



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

September 2021

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

Donate Here

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

Respect Life Month

October is Respect Life Month. Many pro-life events tend to occur in that month. We have the Life Chain and 40 Days for Life happening locally. Keep your eyes open for other pro-life activities that might happen in the area.

Lots of things have been happening in the pro-life realm on the government side of things. We need to pray for good outcomes.

- 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

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://www.40daysforlife.com/cedarrapids>

Sun, Oct 3

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Life Chain in Cedar Rapids

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

Where: Trinity Lutheran Church

1363 1st Ave SW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405;

then sidewalks along 1st Avenue in Cedar Rapids, IA

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

Sun, Oct 31

2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

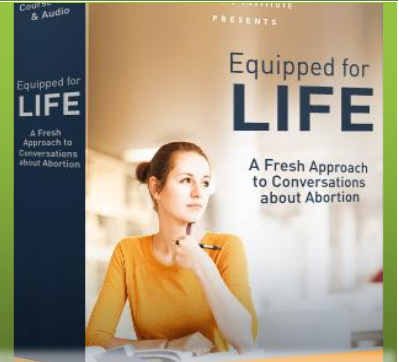
40 Days for Life ~ Finale Rally

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://www.40daysforlife.com/cedarrapids>



Ways to Make a Difference

This time of year offers multiple ways to make a difference in the pro-life movement. One that's coming up this weekend is Life Chain.

Life Chain is one of the easiest ways for someone to make a difference. It's often a great way to get someone involved, since it happens just once each year. We pray along a visible stretch of road, in our case, 1st Avenue/Williams Blvd. While we pray, we hold signs with pro-life messages that have saved lives before. This year, we will gather at Trinity Lutheran Church before disbursing to our designated blocks on the West side of town. We hope people come a bit early so we can head to our blocks around 2 pm.

Last year, we spanned roughly 1.3 miles with hundreds of participants. It was remarkable to see a line of signs and supporters in what seemed like a never-ending line. We want to continue to grow this event. So please come on Sunday, invite friends, and bring others with you.


We are in the midst of 40 Days for Life. Although people can choose to pray for just one of the 1-hour time slots, many people choose a weekly 1-hour time slot or come back when they can. If we had everyone who participated in last year's Life Chain filling vigil time slots in pairs, and if they repeated this weekly, we could cover every time slot in our vigil.

It's even better if we help draw more people to participate. As great as it is to see people fill every time slot, the more people who participate, the easier it is to keep time slots filled going forward. If we had so many people that we could fill all time slots by participating just once for one hour, just imagine how great it would be to come back weekly and just have that many more people present!

40 Days for Life has saved thousands of lives, including some lives locally. It's really easy. Like the Life Chain, people pray. They usually hold pro-life signs, but they don't have to. I prayed on this past

Saturday with no sign, and I really got a lot out of the prayer time. But signs have also helped save lives and let people know why we are out there.

One thing that people sometimes struggle with and sometimes fear is when someone tries to talk about the abortion issue. Many people don't know how best to defend the pro-life position or make a good argument for the pro-life position that changes people's minds. This is where pro-life apologetics comes into play.

Yes, there are people who have spent hundreds or thousands of hours refining their arguments and methods. But there are some tips that take minutes or a small number of hours to learn. I've used such methods and changed minds before. There are several programs to learn from, but my favorite is the Equal Rights Institute's Equipped for Life course. We trained some members last year, and we would like to do this again in the year ahead. We must do our part to change minds. 



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*. Please pray about this case until the ruling. We want the best preparations beforehand, the justices to hear the best arguments, and the most justice in the ruling that they will work on through June.

The U.S. House has passed a bill that would make abortion legal for any reason up through birth. It should not pass the Senate.

Texas

As of September 1st, Texas has successfully enacted a pro-life law that protects life from the moment a heartbeat is detected. Several other states passed Heartbeat Bills into law before, including Iowa. Whenever pro-life laws are passed, the abortion industry usually gets some judge to put a stay on the enforcement of the law. This kept our own Heartbeat Law from going into effect.

Texas tweaked the typical Heartbeat Law in a way that made it hard to put a stay on it. Even Chief Justice Roberts considered it unprecedented when he wrote about it in his dissent from the overall court decision to NOT put a stay on the law's enforcement (which means his position would have led to the law not going into effect). But there is precedent in California where they allow people to do something similar if they spot a toilet stall that doesn't meet the American Disabilities Act (ADA), whether or not they are disabled. In the Texas case, anyone could sue anyone other than the mother of the child being killed in the abortion for their part in the abortion.

This made it so the abortion lobby couldn't sue the state, since the state doesn't enforce the law. They would have to sue the average person, if not all people of Texas.

Iowa

In the midst of the uproar about the Texas law taking effect, a case we've kept our eyes on for a few

years reached an unfortunate conclusion. It appears that the case Sue Thayer made against Planned Parenthood (PP) defrauding the government has failed.

There was a lack of proving intent to defraud the government. In the end, it was acknowledged that some things were coded incorrectly in the little evidence provided. However, the judge thought they could have made an honest mistake, and intent was not proven.

No further action was expected. The odd thing is that if things were coded incorrectly and the amount of over-charging could add up to tens of millions of dollars, the government still ends up having overpaid. But this is a civil case, and like the Texas situation, there's a big difference between a case involving the government and one that deals with two other parties.

If the IRS doesn't get money, people they catch have to pay up. But PP will likely get away with however much they overcharged a different part of the government. 🗳️



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!



Changing Leadership

After many years of leading the Coalition for Life of Iowa, Sue Martinek did not run for president this year. She remains on the board of this organization she co-founded.

This left an opening for a short time, but I chose to run for the position. So the president of the Coalition for Life of Iowa is now Jim Burke. I am happy to see Sue continues to remain involved on the board, since the board does a great deal in guiding the direction of the organization and carrying out the many things we do.

By filling the role of president, that opened up the position of vice president, which remains vacant at this time. We hope to fill that before too much time passes.

I often prefer to do behind-the-scenes activities. I've also led and done many other things over the years. To take on this new role, some of these other tasks might get delegated to others, if we have volunteers for some tasks.

Our organization accomplishes what we do through: prayer, education, and

raising awareness. Since the matters at hand involve a spiritual battle between good and evil, we have no hope unless we bring spiritual weapons to the battle. I've seen the power of prayer many times, yielding outcomes that defy my scientific sensibilities. I recently pointed out to our board that Luke 10:2 has the quote that many of us remember only the first part of, and think we just have to put up with a lack of help. But the verse tells us what we ought to keep praying for. "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; **so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.**" Please pray for more laborers to help us in our efforts. God will provide!

There are many ways we can educate and spread the word. But it seems critically important to get people to know how to defend the pro-life position. If all of us can do that, it multiplies our ability to change minds compared to having only as many as we can count on one hand who could argue effectively. Our board approved an affiliation that should increase our ability to equip our members. I look forward to a pro-life future! 🙏

CFLI Board

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Coalition for Life of Iowa

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