



Cherish All Children

Pray + Educate + Connect + Act

E-Quipped for Prevention

May 2016: Celebration!

“You and your children can live...”

2016 National Gathering

Wondering how your congregation can help end the trafficking of children?
Then the Cherish All Children National Gathering is for YOU!

You will learn:

- **The reality of trafficking** (Presenter: Tara Hughes, International Institute of Buffalo)
- **Valuable skills and insights for engaging your congregation** (Trainer: Pastor Susan Engh, ELCA Director of Community Organizing)
- **Best practices from experienced congregation leaders**

There will be thoughtful, engaging prayer services each morning and evening, led by Pastor Joanne Stewart of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Webster, NY.

On Sunday morning, participants will go to Buffalo area ELCA congregations to learn what they are doing and share what you have learned.

October 20-23, 2016

Christ the King Seminary
East Aurora, NY, just outside of Buffalo.

For more information or to register, call 612.280.1259 or go to
www.cherishallchildren.org/2016-national-gathering.

Celebrating A New V.O.I.C.E.

Written by Tim Bancroft, Upstate New York Synod

A new ecumenical expression of Cherish All Children ministry is emerging through the efforts of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Wellsville, New York.

Through the efforts of local Lutheran leaders, Virginia Vossler and Tim Bancroft, and

Episcopal partner leader, Rev. Carol Stewart, representatives of the Episcopal, United Methodist, United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ churches, a Missouri Synod Lutheran congregation, Youth for Christ, Gils Hills Youth Home, and other independent evangelical congregations have come together for a joint effort to raise awareness among churches and the larger community about sexual violence and other forms of abuse of children.

Their joint effort has taken the name V.O.I.C.E. - Voice of Innocent Children Everywhere. The idea is for this ministry to stand up for and provide a voice of prevention and protection for innocent children within our churches and local community.

This effort began in October 2015, when an ecumenical gathering of local leaders met at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church to be introduced to the vision of the ELCA partner ministry, Cherish All Children. National Director, Amy Hartman, and Upstate Synod leader, Dianne Klafehn, focused the group's attention on the little noticed, but life-damaging sexual violence and general abuse against children that occurs while congregations and larger community are in denial.

V.O.I.C.E. members have also met with the statewide director, Timothy Hathaway, of Prevent Child Abuse New York. This connection has allowed the group to place the focus of preventing sexual violence against children within the larger context of all forms of child abuse.

Since that first meeting the group has focused on several specific efforts:

- developing monthly bulletin inserts that highlight a dimension of abuse;
- meeting with the county social service staff that provide care for abused children on a daily basis to see how their efforts could be supported and enhanced;
- allying with a rural middle to high school youth mentoring program for youth-at risk coordinated by the local Youth for Christ; and
- promoting Safe Church training to raise awareness and implement practices that make churches a safe place for children.

Truly, our God is alive sustaining and inspiring a new V.O.I.C.E. to speak for abused children everywhere!

Celebrating *Bought and Sold: The New Fight Against Teen Sex Trafficking* radio documentary

Written by Amy Hartman, National Director

If you haven't yet done so, I highly recommend listening to the radio documentary *Bought and Sold: The New Fight Against Teen Sex Trafficking*, created by American RadioWorks.

Here is a description of this documentary from their website

(<http://www.americanradioworks.org/documentaries/sex-trafficking/>):

Advocates for kids are pushing for a new approach to combating underage

prostitution: treating young people caught up in sex trafficking as victims, not delinquents. We embed in a police sting, visit a horse ranch for young victims of trafficking in Minnesota, and visit male sex-buyers in Seattle who are trying to change their ways. This documentary examines how police and lawmakers are increasingly turning to a public health approach to help vulnerable young people break free of sex trafficking. And it explores efforts to stop traffickers and buyers.

Click on the link above to listen to *Bought and Sold* or download it from itunes.

Celebrating Meaningful Conversation Synod Assembly Sparks Discussion of Ending the Demand

Written by Ginny Rudloff, Minneapolis Prevention Coordinator

Is the Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly a good place for a discussion of Ending the Demand? It certainly was on Saturday, May 7. Delegates and rostered leaders picked up their lunch and joined Cherish All Children staff to learn about the demand for sex trafficking and talk about what can be done to end it.

