

Senior Moments

Celebrating the Gifts of Mature Christians

Summer 2022

What Do You Want to Do with the Rest of Your Life?



By Reverend Lee Hovel, Pastor Emeritus of Trinity Lutheran Church

Several years ago, Bob Buford authored the book, *Half Time*. The book described his journey from a life of "success" to a journey to "significance." In the first half, he states, "in our lives we strive for many ways to secure our success. The second half for significance, meaning, purpose and leaving a legacy."

The gift of aging gives us the opportunity to reframe our lives, to prioritize what's most significant and purposeful. Several months ago, I was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. After many tests, three months later I was told there was no cancer. After hearing this, I prayed, "what now, Lord, what do you want me to do with the rest of my life?" The answer is still moving around in my heart. What now? What will be my legacy? For what will I be remembered?

My mentor reminded me "it is not retirement, but 'refirement.'" Buford in his book mused about what he wanted on his tombstone. He said, "100x's," taken from the Parable of the Sower in Mathew 13. He wanted to be remember as the seed that was planted in the good soil of his heart and multiplied a hundredfold. What do you want to remembered for?

Talking to many seniors and looking at recent research they are sharing their many concerns. What are yours? One that I often hear is the desire for significance and purpose. Many seniors feel insignificant, they no longer have a career where they found worth and affirmation. Many suggest others no longer see them as relevant.

In the movie *City Slickers*, trail boss, Curly, said to

(Continued on page 6)



Getting Started



By Tom Perry, Kansas District Older Adult Ministry Committee Chairman

An aim or goal of intentional ministry with and for older adults is to help them use and discover their spiritual gifts and talents. Often members think that ministry in the church is limited to worship and Bible study. This is not the case. Though those elements are extremely important, we also need to find ways of putting that knowledge into action. We, as God's children, need to identify avenues which will put the command of loving your neighbor, into action. This can be a fun and rewarding process.

Creating **interest groups** is a good way to begin.



Perhaps you have a group that enjoys yard work and property management. They can organize into a **"yard squad"** that may improve the church property and/or help members who struggle taking care of their own property.



Many congregations have **quilting/blanket tying bees**. Often, they meet at church twice a month and supply beautiful and needed bedding for a host of agencies.



If you have a group of members who enjoy cooking, why not start a **pan ministry** which prepares pre-cooked meals for the homebound. These can be prepared periodically in the church kitchen and popped in the freezer for distribution later.



Some congregations have made frequent use of the gifts members have had in **writing**. From time-to-time poetry and prose are received and shared with the congregation. This comes from lay people who often give a unique perspective of Christian living.

These are just a few examples of what our seniors can do. Senior ministry can be fun, useful to our neighbors, and include lots of fellowship. These types of ministry also offer the opportunity to interact with other age groups of your congregation. Mentoring a teen or young person in the art of writing, can help both the mentee by passing on knowledge, and the mentor by the friendship made and the feeling of accomplishment.

Next time we will talk about easy, effective, and inexpensive ways of carrying out needed service projects.

Older Adult Committee

Thank You

By Tom Perry, Kansas District Older Adult Ministry Committee Chairman

Acting upon a resolution from the 2018 Kansas District convention, then District President Lange appointed a task force to investigate the feasibility of intentional ministries in our congregations focusing on older adults. The work of this taskforce determined that there was a great need and opportunity to help create this ministry. Upon completion late in 2019 the Kansas District Board of Directors saw merit with their findings and decided to create a district committee for older adults. President Panzer then appointed the task force as the members of the new committee. Here is a list of the members of the task force/committee.

Grace Dahlke (<i>deceased</i>)	Redeemer/Hutchinson
Rev. Dennis Fangmeyer	St. Johns, Nashville and Trinity, Medicine Lodge
Rev. Cliff Winter	Retired, Wichita
Barb Geuy	Redeemer, Hutchinson
Betty Amey	Retired Teacher, Bel Aire
Tom Perry	Trinity, Mission and Shawnee, Chairperson
Jim Bradshaw	District Representative

Grace Dahlke was a treasured member of the task force and committee. Her cheerful, positive attitude and the wealth of experience she brought was inspiring. She is missed. The committee is a remarkable collection of God's faithful, each bringing unique gifts and talents to the committee. They have worked tirelessly, and I want to thank them. Not officially a part of the committee is Gretchen Hollman who has served as an editor and graphic designer of the newsletters and shared her gifts readily.

