

From the **Bishop**



Cherish Our Children

Cherish Our Children is an initiative which grew up in the Minneapolis Area Synod under the leadership of Diaconal Minister Amy Hartman. This initiative's intention was to keep kids safe and to help important

adults in their life be aware of the dangers that are out and about, which lure our children into behaviors that place them at great risk.

Now this program has national expanse as 11 other synods have become part of Cherish Our Children.

At our synod assembly, a resolution was passed to challenge 50 percent of our congregations to utilize this initiative by 2010, to help parents and kids know the danger and the real threat of sexual exploitation of our children. To leave them without tools to resist is to leave them helpless in the face of a monumental, highly sexually-charged and cultural milieu and an anti-social criminal industry that lies in wait for the vulnerable.

At assembly, you have voted to help protect your children. I would encourage you to call Amy Hartman, director of Cherish Our Children, and walk with her through the process, to begin to give your kids a fighting chance against a highly-organized, exploitative industry.

Through prayer, and awareness building and education, Cherish Our Children will work with you.

This initiative is currently being implemented in the following synods:

- Minneapolis Area Synod
- Southwestern Minnesota Synod
- Western North Dakota Synod
- Southeastern Iowa Synod
- Northern Texas/Northern Louisiana Synod
- Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
- Pacifica Synod
- Southwestern Texas Synod
- Central-Southern Illinois Synod
- Northwestern Ohio

Bishop Craig Johnson