One pastor is wondering how he can introduce training for staff and volunteers. Several people wanted to know more about the movie, *The Mask You Live In*. One man who leads a recovery group said they have some very "in your face" discussions about men's complicity in creating the demand.

The group agreed that men fuel the demand for sex trafficking and that a conversation among men is needed to find solutions for preventing children from being victims of sex trafficking.

I encourage you to have this same conversation in your congregation. What can we do in our church, in our schools, in our communities to raise boys who don't objectify women? How do we bring men into the process to do some productive problem solving?

This will start the drive to "End the Demand."

Celebrating Moving Forward in the St. Paul Area Synod

Written by Amy Hartman, National Director

Back in February, Saint Paul Area Synod Bishop Patricia Lull approved our application to form a "Cherish All Children Ministry Team" which will be connected to the Public Witness Committee for the synod.

This committee is composed of several working groups, each addressing issues related to the public witness of the church in the presence of local citizens, business, government, non-profit institutions and the arts.

Members of the Team are: Joy McElroy from Christ Lutheran Church on Capitol Hill, Mike Banks from St. Paul Reformation Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Mel Johnson from All Saints Lutheran Church in Cottage Grove, and Tricia Niesche from St. Mark

Lutheran Church in Circle Pines. I am working closely with this team to help them get started, educate them on the topic, and provide training as needed.

Our mission, goal, and projected activities for the year are:

Mission: Educate and engage congregations in action to prevent child sexual exploitation.

Goal for the year: At least 10% of Saint Paul Area Synod congregations (=11) attend and/or host an educational event on the topic of preventing child sexual exploitation.

Projected activities:

- a. Host at least two showings of the documentary "The Mask You Live In." Two congregations, St. Paul Reformation and Christ on Capitol Hill, have already shown this documentary, with good discussions afterward. We will be promoting the documentary at the synod assembly (with a drawing for a free copy) as well as through the synod newsletter, the youth and family leaders' network, and the Women of the ELCA.
- b. Lead adult forums in at least five congregations. Two done; three+ to go! If you are in the Saint Paul Area Synod and would like to host an adult forum to learn more about how your congregation can get involved, please reply to this email!
- c. Host at least two events on the topic of protecting children online. We have an excellent trainer willing to work with congregations. All we need are two host sites - please reply to this email if you are interested.
- d. Explore how to train lay volunteers to speak at churches. All the team members are interested in speaking in other congregations. If you would like to do this as well, please reply to this email.

Watch for more exciting news from this Team!

Celebrating the Message of *The Mask You Live In*

Written by Ginny Rudloff, Minneapolis Prevention Coordinator

"I wish even more people could see it. Parents, youth, young adults, EVERYBODY."

"Really a transformational film."

"...the movie is provocative and will really spark conversation."

What a blessing to hear the reactions and comments of congregations who viewed the documentary, *The Mask You Live In*. This documentary explores the messages we give boys that cause them to mask their true feelings and fit into a narrow definition of masculinity. This false masculinity devalues authentic relationships, degrades women, and leads to violent conflict resolution.

Even more exciting, is the response to the challenge in the documentary: How do we raise a healthier generation of boys? Where do we go from here? *The Mask You Live In* generated discussions of continued action and some made plans to show the it again to other groups in the community. Others talked about educating parents and youth

to be aware of and counteract the pressures of conformity.

The Mask You Live In is now available on Netflix, Amazon, and Barnes and Noble. Any group that would like to show the film to a large audience can purchase a license at [The Representation Project](#) for \$500. You could charge admission or team up with another group to show the movie. Contact us to talk about how you could do that.

Be prepared for the reaction of Jim: "This is an important topic and not one that should be left to a single conversation." We agree.

Celebrating St. Timothy's in North Greenbush, NY

Written by Erica Larson, E-Quipped for Prevention Coordinator

Parish Nurse Liz Macris says that St. Timothy Lutheran Church has formally connected with Samaritan Hospital's Sexual Assault and Crime Victims Assistance Program (SACVAP) as they are responsible for upstate New York's "Enough is Enough Abuse" program. St. Timothy's council is now a stakeholder for "Enough is Enough". This means that, among other things, they will help with advertising their "train the trainers" on the topic of sexual abuse and provide meeting space for trainings. St. Timothy's members attend "Enough is Enough" collaborative meetings. The role of "Enough is Enough" and SACVAP is prevention of sexual abuse through educational programs.

