Sun, Oct 31

2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

40 Days for Life ~ Finale Rally

Gather to conclude our prayer activities and then for pizza!

Where: Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood (to start)

3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA

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



Fall Events

Within the next month, we will kick-off our 40 Days for Life activities and very soon after that, we will have our annual National Life Chain. We would love to see everyone invite a few friends who aren't usually at our events.

Many people don't step out of their comfort zones, but if we invite friends and family that we don't see at such events, it can help the pro-life movement grow. There are people who would love to participate, but we can't reach everyone on our own. Also, people respond better to a personal invitation from someone they know. If they say yes, you'll see how easy it can be. If they say no, most friends will be decent about it. If things don't go well, or if they say they aren't pro-life, that can open more opportunities in the future. That's where the training we provide for pro-life apologetics could be useful in the future.

This past weekend, I saw a student doing a door-to-door fundraiser. The next house for him to try was clearly mine as I pulled in after

buying groceries. Having just pulled in, it would have been easier for him to talk to me without having to ring the doorbell. I knew he had caused damage on my property a few years ago, and thought it would be good to buy from him, regardless. He skipped my house and moved on to other houses. There are lots of people who will participate, but we never ask, just like how that student could have raised more money, but let past experiences and fears get in his way.

We invite you and those you invite to attend our 40 Days for Life kick-off event. We will have the kick-off on Sunday, September 19th from 2 – 3:30 p.m. at the First Open Bible Church located at 1911 E Ave. NW in Cedar Rapids. Rev. Michael W. Salemink will speak at the event. He is the executive director of Lutherans for Life at the national level. It's always great to have a national speaker at our events, so come hear what he has to say!

You may start signing up for time slots for this fall's 40 Days for Life

using the online vigil calendar. As we mentioned last month, this is a big deal. Showing up matters most; but signing up using the vigil calendar might be a close second, since it helps us plan and for everyone to have a clear idea of how much of the time we are really covering with prayer.

In early October, we will host the local part of the National Life Chain. We had a major increase in turnout at our life chain last year, so we ordered many more signs for this year. We wanted to make sure as many people would have signs as possible. As great as it would be to see everyone with a sign per our plan, if we had so many more new people that we were short on signs yet again, that wouldn't be a bad thing. We can always continue to grow the number of signs we have.

We already have some churches signing up for the chain. Last year's chain was amazing to witness. After several years of just seeing people on a couple of blocks, seeing it span well over a mile was inspiring. Let's grow it even more! 🙏



Government Update

While many people are focusing on the losses of life that are resulting from the backwards approach to exiting Afghanistan, there are still things that require our attention within our own country. Much of the attention is shifting toward the U.S. Supreme Court case that will challenge Roe vs. Wade directly.

Planned Parenthood is trying to raise awareness of this situation with their supporters. If the Roe decision gets overturned, then it could threaten the abortion industry's ability to operate in many states, although not the entire nation.

Many of their supporters and clients might not notice the case, unless Planned Parenthood riles them up enough to care about it. But it's in the interests of the abortion industry more than the interests of women. Some women have grown fearful of living in states where there are any protections for the life of a child, even if those states are more accepting of abortion than the vast majority of the world.

Despite there being much better healthcare available, some of their clients consider Planned Parenthood's services as holistic. This is difficult to understand, when their services are so limited in scope, and their expertise is so limited, and even excludes the best approaches to reproductive health.

Even the Director of Public Affairs for the Planned Parenthood Advocates of Iowa recently said, "When it comes to health care in Iowa, there is not a lot to be optimistic about, at this point in time." Although I never want to see NaProTechnology politicized, since it can help women regardless of their politics and religion, I always find myself optimistic about health care, especially women's reproductive health care when I hear women and couples speak of their experiences with it. Even if abortion remained legal, the continuing growth of the truly holistic, or perhaps wholistic approaches of NaProTechnology is very promising.

They are more concerned about Iowa in particular, due to the constitutional amendment bill having passed the first legislative session earlier this year. That still requires another session either two or three years from now to pass just to get it onto a ballot. At that point, we will need voters to support the amendment. We are certain that the abortion industry will fight that amendment as hard as it can.

It's very likely the amendment will be misconstrued in the media and by abortion advocates. We need people to understand the truth about the amendment.

Getting back to the U.S. Supreme Court case, the case will be heard in October. We shouldn't expect to hear the ruling any earlier than January of this coming year, but it could also occur in June.

We need to consider that major shifts in governmental policies that aren't supported at the grassroots level often swing back quickly, if not further to the other extreme. We need to build support for life. 🌱



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!



No Need to Kill to Win

Brianna McNeal won a gold medal in the 2016 Olympics. She discovered that she was pregnant at such a time that she was concerned about being able to compete in 2020. So, she had an abortion. She was recovering from her abortion when she missed a drug test. By missing a drug test, she was disqualified from competing in the Olympics for 5 years.

Little did she realize in January of 2020 the Olympics would not occur until 2021. She could have carried her child to term, given birth, and still had most of a year to prepare for the Olympics. Instead, she was not able to compete this year, nor in the next Olympics. It could be difficult for her to medal in the Olympics again, since she would have to win again no sooner than 7 years from now. It's hard to stay in gold-medal condition for a full 12 years. Thus, abortion may have aborted her Olympic future.

In the past decade, we've seen a few pregnant women win medals. This includes Kerri Walsh, who won a gold medal for the U.S. for volleyball in the London 2012 Olympics. Before that, Martina Valcepina won a bronze

medal for Italy in 2014. She was pregnant with twins at the time!

Sponsorships for Olympic athletes creates some pressure to abort, since funding drops significantly when women announce they are pregnant. Pregnancy can create additional challenges, making it harder to win. Sponsors want to support winners. Yet, when a pregnant mother wins, the additional challenges are recognized by others, and the victory is even greater.

Allyson Felix set a record by winning her 11th Olympic medal by earning more medals than any other U.S. track athlete. She stood up to Nike when they tried to cut her pay, since they only wanted to pay her 30% of the original amount. She eventually succeeded affecting Nike's policies.

When competing at the highest levels globally, even some people at the top of their field will do whatever it takes to win, even if it's immoral. We should celebrate those who choose the moral path, especially when they have to work even harder. That's when victory is sweetest. 🍷

CFLI Board

Jean Biermann
Jim Burke (Vice President)
Mary Cherion (Secretary)
Rick Delagardelle
Lisa Gignac
Sue Martinek
John Perkins
Marianne Riester
Pat Semelroth
Treasurer: Lee Riester



Spread the Word!

Do you know other pro-life people who might like to subscribe to this newsletter?

- Tell them about it
- Forward a copy to them
- Print a copy to hand to friends

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.

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.

We welcome advertisers for a reasonable price.

Remember, Life Matters!

Request electronic copies by email: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

Coalition for Life of Iowa

P.O. Box 864
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406