



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

September 2022

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

Donate Here

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

Respecting Life!

So much is going on that I removed our monthly meeting from page 2's list of upcoming events, since the rest of the page was needed for what's coming up! October is Respect Life Month, and it sure shows in just how many things are coming up.

The events include prayer, fasting, raising public awareness of the abortion issue, and helping with real women's reproductive healthcare.

We have lots of things going on within a 1-month time period. We hope you can participate in some of these events.

We also welcome a man with many titles to our board. He's a Lutheran bishop with a Ph.D., so he's Reverend Doctor Brian Saunders. We were short one spot on the board, and he stepped up to fill that spot.

Upcoming Events

<p>Sat, Sep 30 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.</p>	<p>A Night with Bridgehaven Join Bridgehaven for their annual fundraising gala! Where: DoubleTree Cedar Rapids Convention Complex 350 1st Avenue Northeast, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: https://secure.fundeasy.com/ministrysync/event/home.php?e=19040</p>
<p>Sept 28 – Nov 6 1-hour time slots 24 hours/day</p>	<p>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</p>
<p>Sun, Oct 2 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.</p>	<p>National Life Chain Spread the pro-life message in as long of a chain as possible! Where: St. Matthew's Church for kick-off, then sidewalk along 1st Ave 2310 First Ave NE, Cedar Rapids, IA More info: http://lifechain.net</p>
<p>Sat, Oct 15 Doors Open at 5:45 p.m.</p>	<p>Culture of Life Dinner in Solon Hear great speakers while raising funds for moral healthcare training! Where: St. Mary Hall of St. Mary Church 1749 Racine Ave NE, Solon, IA More info: http://www.solonstmary.org/culture-of-life-events.html</p>
<p>Sun, Oct 16 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Wholistic Feminism Hear Leah A. Jacobson, MA, IBCLC speak about whole woman wellness! Where: MERGE 136 South Dubuque Street, Iowa City, IA More info: http://www.solonstmary.org/culture-of-life-events.html</p>
<p>Sun, Nov 6 5 – 7 p.m.</p>	<p>40 Days for Life Finale Rally Join us to conclude our 40 days of prayer and fasting! Where: Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood 3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA; then Godfather's Pizza at 3647 1st Ave SE More info: https://www.40daysforlife.com/cedarrapids</p>
<p>Sat, Nov 19 5:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.</p>	<p>The Stars are Brightly Shining – Pro-life Christmas Gala This is Pulse Advocates for Life (formerly Iowans for Life)'s gala! Where: Meadows Ballroom 1 Prairie Meadows Dr., Altoona, IA More info: https://givebutter.com/pulsegala</p>
<p>Jan 20 & 21, 2023 Save the Dates!</p>	<p>2023 Marches for Life ~ Save the Dates! The national March for Life is Friday, January 20, 2023 The Cedar Rapids March for Life is Saturday, January 21, 2023</p>



What's Coming Up?

Life Chain is coming up again on Sunday, October 2. We will gather in the parking lot of St. Matthew Catholic Church at 2 p.m. After a brief gathering, we will spread out along 1st Avenue. We will hold signs with pro-life messages that have saved lives in the past.

We could use more people/groups to take a block. We also appreciate it if people register in advance with Sue Martinek. In recent years, we've been able to stretch more than a mile or two. We spent the past few years doing this on the west side of town, but are moving back to the east side of town this year. If we get enough people, we could stretch to Planned Parenthood. But if we don't get enough, we might not stretch that far. So please, invite others to join you! We'd love to see as many people as possible. This is a great year to show solidarity for life, standing with other people who defend life at a time when it's often criticized. So come and join us!

40 Days for Life has begun. Please come out and pray for an hour when you can. We would greatly appreciate it if you sign up on our online vigil calendar that's accessible via the 40 Days for Life mobile app or their website. It helps us know when we have times that are not covered, or when we only have one person signed up. You can always cancel, if something comes up. But the calendar helps us know if people are out there without having to stop by. Invite others to join you. It helps to be present in greater numbers.

There is another Culture of Life Dinner coming up in Solon on Saturday, October 15th. Leah Jacobson is the keynote speaker. She is the founder and CEO of The Guiding Star Project that would eventually open up centers in multiple cities in Iowa.

The next day, Leah will speak at MERGE in Iowa City. This is a sorely needed message about how women can find fulfillment with healthcare that addresses the

whole woman, and that seeks to bring optimum health, instead of shutting things down in order to thrive in life. This event is not a fundraiser, but is intended to inform the public of this topic.

