

THE ERIE ECHO

"a voice for life"

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See you at the Breakfast

Registration is open for People for Life's 48th Annual Pro-Life Breakfast on January 17, 2026. Let's completely fill the Grand Ballroom of the Erie Bayfront Convention Center with 600 pro-life guests of honor. Make your reservations today!

We think our Special Guest Speaker, Lydia Taylor Davis is going to be a big help in reaching our goal. As the National Spokesperson for Students for Life of America, Lydia tours college campuses much like the late Charlie Kirk, courageously speaking out for human life and genuine human rights, sometimes in very hostile situations, as you might imagine. She is also the Students for Life social media producer. Her videos have logged many millions of views on TikTok and other platforms.

Also on the program will be Gannon Students for Life President Clare Caulfield, Slippery Rock Mayor JD Longo, the Rev. Clifford Hamilton, Father Ian R. McElrath, Congressman Mike Kelly, and Bishop Lawrence Persico. Music will be provided by Erie's own Shani Bills.

Make your reservations early. And perhaps start working toward filling a table of 10. Church and organizational groups are always welcome. We gladly reserve tables for groups of eight or more.

Doors open at 8 a.m. The program begins at 9 a.m. and concludes by 11:30. Serving will be buffet style. Child care will begin

after the meal, before the speakers. Browse our customary selection of pro-life literature and promotional merchandise before and after the program.

Reservations

To make reservations, mail your payment with a name for each guest, if available, to People for Life; 1625 W. 26th St.; Erie, PA 16508 or visit our headquarters in-person. Credit card transactions can be handled over the phone. Online registration is also available. Visit peopleforlife.org/january2026 to get started. The last day to make reservations is Sunday, January 11. Regular tickets are \$30. For ages 3 to 12, the cost is \$22. There is no cost for younger kiddos.

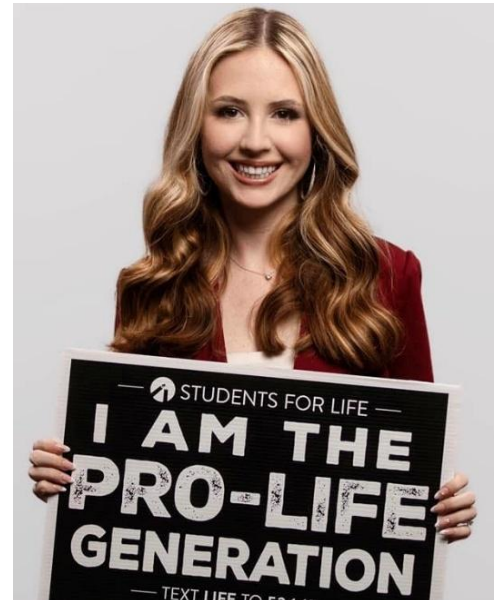
Teaming Up for Life

Reaching our goal of 600 guests will require a strong team effort. Anything you can do to promote the Pro-Life Breakfast will be deeply appreciated. If you are active on social media, you will find material on our various platforms for your online use. The main accounts to watch are:

facebook.com/prolifebreakfast,
facebook.com/peopleforlife, and
instagram.com/peopleforlife1.

You can also find People for Life on X.com, Truth Social, LinkedIn, and Threads.

To help another way, pick up some Pro-Life Breakfast posters from headquarters, or



Lydia Taylor Davis

download and print your own. Pin them up wherever a pro-life person might see them, at: school, workplace, place of worship, or any public bulletin board.

Pro-Life Breakfast Sponsors

If you own a business or professional practice, you can be a Pro-Life Breakfast Sponsor-Advertiser and have a listing in the Pro-Life Breakfast program. Call us, or refer to peopleforlife.org/january2026 for details.

March for Life Bus Trip 2026

People for Life has a bus ready to go to the Washington, DC March for Life, scheduled for Friday, January 23. The theme of the March will be "Life is a Gift!" We would not miss this premier pro-life, pro-human rights event of the year. And neither should you!

Probably for the first time in the fifty-three-year history of our annual Bus Trip, we are announcing a cost reduction. That's right. Last year, we probably scared some people away with the \$90 price tag, despite our standing offer of sponsorship support for anyone who might not be able to afford the full price. We were, unfortunately, unable to fill even one bus last January, unlike not so

many years ago when we filled three or four buses. This is not the message we want to send the general public nor something we can brag about to the local news media.

No, the bus company is not giving us a better deal this time. In fact, the cost continues to climb. But we consider the March for Life such an important event, and the Bus Trip such an important *public statement*, that we decided to absorb some of the \$100 per seat price tag in order to get that bus completely filled. Additionally, we will be more than happy to dedicate additional funds to help local pro-life advocates for whom \$70 is still prohibitive.