The parish nurse facilitates an annual fundraiser with the Alexis Diner for SACVAP's "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes". If 10% of proceeds equals \$501 (or more), the owner of Alexis Diner will bring the donation to \$1,000. Advertising for the event is done through Facebook, the church website, distributing flyers, and dining at The Alexis Diner. St. Timothy's developed a team to participate in "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes", anticipating a large turnout to help fund the education of those serve and work for the prevention of sexual abuse of children, college students, and others.

Jim Macris shared news of another program recently developed in upstate New York. Fostering Futures, New York (FFNY) is a program designed to assist foster families in the same way that an extended family might offer support.

St. Timothy's was the first team created by FFNY in New York State. The director visited the church and gave them a brief outline of the program, then asked if anyone in attendance was interested in becoming involved. Twelve people raised their hands! After a two-day intensive training, their team was certified and then presented with a potential family with whom they would work.

During the first meeting at the family's home, the team and the entire family met each other. The family they work with has three birth children and six foster children, all of whom have been adopted into the family over several years. Each of these foster children had suffered abuse in one form or another, so the need for support was critical.

What does the church do? They cook meals, bake, babysit, help with after school time, take the children on outings to restaurants, movies, and the library. And most

importantly, they listen with love.

Celebrating Another Way You Can Get Involved to End the Demand

Did you know... *The FBI has identified the Twin Cities as one of 13 U.S. cities with a high incidence rate of child prostitution.**

You can help get the Twin Cities off this list!

Yes, YOU!

Simply join **Team Cherish All Children** for a 5K walk/run on Saturday, June 11 to raise \$6,000 to "End the Demand" for trafficked children.

Not available that day? You may make a financial contribution anyway. [Give online](#) or send a check to Cherish All Children (address below).

Your financial support will make it possible for Cherish All Children to:

- Promote the "End the Demand" prayer;
- Promote the documentary "The Mask You Live In" for congregations to use with their members;
- Share Scriptural reflections, reports, and other information about "demand" in our newsletters, at workshops, and on our website and Facebook page;
- Create a national men's leadership team to move this conversation forward within Cherish All Children and the ELCA.

Remember: If no one wanted to buy children, traffickers would not use clever manipulation to recruit and enslave vulnerable children to be sexually exploited. If we end the demand, we stop the trafficking.

How to join Team Cherish All Children:

1. Register for the 5K Walk/Run at www.stophetraffickingrun.org (registration fee required, early bird registration fee of \$25 available through April 30).
2. [Register for Team Cherish All Children](#), so we can best support your effort to end the demand for child trafficking.

Set a personal goal and ask your family and friends to support your participation by pledging a specific dollar amount ([download pledge sheet](#)).

The Stop the Traffick(ing) 5K Walk/Run will be held at:

Purgatory Creek Park
13001 Technology Drive
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

* Found at <https://oig.justice.gov/reports/FBI/a0908/chapter4.htm>, footnote 122.

Celebrating a New Law in Wisconsin

Written by Amy Hartman, National Director

Governor Scott Walker signed a bill into law on April 19, 2016, strengthening Wisconsin's anti-trafficking efforts. In a state often polarized by partisan politics, this law was the result of bipartisan support.

Cherish All Children worked with the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin and the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Human Trafficking Task Force to invite Lutherans to get involved in grassroots advocacy on a previous version of this bill.

Robbie Joern of the Task Force attended the bill signing in Hudson, WI, and has one of the pens used to show for it!

The signed version has about two-thirds of what we originally wanted, so there is still more work to do. Wisconsin still needs a "Safe Harbor" law, so that trafficked children are treated as victims of a crime, not criminals.

There are two half-day conferences scheduled this summer in Wisconsin and one full-day conference in Madison, to continue to raise awareness of trafficking and engage ELCA Lutherans in grassroots advocacy.

