



Life Matters

Discussing life matters,
because life matters

September 2026

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We welcome newcomers to our
events and meetings

Donate Here

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

Getting Busier, Again

We're in the midst of our Fall 40 Days for Life activities. We're also coming up on our annual Life Chain in October. Check out our upcoming events, since we have quite a few events coming up.

Invite people to join you in praying during 40 Days for Life and the Life Chain. Fasting amplifies the power of prayer. We're living in a time when we need to pray more deeply. I've seen the best results in pro-life efforts and other matters when engaging in deep prayer and fasting.

As we near an election, remember to vote.

KEEP PRAYING! DO NOT STOP! We want PP to sell their Cedar Rapids site. But until then, we pray outside their gutted building.

Upcoming Events

First Mondays
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

CFLI Board Meetings (1st Mondays)

Get involved in our organization!

Where: Contact us.

More: coalitionforlife@gmail.com

Sep 23 – Nov 1
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: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/cedarrapids>

Sun, Oct 11
2 – 3:30 p.m.

Cedar Rapids Life Chain

Take to the streets and spread the pro-life message!

Where: Meet at St. Matthew's parking lot, then spread out

2310 1st Ave, Cedar Rapids, IA

More info: <https://lifeiowa.org/events/life-chain/>

Pre-registration is preferred. Contact Sue Martinek at 319-270-0054 / susjmar@aol.com

Mon, Oct 12
5 – 6 p.m.

40 Days for Life Midpoint Rally

Join us in greater numbers midway through the 40 days!

Where: Sidewalk outside Planned Parenthood

3425 First Ave SE, Cedar Rapids, IA

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

Sun, Nov 1
(save the date)

40 Days for Life Closing Rally

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>

Sat, Nov 21
Doors Open: 5 p.m.

Pulse Life Advocates Christmas Gala

Hear Jim Caviezel at this year's gala! (\$150)

Where: Iowa Events Center Hall B

730 3rd St, Des Moines, IA 50309

More info/Sign-up: <https://pulseforlife.org/christmas-gala-2026/>



PP Affiliate: MN Non-Metro Sites



The sites within the PP affiliate within of the state of Minnesota, but outside of the Twin Cities metro area include:

1. Saint Cloud
2. Moorhead
3. Duluth
4. Rochester
5. Mankato

I listed them in the order I would expect future closures, unless circumstances change. The first three sites in the list do NOT presently provide abortion services, while the last two provide them.

Saint Cloud has a larger population than Moorhead, but Moorhead is part of the Fargo-Moorhead area, which has a larger metro area. Moorhead also provides access to North Dakota, since it's just across the border from North Dakota. Saint Cloud is similar to Iowa City in terms of population. It is also a college town, but with a university with roughly 1/3 the attendees. The population in that area was primarily Catholic and German, but is increasingly Muslim, which seems like it could reduce demand for the kinds of services PP offers.

Since half of the population of Minnesota lives in the Twin Cities Metro Area, PP naturally caters to the most people by concentrating near the cities. Saint Cloud, Mankato, and Rochester are outliers, reached by driving 60-90 minutes from the Twin Cities. Many people are willing to drive 30-45 minutes for certain services, which makes these cities beneficial for PP. Moorhead and Duluth maintain a presence that keeps PP present in distant parts of the state.

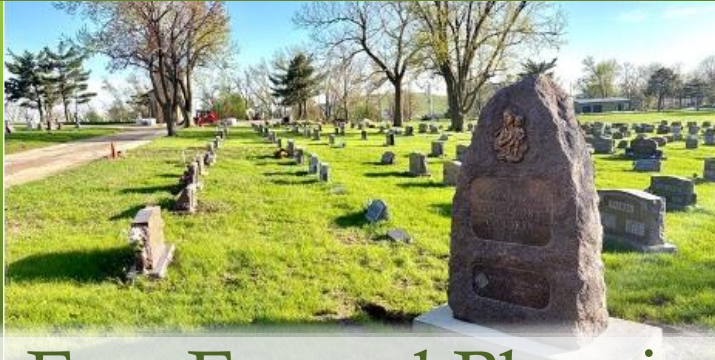
Saint Cloud is the only one of the three sites near the cities that doesn't provide abortions after one week. It also has a relatively small population. This is why I list it first.

Moorhead is far away, and it has the smallest population of the sites, although the metro areas are close to some others in number. They face competition in Moorhead, similar to the competition they faced in Iowa City. This would see like the second-least viable site in this category.

