



Life Matters

Village Bible Church

Quarterly Newsletter Vol 1. Issue 1
January 2023

Visit the Life Matters Page at
<https://villagebible.church/lifematters/>

Welcome to the first edition of our Life Matters Team newsletter.

We are excited to share with you what our team has been doing, as well as what to look forward to in the new year.

Our team focuses on four areas: supplication, education, legislation and mobilization. We strive to highlight each of the areas in our newsletter as well as plan annual events highlighting each focus.

The Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade and send the abortion decision back to the states has been monumental. The fight for life is now so important at our state level. Be sure to check out our legislative update on the back.

We encourage you to take time to pray for our Life Matters Team and use the "Supplication" prayer points below as a guide.

I was personally challenged by the power of prayer during our recent 40 Days for Life event. We saw God work as a girl was turned away from the door of Planned Parenthood in a direct response to our prayers.

Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful. Psalm 116:5

Deana Goodwin



Supplication

Prayer Points:

- That our nation would realize that a living human being is not a "choice," but a gift.
- God would grant us grace and wisdom.
- May we speak the truth in love.
- May we speak up on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves.
- May we reach out with passion and conviction to women and men facing unexpected pregnancies.
- As we promote the sanctity of human life, may we ultimately point people toward You.
- Women and men facing an unplanned pregnancy.
- Abortion industry workers.
- That our community, elected officials, leaders and neighbors would understand the truth about abortion.
- Life Matters Team at VBC.



Education

New Resources:



Literature Display in the Library

Look for the addition of more books next month. Thanks to Cindy Rivera for organizing!

Upcoming Events:

January

Sanctity of Life Month-January 2023

Thursday, January 26 6:30-9 p.m.

The documentary, Matter of Life, will be shown and will be followed up with a panel discussion. **Note: Suggested audience is 14 and older.** This is a compelling documentary film that explores the political, spiritual, emotional and physical aspects of abortion.

<https://www.thematteroflife.org/>

February

Thursdays, February 9 and 23

Two follow up sessions discussing how to talk about, and defend your pro-life beliefs.





Legislation

REPORT from Ralph Rivera
—Illinois Right to Life lobbyist and Life Matters Team member.

November 2022 Election Results:

The Illinois Senate saw a gain of one pro-life seat which brings the total to 20. Even with the gain of one pro-life senate seat, there will be 39 pro-abortion seats in the Senate where 30 votes are needed to pass a bill.

The Illinois House saw a loss of five pro-life seats In the Illinois House, there will be 41 pro-life seats out of a total 118. In order to pass any bill, it takes 60 votes in the House. The pro-abortion votes are 76!

Before the new General Assembly is sworn in on January 11, there are several abortion bills in the lame duck session in January (January 4th through the 11th) that are concerning. A bill will be presented allowing non-physicians (advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, and nurse midwives) to do surgical abortions up to 12 weeks gestation, in addition to chemical abortions. Illinois has always required that only physicians do surgical abortions for the safety of the women.

A bill has just been introduced to require the Department of Public Health to establish state abortion clinics throughout Illinois, all paid for by our tax dollars! This includes using state tax dollars to pay for the transportation, lodging, meals and of course abortions for women from other states to come to Illinois. Also, pregnancy resource centers (PRC) are being targeted by proposing a law to require stiff regulations with the intent to eliminate most of the PRCs.

Illinois Right to Life Action, which will lead the fight to protect unborn lives and their mothers, is the only pro-life organization to have any full-time, pro-life lobbyists, two of which attend Village Bible Church in Sugar Grove in Ralph Rivera and Michelle Gerken.

What can a Christian Do?

First and most important we must pray to our Almighty God to intervene! **“If My people who are called by My name shall humble themselves... then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14**

Secondly, we must make our voices and views heard by contacting our state senators, state representatives, and congressmen and urge them NOT to support any abortion legislation.

To find your current state legislators (until January 11th) and to also find your newly elected state legislators (who start on January 11th), visit:

My Elected Representative (<https://ilsbe.maps.arcgis.com>)

You can type in your address. The information will then show your elected officials. State Senator and State Representative are current now and until January 11th. The options 2022 State Senator and 2022 State Representative are your “new” legislators for the next two years beginning on January 11.



Mobilization



Upcoming Events:

March



Save the date—
March 21, 2023
Illinois March for Life in Springfield

We are pleased to be partnering with Illinois Right to Life.

The March for Life Chicago has become the Illinois March for Life and will move to the heart of our state, and the Midwest -- Springfield, Illinois -- on March 21, 2023!

Illinois has some of the most radical abortion laws in the nation and now women from as far away as Texas, Oklahoma, and Louisiana are flooding our state for abortions without knowing how dangerous this really is. The March for Life Illinois will shine a light on the extremism coming out of Springfield and the fact that the vast majority of abortion clinics in Illinois are neither licensed nor inspected, that young girls can obtain abortions without their parents even being notified, and much more. Illinois’s abortion laws are a deadly threat to pre-born babies and their mothers, and

the March for Life Illinois will let Illinois legislators know the people of the Midwest reject their abortion extremism.

Join us on March 21, 2023 at 2:00 PM at the Illinois State Capitol in Springfield! Visit IllinoisMarchForLife.org to learn more. We hope to see you there!

Amy Gehrke

Executive Director
Illinois Right to Life