

Domestic Violence and Abuse is Everyone's Concern

There Are No Gender Or Socioeconomic Barriers



Domestic Violence Damages Children



Emotional:
shame, confusion, fear, anger, depression, embarrassment ...



Behavioral:
acting out, aggressive/passive, lying, attention seeking, out of control behavior ...



Social:
isolation, stormy relationships, difficulty trusting, poor anger management ...



Physical:
headaches, nervousness, short attention span, tired, high risk play, self abuse ...



Spiritual:
doubts God's love, feels alienated from God, may no longer trust God's provision ...



Church workers, friends and family members of victims and abuse survivors can find resources to assist with identifying, understanding and intervening when confronting domestic violence and abuse.

Resources can be found at lcms.org/socialissues/domesticviolence.

* According to a recent study commissioned by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in which Intimate Partner Violence consisted of rape, physical violence, and/or stalking.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

End the Silence

**Take the first step ... tell someone.
When you break the silence, you begin the healing.**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Following convention resolutions in both 2007 and 2010 that tasked the Synod with providing “materials and trained individuals to assist districts, congregations and schools in addressing abuse and ministering to the spiritual needs of those struggling with the effects of abuse,” a task force of diverse professionals was convened. The task force is striving to bring greater awareness to the issue as well as offer hope and healing to those who have suffered at the hands of an abuser. Care has been taken to ensure that the materials identified and developed proclaim the Gospel with great clarity so that no additional burden is placed on a person already afflicted with unimaginable pain.

According to a recent study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men in the United States have experienced a form of intimate partner violence in their lifetime. The Church has an obligation to respond to the issue in an informed, caring and thoughtful way. The Church has what abuse survivors need most — the hope and healing that comes by way of the Gospel. We must be prepared to walk alongside those suffering from the effects of abuse, assuring them of the strength they have in Christ Jesus to deal with their difficult circumstances.

Domestic violence and abuse can happen to anyone. There are no gender or socioeconomic barriers where violence and abuse is concerned. It is often difficult for victims to speak out and request help because of feelings of fear or shame. It is my sincere hope that you will avail yourself of the resources presented in order to be better prepared to serve those victims who ultimately find the courage to break the silence and begin their journey toward healing.

Yours in Christ,

Deaconess Kim Schave

CHAIR, LCMS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AND CHILD ABUSE TASK FORCE



Church workers, friends and family members of victims and abuse survivors can find resources to assist with identifying, understanding and intervening when confronting domestic violence and abuse. The LCMS Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Task Force has made the following resources available:

- ▶ A theological statement entitled “When Homes are Heartless,” which provides a Lutheran perspective on domestic abuse
- ▶ Pastoral care rites and resources
- ▶ A helpful information sheet containing both practical and spiritual resources for addressing the issue
- ▶ A Lutheran Hour Ministries tract written for abuse survivors, “Has God Abandoned Me?”
- ▶ Information graphics for distribution within churches, schools and other Lutheran entities
- ▶ A comprehensive training program for districts, congregations and other LCMS organizations

Find resources at
lcms.org/socialissues/domesticviolence



Please speak to your pastor, a church worker or other trusted church member if you are experiencing violence or abuse.

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LIFE TOGETHER

