



Wednesday Prayer

13th Sunday after Pentecost – Woman Wisdom Invites All

Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn her seven pillars.

²She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table.

³She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls from the highest places in the town,

⁴“You that are simple, turn in here!” To those without sense she says,

⁵“Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.

⁶Lay aside immaturity, and live, and walk in the way of insight.”

Proverbs 9:1-6

In this work and in my personal life, I seek out and value the wisdom of women. There is a distinct perspective that is shared, that I honor, and that I aspire to.

“I come as one, but I stand as 10,000.” ~ Toni Morrison, giving credit to her ancestors

“How do we create spaces to allow youth to be the activists and create the change they wish to see?” ~Reverend Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy, Native Theologian

“May we who have been fed at Wisdom’s table, take her welcome out to where doors are locked and tables are bolted to the floor. May The Spirit drive us to break our bread on the altar of the world.” ~Pastor Samm, shared after a sermon by Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber inside a women’s prison

These are a few of the many quotes I save that propel me forward in this work, especially on the hard days. Wisdom invites us to gain understanding and live. She is strong. She is resilient. And she recognizes that there are “those without sense” inviting them too, to the table. Today I read news of a daycare worker who has been arrested on charges of child pornography. He worked in a childcare center in one of our ELCA churches, and his crimes involve children at the center and outside of the center. I’m shook, sad, and angry. And I’m filled with the need to do more, for us all to do more.

I encourage each one of you to inquire whether your church and other organizations residing in your church have child safety policies. This is the first step to preventing these crimes in our places of worship, and in caring for children and their futures free of this trauma. Learn more and help your church get started: [Safe Church Policies | Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota \(lssmn.org\)](https://www.lutheran-social-service.org/safe-church-policies).

Wisdom, embrace me in this harsh world. You have invited us to your table, now give us the courage and strength to walk in the way of insight. May we create safe spaces and work to protect all your children. Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children Executive Director.