



# Life Matters

Discussing life matters,  
because life matters

January 2024

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

Donate Here

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

## 2024 Begins

We lost one of our local pro-lifers this month—Gary Holub. Page 5 of this newsletter goes into more about that.

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.

On a different topic, I thought I would make people aware of a website that helps people find money they are owed in this state. I realized that it is much easier for people to claim money while they are still alive than for others to claim it later. I know family members of people who receive this newsletter who have money owed to them. I could wait until just before we try to raise funds, but this is useful at any time, and this isn't a gimmick to raise funds. Consider checking this annually.

<https://www.greatiowatreasurehunt.gov>

# Upcoming Events

**Second Tuesdays**  
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

## CFLI Board Meetings (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays)

Get involved in our organization!

**Where:** Contact us.

**More:** [coalitionforlife@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com)

**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>

**Sun, Mar 24**  
Save the Date

## 40 Days for Life Finale



## Marches for Life

This year, we didn't host our usual March for Life. We plan to focus on the anniversary of the Dobb's ruling, which moves activities to June. We plan to join efforts to have a larger event in Des Moines.

Johnson County Right to Life still hosted their March for Life. The weather was cold and there was quite a bit of wind. They laid out the rules up front, which was wise. Since they are in an area where abortions take place, and many college students support abortion, there are many pro-abortion activists in front of the abortion site. In the photo, those people are on the left side of the photo. Pro-lifers packed the block across the street from the abortion provider.

There were far more pro-lifers than pro-abortion activists. The pro-abortion people shouted throughout their time out there. Their words were foul. They

shouted two words to say we were losers with an expletive being the first word. That made it very odd when people driving by would sometimes honk in support of the people shouting "F---ing Losers" toward their vehicles, which were between them and us.

Pro-lifers continued to pray. Some of them sang prayerful songs. The attitudes of the two sides were starkly opposed. Our side was inviting, while the other side was vile. People driving by occasionally waved or gave thumbs-up gestures.

Pro-lifers returned to the starting point for some food and talks. They also gathered items to donate to a pregnancy resource center. Most of the people attending walked in the cold, regardless of age or condition.

Because of the opposition to pro-life efforts in front of the Emma Goldman abortion site, they could

always use our help in being out on their sidewalk on Thursday mornings, since that's the main abortion day. After Roe vs. Wade was decided in the 1970s, the Emma Goldman site was the first abortion site to open in the nation. Others existed in a few states before Roe, but Iowa City took the first step once abortion was legal.

At the national level, the National March for Life took place in Washington D.C.'s snow, and the West Coast Walk for Life took place with San Francisco's rain.

With ruthless efforts to end any protection of life of children in the womb, we must remain active! It's still amazing that courts allowed the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to justify stripping all rights from unborn children, when that the amendment was created to counter slavery's denial of practically all rights of some people! 🙏



## Government Update

### **Iowa**

We continue to wait for any news about Iowa's Heartbeat Law after the Iowa Supreme Court has agreed to hear the appeal.

### **Minnesota**

The Minnesota legislature has introduced a bill aiming to legalize assisted suicide this 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.

Sadly, the majority of people support this. They are won over by "death with dignity", even if killing denies our dignity. They don't want people to suffer or to be a burden. But they take away opportunities to love more deeply.

### **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.

### **Death is Not the Answer**

There are far too many politicians who are touting death as a "solution", despite the fact that such destruction does not bring thriving. We see pushes to make: abortion legal at all times, assisted suicide for those near death, even euthanasia for the mentally ill. Imagine being suicidal, and instead of having a doctor treat the disorder, they affirmed it by taking part in destroying your life. A student in Wisconsin even testified that if Wisconsin wouldn't provide her training in abortion, then she wouldn't practice there.

Death is NOT a real solution. Doctors should not neglect their duties of bringing healing. Politicians should not push death to the people they represent.

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!

## Gary Holub



The husband of one of our board members died unexpectedly this month. Gary Holub has helped us with numerous pro-life activities. One of the most visible of these contributions came forth when he would play his guitar at events. He was also involved with the Iowa PAC for Life pro-life political action committee that meets and supports local candidates for office. His efforts covered a range of aspects of the pro-life movement.

The timing of his funeral stood out to many pro-lifers in attendance. His funeral took place around the time the National March for Life concert began, which leads into the pre-march rally, followed by the march itself. Knowing Gary's ties to both pro-life and musical matters, this seemed rather fitting.

The funeral took place at St. Matthew's Catholic Church, which is the site where we usually gather before our local March for Life. As many of us returned from the cemetery, we walked together from the parking lot to the church and thought about how we normally walk

that same path at the start of each of our March for Life events each January. If we had one this year, it would have been that weekend. It's as if his death would draw us to gather together where we usually would at that time of year.

Gary always had ideas for the movement. He would text message me more often than I preferred, but it's better to have people who are energetic about the cause than those who never offer ideas or participate. My phone has been much quieter in the weeks since his passing.

He tended to play his guitar with Dr. Don at many of our events. At the reception following his funeral, Dr. Don played alone. This also made Gary's absence sink in even more.

In the pro-life movement, we see a great deal of life starting and ending. We know Jesus makes clear that God is a God of the living, not of the dead. Those who have died in Christ continue to live, but are absent from our lives for a time.

Gary will be missed. 🕊️

**CFLI Board**

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## 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.

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Coalition for Life of Iowa

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