Of the three remaining in the list, the Duluth PP does not provide abortions after 3 weeks, and it faces multiple competitors. The city is the

fifth largest in Minnesota, but has a population of just 10,000 or so more than Iowa City has. But it provides access to a broader area. With it being a geographical outlier and not providing abortions in a region with other competitors, this makes for an easy #3 in the list.

The last two could go in either order. Rochester is larger than Mankato, but I think their Mankato site is stronger. Rochester also has competition, since the last I knew, Mayo Clinic offers abortions, and they are highly respected in the medical community. I would think it would make more sense for the college town of Mankato to continue to thrive off abortions provided to people referred from Iowa, South Dakota, and other states. Mankato is also closer to the geographical center of the affiliate. They put lots of resources into building up the site in Mankato. So, it seems to me the Rochester site would place #4, followed closely by Mankato in the #5 position. I say this despite Rochester being the third largest city in Minnesota, with only Minneapolis and Saint Paul having more people. 🇺🇸



Free Funeral Planning

As we deal with matters of life and death, I thought I would address our own preparations a little. A few years ago, I attended an event on the topic of end-of-life preparations. Like last month's article, this is another matter you can address without a lawyer. I want to start with the things people can do for free, so they get a few things accomplished, and so it builds momentum.

One of the things we are assured of is physical death. Failing to plan for death leaves the burden of planning on your survivors, and they are often pressed against time to make decisions quickly to minimize the time decay can set in. Having a plan helps simplify matters for loved ones. They just have to execute the plan, rather than figure one out and carry it out.

So many services in this world cost money—most of them usually cost money. However, funeral homes should ALL provide funeral planning FOR NO COST! Many churches will also help in such matters. There are also some websites with content to help you through the planning. Note that a funeral plan works out whether you

want a bodily burial versus cremation; it includes what type of funeral you wish to have, possibly including readings, music, pall bearers, etc.

If you have purchased a burial plot, it would also point people to that, so they know they don't need to acquire another one. If you don't have a burial plot, you can still indicate the desire to be buried, but unless you arrange to get one, and most places would charge money for a plot, this is where money could get involved...but only if you are buying a plot or similar arrangement like a space in a columbarium (for cremains). Similarly, a funeral home could allow you to pre-pay for a casket or coffin, their services, a headstone, etc. Again, this is optional. If you don't want to pay money, you can have the funeral plan, leaving the costs for the time of death. Sometimes people assume making a plan means pre-paying for things, but it doesn't.

If costs rise faster than you like, you could consider pre-paying for the final expenses. However, I've also heard of cases where someone prepaid a funeral home, and the

business was sold to another business, which didn't seem to honor what was already paid for. If I had known sooner, I would have suggested they contact a lawyer. Even if they hadn't been sold, if the business closed, similar risks could be experienced. That's not that common, but it's possible.

I know of a case where someone told each of their several children different aspects of what they wanted for their funeral. But not everyone remembers details from many years earlier, and no one had the whole plan—it wasn't written down. Afterward, people realized things were missed or overlooked. If things matter, get it documented. If things don't matter, you can always indicate that and put it into the plan. Churches are used to certain readings and music options, and someone can choose.

Plans also allow you to consider things like who to contact and include, or if you want something buried with you (even if you can't take it with you), etc. Make things easier on your loved ones. Make a funeral plan if you haven't already done so. Remember to update it occasionally. Things change. 🌱



Government Update

National

There are still many federal candidates pushing the pro-abortion rhetoric. Many of them push for abortion at any stage for any reason with no safeguards. Politics tends to polarize this issue, despite most people being somewhere in the middle. Four years ago, the Dobbs ruling energized the abortion movement, but that's fading.

Idaho

Idaho presently protects life at conception, onward. Abortion advocates put a measure on their ballot to amend their constitution to allow abortions up to viability, with some allowances past that point. Billionaires are funding the pro-abortion side.

California (surprising news)

The very pro-abortion governor of California, Gavin Newsom surprised people by vetoing a pro-abortion bill. The bill would have codified California's existing treatment of abortion providers who violate pro-life laws in other states.

Iowa

This is an election year when we will elect a new governor and U.S. senator. We also have many unchallenged seats for the Iowa House in the Cedar Rapids area. State and national happenings could swing votes. We encourage people to become active in the political process. Some pro-life groups are paying people when you get involved with helping the pro-life movement in a political way.

Someone showed up at my door to promote pro-abortion candidates. I made it clear I cannot support such candidates. They didn't think their candidate had any substantial stance on the abortion issue. I proceeded to point out multiple instances when his stance was clear and solidly supporting abortion. I just can't support candidates for office who seek death to Americans. I'm not calling out candidates by name or party, but our children are our future, and we need to stop killing our future!

