



Cherish All Children

Pray + Educate + Connect + Act

2015 Annual Report - Thank you!

Because of you... Cherish All Children equips congregations to share Christ's love of children and end the injustice of child sexual exploitation. Together, we envision a world in which all children are cherished, none exploited.

Enjoy these stories and highlights from 2015!

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Safe Harbor Kick-Off

40+ people gathered at Christ Lutheran Church in Menomonie, WI on February 7 to learn more about child sex trafficking and write letters in support of trafficking victims.

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Human Trafficking Task Force, supported by Cherish All Children and the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in WI, sponsored this event.

Many thanks to Christ Lutheran Church, Thrivent Financial, and Jimmy John's for their support of this event!



Bishop Rick Hoyme opened the workshop with devotions and prayer.



Pastor Dale and Kathy Chesley wrote letters to their legislator.

On March 19, Cherish All Children and the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in WI led a rally in support of "Safe Harbor" legislation in Madison, Wisconsin, so child sex-trafficking victims are treated as victims of a crime, not criminals.

Here are pictures of our journey from St. John's Lutheran Church to the State Capitol for visits with legislators and our gathering to share experiences afterward.



I believe that every young person exploited for sex is my neighbor; my sister; my brother. I cannot stand to have my neighbor used in a way that devalues their humanity. I will do what I can to prevent this from happening to my neighbors, and I will work to free those who are already being exploited. - Pastor Gary Hedding, Board Member

Northwestern Ohio Synod

In October, Pastor Ann Marshall and the Cherish All Children Team at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Norwalk, OH hosted Amy Hartman for a meeting and workshop.

The Team planned next steps for their Cherish All Children ministry. Afterward, they reviewed the 4-part prevention model: pray, educate, connect, and act.

Team members are very aware of what's going on with youth, trafficking, and other issues in Norwalk and nearby communities.



Cherish All Children leaders signed an online petition, asking the Associated Press to stop using the phrase "child prostitute." In the words of one child who was trafficked, "I was not a child prostitute or child sex worker. I was a victim and survivor of child rape."

If you would like to sign this petition, go to <http://www.cherishallchildren.org/sign-a-petition-to-the-associated-press>

Upstate New York Synod Synod Assembly



Dianne Klafehn, Cherish All Children synod leader, was busy at the Upstate New York Synod Assembly!

Dianne had a display booth, led a workshop, and spoke to the entire assembly - encouraging everyone to get involved in prevention!



Dianne Klafehn and two others went for a “Mall Walk” at the Walden Galleria during the Upstate New York Women’s Gathering on October 20.

The purpose of a Mall Walk is to look at the merchandise and atmosphere of clothing stores for children and teens to see if they are age-appropriate. Walkers give out cards saying “Good job” or “Needs work” to stores they reviewed.

Dianne Klafehn and Amy Hartman travelled through some beautiful, hilly country to Troy, just north of Albany, NY. We met with people at St. Timothy Lutheran Church. A local attorney who works with immigrants shared her insights.

Below: Liz Macris, Amy Hartman, Jim Macris at St. Timothy Lutheran Church.



No child should suffer through the fear and pain of sexual exploitation. Every child deserves to be safe in the embrace of Christ's love. - Adam Hembroff, Board Member

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Wellsville, NY hosted a diverse group of teachers, counselors, Episcopalians, and Lutherans to figure out how their community could be in action to prevent child abuse. They continue to involve more congregations and community members.



We combat the sexual exploitation of children because every child deserves to know Christ's love. - Shannon Berg, Board Member

How do we end the demand?

In October, the ELCA Conference of Bishops in Chicago prayed to End the Demand for child sex trafficking. Amy Hartman gave a brief introduction about the importance of addressing the demand. She and Bishop Mary Froiland led the prayer.

You're invited to pray too! Go to <http://www.cherishallchildren.org/mobilize-prayer-end-demand>



A big thank you to Sergeant Grant Snyder, as well as Quisha Stewart and Kristy Collier of The Link for leading a community forum on ending the demand for juvenile sex trafficking.

Understanding the problem is the first step towards a solution.

Many thanks to Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church of Minneapolis for hosting this event!

Minneapolis Area Synod

Caring Neighbors Project

Through a “Matthew 25” grant from Thrivent Financial Foundation, we invited Minneapolis Area Synod congregations to provide support and services to sex trafficked youth. It was exciting to see the many ways congregations were caring neighbors to these young people!



Members of Transfiguration Lutheran Church in Bloomington, MN set up a bazaar at Cornerstone, an organization that works with sexually exploited youth.



Left: Ginny Rudloff, Minneapolis Prevention Coordinator, had an exhibit and led a discussion about “Caring Neighbors” at the Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly.



Members of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Minneapolis hosted a baby shower for new mothers at Breaking Free, an agency serving sex trafficked women and girls.

There were handmade quilts, cute baby outfits, and of course, lots of babies!

The sexual exploitation of children requires attention from all corners of society. Just as there was a cultural shift in the fight against drunken driving a decade or so ago, so too can we force change by openly talking about the issue, praying about it, becoming more aware, and getting involved. – Kerry Ness, Board Treasurer



Left: Members of Mount Calvary Lutheran in Excelsior, MN worked to prepare an apartment at Rezek House, a two-year transitional living program.

Right: Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church in Plymouth, MN hosted a panel discussion on trafficking, at which they also requested donations of personal care items for YouthLink. Amy Hartman was one of the panelists.



Cherish All Children in the news... “We’re at a great moment in history,” Hartman said. “Years ago we might not have understood how [trafficking] works, but now we do, and it’s an amazing time to be the church and lead change on this issue right now.” - “It happens close to home,” *The Lutheran*, September 2015

Read the rest of the article: http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=12739



Above: Runners, walkers, and friends gathered on June 12 to enjoy homemade lasagna, good company, and ministry stories.

Top right: On Saturday, June 13, Cherish All Children supporters joined the Stop the Traffick(ing) 5K Run/Walk to raise awareness of trafficking, support Safe Harbor agencies, and fundraise for Cherish All Children. Many thanks to all who braved the rain!

Lower right: Senator Amy Klobuchar spoke at the 5K Run/Walk. She has been a strong supporter of national “Safe Harbor” laws.



I am committed to the wellbeing of all people and find in the ministry of Cherish all Children a way to engage in concrete ways the great challenges of human trafficking and child exploitation. In partnership with other people of faith, I am empowered to interrupt and stop such injustice, to educate others in love, and to network to build a web of love, and you are too!

- Pastor Nathan Tuff, Board Member

A big THANK YOU to everyone who contributed financially to Cherish All Children in 2015.

Cherish All Children is an ELCA ministry that equips congregations to prevent child sexual exploitation. Donations to Cherish All Children are tax-deductible.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God’s work. Our hands.

Cherish All Children
PO Box 583772
Minneapolis, MN 55458
612.280.1259
www.cherishallchildren.org