



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

December 2023

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

Donate Here

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

2024 Approaches

We originally didn't think we would do 40 Days for Life both this past fall and this coming spring, but we are continuing to do both. However, we have other plans for the March for Life. With Roe vs. Wade no longer applying, we will focus on Marches in June to commemorate the fall of Roe via the Dobbs ruling. We will promote another event in January that a local church is organizing, but we will focus on participation in the March for Life in Des Moines in June. More details will be provided as that event nears.

We continue to pray for a long-term closing, rather than just the temporary closing of the local Planned Parenthood site. Only time will tell how it will turn out.

We still have shirts available, which helps us raise money for our pro-life efforts. I had hoped to get more details before this newsletter went out, but if you are interested, you can contact us via our email address. I'll try to provide more information in the near future.

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: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

Mon, Jan 15
7 p.m. start,
Don't be late.

Iowa Caucus

Engage in your political party and choose a Presidential candidate!

Where: Varies, based on party and residence

More info: Check with political parties or other sources as the date nears

Jan 16 - 24
Anytime

9 Days for Life: Novena for Life

Pray for life in a 9-day novena.

Where: Anywhere

More info: <https://www.respectlife.org/9-days-signup>

Fri, Jan 19
Events throughout
the day

National Rally and March for Life

Join or watch the National March for Life in our nation's capital

Where: National Mall, Washington, D.C.

More info: <https://marchforlife.org>, airs on EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com>

Mon, Jan 22
7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Adoration for Life (Prayer Event)

Pray for protection of unborn children before the Blessed Sacrament!

Where: St. Pius X Catholic Church

4949 Council St NE, Cedar Rapids, IA

More info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1060242542064382/>

Feb 14 – Mar 24
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>

2023 Year End

2023 Year in Review

This was a very different year. Is the first full year since Roe vs. Wade was no longer in effect.

I personally felt less involved with the local activities for a few reasons. I attended the National March for Life, so I could see what all they would do for the first post-Dobbs march. So, I missed the local March for Life. I had family matters come up that took me away from local activities at times, and I even missed our local Life Chain.

As for the group as a whole, those events went very well. In mid-summer, Planned Parenthood identified a few sites in Iowa where they could close temporarily, and instead closed two of the three permanently. At the same time, they announced that the Cedar Rapids site would resume committing abortions. But before they had a real chance to do that, they temporarily closed the

Planned Parenthood site that's here in the state's second-largest city. It will end this year remaining closed. I believe the first day we knew they were closed was September 8th. If so, then they have been closed during the last 114 days of the year if they remain closed until the end of the year.

Iowa's Heartbeat Law was ruled upon in an unfortunate tie ruling, which left it not being enforced. Then, a special session of the Iowa legislature passed it again to address the unusual claims of the court that it was just "hypothetical" law. That made me concerned about some of the justices that presently serve on the court. But now they have "real" law that was passed when it COULD take effect. But a judge put a stay on it, as usual. So it will take more time, effort, and money to see whether the law will ever be enforced.

It's been 10 years since Kermit Gosnell was convicted in Philadelphia. It was after that ruling that many states pushed for better laws to prevent another butcher from being able to get away with horrible crimes for so long, including murder. However, in the wake of the fall of Roe, several states have eliminated virtually all protections, not just for the lives of the children, but for the health and wellbeing of their mothers, and basic, minimum standards that can lead to problems like we saw with Gosnell.

After the rather pro-life state of Ohio voted to amend their constitution to provide a right to abortion, there are efforts in many other states to do the same. Florida is likely the biggest target for the year ahead, as is the state of Nebraska. We need people to protect life! 🙏



Government Update

Iowa

In November, Iowa's Attorney General filed an appeal to allow the Heartbeat Law to go into effect, again. It was only allowed to be enforced for a few days before a Polk County judge put a stay on the law. The Iowa Supreme Court has agreed to hear the appeal.

The prior Heartbeat Law was passed several years ago, and it spent years in the courts. It's good to see that this is already being elevated to the state's supreme court, since much of the delay in legal cases arises from the various levels of courts and appeals.

The last appeal on the prior Heartbeat Law ended in a tie ruling, which allowed a lower court's ruling to stand, thus preventing enforcement of the law. But that tie resulted from a justice not making a ruling, based on her employment with a company that represented one of the sides when the matter was argued previously. This law should avoid that, and we hope for a good outcome. Now it's a matter of when hearings and rulings occur.

Minnesota

The Minnesota legislature is poised to pass a law legalizing assisted suicide in the coming year. This past year, they stripped practically all protections for life and health for the child and mother in cases of abortion, making Minnesota radically pro-abortion in law. Now, they aim to do the same with matters at the end of life.

Pray About Constitutions/Votes

With abortion advocates bolstered by the outcome of the Ohio election, many states could face votes to amend their constitutions to allow abortion in all cases, up through birth. Many of those could pass. This could undo many of the pro-life gains in recent years. Lies are often told, pro-abortion campaign funding tends to be 10x the pro-life campaign funding, and the wording is vague, which helps it pass. It's bad enough with a few lawmakers or judges inflict widespread allowance of killing, but when the people vote for it, this can cause grave harms.

Pray About Legal Challenges

There are several states with legal challenges that could make a big difference if judges/justices end up siding with protecting life. The laws were passed to protect life, and it would help if people prayed for good outcomes.

If the pro-life side prevails in the states of Arizona, Utah, and/or Wyoming, then those states will provide full protections throughout pregnancy. If the pro-life side prevails in the states of Iowa and/or Florida, then those states will provide protections from the moment a heartbeat is detectable.

The farther a woman must travel to get an abortion, the less likely she is to get an abortion. This seems intuitive, but is also backed up with statistics. Thus, the more states that add protections for life, the better the overall outcome will be.

There is still much to be done to protect human lives in our laws. We hope our states and nation will do what is right. 🙏

Pro-Life Challenge



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

Çantana (pro-lifer); Rockford, IL abortion site; Central Minnesota's PP sites; UNI Students for Life; lawmakers & judges; for the Iowa heartbeat law to go into effect again

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!



Iowa Caucuses

The Iowa Caucuses are coming up in January. While we don't support candidates or parties, we can promote civic involvement.

Caucuses allow political parties to accomplish some of their party's business at the precinct level. The most well-known part of the process is the Presidential preference. This is where members of a political party identify who they prefer to be their party's candidate for the general election later in the year. Since caucuses are managed by the parties, and thus they control the processes used by their party. Thus, the parties tend to differ in how they go about this process.

People can also submit planks that could form the party platform at the various levels of the party. I would love to see pro-life planks appear in each party. Some people may avoid submitting planks that they run counter to their party's recent platforms. However, I've encountered a variety of things in my life.

I'll point out something regarding both of the two largest political

parties. When I was young, if someone wanted to represent my hometown in the state legislature, then they had to be a Democrat. However, they also had to be pro-life. If either was not true about the candidate, they had almost no chance of winning. I also think about how the national Republican platform tends to include support for the death penalty. However, over a decade ago, the county party had someone challenge that, and it hasn't been in the Republican platform at all in the past decade at the county level.

Parties have generally chosen one side or the other on issues, but they can change or allow variations at the local level. Local stances work their way up to the state and national party platforms. Parties are meant to reflect their members, rather than dictating what their members must believe.

The caucus also allows people to fill positions that gather the precinct platform planks to generate the county party's platform. There are other roles that one can fill, too. There is more to the caucus than who you want as President. Engage! 🗳️

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Coalition for Life of Iowa

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