This coming January will mark the 50-year mark since the U.S. Supreme Court made the tragic ruling on Roe vs. Wade. The great news is that this year's Dobbs ruling overturned that ruling. Marches for Life will still take place in January. Everyone has wanted to gather in celebration, if nothing else. But we still need to keep getting the pro-life message out there, because many people still oppose it.

The national March for Life will occur on Friday, January 20th. The very next day, we will have our Cedar Rapids March for Life on Saturday, January 21st. There are groups that go by bus, like Pulse Advocates for Life (formerly Iowans for Life) or Dubuque County Right to Life. 🇺🇸



Government Update

Michigan and California will vote on the abortion issue. It's possible for both states to defend life, but it will take a significant effort. Failure to do so will codify abortion into constitutions and law.

Nationwide, redistricting led to new district boundaries. Thus, EVERY seat is up for election in legislatures. There are also several spots that opened up and led to some lawmakers running for offices they hadn't had before. This is making this election very interesting.

However, after the pro-life victory in overturning Roe and a state precedent in Iowa that could have had a similar effect, people on the other side are energized. We cannot afford to become complacent. Candidates could use support, both financially and with volunteer time. They could also use votes. We are a non-profit organization, so we cannot endorse particular candidates. But we can say that this is an important election.

The Iowa constitutional amendment needs a pro-life majority in both the Iowa house and senate to pass in the next two years. If it doesn't, then that amendment will have to start over when the time is favorable, whatever year that might be.

With the entire house, senate, and governor's seat up for grabs, there is always the chance that things could swing the other way, and the same types of codifying extreme abortion policies that are going on in other states could happen here. It would be difficult to flip all three spots, but years ending with a '2' are this way, due to redistricting.

Elections will begin in the month ahead, concluding on election day itself, which is November 8th this year.

Our current governor has asked for the Heartbeat Law that was enacted a few years ago to be enforceable. There is no update on that at this time. If that goes in a favorable direction, then human life would be protected when a heartbeat is detected.

There are many other states that have been able to ban all or most abortions in their states. This is saving countless lives.

It's also leading to women crossing state borders to get abortions in nearby states. Some states, like California, are trying to become abortion tourism destinations. They want to pay for abortions and the travel to get them in their state. Their current governor is even campaigning on that idea.

As mentioned last month, many health insurance plans include coverage of abortion and many can be interpreted in ways that would allow compensating people for the travel to get an abortion. I now know a bit more about trying to get companies to change those policies, but I now realize it's a more complicated matter. That just means more work; it doesn't mean it's time to give up.

If states start to pay for abortions and travel, it could provide yet another argument against those who demand abortion coverage. 🇺🇸

Pro-Life Challenge



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

Jenifer (pro-lifer with health issues);
Çantana (pro-lifer);
Central Minnesota's PP sites; 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!



September Wrap-up

The Equipped for Life Seminar went remarkably well! We heard very positive things during the event's planned breaks, and we also sent out a link to a survey to people who attended, and those sounded even more positive. The seminar helped teach pro-lifers how to carry on more productive dialogues with people on the abortion issue. It also helped many people understand what many people REALLY believe, as opposed to the caricature that many people often have in mind.

The Students for Life at the University of Northern Iowa had the same speaker earlier that week, but it was a shorter talk. That event had people with a range of stances on the issue in attendance. Many of the people who stuck around afterward to discuss the issue were not pro-life, and yet the discussions were good.

The next day, we honored the National Day of Remembrance for Unborn Babies. The turnout was great! We had many more people attending this year than last year. It was a nice day, aside from a bit of wind. But we wrapped up a weekend

of pro-life activities honoring those who died from abortion.

The Lifemark movie was supposed to remain in theaters for only one week. Fathom Events brought it to theaters, and they specialize in short-run films that show in theaters for 1-3 days in most cases. So when they said it would only show in theaters for a week, that made sense.

But the movie was a hit! The movie ranked #2 in the box office at one point. So theaters were begging to show it for another week, and then another. The Rotten Tomatoes website that shows movie ratings actually had times when the audience rating was 100%, which is extremely rare.

The movie portrayed the story of a student who reached the age that he could meet his birthparents, after a childhood of knowing he was adopted. He discovers just how close he was to death before he was even born. The movie provides a good portrayal of the story that was made known by producers when they saw a documentary of the same story. 🍿

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