

THE ERIE ECHO

"a voice for life"

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Pro-Life Dinner October 24

Catch up with old pro-life friends and make some new ones when we gather for People for Life's Second Annual Pro-Life Dinner on Friday, October 24 at the Ambassador Banquet & Conference Center, 7794 Peach Street, Erie. You will hear and have a chance



Dr. David C. Reardon

to meet Dr. David Reardon, a strong supporter of healing programs for those who have experienced the loss of a child due to abortion, miscarriage, or neonatal death. Dr. Reardon has conducted extensive research on the emotional and psychological aftereffects of abortion. His work demonstrates

conclusively that abortion is hurting women and families as well as killing babies.

The Crystal Ballroom doors will open at 5 p.m. The program, with dinner, will begin at 6 p.m. and conclude by approximately 8 p.m.

Entrée choices Chicken Cordon Bleu: Chicken Breast Stuffed with Ham & Swiss, Coated & Lightly Fried, Topped with Bechamel Sauce | Pan Seared Salmon: Orange Galliano Sauce and Chive Oil Mediterranean Orzo Pasta, Asparagus and Baby Carrots | Cauliflower Steak: Grilled Cauliflower served with Carrot and Ginger Puree, Roasted Baby Carrots over Red wine and Dijon Lentils with a caper sauce

Reservations The price is \$55 a person (\$45 for teens | \$25 for a 12-and-under with a special kids meal). Reservations are due by Sunday, October 19. They can be made online at peopleforlife.org/dinner or at People for Life, 1625 W. 26th St., Erie. If we are closed, you can use the front-door mail slot. Include a name and choice of entrée for each reservation. Checks should be made payable to the People for Life Education Fund. Credit card payments, in-person or over-the-phone, are also welcome.

With the publication of his first book, *Aborted Women, Silent No More* in 1987, Dr. Reardon quickly gained the attention of the

pro-life community and mainstream journalism as well. His research on post-abortion trauma, also known as post-abortion syndrome or PAS, has been published in major professional journals.

Dr. Reardon is also the author of *Making Abortion Rare: A Healing Strategy for a Divided Nation*, and *The Jericho Plan: Breaking Down the Walls That Prevent Post-Abortion Healing*. He is co-author of *Victims and Victors: Speaking Out About Their Pregnancies, Abortions, and Children Resulting from Sexual Assault*, and *Forbidden Grief: The Unspoken Pain of Abortion*. *Forbidden Grief* was coauthored with another well-known authority on the aftereffects of abortion, Theresa Burke, the founder of Rachel's Vineyard.

We are very pleased to announce that our good pro-life friend and local musical celebrity Angelo Phillips has graciously agreed to perform at this year's Pro-Life Dinner.

Angelo has blessed us with his music at several Pro-Life Breakfasts over the years.



Angelo Phillips

PA March for Life

People for Life's annual Bus Trip to the Pennsylvania March for Life on September 22 could not have gone more perfectly. There was a lot of rain on the way down and heavy rain on the way home. Almost miraculously, the streets in Harrisburg remained perfectly dry during our entire visit. Calm winds and balmy temperatures were the order of the day.

Steve, our bus driver, later texted that he thoroughly enjoyed our lively group. Having 10 Gannon students and some young people from Our Lady of Peace Parish with us for the day certainly added to the liveliness.

Forty-three people registered for the trip. This unfortunately left 12 open seats. Even so, we made a good showing, the Erie area did not go unrepresented, and a good time was apparently had by all.

Besides participating in the official March for Life program, some of us made the rounds to the offices of our state legislators, both pro-life and not-so-pro-life, before and after we marched. It was a great opportunity to roam the halls of the Capitol complex, almost getting lost a few times along the way.

The General Assembly was not in session and some of the legislators were back home in their districts. But we did speak with members of their staffs. Every one of the staffers, from both sides of the aisle, were polite, friendly, and professional. All were very happy to take our names and messages. Several even invited us to have a look inside their bosses' personal office spaces.

We also visited pro-abortion Governor Shapiro's reception room and spoke to a member of his staff. The Governor was also unavailable.