It would be challenging for People for Life to underwrite this effort even partially without generous help from various individuals who also recognize the importance of the March for Life and the Bus Trip. From years of past experience, we feel quite confident that the necessary help will be forthcoming.

We also encourage everyone who has already been to the March for Life to start telling others about the experience and sharing your personal impressions, perhaps online as well as in-person. (Editor's note: This will be my 30th March since 1996.)

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March for Life Bus Trip 2026

College students and even groups of middle school students have always been welcome additions to the March for Life Bus Trip. It is a pleasure to host the Gannon University Students for Life and always a pleasure to help them with their expenses as best we can. We are looking forward to making lots of new and lasting memories with the Gannon group once again this January.

What to Expect

Here is a quick roadmap for this January's Bus Trip. You will: Board the bus at a convenient Erie location, to be announced, at 11 p.m. on Thursday evening, January 22. Catch a snooze on the bus, if you are not too excited. Arrive at the West Falls Church Metro Station in Virginia just before sunrise, Friday morning. Take a half-hour ride on a

clean, uncrowded Metro train into the District of Columbia. Have breakfast, see the sights, tour a museum or two, or even attend special pro-life religious observances at the National Catholic Basilica to start the day. Make your way to the National Mall for the amazing March for Life Rally (11 a.m. and 1 p.m.) and hear from top-level political and pro-life leaders and other inspiring pro-life notables. March about two miles from the Mall to the U.S. Capitol and Supreme Court. Grab lunch with friends and acquaintances, or better yet, attend the reception with complimentary refreshments that Congressman Mike Kelly can be expected to have ready for his constituents. Jump back on the Metro, just yards from the March endpoint and enjoy a relaxing ride back to the bus. Leave Falls Church about 5 p.m. Stop for dinner about an hour outside of DC. And arrive back home in

Erie approximately 1:30 a.m. Saturday morning. Don't forget your camera! See peopleforlife.org for more details, including a downloadable list of helpful suggestions and the Bus Trip itinerary when it is complete.

Signups

"So, how do I register," you ask? Whatever works best for you is fine. Mail your payment or deliver it in-person to People for Life headquarters at 1625 W. 26th St.; Erie, PA 16508. Register online by navigating to the registration button at peopleforlife.org/january2026. Or call (814) 882-1333 with your credit card information. We will need a name for each reservation and the ages of any minors. Minors not accompanied by a parent or guardian will need a permission slip and a chaperone.

And please don't hesitate to ask about an extra sponsorship discount if needed.

Bus Trip Sponsors

Maybe you wish you could go the March for Life this January but just can't get away for a whole day. Or maybe you are perfectly content to stay home and watch the action on C-SPAN. In either case, you can contribute a Bus Trip sponsorship donation and know there is someone on the ground in DC marching in your place.

A donation of \$70 will provide a bus seat for one deserving marcher or allow two people to march for half-price. Four marchers, college students for instance, can travel for half-price with a donation of \$140. You get the idea.

The younger folks can easily handle the long trip and hours on their feet in the cold, but sometimes not the expenses: \$70 for the bus, \$15.50 for the Metro, and a little extra for breakfast, lunch and dinner. No one is more grateful for the help they receive than our pro-life march-for-lifers. Please include the words "bus sponsor" with your kind and caring contribution.

Student Contests

The People for Life Education Fund will host essay and oratory contests with cash prizes this spring. Both contests will have two age brackets. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three winners in each bracket. Contestants may choose any topic related to abortion, infanticide, assisted suicide, euthanasia, or embryo-destructive medical procedures. They may address the harsh and tragic realities of any of these practices or cover a more upbeat topic such as fetal development, motherhood, adoption, pregnancy support centers, or pro-life activism. These are only some of the possibilities. People for Life is happy to help any student select a topic that will be most appropriate

for him or her.

If you are a student, we would love to have you give the contests a try. If you are a teacher, please encourage your students to participate. Call or email us with any questions. More information will be available soon at peopleforlife.org.

H.S. Oratory Contest The Oratory Contest is open to all high school students regardless of where they live, as long as they are able to be present for the competition, which will be held on April 11 at the Blasco Memorial Library in Erie. Students in grades 9-10 and students in grades 11-12 will compete in separate brackets. Prizes of \$175, \$100, and \$50 will be awarded to the top three winners in each bracket. The speeches, 5-7 minutes in length, will be scored and constructively critiqued by a panel of three capable judges. Originality, depth of research, accuracy, careful reasoning, and delivery style are important ingredients of a prize-winning speech.

One of our 2025 participants, Mark Caulfield, went on to win the statewide

contest. He was awarded an expenses-paid trip to the National Right to Life Oratory Contest in Overland Park, Kansas last June.