Utah (Active Abortion Case)

Utah has an abortion case addressing constitutionality. This case could decide if life is protected from conception or not. Abortion is allowed up to 18 weeks (most abortions are legal) for now. This case could go on for several more months.

Vote!

On November 3, we have a critical election. Make sure to vote, and vote pro-life! Get other pro-lifers out to vote, too.

Keep Praying

Pray for the protection of human life throughout the states. Pray for an end of the culture of death. Pray for the protection of life to prevail in governments in our nation and world. Pro-life lawmakers help, but don't always prevent them from achieving good things. We need to pray and to contact lawmakers to let our voices be heard. The abortion industry adapts. It's important to achieve results this year! 🙏



Foreign Governments Update

Netherlands

Doctors in the Netherlands used their nation's ever-evolving euthanasia laws to kill a child who hadn't even reached their second birthday. The child's gender wasn't released. But there were severe issues in the brain after a very premature birth.

Too often, lawmakers start with something like abortion, but move on to assisted suicide, followed by euthanasia. They usually start with "safeguards" to limit the killing, but as we see in this case, the age limits now allow for the killing of toddlers.

Canada 1

News came out of Canada about an 83-year-old grandmother who was inappropriately tricked into being killed by hospital staff in a situation that seems like it had to break laws. Not only had she consistently refused the Medical Aid in Dying, citing her faith, but she designated her granddaughter as her medical power of attorney. When her granddaughter took a 10-day trip, hospital staff used the opportunity

to bypass the medical power of attorney. They did a test of the competency of the patient to ensure she could be deemed fit to make a decision on the matter. She failed EVERY question! They considered her competent! They never informed her granddaughter of this in advance.

When she returned, she found out that her grandmother had apparently been scheduled for death that Friday. She asked her grandmother if she understood she would die in two days. Her grandmother said she made a mistake. She was killed, despite objecting to being killed by the people who are supposed to bring healing, rather than death.

Lawsuits in the US might be levied against an insurance company, with government courts able to serve as a neutral third party. The Canadian medical system is nationalized. The government serves as the judge and the cause of the injustice.

Canada 2

Another situation in Canada involves Roger Foley. A hospital cut off his supply of food and water.

He has been kept alive using an IV. However, it's not an ideal solution. Again, with a nationalized system, there is strong pressure for him to take the option of death, which always seems to be the cheapest solution, but the least ethical one. The hospital has prevented him from getting the care he needs and wants.

South Korea

South Korea aims to phase in use of the abortion pill. This will make abortion more accessible, and thus more pervasive like it has become in the United States.

So many countries fail to learn the lessons from the United States. After decades of our nation pushing abortion onto other nations, some of the opposition has reduced, while in some countries, it has improved after cuts to funding of programs that pushed abortion abroad. Abortion has torn our nation apart and threatens our economic future. Too many nations seem to fall for the trap that will divide and destroy them, long-term. 🇺🇸

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; success for other pro-life groups

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!

~~CVS~~

~~Walgreens~~

Vaccines

It's that time of year again when seasonal and annual vaccines tend to get promoted, especially in advance of the flu season. This article isn't going to weigh into the vaccine matters that have been brought up in recent years. Some people think they offer no value, while others see value. I'd rather focus on the pro-life matters to consider if one gets a vaccine.

A few years ago, CVS and Walgreens both decided they would sell the abortion pill. They both tended to limit the sales to states where it was legal. This turned both of them into some of the nation's top abortion providers when counting the number of sites they have. This led many people like me to boycott these businesses. I had only started visiting places like CVS just a few years prior, based on their prior choice to avoid selling tobacco products like cigarettes. Years after they made that decision for the sake of avoiding things that cause harm to people, I bought a few things from them. Then, they ruined the rationale by selling a drug with the sole purpose of killing children.

There are pharmacies like Clark's Pharmacy in Cedar Rapids that don't do that, and instead, they focus on health. Others may also be good, but I know that one for sure.

CVS provides free vaccinations at my worksite on particular days in the weeks ahead. But I could go to any pharmacy and get the same deal. Although it may be free to us, know that CVS still gets paid one way or another. Therefore, whenever I seek a vaccine or drug that's available at a pharmacy, I choose the pharmacy, rather than defaulting to the convenience of one that profits from abortion.

There are also many kinds of vaccines that use fetal cell lines from tissues harvested from an abortion. Some use the cells to replicate the virus, while others use them only in testing. During the development of vaccines in 2020, the shots were developed without fetal cells, until the test phase. That's when they unnecessarily used unethical means in testing. The US still only has unethical options for that one. 🇺🇸

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