As is the practice in the Kansas District committees are set upon the completion of the district convention. As of this publication the new committee has not been announced. Well done good and faithful members of the committee. It has been an honor to work alongside of you.

His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant.

You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much.

Enter into the joy of your master."

Matthew 25:23

Two Upcoming Events

The Countdown

By Barb Geuy, Older Adult Committee Member and Chair of Saints Alive After 55

As of this writing, we have only 27 days left before our July Saints Alive After 55 event begins! The speakers are prepared to give us new insights into Scripture and much food for thought; the leaders of the interest sessions are ready to enlighten us about the Lutheran Disaster Relief program and the purpose of the Kansas District Adult Committee; and final choices are being made concerning the fun songs with guitar accompaniment and get-acquainted games we will be enjoying with one another. We will learn how to "Rejoice Always", I Thess. 4:16, no matter the circumstances. We will have a wonderful time reconnecting with other Lutheran Christians in Kansas and making new friends. We will study, learn, visit, sing, eat, and fellowship together. It is a joyful, relaxing time that refreshes our spirits and draws us closer to our Savior and to each other. If you have never been to a Saints Alive event, I highly encourage you to make an effort to join us this year. You won't be disappointed.

Again, the event begins on Monday, July 18, at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita with registration from 7:30-9:00 a.m. and concludes after lunch on Tuesday. Our Keynote Speaker is Mark Schoepp, who served as a DCE for over 30 years and also served as Director of ALOA, Adult Lutheran Outreach Association. Rev. Dan Meyers, Holy Cross, Wichita, will be our Bible Study leader, and those of you who have heard him speak before know that he is a remarkable teacher. We are in for a treat with both gentlemen!

If you have yet to register, you can go to the Kansas District website or contact your pastor, who has received the information via email. I hope to see many new faces in July, as well a number of you "Saints Alive After 55" who continue to come year after year.



Saints Alive Event
July 18-19, 2022
Wichita

Has Begun!

On Saturday, August 13, the Kansas District Older Adult Ministry Committee is hosting an event open to all members of the congregations across the District. The event will begin at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude at 1:00 p.m. We will be sharing and discussing ministry opportunities for older adults, with emphasis on involvement in all phases of church life. Attendees will discover ways to enhance ministry with seniors and receive ideas to initiate the startup of intentional ministry for older adults where one currently does not exist. There will be an opportunity to address specific needs for your congregation.

Kansas District Older Adult Event

Saturday, August 13, 2022, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Messiah Lutheran Church

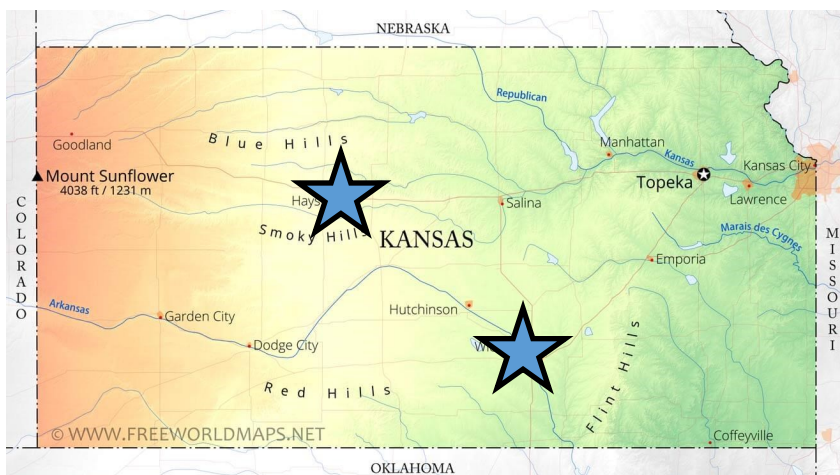
2000 Main Street

Hays, Kansas

Scheduled to speak are the Rev. Rocky Mease of Fairmount Ministries, Wichita, and Mr. Jim Bradshaw from the LCMS Kansas District. A panel discussion will follow. Pastors and other church staff members from congregations are encouraged to attend also. At the close of the morning presentations, lunch and a fellowship time will conclude the event. The cost for the event is \$10.00, which includes a boxed lunch. Please pay at the door.

To register and order the lunch, please phone the Messiah church office at 785.625.2057 no later than Monday, August 8.

Ministry to older adults is more than care ministry. It involves finding ways to engage those who have been such an important and treasured part of God's family. As our congregation demographics reflect an aging population, we need to strengthen ways for seniors to remain connected in ministry. Come and assist in building ministry with older adults!