We did have the pleasure of meeting up with three of our local pro-life state legislators on the Capitol steps. Rep. Brad Roe, Rep. Kathy Rapp, and Sen. Scott Hutchinson each made a point to be in town for the March.

Maybe we can persuade the legislators to hold a reception with tasty refreshments for their constituents at future events, like pro-life Congressman Mike Kelly does after the March for Life in DC. Maybe, just maybe, we could fill several buses instead of struggling to fill only one. Just a thought!

This Bus Trip suffered from a significant cost overrun. We paid the bus company \$4190. Our 43 marchers contributed \$2,150, and we received a \$200 grant from the Pennsylvania Family Institute. This left us \$1,850 in the red. Twelve more marchers

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Candidate Survey: 2025 General Election

The following questions were mailed to 106 candidates running for selected offices prior to the May 19 Pennsylvania Primary Election: City of Erie Mayor; Erie City Council; Erie County Executive; Erie County Council; Township Supervisor for Harborcreek, Millcreek, and Summit townships; and all school board positions in Erie County. Only nine candidates responded. This was surprising because these eight simple questions were worded to allow the respondents more latitude and flexibility than in past surveys.

The questions were mailed a second time to the 70 candidates who won their primaries but had not yet responded. Sadly, only one of the 70 returned the questionnaire.

If any additional responses arrive before Election Day, they will be shared in future Email Updates and in an addendum to the online PDF version of this newsletter.

If you talk with any of the candidates, please encourage them to return their human life questionnaire to People for Life. Extra copies of the questionnaire are available on request.

Survey Questions

1. How would you react to a law legalizing euthanasia or assisted suicide? Welcome—Tolerate—Actively Oppose
2. How do you personally feel about euthanasia and assisted suicide? Serious Evil—Depends on the Individual—Positive Good
3. Should there be legal limits on elective abortion (abortion as birth control)? Yes—No
4. How do you personally feel about elective abortion? Serious Evil—Depends on the Individual—Positive Good
5. Would you support a law limiting abortion to when necessary to prevent the death of the mother or to prevent the permanent

impairment of a major bodily function? Yes—No

6. How would you react to a law prohibiting abortion in most cases?

Welcome—Tolerate—Actively Oppose

7. What is your impression of pro-life crisis pregnancy (pregnancy support) centers? Positive—Neutral—Negative

8. Since the previous FDA regulations were abandoned in December 2021, abortion pills (mifepristone, aka Mifeprex® or Korlym™), an alternative to surgical abortion, can be prescribed without an in-person visit to a doctor and obtained at a local pharmacy. Changes to the way abortion pills are dispensed present obvious risks including: undiagnosed ectopic pregnancy, danger of a pregnancy too far along; and clandestine use by minors and human traffickers. Are such risks acceptable compromises for the sake of easily-available abortion? Yes—No

Office	Name	Party	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Erie City Mayor	Matthew S. Thomas	R	Oppose	Serious Evil	Yes	Serious Evil	Yes	Welcome	Positive	No
Erie City Controller	Ed Brzezinski	D	Oppose	Serious Evil	Yes	Serious Evil	Yes	Welcome	Positive	No
Erie City Council	Yevet Redd Anderson	R	Tolerate	Depends	Yes	Depends	Yes	Welcome	Positive	No
Erie City Council	Kimberly Hunter	R	Oppose	Serious Evil	Yes	Serious Evil	Yes	Welcome	Positive	No
Erie County Council District 4	Jim Winarski	D	Tolerate	Depends	Yes	Blank	Yes	Welcome	Positive	No
Erie County Council District 6	Scott Rastetter	R	Oppose	Depends	Yes	Bad	Yes	Welcome	Positive	No
Girard School Director	Jason Bax	R	Oppose	Serious Evil	Yes	Serious Evil	Yes	Welcome	Positive	No
Girard School Director	Chris McNally	DR	Oppose	Depends	Yes	Serious Evil	Yes	Welcome	Neutral	No
Harborcreek School Director	Edward Mattson	DR	Oppose	Serious Evil	Yes	Serious Evil	Yes	Welcome	Positive	No
Summit Township Supervisor	Michael Pace	R	Oppose	Depends	Yes	Serious Evil	Yes	Welcome	Positive	No

PA Judicial Candidates

Three justices of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court are up for retention votes this November 4. All three are pro-abortion. The PA Pro-Life Federation is recommending NO votes for all three. Their names are: Christine Donohue (D), Kevin Dougherty (D), and David Wecht (D). Members of the state judiciary are subject to retention votes every 10 years.

