



# Life Matters

Discussing life matters,  
because life matters

December 2024

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

Donate Here

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

## On to Next Year

This has been a rather quiet year in Cedar Rapids, since the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood remained closed throughout the entire year. We are grateful for that. However, we know the Cedar Rapids Planned Parenthood intends to reopen in the coming months. They have been fixing their foundation, gutting their building of practically everything, and intend to completely redo the interior to what they want long-term.

They hope to impress their donors with just how nice their new and improved facility will be. Thus, we need to treat this time with extra prayer. They aren't closed with an expectation of remaining closed. They are doing the work to re-open bigger than before! It can be hard to remain diligent when it looks like victory may already be here. But this is not a victory at this time.

As announced in a recent email, there is a matching donation on donations to our organization between now and the end of this calendar year. Please consider donating. It allows you to play a bigger part in advancing the culture of life through these times of change. We may need it with Planned Parenthood trying to reopen soon.

# Upcoming Events

**First Mondays**  
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

**CFLI Board Meetings (1<sup>st</sup> Mondays)**  
Get involved in our organization!  
**Where:** Contact us.  
**More:** [coalitionforlife@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com)

**Wed, Jan 22**  
7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

**Adoration for Life**  
St. Pius X Sanctity of Life Committee hosts a citywide holy hour!  
**Where:** St. Pius X Church  
4949 Council St NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402  
**More:** [coalitionforlife@gmail.com](mailto:coalitionforlife@gmail.com)

**Fri, Jan 24**  
All Day

**National March for Life**  
People across the nation march for life in our nation’s capital!  
**Where:** Washington D.C.  
**More info:** <https://marchforlife.org/national-march-for-life>



***SAVE THE DATE***  
***National Sanctity of Human Life Day***  
***Adoration for Life***

St. Pius X Sanctity of Life Committee  
is hosting a city-wide Holy Hour  
on Wednesday, January 22 from 7:00-8:00 PM  
at St. Pius X Catholic Church.

In conjunction with this event we will be hosting a diaper drive and taking donations for the medical lending closet at Grace Episcopal Church. Please watch for more details.



**Help us plan pro-life activities for the year ahead. Contact us to find out how.**



## Back and Forth

This year has brought with it lots of challenges followed by successes. Many of these occurred in the past few weeks.

A few weeks ago, news broke that both Sam's Club and Kroger stores appeared to offer the abortion pill without announcing it publicly. Pro-lifers took note. Both companies claimed there is a 3<sup>rd</sup> party company that handles their pharmacy listings online, and that the addition of the abortion pills were made in error. They have both made it clear that they do not intend to make the abortion pill available.

In some sense, the excuse can make some sense. Kroger grocery stores exist primarily in states that prohibit abortions. They would only be able to offer the pills in a small number of states. On the other hand, Kroger had very specific pricing of \$7 for their members. Planned Parenthood charges several hundred dollars. It takes some intentional effort to set a price that much below the primary abortion provider. Also, a comptroller in one state was

pressuring them to provide the abortion pill.


Regardless of whether these companies intentionally attempted to sell the abortion pill or not, pro-lifers brought attention to it and their displeasure with the deadly drugs being offered online. The companies have both promised not to carry the abortion pills, after just a few days.

Pulse Life Advocates (formerly Iowans for Life) drew attention to the playbill of the Des Moines Playhouse, which contained an ad encouraging people to donate to the Iowa Abortion Access Fund (IAAF). Pro-lifers voiced their concerns, and the Des Moines Playhouse made it known that another company handles their playbills. We're seeing 3<sup>rd</sup> parties in many of these cases. The makers of the playbill changed their policies, and will no longer run such ads. They handle more businesses and cities than just Des Moines, so this has broader benefits than we might otherwise assume.

Minneapolis had instituted a buffer zone ordinance. They saw various

other cities that passed such ordinances, and their pro-abortion city leaders decided to put a similar buffer zone ordinance into effect. They clearly didn't look at the consistent track record of similar ordinances across the country, since all of them that get challenged in court are found to be unconstitutional. Minneapolis faced the same kind of challenge, and thus the city lost, while pro-lifers prevailed.

We see many attempts to advance the abortion agenda. Those attempts would have easily succeeded if pro-lifers failed to take action. It's easy to do nothing when one thinks things are generally going our way. But there are countless efforts to advance the abortion agenda.