The Rest of Your Life (continued from page 1)

*For we are his workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand,
that we should walk in them.*

Ephesians 2:10

boys on the trail, "You city boys come out here to get the knots out of your rope, none of you get it. The secret of life, is just one thing.' 'What is it?' they ask. 'That's what you need to figure out.'"

God has programmed your "one thing." Ephesians 2:8-10 says that we are saved by grace through faith for a purpose: we are God's workmanship, his work of art, released into the world to accomplish his purposes. Our calling is to discover our "one thing," the seed God has sown into our lives and wants to multiply a hundredfold.

In the book *What Color Is Your Parachute*, the author suggests how to discover your unique mission in life. You are called...

- To exercise the gift which you have been placed on earth to use, the gift you most delight to use,
- In the places which God has cause to appeal to you most,
- For the purpose which God most needs to be done in the world.

Scripture calls us to seek first the Kingdom of God—that's our one thing—and everything else will make sense (my words). Tend to your soul (as a next article will elaborate). Tend to your relationship with Jesus, your Savior. There you will discover you are *God's* one thing.



Older Adult Symposium

In Review

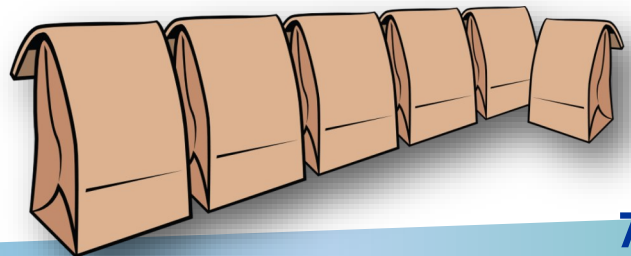
On May 14, the Kansas District and Trinity of Mission and Shawnee hosted an Older Adult Symposium. The purpose was to encourage congregations to begin or enhance an intentional ministry for and with members of district congregations that are of retirement age and older. Members and staff from five congregations gathered to hear speakers Rev. Dr. Mark Schulz of Trinity and Jim Bradshaw of the Kansas District.



Pastor Schulz spoke of the need to work with our seniors in the many opportunities of ministry. While providing for their spiritual welfare remains a priority, keeping them involved in the ministry of God's church is a priority as well. He also spoke of the need for this ministry to be intentional. This means a specific person is responsible for planning, creating, and implementing a program for their congregation.

Jim Bradshaw spoke of the many ways to help people stay involved in church life. He spoke of what the district's Older Adult Committee was trying to accomplish as well. Jim is the district staff representative of the Older Adult Committee. Following the remarks by Jim there was time set aside for questions and answers as well as a few examples of what Trinity and others have done in their ministries.

After the speakers and the discussion, attendees had lunch and participated in a simple service project. They assembled "hand-up" bags to be distributed to the homeless. A similar event will be held in Hays, Kansas in August.





Older Adult Ministry Resources

The following is a small list of resources that may be helpful when building an enhanced older adult ministry. As the year progresses, we will add more to the list. If you have recommendations or needs, please feel free to contact us.

ALOA

aloaserves.org

Adult Lutherans Organized for Action is a national Lutheran older adult organization with helpful resources.

Kansas District Website

kslcms.org/caring-ministry/older-adult-ministry

This is a webpage on the Kansas District website.

Older Adult Task Force Comprehensive Report

Find it at: kslcms.org/caring-ministry/older-adult-ministry

Tom Perry

Tom@TLCMS.org

Contact me with any questions, suggestions, or helpful tips.

What Is a Connector?

Our Kansas District Older Adult Ministry Committee is seeking a lay person from each congregation:

1) to advocate for older adult activities in their own congregation, 2) to receive and distribute this newsletter in their congregation, and 3) to publicize the annual Saints Alive gatherings.

We call these important people "Connectors." Their "connections" with their congregation's seniors, pastors, church staff, and with the District's gatherings and communications will glorify God as fellowship, service, and education for and by seniors flourish.

Tell your pastor you'll serve as a "Connector." Then inform Pastor Cliff Winter of your commitment at cliffwinter@yahoo.com.

**Send name and email address of
Congregation Connector to
CliffWinter@yahoo.com.**

Senior Moments

Celebrating the Gifts of Mature Christians

A publication of the Older Adult Ministry Committee of the
Kansas District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Produced and distributed by Trinity Lutheran Church
5601 West 62nd Street
Mission, KS 66202

Gretchen Hollman, Editor and Graphic Designer