



Committee on Public Witness – Synod Assembly Report 2026

Cherish All Children Ministry Team

Cherish All Children's mission is to educate, equip, and engage churches and communities to prevent child sexual exploitation and trafficking. Our St. Paul ministry team's goals for this year are:

1. Support the work of the synod's task force to have all SPAS churches and mission starts create and implement child safety policies.
2. Table and present at synod-wide events, Children, Youth & Family events, and Women of the ELCA events to continue and deepen engagement with congregations in this work together.
3. Support planning and promotion of event for Confirmation students around safe and healthy online relationships – relating to their social media and gaming worlds.
4. Explore resources to support children's safety for 3rd-5th graders in our churches.

We are especially encouraged that the resolution co-written by Cherish All Children and Vicar Jennifer Schneider passed at last year's assembly and work has begun across the synod (and Churchwide) for child and vulnerable adult safety policies.

We are always looking for additional folks to join our ministry team, especially those with connections to children, youth and family ministries within your congregations. Please reach out to inquire or submit a name! We also recognize the impact each one of us can make, and value our partnerships with congregations, Children, Youth & Family leaders, Women of the ELCA, and many others who are deeply committed to the protection of children and youth.

Reach out to get your church involved in raising healthy generations free from sexual exploitation. We'd love to partner with you! Visit cherishallchildren.org to find resources and learn more or contact joy.mcelroy@cherishallchildren.org.

Thank you for your faithfulness and commitment to cherishing all children!

Joy McElroy, Tricia Niesche, Mike Banks, Deborah Peterson