



Cherish All Children

Pray + Educate + Connect + Act

E-Quipped for Prevention

March 2017

caritas n. 1. Loving kindness. 2. Love in action.

Written by Ginny Rudloff

For the second year in a row, Caritas Vocal Ensemble is performing a benefit concert for Cherish All Children. Caritas is an a cappella choral group that performs music to raise money and awareness for non-profit organizations. Since their inception in 2002, Caritas has raised more than \$150,000 for non-profits. After last year's performance Caritas informed Cherish All Children that they would like to dedicate a performance to us again in 2017.

This season Caritas invites us on a musical journey as they explore loss of innocence, discouragement and finally, hope that is found in music and connections to the earth and each other. Caritas asks us to dig deep into the human heart and FIND THE ORIGINAL HARMONY.

Valley of Peace Lutheran Church in Golden Valley, MN will host the concert on April 23, at 3:00 pm. A freewill offering will be taken for Cherish All Children. If you are in the Minneapolis area, please join us for a diverse selection of music sung by men and women who have a passion for singing and a desire to make a difference in the world. You can make a difference, too.

Aren't able to attend?

Connecting to Victims of Sex Trafficking

Written by Ginny Rudloff

On Saturday, February 4, a group of Minneapolis churches came together to learn from survivors of sex trafficking and agencies serving them. Mt. Olive, Our Saviour's St. Paul, Holy Trinity, and Bethel Lutheran Churches serve a neighborhood that is one of the highest trafficked areas in Minnesota, and members wanted to learn how the faith community could respond to victims and those who would exploit them. Cherish All Children worked with these congregations to frame this response and set in action a series of events to show the faith community's concern for victims of sex trafficking and engage in efforts to end the demand.

Terry Forliti, a survivor and acting director of Breaking Free told the audience that the simplest way to help is to support the organizations who are doing outreach and providing services. They all need financial support, food, clothes, gift cards, and a variety of volunteer experiences. They always need hygiene kits. She also spoke of a need for a safe, quiet place where they can rest, get a cup of coffee, clean up, or just have a little peace and quiet.

Other members of the panel discussion agreed that the only effective way to stop trafficking is to end the demand. They all said we need to raise boys who see women as equal partners and not someone to own or use. Dawn Bjoracker from the Minnesota Women's Indian Resource Center described historical oppression. She told the audience that we need to understand historical trauma if we want to end the demand.

The audience filled out "commitment cards" to indicate how they would like to respond to issues of sex trafficking. The initial planning committee is planning a weekly prayer vigil during the month of April to observe Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Members and neighbors will meet at the church and walk to a trafficked area in the neighborhood to create a positive, prayerful force to support victims and ask for an end to the demand.

During the month of April, congregations will be collecting items for hygiene kits to be assembled in May. This is what the group expects will be the first steps of a ministry to help trafficked women and youth. The group will host a discussion at the Synod Assembly to gain interest and partners in their efforts to make the neighborhood a safe and healthy place for all.

Meet Joy McElroy, Prevention Outreach Specialist

Written by Amy Hartman

We are pleased to announce that Cherish All Children has contracted with Joy McElroy to serve as a Prevention Outreach Specialist in the Saint Paul Area Synod. Joy has done youth work in congregations, and now feels called to address trafficking in her community and beyond. We are happy for her new ideas and energy for reaching out to congregations, letting them know how they can get involved in prevention!

Here is an article Joy recently wrote for the Saint Paul Area Synod: www.spas-elca.org/called-cherish-children/

Welcome Joy! We give thanks to God for you!

Make Prevention Possible

Written by Ginny Rudloff

Did you know that Thrivent Financial has distributed more than \$330 million in charitable outreach funds since 2010? If you are a Thrivent member you can determine how some of those funds are allocated by directing your Choice Dollars to Cherish All Children. You make it possible for Cherish All Children to engage more congregations in prevention and end the demand activities.

To direct your Choice Dollars, visit www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

Your 2016 Choice Dollars expire March 31, so act now!

Thank you for championing safer, healthier outcomes for our youth.

Congregation Manual Survey

Written by Amy Hartman

Our recently-convened Manual Update Task Force is now busy at work, charged with the task of updating and improving the Congregational Manual.

The members of the Task Force are: Sue Hembroff, Karen Hoffman, Dianne Klafehn, Susanne Smith, Barb Wozniak, plus staff members Ginny Rudloff and Amy Hartman.

If you have used the Congregational Manual, we invite you to complete a brief, anonymous survey telling us what you like about the Manual and what would improve the Manual. Follow this link to take the survey before April 30:

form.jotform.us/ahartman001/congregation-manual-survey

If you haven't see the current Congregation Manual, you may order it here:

www.cherishallchildren.org/congregation-manual

Thank you!

Taking Off the Mask

Written by Ginny Rudloff

Last spring members of University Lutheran Church of Hope, Grace University Lutheran, and Lutheran Campus ministry, joined other Minneapolis Area Lutherans in viewing the documentary, *The Mask You Live In* (<http://therepresentationproject.org/film/the-mask-you-live-in/>). It sparked a conversation around the Synod on masculine identity in American culture.

Wanting to take the conversation a step farther, these churches hosted a community event on masculinity to allow for a more focused conversation about what it means to have a healthy masculinity and what we can do for ourselves and those we love to encourage the development of nurturing and whole relationships that lead to a richer and healthier adulthood.

An intergenerational panel answered questions about what it meant to grow up with a masculine identity in our culture and explored ways in which we could support

development of a healthy masculinity for our own children and the children of our community. The audience broke into small groups to discuss how we can counter the messages of a false sense of masculinity and pave a way forward.

