



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

December 2021

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/>

Approaching 2022

As we approach a new year, there's much to be grateful from this past year, and many challenges and opportunities in the year ahead. Please pray for us, for the pro-life movement, and for good outcomes in the realm of what we do.

We will want to consider and anticipate the changes that could come in this year ahead, so we can hopefully make the most of what will happen. As one could expect, we anticipate some good and bad things for the year ahead. We would love to have more volunteers to help us face these challenges.

Just like last month, we recognize yet another pro-life voice who died very recently. Sue Thayer died just a few days before Christmas. She's pictured with Pat to the left of this paragraph.

The Coalition for Life of Iowa wishes you all 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.

CFLI Board Meetings (2nd Tuesdays)

Get involved in our organization!

Where: Contact us.

More info: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

Sat, Jan 22
9 a.m. – 12 noon

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

Mar 2 – Apr 10
1-hour time slots

40 Days for Life ~ Prayer Vigil

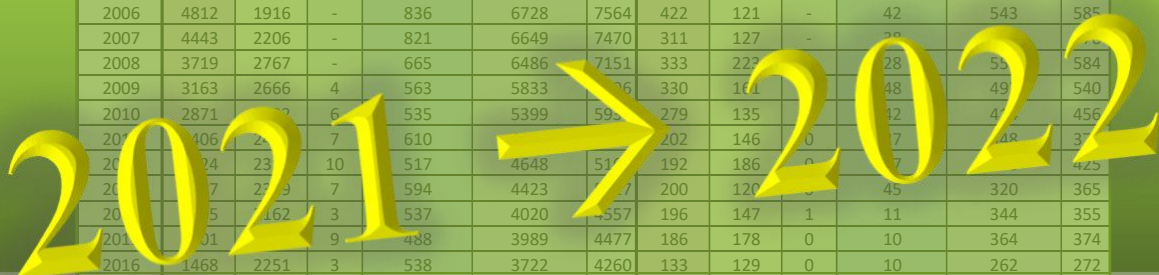
Join us in praying for an end to abortion in a peaceful prayer vigil!

Where: Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood

3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA

More info: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/cedarrapids>

Years	State of Iowa						Linn County						
	Surgical	Medical	Other	Spontaneous	Total Induced	Total	Surgical	Medical	Other	Spontaneous	Total Induced	Total	
2004	4369	1653	-	911	6022	6933	417	123	-	35	540	575	
2005	4128	1753	-	952	5881	6833	383	125	-	32	508	540	
2006	4812	1916	-	836	6728	7564	422	121	-	42	543	585	
2007	4443	2206	-	821	6649	7470	311	127	-	28	540	584	
2008	3719	2767	-	665	6486	7151	333	223	-	28	550	584	
2009	3163	2666	4	563	5833	6596	330	161	-	48	490	540	
2010	2871	2732	6	535	5399	5933	279	135	-	12	440	456	
2011	4067	2732	7	610	7416	8216	202	146	0	17	448	370	
2012	3724	2310	10	517	6561	7192	192	186	0	17	440	425	
2013	3715	2739	7	594	6423	7197	200	120	0	45	320	365	
2014	3757	2622	3	537	6402	7557	196	147	1	11	344	355	
2015	3701	2732	9	488	6989	7477	186	178	0	10	364	374	
2016	3468	2251	3	538	6260	6722	133	129	0	10	262	272	
2017	3166	2095	8	435	5699	6269	3704	106	121	0	4	227	231
2018	903	1945	1	1409	2849	4253	1000	153	0	132	253	385	
2019	1138	2404	1	1162	4645	5200	84	313	0	197	319	516	
2020	835	3222	1	1162	4058	5220	84	313	0	188	397	585	



Year-end Report

We started 2021 with an outdoor-only March for Life, due to COVID restrictions. It also faced a detour, due to a major construction project along 1st Ave. Our 40 Days for Life campaigns went well and were able to do some things indoors. We involved some new churches this year.

After 2020 left us without our Roses for Moms fundraiser, we were pleased to see that return. We continued to promote life-affirming messages using our billboard campaign. We also had our annual billboard contest among the youth in the area.

After Sue Martinek chose not to run for president this year, Jim Burke became the president. Sue remains on the board, and Jim transitioned from the vice president position.

Life Chain spread across most of the west side of Cedar Rapids. It spread from I-380 almost all the way to Edgewood Road.

We also shared copies of the Roe v. Wade movie on DVD with some

local churches. We weren't able to have in-person showings like we did with Unplanned.

Looking ahead, the next year and next few years bring with them some interesting challenges and opportunities. We hope that these opportunities are not squandered.

We plan to get back to normal with the March for Life by incorporating an indoor component as we used to have. We will have speakers at the indoor part, which should make it easier to hear while everyone is in warm conditions.

