



## Wednesday Prayer

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost – Anger and Courage

***The LORD said to Moses, “Hurry and go back down, because your people, whom you led out of Egypt, have sinned and rejected me. They have already left the way that I commanded them to follow; they have made a bull-calf out of melted gold and have worshiped it and offered sacrifices to it. They are saying that this is their god, who led them out of Egypt. I know how stubborn these people are. Now, don’t try to stop me. I am angry with them, and I am going to destroy them.” Exodus 32:7-10a***

God expresses his anger to Moses for all the ways humans have sinned, so angry that he wants to destroy his people. In response, Moses courageously questions God, and reminds God of his promises to his people. Moses acts to save the people and succeeds.

Last week, Cherish All Children Synod Leader Dianne Klafehn sent out a letter to her Upstate New York partners. She urged them to use their anger against child sexual exploitation to act for justice. Here are Dianne’s words:

“We act for justice when we become angry, fed up, when we just can’t take hearing about a subject anymore. We could also become complacent and numb to the problem. Augustine of Hippo says Hope has two daughters: Anger and Courage – Anger at the state of things and Courage to act so that things do not remain the same.

My hope is that our Lutheran congregations will become angry enough at Child Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking that we will have the courage to act for justice. It has been my hope since 2008.

We wonder how we can be in a world that allows this to happen to our children. What we cannot become is fearful. It is a tough and intangible topic. I believe that God wants us to be angry, angry enough to answer His call to action! Perhaps it is you God is calling to implement Cherish All Children in your congregation. Or perhaps it is you who recognizes this gift in another member of your church. Be bold! Do not be afraid to say the words child sexual exploitation. It just may be that the time has come for your congregation to act for justice for our children. I am angry and have the courage enough to speak and act.”

**God, we pray for those who are lost, stolen into the world of exploitation and trafficking. We pray for those who are healing from this trauma, and those who have lost a child to trafficking. We pray that buyers and traffickers will change their ways and repent. We pray for anger to be turned to courageous action. Amen.**

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Written by Diane Klafehn, Upstate New York Synod Cherish All Children Leader & Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.