Oratory contestants should register in advance by emailing their name, age, grade, school, address, and phone number to hq@peopleforlife.org. They may also enter the statewide Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation Speech Contest by submitting a video of their speech to the Federation by April 25. People for Life will record speeches during our contest for any student who would like a copy to send to the Federation.

Essay Contest The People for Life Essay Contest is open to students in: Erie, Crawford, Forest, Mercer, McKean, Warren, Venango, Ashtabula, and Chautauqua counties. The upper age bracket includes students in grades 10-12. The lower bracket is for students in grades 7-9. Prizes of \$150, \$75, and \$50 will be awarded to the top three winners in each bracket. Word limits are 500 for grades 7-9 and 750 for grades 10-12. The essays will be judged according to most of the same criteria as the Oratory Contest.

Spelling and the general technicalities of good writing are also factored in.

The submission deadline is April 27, 2026. Essays should be sent to hq@peopleforlife.org. They can be included in the body of the email or as an attachment in Microsoft Word or PDF format. Essays may also be mailed to People for Life Education Fund; 1625 W. 26th St.; Erie, PA 16508 as long as they are received by April 29. The student's name, address, phone number, age, grade, and school must be included.

The same essay may be entered in the Pennsylvania Pro-Life Federation contest, which has an earlier submission deadline of March 29.

2026 PRO-LIFE CALENDAR 2026

Online Calendar: peopleforlife.org/calendar

Jan 7	Hear Lydia Taylor Davis on Talk Erie Radio at 3:30 p.m.
Jan. 11	Last day for Pro-life Breakfast reservations
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.
March 29	PA Pro-Life Federation Essay Contest Deadline
April 11	High School Oratory Contest – Blasco Memorial Library
April 20	General Meeting, 6:30 p.m. – 1625 W. 26th St., Erie
April 27	Student Essay Contest entries due
May 2	Erie March for Life (pending City of Erie permit)
May 4	Last day to register to vote in Pennsylvania Primary Election
May 10	Mother's Day
May 12	Last day to request a Pennsylvania mail-in or absentee ballot
May 19	Pennsylvania Primary Election – Polls open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.
May 28-31	Educational Booth: Erie Wild Rib Cook Off
June 1	Election of Officers Mtg., 6:30 p.m. – 1625 W. 26th St., Erie
June 12-13	National Right to Life Conference – Arlington, VA

Human Life Under Attack in the PA General Assembly

The Democrat-controlled Pennsylvania state House Judiciary Committee, on October 22, approved an ugly cluster of seven, pro-abortion bills. The Pennsylvania House of Representatives is controlled by the Democratic caucus, which holds majority power by one, single vote (102-101). Thus, the committee chairs and a majority of committee members are Democrats. Each of the bills was approved by straight party-line votes of 14-12.

It would be a disaster for Pennsylvania if these measures were to become law. The Commonwealth would become a sanctuary state for rogue abortionists with legal problems. The Pennsylvania Abortion Control Act would be abolished and all current limitations on abortion and protective measures for women (e.g., informed consent and parental notification) would be gone. Abortion would be unrestricted throughout

pregnancy. And the stage would be set for making abortion a constitutional right in Pennsylvania, permanently precluding any restrictions and requiring taxpayer funding.

The bills were expected to come up for votes by the full House of Representatives almost immediately. If passed, the only thing standing in the way of Governor Josh Shapiro's pro-abortion signature would be the slim, four-vote Republican majority in the state Senate. Thankfully, no House floor votes have taken place, and the bills have been temporarily removed from consideration.

This delay gives pro-life Pennsylvanians more time to resist this pro-abortion power grab. Please contact your state Representative and state Senator and tell them to vote NO on the seven pro-abortion bills that are now under consideration in the state House of Representatives. Remember, even if your legislators are not inclined to support full

legal protection for unborn babies, they might balk at abortion killing in the ninth month, abortions on teenage girls behind their parents' backs, and abortion-as-birth-control on the taxpayers' dime. Find legislator contact information at peopleforlife.org/legislators.

Community Outreach

People for Life was honored to have a table at the Respect Life Conference held on November 1 by Catholic Charities of the Erie Diocese. It was a pleasure to chat with old friends, and make some new ones too. One person bought 10 reservations for the 2026 Pro-Life Breakfast. Another was very interested in volunteering with us. A lady from Smethport with her daughter contacted us a few days later for more information about the Student Essay and Oratory contests.