Would you like to attend one of these conferences? Go to <http://www.loppw.org/events/coming-soon> for more information and to register.

Celebrating Seeing Things With New Eyes

*Written by Erica Larson, E-Quipped for Prevention Coordinator
and Amy Hartman, National Director*

Working to prevent child sexual exploitation can be an overwhelming, discouraging, and never-ending proposition. Sometimes, particularly when human trafficking and sexual exploitation are front and center in the news, it can feel as if nothing changes and as if our efforts are in vain. But, we can grasp on to hope when we remember that God is always at work in the midst of all things. Our continued efforts through prayer, education, relationship building and action *are* having a lasting impact. Sometimes, people will hear things in a new way, and view things through new eyes.

Washington County Attorney Pete Orput, at a January 2016 meeting of the MN Human Trafficking Task Force, shared that trafficking was not on his radar until he attended a training event by Ramsey County Attorney John Choi. Now, as he reads through the crime reports in his county, he sees connections everywhere. Washington County has received a grant to investigate trafficking more deeply.

From an article in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* newspaper (<http://www.startribune.com/washington-co-prosecutor-sees-uptick-in-online-sex-solicitations/378047621/>):

Online solicitations of girls and women for sex reached nearly 16,000 in the metro area in the first quarter of 2016, Washington County's major crimes prosecutor said

Tuesday. All the ads collected came from a single website - Backpage.com - which means the total number of metro-area solicitations would be even higher if other websites were included, Imran Ali told Washington County commissioners during a board workshop. He said he found the sheer number staggering, especially in light of publicity over law enforcement crackdowns on human trafficking.

"This is something that's emerging, that's growing. It's a huge problem," he said, describing a "demand for juvenile sex" where especially vulnerable girls are being targeted.

The 15,742 solicitations were detected and compiled by criminal analyst Amy Schroeder, who works with Ali on a special initiative launched by County Attorney Pete Orput to attack a problem that's exploded on the Internet. Orput started the initiative with a two-year grant. He said Washington County is now working with other metro-area counties to help start similar investigations.

"A year ago I didn't realize how pervasive a problem this is," Orput said.

We give thanks that the words of John Choi helped Orput see with new eyes.

In March of this year, Amy Hartman's *Wednesday Prayer* was inspired by the story of the Prodigal Son, found in Luke 15. Her words caused Pastor Drew Flathmann at Lake Nokomis Lutheran in Minneapolis to hear the story of the Prodigal Son in a new way, but he didn't keep those thoughts to himself. His Sunday sermon reflected this new and surprising perspective on a familiar story:

This week I'm also wondering about the overlooked and ignored folks in the parable. For 60 years I've heard this story and hardly noticed them. Amy Hartman, our National Director of Cherish All Children, a ministry helping us as we work to prevent child sexual exploitation wrote, "since I started working to end the injustice of trafficking, I read the "Prodigal Son" story differently. Now I see, according to his brother, the younger son has been a buyer of women in prostitution."

The language in Luke is: [the younger brother] *squanders his property in dissolute living*. His older brother says he: *has devoured your property with prostitutes*. Amy suggests, "If that's true, then... [the younger brother] may be a reformed buyer, or at least starting that journey. He's acknowledged the sins of his past. Seems like he wants to make a fresh start." She points out, "We don't know what happens with the younger son next. How can we change the cultural messages that promote buying?"

That question changed my perspective. Because, the cultural message I've heard is that it's ok *not* to notice these people. Many in our culture still use phrases like *prostitution is the oldest profession in the world*. As if it's a career choice. But we know that's not true. 100,000 children are trafficked every year. It's a multi-billion dollar industry. That's not *dissolute living*, or *sowing wild oats*, or *boys will be boys*. It's abuse of power, it's fear-based coercion, it's selling a beloved child of God for profit.

We have to change the narrative.

We give thanks, once again, the God can open our eyes. What have *you* experienced that has caused you to see with new eyes? Who have you told? We work to change the

cultural narrative so that God can work through champions of prevention!

Celebrating Generosity

What do you get when a local vocal group teams up with Cherish All Children to share their passion for music and make a difference in the world? You have a fun night of beautiful music by Caritas Vocal Ensemble hosted by members of Valley of Peace Lutheran Church in Golden Valley, MN.