A high-stakes case is currently pending in the state court system that could establish abortion and government-paid abortion as constitutional rights under the Pennsylvania constitution.

In the race for the Pennsylvania Superior Court, the Federation recommends Judge Maria Battista (R). For the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court, the Federation recommends Judge Matt Wolford (R).

Christina Vogel & Jim Wertz

Two candidates currently running for Erie County offices have the dubious distinction of being endorsed by the nation's biggest abortion provider. Planned Parenthood recently claimed responsibility for killing

402,230 prenatal human beings in one year (2022-2023).

Christina Vogel (D) is running for County Executive against incumbent Brenton Davis. Jim Wertz is running for Erie County Council in District 2. Both are endorsed by Planned Parenthood. As the general election approaches, only a total of 20 candidates in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have been chosen by Planned Parenthood for the notoriety of an endorsement or special mention.

While Planned Parenthood's abortion killing business continues to grow (up 23% since 2013), their other pregnancy-related services are vanishing. Since 2013, prenatal services have dropped 63%. During the 2022-2023 fiscal year, only 1.7% of women seeking pregnancy-related services received prenatal care, miscarriage services, or adoption referrals; 96.9% were sold an abortion.

Planned Parenthood is dedicated to one thing, and that is abortion: unlimited and government-funded. That is why the one-year funding freeze that President Trump has imposed on Planned Parenthood must be made permanent. And that is why politicians who brag about Planned Parenthood's seal of approval should be ashamed of themselves.

Mail-In Voting

Submitting a mail-in ballot might not be a bad idea, even if you like to vote in-person. Every election is important, and there is always a chance that something will prevent you from getting to the polls on Election Day (November 4, this year).

You can still vote in-person even if you request and receive a mail-in ballot. Simply turn in the mail-in ballot at your polling place when you go to vote. You will be given a regular ballot to fill out per the regular routine. If you don't have the mail-in ballot, tell the poll workers. They will have you vote a provisional ballot, which will be verified before it is counted.

Mail-in ballots can be requested online, by mail, or in-person at the voter registration office in your county courthouse until 5 p.m. October 28. Voter registration offices will be open to receive mail-in ballots right up til 8 p.m. on Election Day. Why not give it a try?

Don't quite trust the post office? You can input your name, date of birth and county on the PA Voter Services website anytime and find out exactly when your ballot was received and processed.

January Speaker

Can you keep a secret? It might be a little early to think about January and People for Life's Annual Pro-Life Breakfast, but we can't wait any longer to share the news about the speaker we have in store for you.

She is Lydia Taylor Davis. If the name is unfamiliar, do a quick search on YouTube, Instagram, or Facebook. Lydia is the national spokesperson and social media coordinator for Students for Life of America. Part of her job is engaging with the opposition on college campuses and in various other public settings, not unlike the late Charlie Kirk. And, like Charlie, she knows how to stand her ground, self-confidently defending pro-life truths with clarity and charity.

Lydia is currently in the midst of a five-college "Make Gen Z ANTI-ABORTION" campus tour.

The 48th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast will

be held on January 17, 2026 at Erie's Bayfront Convention Center. Get ready for a memorable morning.

If you can't keep the secret, go ahead and tell your friends and family about the Pro-Life Breakfast and our special guest speaker. And please make a point to invite as many teens and young adults as you possibly can. Pro-Life Breakfast tickets might make great stocking stuffers this Christmas.

Follow our Email Updates and [Facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast](https://www.facebook.com/ProLifeBreakfast) to know when online registration is open. Or if you prefer, send \$30 (\$22 for ages 3-12) for each reservation with names and your contact information to People for Life; 1625 W. 26th St.; Erie, PA 16508.

The breakfast buffet will feature smoked bacon, sausage links, breakfast potatoes, scrambled eggs, muffins and pastries.