We would love to grow the Life Chain to stretch even more of the way across town in the year ahead. We can do this by getting more churches involved so we can cover more blocks, and getting more people at the current churches involved so the blocks fill in even more.

The Dobbs case could scale back or overturn Roe vs. Wade. People expect the ruling in June. This will almost certainly get lots of activity

going in many states. It should shift more pressure to the states. Iowa's justices have prevented laws that protect human life from being enforced, so the direct effect of the case in Iowa might not be as significant. However, the proposed constitutional amendment may have been easier to pass if the Dobbs case was less likely to have much of an effect on abortion laws. Pro-lifers will really need to be ready to talk about that amendment and defend the pro-life position in the next few years.

This is where we may need to get even more people comfortable at discussing the abortion issue with other people, using the techniques that have been proven to be more effective and influential. We have resources to make that possible.

With the approval of death-by-mail when the FDA made permanent the allowance for the abortion pills to be shipped in the mail, we will face more challenges than in the past.

We could use volunteers to help us face these challenges. 🙏



Government Update

National

The U.S. Supreme Court has now heard the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case that directly challenges *Roe v. Wade*. Please pray about this case until the ruling. Then, please pray for the rest of the coming year. We will need serious prayer. 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. Many possible outcomes (good or bad) can lead to even more need for prayer.

Texas

The U.S. Supreme Court let the Texas law stand that allows anyone to report an abortion that takes place beyond a certain gestational period. The court did allow abortionists to sue one department of the Texas government. Time will tell how that turns out. It doesn't seem like it should bring with it any victory for the abortion industry, but we will see.

Iowa

The Iowa Caucuses are on Monday, February 7th, 2022. Many people look at the caucus as a way to identify their preferred presidential candidate in presidential election years. But that's NOT what they are all about. That's why they also happen every two years, instead of every four years.

Caucuses allow political parties to accomplish party business. Yes, in a presidential election year, part of that business involves identifying a presidential candidate. But some offices, such as the House of Representatives seats are up for election every two years. The parties have a two-year cycle of business.

Precincts are the smallest region identified for political activity. People gather in precincts to choose who will represent their precinct in their local party. They also choose who will serve on the platform committee. Many times, this is as easy as simply volunteering. One can also sign up to go to the next

level of party conventions. A few years ago, one presidential candidate recognized that the vote of the people mattered less than having supporters in certain committees. They made sure their supporters volunteered at the caucuses and worked their way to the positions that stunned the nation and led some parties in some states to create rules to tie the results more to the vote of their members.

Another thing that happens at a caucus is the proposal of party planks for the party platform. Parties usually don't like having large numbers of planks, especially on any one subject. But if there are a small number of well-written planks, and if the same planks are proposed in many of the precincts, then it's much easier to see those planks make it into the official party platform at the county, state, and national levels.

Please participate in your precinct's caucus in February. It provides good experience. It's also the first caucus after redistricting took place, so precincts WILL change. 🗳️

Pro-Life Challenge



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!



Sue Thayer

We mourn the death of Sue Thayer who died on December 21, 2021. Sue lived in Storm Lake, Iowa.

Sue was a manager at Planned Parenthood for many years. When Planned Parenthood put abortion over the health and safety of women, Sue voiced her objections. Planned Parenthood fired her. She made Iowa Right to Life aware of what Planned Parenthood was doing. Sue would go on to lead a 40 Days for Life prayer vigil outside of the Planned Parenthood where she once worked, and it closed after a single 40 Days for Life campaign. She joined the national 40 Days for Life team.

Sue also filed a lawsuit that alleged enough crimes committed by Planned Parenthood that the settlement would have cost Planned Parenthood BILLIONS of dollars, which is more than the Iowa affiliate would have had, if it had succeeded. Some of us recognized some of the things that Sue was alleging as being things that were also happening in Cedar Rapids, too. It became clear that they were doing what she alleged not only in the time frame and region she included in

her lawsuit, but that they did it over a broader region and for more years than her lawsuit alleged. Lawyers for the abortion industry tend to be very good, which made one part of her claim after another fail, even though many of us know the truth and even passed along some of that evidence to her. The abortion giant used to brag about protecting the medical records of their clients from the government, and yet they hypocritically demanded her to provide such records as evidence to justify her claims. They use the law to suit their interests, and not the interests of their clients.

We believe Sue played a major part in getting a large percentage of Planned Parenthood and abortion sites to close down in the past decade. By blowing the whistle on webcam abortions and the other things, Iowans saw just how Planned Parenthood operates in Iowa.

The photo on this page is from when Sue Thayer visited us in Cedar Rapids last year in October. It already feels like this was many years ago, despite being barely more than a year ago. We are grateful for the things she did for the pro-life cause. 🙏

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Remember, Life Matters!

Coalition for Life of Iowa

P.O. Box 864
Cedar Rapids, IA 52406

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