Memorials & Tributes

<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Memory of</i>
Marilyn Konopka	Joe & Mary Abata	Dennis & Brenda Pyle	Jack Warmbrod
Tim & Julz Broderick	Baby Theodore James Bonk	Barb & George Ruf	Jack Warmbrod
James & Barbara Bentze	Jack Warmbrod	Dave & Cherryn Ross	Jack Warmbrod
Nancy Bloom	Jack Warmbrod	Fred & Joanne Regal	Jack Warmbrod
Michael & Nancy Allgier	Jack Warmbrod	Jerilyn & Jerry Schultz	Jack Warmbrod
Gene & Jean Conn	Jack Warmbrod	Ray Zapolski	Jack Warmbrod
Marlene Figurski	Jack Warmbrod	Stan & Yvonne Zelepsky	Jack Warmbrod
Norm & Chris Green	Jack Warmbrod		
Bill & Jackie Hendricks	Jack Warmbrod	<i>Given by</i>	<i>In Honor of</i>
Dottie & Joe Hodapp	Jack Warmbrod	Ulie Wierbinski	Meg Britton
Mike & Debbie Mumock	Jack Warmbrod	Ronald Dombkowski	Helen Marie Dombkowski
Brian & Kathleen Praetzel	Jack Warmbrod	Danielle Banducci	Barb & Jim McNamara

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 ☐ Liaison to Another Organization ☐ March for Life Bus Trip Help
☐ Phone Calling ☐ Public Demonstrations ☐ Erie March for Life Help
☐ Office Staff ☐ Pro-Life Breakfast Help ☐ Call me when you need a hand.
☐ Newsletter Mailing ☐ Life Run Help ☐ 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

mobile voice / text (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.

October Dinner Review

Thanks to everyone who helped make our 2nd Annual Pro-Life Dinner a time to remember. The event was held on October 24 at the Ambassador Banquet & Conference Center.

Guest speaker David Reardon, Ph.D. came all the way from Gulf Breeze, Florida (near Pensacola) and exceeded all expectations. He shared a message of compassion and understanding for those

whose lives have been rocked by abortion. Some of our guests were surprised to hear for the first time how truly devastating an abortion can be.

Dr. Reardon is convinced that more concern about the plight of the woman who is considering abortion and more awareness of the trauma experienced by many post-abortive women can go a long way toward reducing the number of abortions and building public support for laws that protect preborn children and their mothers.

We only wish more people had been at the event to meet the speaker and hear his presentation first-hand. Earlier advertising and more of it might have helped. So, advertising for the 3rd Annual Pro-Life Fall Dinner begins now. We will announce a location and date (sometime in October 2026) as soon as possible. Stay tuned!

**Send your email address to
receive occasional Erie-area
pro-life updates and reminders.**

Breakfast Headliner: Lydia Taylor Davis

The Erie-area pro-life community will have the good fortune, this January 17, of hosting anti-abortion activist Lydia Taylor Davis as our 2026 Pro-Life Breakfast Special Guest Speaker. She fights abortion as the national spokesperson and social media engagement coordinator for one of the most dynamic and energetic pro-life organizations in the United States, Students for Life of America.

As the national spokesperson, Lydia does not merely drop news releases and do interviews from Students for Life headquarters in Fredericksburg, Virginia. She takes the battle down to the trenches, out into hostile territory on college campuses across the nation. She wages war with composure, kindness, and charm. But Lydia is no shrinking violet. She's been called every ugly name in the book, as you can imagine. She is also accustomed to being mobbed, spat at, and threatened by ANTIFA and pro-abortion students—just for affirming the value and dignity of every human life and trying to save young women from the tragedy of abortion.

Lydia's most recent speaking tour took her, this fall, to: the University of Cincinnati, the University of Kentucky, the University of Tennessee, Vanderbilt University and the University of Mary Washington.

Lydia Taylor Davis is a native of Charlotte, North Carolina. She graduated from Campbell University (Buies Creek, North Carolina) after studying management. She served as the president of Campbell

University's Students for Life chapter during her time there. She is still known, they say, as "the pro-life girl" across the state of North Carolina. Lydia continues to dedicate her life to ending legal abortion, all the while gaining national attention—and pro-life admiration—for courageously facing extreme backlash from the abortion killing proponents.

Lydia has been featured by Fox News, Steve Bannon's War Room, the Whatever Podcast, *Wall Street Journal*, ABC News, Newsmax, and other news outlets. In 2023, she participated in a highly anticipated abortion debate in which a majority of the pro-choice audience voted that she was the winner.

Lydia is perhaps most recognizable from her viral pro-life TikTok content, which has reached millions of people and helped inform Gen Z about the realities of abortion. Her powerful videos exposing late-term abortion facilities have garnered well over 50 million views across multiple platforms. Lydia is not hard to find on TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Threads, X.com, or LinkedIn.

Lydia and her husband Ethan currently reside in Fredericksburg, Virginia. The couple married in 2024.

Hear Lydia on Erie Talk Radio (103.3, 105.9 and 1530), on Wednesday, January 7 at 3:30 p.m.

