



Cherish All Children

Pray + Educate + Connect + Act

Wednesday Prayer for March 29, 2017 Fifth Sunday in Lent

I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope. Psalm 130:5

There is nothing pleasant about fighting sexual exploitation in its various forms. You see the seedy underbelly of society where people, primarily men, degrade and humiliate innocent and vulnerable women and children because of their own desires.

Unfortunately this has been going on throughout time as Paul saw a need to address in his letters to the church in Rome: “To set the mind on the flesh is death.” (Romans 8:6)

Paul’s words remind us that sexual exploitation is a double-edged sword—that turning to sinful degrading ways to express our sexual selves is not only degrading for the victim, but also for the perpetrator. He, too, drags himself deeper down in sin.

The season of Lent is about turning away from sin in all its expressions and facing instead the light of Christ. The Psalmist reminds us that even in the deepest depths of sin, even in the most horrendous stories of sexual exploitation, God’s word brings us hope. This word of hope is for the sinners and the victims of sin.

Fighting sex-trafficking isn’t pleasant, but it does bring hope in a hurting world.

The Psalmist also reminds us to wait for the Lord, but our waiting isn’t a passive, hands-in-our-laps type of waiting, but an active waiting. We pray, educate, connect with others, and act to lift up hope, self-esteem, love, and concern for others as well as turn people away from perpetrating and falling victim to sex-trafficking.

God of hope, you sent your Son into this world to right us from our sinful ways. As we journey through Lent help us to turn from our sin toward the hope we have in Jesus by setting our minds on the Spirit. We pray that as the Spirit renews our hope for ourselves, the Spirit will also guide our lives to bring hope to others that they might be lifted out of the darkness into the light.

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Today's *Wednesday Prayer* was written by Kay Kinkel, Licensed Graduate Social Worker and former Associate in Ministry of the ELCA. Thank you Kay!

Prayers also requested for:

- All of God's children, that their lives and futures are what we are seeking to protect and cherish. May we stay focused on what is best for God's children.
- Exploited children - that they would be rescued and healed; vulnerable children - that they would have safe people and places; perpetrators - that they would stop their abusive and exploitive behaviors; bystanders - that they would intervene on behalf of children whenever possible.
- Protection of Cherish All Children leaders, congregations, synods, and the overall organization, that God would thwart any efforts to undermine this ministry.

Cherish All Children

Cherish All Children is an ELCA ministry that equips congregations to prevent child sexual exploitation.

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We believe that "Love born of faith in Jesus Christ calls us all to attend to, discuss, resist, and reject the system of sexual exploitation" ([ELCA Message on Commercial Sexual Exploitation](#), pg. 1.)

You are invited to [give financially](#) to support this ministry. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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