Children under three are welcome to attend at no charge. Child care will be



Lydia Taylor Davis
Students for Life of America

available during the speaking portion of the program.

Memorials & Tributes

<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
Angeliki Agrafiotis	Thomas Agrafiotis, Husband	Roberta L. Bowden	Rose Ann Yadeski
Debbie Denz	Maureen Altman	Mr. John K. Fitzgerald	Rose Ann Yadeski
Tom Dore	Maureen Altman	Erie & Amy Jaglowski	Rose Ann Yadeski
David & Martha Karle	Maureen Altman	Gretchen & Paul Lorei	Rose Ann Yadeski
Roberta A. Cooney	Breanna J. Cooney	Margaret Mitchell	Rose Ann Yadeski
K of C 4th Degree Assembly #963	Deceased Members	Nancy Murray	Rose Ann Yadeski
Margaret Dutkowski	John Dutkowski	Lisa & Henry Norton	Rose Ann Yadeski
Judy Flynn	Bill Flynn	Mary Warner	Rose Ann Yadeski
Mrs. Gerrie Gromacki	Tom Gromacki	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>
Kathleen A. Levis	Karen Rosenthal	Saint Gregory Wonder Workers	Saint Gregory Parishioners
John & Dianne Brainard	Randy A. Keister		
Marla J. Pellegrino	Mother		

JOIN PEOPLE FOR LIFE OR DONATE

NAME _____ DATE _____

ADDRESS _____ E-MAIL _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Best Phone _____ Mobile? Yes ☐ | No ☐ Other Phone _____ Mobile? Yes ☐ | No ☐ Do not text ☐

AFFILIATED WITH (church, club, organization, business, etc.) _____ WORK/PROFESSION _____

1. DONATION: \$1,000 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ \$10 ☐ Other Amount _____

2. MEMBERSHIP DUES (one year): Individual \$10 ☐ Family \$20 ☐ Senior Citizen /Student \$5 ☐ New ☐ Renewal ☐

3. TRIBUTE DONATION AMOUNT _____ In Memory of ☐ or In Honor of ☐ _____

4. TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Donations may also be made using the DONATE button on www.peopleforlife.org or by calling-in your credit card information.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

___ Educational Booths

___ Phone Calling

___ Office Staff

___ Newsletter Mailing

___ Liaison to Another Organization

___ Public Demonstrations

___ Pro-Life Breakfast Help

___ Life Run Help

___ March for Life Bus Trip Help

___ Erie March for Life Help

___ Call me when you need a hand.

___ Special skill? Tell us!

Please make your check payable to:

PEOPLE FOR LIFE, INC.
1625 W. 26th St.
Erie, PA 16508

Contributions or gifts to People for Life, Inc. are not tax deductible.

The official registration and financial information of People for Life, Inc. may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999.

Registration does not imply endorsement.

PEOPLE FOR LIFE
www.PeopleforLife.org

phone (814) 882-1333
phone / fax (814) 459-1333
hq@peopleforlife.org
[Facebook.com/PeopleforLife](https://www.facebook.com/PeopleforLife)

New Mailing Address
1625 W. 26th St.
Erie, PA 16508

— Headquarters Location —
1625 W. 26th St.; Erie, PA
Normally open 10 to 5 weekdays.
Call for evening and weekend hours.

FROM PAGE 1 Pennsylvania March

would have reduced the deficit to \$1,250. Our plan was to solicit donations specifically to help with the bus bill. Unfortunately, with all the busy-ness of our educational outreach season, our solicitation effort was only half-hearted at best.

The actual cost per seat was \$76. That is out of sight for many people, especially the students. We would prefer not to charge even \$50. Our bus trips are not exactly a picnic. The Harrisburg marchers spent nearly 12 hours on the road and gave up an entire day to intercede for the babies and say no to the senseless injustice of legalized abortion killing. The DC Bus Trip requires more time, about 27 hours, in the dead of winter no less. That's asking a lot, even before we charge them \$50, or whatever the amount, for all their time and trouble.

See lots of pictures from the PA March for Life Bus Trip at: [Facebook.com/PAMarchforLifeBus](https://www.facebook.com/PAMarchforLifeBus) and [Facebook.com/PeopleforLife](https://www.facebook.com/PeopleforLife). And please click the "follow" buttons when you visit.

