

Love one another as I have love you.



Cherish All Children

Pray + Educate + Connect + Act

Wednesday Prayer

Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2018

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:12-13

Powerful words. Powerfully demonstrated by Jesus own death. What does that mean for those of us who are aware of the injustice of sex trafficking? How does it guide our thinking and our actions?

This week I attended a panel discussion of Minnesota's Super Bowl Response led by service providers, law enforcement, and a government evaluator. All of the speakers felt that there was a great collaboration in our community and they were proud of the ability to provide services and shelter to victims, as well as the arrest of more than 100 buyers.

Additionally, what they learned will help inform where we go from here. They discovered gaps in services provided to victims of sex trafficking. It showed them that when they are out on the streets in greater force they identify many more children who need services and we do not have those services or even enough shelter beds to provide safety 365 days a year. They learned that even with all the educational events of recent years, many people are still woefully misinformed about sex trafficking.

So what can we do? If we follow Jesus command, we will venture out from the comfort of our own church community and speak up to ask our broader community to provide the resources needed to keep children safe. We will take every opportunity to educate our youth, their parents, our friends, and strangers about the danger of traffickers, as well as the opportunities for developing healthy relationships. We will engage others in supporting the service providers who work directly with victims and survivors.

We're not exactly laying our lives on the line, but we are accepting his challenge to love our neighbors as he has loved us. We are committing our lives to learning how to love as Jesus loves us.

**Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet;
this is the way we should live with you.**

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.
Amen.**

Today's content was written by Ginny Rudloff, Minneapolis Prevention Coordinator.

Please also lift up in prayer:

- **All God's children** - that their lives and futures are filled with your love.
- **Exploited children** – to find safety and healing; **Vulnerable children** - to find safe people and places; **Perpetrators** – to stop their abusive and exploitive behaviors; and **Bystanders** – to intervene on behalf of children.
- Cherish All Children leaders, congregations, synods, and all those working tirelessly to protect and cherish all God's children.

**Cherish All Children is a social ministry that equips
congregations to prevent child sexual exploitation.**

**"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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