Even in Cedar Rapids, the Planned Parenthood has remained closed for over a year. Some people think it's bound to close. But they are working on a massive renovation in preparation for re-opening. They won't want to close for good after putting forth this much effort into a major renovation. Let us do as other pro-lifers have done and do what we can to make pro-life victories! 



## Government Update

### **Election**

Final counts of votes were worked out in the contested races. The federal government yielded what appears to be a pro-life majority in the House, Senate, and Presidency. Iowa will continue to send lawmakers to D.C. who are more pro-life than their opponents were.

### **Political Appointments**

One possible appointment that is drawing attention is Trump's preference for the head of Health and Human Services (HHS), which is RFK Jr. This stands out because of RFK Jr.'s past positions on abortion. However, after discussions with Senators, it seems like RFK Jr. will align with the administration's pro-life positions and carry them out. He even said things like how there are too many abortions, and that we can't lead the world morally if we have so many abortions.

### **Death Row**

In the final month of the current administration, Biden commuted the sentences of 37 of the 40 people on the national death row. He

previously indicated his desire to eliminate the federal death penalty. If death row had been vacated entirely, and perhaps done at the start of this administration, that would have appeared more consistent with that goal.

### **Minnesota**

Minnesota will now require health insurance to cover abortions—the opposite of health. The state at the heart of the Planned Parenthood affiliate that covers our area is still controlled by pro-abortion lawmakers.

### **Illinois**

Illinois is pushing to pass a bill to make assisted suicide legal. For matters of life and death that have not been legal throughout the country before, this is the main threat that is gradually spreading into more states. Minnesota nearly did this last year, but failed. They could attempt it again this coming legislative session. Illinois seems to have a clear plan to push to deny the dignity of those who are believed to be within months of death.

### **Missouri**

The ballot measure that passed in Missouri stripped away the protections for life in the womb. Because it was done by a vote of the people, little can be done unless a similar vote of the people reverses this action. Unfortunately, the recent election result brings abortion back to our neighbor to the south.

### **Keep Praying**

**Pray for the protection of human life throughout the states.** Pray for the closure of the businesses that kill for money. Pray for the protection of life to prevail in the legislative sessions across the country. Although it's important to get people into positions where they can do the most good, there is always the chance that they may not take action to do the good things. It's also possible that others will prevent them from achieving good things. Minnesota had a good example earlier this year when a bad law was nearly passed, except that one lawmaker was absent. 🙏

## Pro-Life Challenge



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

For people to prioritize the value of human life;  
Students for Life in Iowa;  
lawmakers & judges;  
religious leaders

## 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!



## Looking Back at 2024

This year brought about some changes. We saw Iowa enact the Heartbeat Law after many years of failing to enact one. Abortions performed in Iowa dropped quickly, although many women were trafficked out of the state to acquire abortions.

In Cedar Rapids we've seen the city without Planned Parenthood and with no abortion provider for the entire year. This is the first time that's been the case in many decades. But we know this is only intended to be temporary. They want to open up again in the next few months, once they get their facility upgraded.


Earlier in December, a man shot and killed the CEO of UnitedHealthcare. The reaction of people revealed just how divided our nation has become, and how many people don't recognize the intrinsic value in each human life. Far too many people seemed to think it was okay, and even made it seem like other CEOs were on notice.

Earlier in the year, we saw similar reactions to a heavily polarized man who will return to the presidency in

January. But in that case, people spent years comparing him to Hitler. Many people are still doing that. Such irresponsible comparisons encourage violence.

We saw an election that finally saw a few states see pro-life victories when the people could vote on whether or not to create a right to kill via abortion. That had gone badly ever since the Dobbs ruling struck down Roe v. Wade. While several states did pass such amendments, we are at least seeing pro-life successes.

The state of Iowa put into operation a second Baby Box. This one is in the Des Moines area. The state could use several more, so even more lives can be spared.

We had a booth at the Linn County Fair for the first time this past summer. We want to do more outreach into the community going forward. We will try to continue to make use of the Equal Rights Institute's training materials. We know they also have high school curriculum available, if anyone knows of a school that may use it. 

**CFLI Board**

[one spot open]

Jim Burke (Vice President)

Mary Cherion (Secretary)

Rick Delagardelle

Lisa Gignac (President)

Sue Martinek

Vanessa Milliman

Melissa Schechinger (Treasurer)

Pat Semelroth



## Spread the Word!

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- 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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*Remember, Life Matters!*

Coalition for Life of Iowa

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