One day, Ginny Rudloff and Laurie Botes Zaepfel, both members of Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, were just sitting around talking about the world and Ginny mentioned something about fundraising. Laurie, a member of Caritas shook her head and said, "You know, we (Caritas) do concerts to raise funds for non-profits." Ginny did know it, but for one reason or another had never asked Laurie about doing a concert for Cherish All Children.

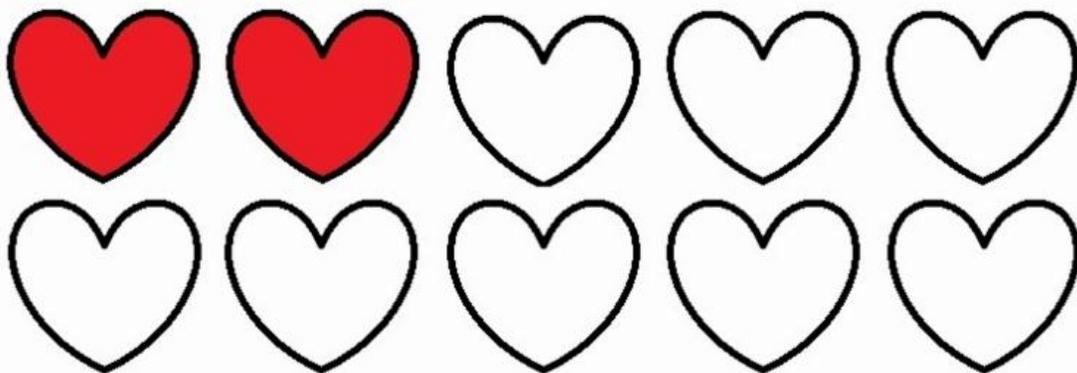
Laurie checked to see if Caritas had open concert dates and Ginny asked Valley of Peace to host a concert. Concert scheduled! Caritas put on a beautiful concert with a variety of music. Members of Valley of Peace welcomed guests and served a lovely spread of food afterwards. And concertgoers gave generously to support Cherish All Children's prevention work.

We celebrate generosity: of Caritas Vocal Ensemble, Valley of Peace Lutheran Church, and community. The moral of this story? Ask.

Together, let's fill up the hearts!

FUNDRAISING PROGRESS 2016

Each heart represents \$10,000.



Cherish All Children begins each year with a funding gap, which is the difference between contributions received and what it truly takes to deliver our prevention work.

This year our funding gap is \$100,000. Many thanks to the contributors who have helped raise \$20,300 so far.

Celebrating with Cake!

Written by Ginny Rudloff, Minneapolis Prevention Coordinator

Cherish All Children is having a birthday party! In December, Cherish All Children will be 10 years old. To kick off this milestone event, we brought a birthday cake to fellowship time at Our Saviours Lutheran Church in Minneapolis on April 24.

What fun to celebrate this occasion with people who have been associated with Cherish All Children from its earliest days!

Many people stopping by the table for cake talked about ways in which their congregation had engaged in prevention. Others who were newer to the congregation shared their concerns about the safety of children, and the children of the congregation enjoyed the cake - except one small boy whose older sister gleefully helped herself to the decorative frosting on his piece.

Let's pray that all children's sorrows remain as uncomplicated as the loss of an anticipated dollop of frosting.

Thank you Our Saviour's Lutheran Church for your commitment to the safety and wellbeing of children.

Which congregation is next to celebrate this milestone birthday?

Celebrating the Grace Gathering in New Orleans

Written by Amy Hartman, National Director

Are you going to the [ELCA Grace Gathering](#) in New Orleans, August 10-13? If so, come to the experiential learning track on "Human Trafficking." Dana Dutcher of ELCA Global Missions, Pat Zarega of ELCA Corporate Responsibility, Susanne Dietzel of Eden House in New Orleans, and I will be the presenters, sharing stories and information about trafficking and how congregations can get involved in addressing this injustice.

What better way to recognize the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation than to put our faith into action to make a better world for children!

I hope to see you there!

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.)

Cherish All Children
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