

For your congregation

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the United States, with October 9 being named "Domestic Violence Awareness Sunday" by the 2005 Delaware-Maryland Synod Assembly. Pr. Sandra Carlson Alexis offers these suggestions for how a congregation might observe this Sunday, whether on the 9th or on any Sunday in October.

Plan to observe Domestic Violence Awareness Sunday this month

By Pr. Sandra Carlson Alexis

Domestic violence is a cycle of violence that affects every race, class, religion, age and sexual orientation. It is physical, psychological, and/or sexual abuse which may involve deprivation and isolation. Every nine seconds a woman is beaten, and one out of two women will be a victim of domestic violence in her lifetime. But did you know there are three times as many shelters for pets as for battered women and their children?

In preparing to observe Domestic Violence Awareness Sunday, you may want to begin by finding out some information about the subject, including volunteer and donation opportunities in your community or state. (See the boxes on this and the following pages for online and other resources.)



Stop the Violence

Suggested prayer:

God of Healing, we have not helped those suffering with abuse as we could have. Show us how to stand with the abused. Give us words and understanding so that your church can lead the least of these to healing and wholeness. We pray for the children who have lost their innocence to domestic violence. We ask your mercy on those in abusive relationships; deliver them from their abusers. Be with those grieving the death of loved ones by the hands of abusers. Open the eyes of church leaders to this unspoken pain and lead us in the path of peace. Amen.



A litany

Leader: God of healing,

People: We pray for your help.

L: In domestic violence situations,

P: We pray for your help.

L: Where there is brokenness,

P: Bring your healing.

L: Where there is violence,

P: Bring your peace.

L: Where there is weeping,

P: Bring your hope.

L: Where there is fear,

P: Bring your power.

L: Where there is isolation,

P: Bring your presence.

L: Where there is silence,

P: Bring your Living Word.

L: In domestic violence situations,

P: We pray for your help.

L: God of healing,

P: We pray for your help.

If you choose to change or add lessons on DVA Sunday, here are some suggestions:

Isaiah 52:1-2, 7-10

Psalm 55:1-8

Zechariah 13:6

Proverbs 24:11-12

Psalm 27

Romans 8:31-39

Luke 23:32-38

Psalm 22:1-2, 14-15

Psalm 31:10-15

Hotline numbers

Use domestic violence hotline numbers in your bulletin on DVA Sunday - or even every Sunday.

DE Coalition Against Domestic Violence
(302) 658-2958
www.dcadv.org

MD Network Against Domestic Violence
1 (800) MD-HELPS or (301) 352-4574
www.mnadv.org

National Domestic Violence Hotline
1 (800) 799-SAFE (7233)

Hymns to use

LBW 512 - "Oh, Blest the House"

LBW 561 - "For the Beauty of the Earth"

LBW 360 - "O Christ, the Healer, We Have Come"

LBW 426 - "O Son of God, in Galilee"

WOV 735 - "God! When Human Bonds Are Broken"

WOV 736 - "By Gracious Powers"

WOV 746 - "Day by Day"

R279 - "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"

R228 - "Bring Forth the Kingdom"

R249 - "When the Poor Ones"

R247 - "O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate"

LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship

WOV = With One Voice

R = Renewing Worship Songbook

More resources on the next page

Reminder to rostered leaders

By action of the 2003 Synod Assembly, all rostered leaders have a commitment to be trained in domestic violence awareness. Several opportunities are available.

- There are two sessions at the Partners in Faith, Partners in Vision leadership event on October 22: B13 Domestic Violence and C12 Healing Hearts . . . Having Hope. The latter is led by the Rev. Wes Wubbenhorst, head of the Domestic Violence Interfaith Coalition of Maryland, and is specifically for clergy and rostered leaders.
- The Domestic Violence Interfaith Coalition of Maryland will hold four free workshops. Info/registration: (410)562-9171 or dvicml@msn.com.

Tuesday, October 11, 2005

United Evangelical UCC
3200 Dillon St.
Baltimore, MD 21214

Thursday, October 20, 2005

Faith United Baptist Church
2840 Alameda, Baltimore, MD 21218

Thursday, October 27, 2005

St. Mary's R. C. Church
7401 Buchanan St.
Landover Hills, MD 20784

Tuesday, November 1, 2005

Ebenezer AME Church
7707 Allentown Rd.
Fort Washington, MD 20744



Domestic violence hotlines by county

Delaware

New Castle County 1 (888) 522-2571

Kent & Sussex Counties

(302) 228-5906 (M-F, 8 am - 5 pm);

(302) 228-5904 (other times, holidays)

Maryland

Allegany County: (410) 759-9244

Anne Arundel County: (410) 222-6800

Baltimore City: (410) 889-7884

Baltimore County: (410) 828-6390

Calvert County: (410) 535-1121

Carroll County: (410) 857-0077

Caroline, Kent, Dorchester, Queen Anne's,
and Talbot counties: 1 (800) 927-4673

Cecil County: (410) 996-0333

Charles County: (301) 645-3336

Frederick County: (301) 662-8800

Garrett County: (301) 334-9000

Harford County: (410) 836-8430

Howard County: (410) 997-2272

Montgomery County: (240) 777-4673

Prince George's County: (301) 731-1203

St. Mary's County: (301) 863-6661

Somerset, Wicomico & Worcester
counties: (410) 749-4357

Washington County: (301) 739-8975

More resources on the next page

Online resources



The House of Ruth Maryland

hruth.org

The Faith Trust Institute

faithtrustinstitute.org

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

www.ncadv.org/

National Task Force to End Sexual and Domes- tic Violence Against Women

vawa2005.org/

ELCA Commission for Women list of available print resources

elca.org/cw/domestic.violence.html

Includes pamphlet, *What Every
Congregation Needs to Know About
Domestic Violence*

Nurture Families Dealing with Domestic Violence (ELCA)

[elca.org/christianeducation/
lifetransitions/pdf/domesticviolence.pdf](http://elca.org/christianeducation/
lifetransitions/pdf/domesticviolence.pdf)

1989 ELCA Churchwide Assembly action on ending domestic violence

elca.org/dcs/elca_actions.html

Strengthening Families Through Healthy Mar- riage (ELCA)

[elca.org/advocacy/issues/hunger/
healthymarriage.html](http://elca.org/advocacy/issues/hunger/
healthymarriage.html)