DC March for Life

The next Washington, DC March for Life will take place on January 23, 2026, the Friday following the Pro-Life Breakfast. People for Life is planning to send at least one bus (for the 53rd time), but we are going to need some help in the form of Bus Trip underwriters.

The bus is already reserved. Regrettably, the cost breaks down to \$97 per person, provided every seat is filled and paid for. It will be difficult to fill a bus unless we can make the trip more affordable for students and families.

If you believe it is important to carry the pro-life struggle to our nation's centers of political power and you feel called to keep our buses on the road each January and September, please consider a special donation. Label it, "Bus Contribution." (If

2025 PRO-LIFE CALENDAR 2026

ONLINE CALENDAR: peopleforlife.org/calendar

Oct. 11	12th Annual Life Run 5K/10K & Fun Walk
Oct. 20	Voter registration deadline for the November 4 election
Oct. 24	2nd Annual Pro-Life Dinner – Ambassador Conference Ctr.
Oct. 24	PPLF Banquet with Kayleigh McEnany – Hershey, PA
Oct. 28	Mail-in and absentee ballots due in election office by 8 p.m.
Nov. 4	Election Day
Jan. 17	48th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast – Bayfront Convention Center
Jan. 22	DC March for Life Bus Trip leaves Erie at 11 p.m.
Jan. 23	March for Life – Washington, DC
Jan. 24	DC March for Life Bus Trip returns to Erie about 1:30 a.m.
April 12	High School Oratory Contest
April 20	General Meeting
April 27	Student Essay Contest entries due
May 2026	Erie March for Life (date to be announced)

you say, "Bus Seat" we might think you are reserving a seat for yourself.) Optionally, a sponsorship donation earmarked for one or more particular individuals, college students for instance, would also be a big help.

Educational Outreach

The 2025 Community Outreach season is in the books. People for Life volunteers staffed pro-life educational booths at eight significant local events: Erie Rib Fest, Lake City Fire Company Carnival, Waterford Heritage Days, Cherry Festival, Dan Rice Days, and the Wattsburg, Waterford, and Albion fairs. Among our staff this year were four college students, three from Gannon and one from Fredericksburg, Virginia; a young woman from Findley Lake; and nine other volunteers ranging from young moms to senior citizens. A special debt of gratitude is owed to Paul Kuzma for helping pack up and tear down practically every one of our booths at the end of each long and arduous event.

Comparing notes with the general public is always enjoyable, interesting, and productive. This season was admittedly lacking some of the heightened energy and dynamism that goes along with a presidential election year like last year.

We encountered the usual small number of negative reactions, such as the occasional middle finger flying by and some head wagging.

One brief but shocking episode really stood out. A woman suddenly appeared, shouting about the abortion she had a just a few years ago. Vehemently, she blurted out words very close to, "I wanted that kid dead and I'm glad I killed it." Then she took issue with our giving away little "I love life" stickers to children (as well as people of all ages). She vanished just as suddenly as she arrived.

Our Pro-Life dinner speaker, David Readon, will, no doubt, shed some light on why a post-abortive woman might lash out in such a dramatic and almost frightening manner.

Most recently, we had a modest table at the Charlie Kirk memorial program in Perry Square on October 4. The response was outstanding. Several young moms asked about volunteer opportunities, and we added 13 new addresses to our newsletter and Email Update lists in just three hours.

Erie Gives Day Results

Erie Gives Day went very well again this year, thanks to our many wonderful donors. Contributions totaled \$12,293, setting another new record and placing us as at 161 out of 539 participating nonprofits in terms of the amount raised. In terms of the number of donors, People for Life scored 102 out of 539. The prorated match was about \$400, and for the first time, the Erie Community Foundation also picked up the credit card charges. This allowed us to keep 100% of every donation received.

As we thank our Erie Gives Day donors, we also want to thank everyone who financially supports our organization. We deeply appreciate all the extra help we received earlier this year with the downpayment on our office unit and the cost of chartering our bus to the Washington, DC March for Life last January.



Peace, love, & little babies!