The Mask You Live In can be rented from Netflix or purchased at Amazon. For a copy of the discussion guide, contact Ginny at vrudloff@cherishallchildren.org

National Awareness Campaigns

Written by Ginny Rudloff

April is both Sexual Assault Awareness Month and National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Are you making plans to observe these awareness campaigns? Here are a few ideas and resources to help you plan activities in your own congregation or community.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) www.nsvrc.org/saam/sexual-assault-awareness-month

This year's theme is "Engaging New Voices". Download posters and postcards to give to faith leaders, legislators, and community leaders. Use the social media toolkit to communicate with your congregation, your community, and friends. Download the campaign or event planning guides for ideas and suggestions. Customize your project for your congregation. The event guide lists different types of events: awareness, fundraising, healing, community engagement, public policy, prevention. What kind of event would your congregation find most engaging?

Join other organizations on SAAM's National Day of Action to spread awareness of sexual violence. Check out the event calendar (www.nsvrc.org/saam/about/day-of-action) to find events in your own community and find out how your congregation can support or join in.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month - Pinwheels for Prevention
(preventchildabuse.org/resource/pinwheels-for-prevention/)

Throughout April, celebrate the lives you touch and those who have touched yours by honoring them with a pinwheel - the national symbol for the great childhoods all children deserve because our children are our future. Tell your neighbors that you support Child Abuse Prevention by displaying blue pinwheels in your flowerbeds or churchyard. Send pictures of your pinwheel display to Cherish All Children for our Facebook page.

Wear blue ribbons for child abuse prevention and teal ribbons for sexual assault awareness. Start a ribbon wearing campaign in your congregation. Engage a youth group or service group to make the ribbons and distribute them to your members.

Don't Buy It Project

Written by Ginny Rudloff

We have talked about and prayed to End the Demand and now one Minnesota non-profit is taking action to do it. Men As Peacemakers, a Duluth, MN organization is dedicated to addressing the root causes of violence against women and children. In 2016 they began development of a training module to educate men and reduce the demand for commercial sexual exploitation. Along with the curriculum they have created an outreach campaign designed to engage and mobilize men and boys in this effort which they call the Don't Buy It Project. (www.dontbuyitproject.org)

The project aims to raise awareness, engage men and boys in prevention, and produce a replicable model that can be used to educate and involve men throughout the state of MN.

The project is still in the pilot stage in Duluth, but should be ready for rollout sometime in late summer or early fall.

Happy Birthday Cherish All Children!

Written by Amy Hartman

Central Lutheran Church in Minneapolis celebrated the 10th birthday of Cherish All Children with cake and conversation on Sunday, March 19. Ten years ago, Cherish All Children was given “affiliated social ministry” status by the ELCA.

We also celebrated that Cherish All Children has been housed at Central Lutheran Church for five years. We give thanks to God for this congregation’s partnership with Cherish All Children!

Help “End the Demand”!

You can help “End the Demand” for child sex trafficking! Yes, YOU!

On June 10, Team Cherish All Children is participating in the Stop the Trafficking 5K Run Walk for Justice (www.stophetraffickingrun.org) to generate funding to end the demand for trafficking and create a brighter future for children!

Team Cherish All Children has some big goals: Raise \$10,000 and have at least 25 people on the Team! The 5K invites everyone to participate, at all athletic levels. You don't need to be a marathoner!

Here's what you can do to help:

- **As a congregation, hold a fundraising activity.**
- **As an individual, join Team Cherish All Children:**
 - First, register for the Stop the Trafficking 5K Walk Run for Justice at www.stophetraffickingrun.org/ Early bird discount registration fees end April

30!

- Then, go to form.jotform.com/70645794494167 to add your name to the Team roster! Welcome!
- Donate to Cherish All Children (www.cherishallchildren.org/donate)
- Raise funds to help meet the Team \$10,000 goal.
- **Unable to join the team? Donate to Cherish All Children** (www.cherishallchildren.org/donate)!

Protecting our and all children is our focus. With the Super Bowl coming to Minnesota next year, it is important to increase efforts to stop the exploitation of our children.

You can help end the demand! Act today!

Project brewing in Wisconsin...

Written by Amy Hartman

What if the youth group of a congregation learned about trafficking and then hung trafficking hotline posters in public places around their community?

What if all the youth groups in one synod did this?

What if all the youth groups in all six synods in Wisconsin did this?

What if those six synods had a contest between them to see who could hang up the most posters or get the most youth involved?

This is the project that's brewing in Wisconsin. Please pray that the right people and energy will converge to make this idea a reality.

Congregational giving stories

Written by Amy Hartman

Cherish All Children relies upon the generosity of congregations and individuals to deliver our prevention message and engage congregations in prevention.

How might your congregation contribute financially to Cherish All Children? Here are some ideas from other congregations:

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in south Minneapolis has selected Cherish All Children to be the Mission of the Month for January and April of this year.

Valley of Peace Lutheran Church in Golden Valley, MN holds a bake sale every year around Christmas, with the proceeds going to Cherish All Children.

Olivet Lutheran Church in Sylvania, OH has decided to give a specified amount to Cherish All Children in 2017 through their budgeted benevolence giving.

Zion Lutheran Church in Arlington, MN makes a financial contribution from their

Community Foundation each year.

Christ Lutheran Church on Capitol Hill in St. Paul, MN held a special offering in 2016 for Cherish All Children's birthday.

Hope Lutheran Church in St. Paul, MN is donating their Lenten offerings this year to Cherish All Children.

Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church in Minneapolis used to have a budget line item for Cherish All Children, but this year is changing to a "Mission of the Month" model.

As you can see, there are a variety of ways congregations can contribute. What works for your congregation?

Cherish All Children

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

[Follow us on Facebook.](#)

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.)

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