

A Newsletter for Lutherans about Human Trafficking



An Introduction and A Modest Beginning

Hello!

This newsletter is prepared by some of your fellow Lutherans from Columbus regarding the issue of Human Trafficking and Exploitation. It is not endorsed by any denominational entity. Rather it is the effort of a few to make our fellow Lutherans more aware of the human trafficking issue and how Lutherans can respond and are responding to this issue.

We have a 3 prong approach at this time:

- AWARENESS
- ADVOCACY
- ACTION

We hope to help foster an abolitionist spirit among Lutheran pastors and lay people.

Jean Moffit
Sarah Esala
Rev. John Hohe

DID YOU KNOW? Our Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has spoken in convention on Human Trafficking!

In 2010 the LCMS gathered in national convention adopted Resolution 6-07A. It was titled, "To Support Efforts to End Human Trafficking/Slavery." It brought to light the need for Lutherans to show mercy to vulnerable migrants and refugees, develop educational materials on human trafficking and **create awareness** among pastors and laity about this issue.



Note: We offer this newsletter as an effort to encourage that resolution's implementation among us.

MOST Ministries, an RSO of the LCMS, sends human trafficking education teams to Central American to educate pastors, community leaders, law enforcement, and other leaders there.

<https://www.mostministries.org/>



In light of the above myth buster, it is worth noting that human trafficking is taking place in rural, suburban and in urban areas.



What Can I Do?

We suggest churches and individuals to consider "doing ONE thing." Here are just sample of ideas.

- Encourage your church to observe one Sunday a year as "Anti-Slavery Sunday" Resources can be found at International Justice Mission (IJM.org)
- Invite a special speaker to speak to groups in your church (use us as a resource)
- Show a movie on this topic at your church (see us for recommendations)
- Seek out volunteer opportunities such as those offered by "She Has a Name"
- Encourage your church to buy Fair Trade Coffee
- Have a Fair Trade Chocolate Sale to bring awareness on how cocoa workers are exploited.
- Have a house party and raise funds or gather donations of clothing for women seeking to make a new start.
- Serve LWR Farmers Market Coffee in your congregation (for more information follow this LWR related link: <https://lwr.org/get-involved/lwr-farmers-market-coffee>

About Us:

Jean Moffit: Child of God, wife, mother, grandmother. Member of St John Lutheran Church, Dublin, Ohio, and currently serving as the Southeast Region Lay Representative on the Board of Directors of the Ohio District for many years. District Lutheran Church. Jean has also been active in women ministries especially LWML Ohio In 2014, Jean retired from her job in banking, and now she and her husband Tom are raising their young grandson.



Sarah Esala drove her high school daughter to a abolition training event where the call to join freedom efforts became greater than her excuses. She and her daughter regularly volunteer with She Has A Name and the Central Ohio Rescue and Restore Coalition, raising awareness, supporting survivors, and continuing to learn more about the complexities of survivor care. She is the mother of 5 kids and wife to Rev. Nathan Esala who works in Bible translation. She is passionate about joining Jesus as he heals the broken hearted and sets the captives free—body, mind, and soul.

Rev. John Hohe is on the Board for Delaware County Anti Trafficking Coalition. His church in Powell OH has hosted several speakers including those formerly in the sex industry. Members of his church help prepare gift bags for workers in local gentleman's clubs.



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ALREADY INVOLVED? Tell us what you are doing? And with whom?



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