



Cherish All Children

Pray + Educate + Connect + Act

Overwhelming. But no panic...

Wednesday Prayer for December 7, 2016 Third Sunday of Advent

A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away. Isaiah 35:8-10

Jada was a regular "up front" for the children's message. One day, as the young ones were released to return to their pews, Jada turned to face the congregation. It was a big congregation. She could see lots of people, lots of faces. But she could not see her parents.

Overwhelming. But no panic.

Jada didn't miss a beat. She turned back to the chancel, walked to her pastor, took his hand and led him toward the congregation. Together they found her parents.

All was well.

There are safe roads in this world. There are safe people. One of our jobs as we cherish children is to introduce them to safe people, people they can trust, people who will lead them down holy paths to safety.

Jada confirmed her faith this year. Her parents and grandparents came forward to lay hands on her head and shoulders as she received the blessing from her pastor. Her invited guests came forward, too. There were mentors and guides she had learned to trust from her congregation.

All were and are people she will turn to in trust over the years to come.

God who holds our lives in your hands, we thank you for the caring folks. Most often you work your safety through your people. Make us worthy of the little ones' trust. Give us the will to give them time and care and protection. Give us faith to share. Let us walk your safe highway together. Amen.

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Today's *Wednesday Prayer* was written by Jim Arends, Bishop, La Crosse Area Synod-ELCA. Thank you Bishop Arends!

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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