



Adult Lutherans Organized for Action

An inter-Lutheran ministry by, with, and for adults age 50 and older

Third Annual Resource Edition

Fall 2017

You'll find many other resources and links on our website. If you have a resource to recommend, please share it with us!

New Resources Now Available from ALOA

Eight new Bible studies

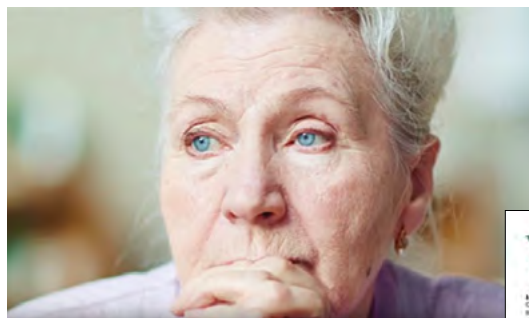
authored by ALOA Board member Rev. Ken Holdorf extend and expand topics introduced by short form video resources found on our website.

Each Bible study is available on the video page of ALOA's website aloaserves.org/resources/videos/ along with the corresponding video.

"All of this material can be used in whatever manner fits into your specific needs," says Ken. "Simply adapt to your own timeframe and use."

Holdorf, who has been an ordained Lutheran pastor for more than 50 years, shepherds the Senior Adult Ministry at Prince of Peace, Carrollton, TX. He has authored several practical manuals for ministry targeted to adults in the second half of life.

"These new Bible studies focus on insights and applications for real life issues that impact senior adults," says the author. The material is reproducible and can be downloaded without cost for church or personal use.



The corresponding video clips are ideal to introduce the topics, and can also serve as triggers for conversation during the actual Bible study. Produced by high school students at Prince of Peace Christian School in Carrollton, Texas, they capitalize on the popularity of videos among senior adults.

"Recent research shows that the view rate is higher among baby boomers than millennials," says Dr. Mary Manz Simon, project creator. "And because older adults are more engaged than other generations, video click-through rates are higher."

"Offering short format videos with corresponding Scripture studies expands usability of ALOA's online resources," says Mary.

Key points:

1. God doesn't change
2. God changes us
3. God will continue to bring about changes



ALOA's purpose:
*Equipping persons in
the second half of life
as disciples of Jesus
Christ for their service
to family, church,
community and world.*

In This Issue

In the Words of..... 3
A Look Back..... 4
Program Highlights...5
Resources.....2, 4, 7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Earl Alton
ALOA President

You are a resource.

Congregations find their source of strength by the power of the Holy Spirit in Word and Sacrament and by the prayer and actions of the faithful people of the parish.

ALOA's Resource issue presents materials that can become a source of strength in fulfilling adult ministry in Lutheran congregations.

Note again the mention of the resource of faithful people of the parish. ALOA exists for ministry to enhance the well-being of persons. Personal interaction is a vital part of any ministry and ALOA depends upon persons for support. We cherish your ideas for senior ministry, we covet your prayers, we survive as an organization guiding senior ministry because of your financial support.

We need your advocacy in reminding our congregations that persons over 50 have new adventures, opportunities and challenges. The encouragement of responses to this developing life-style can be provided by intentional senior ministry in the congregation. ALOA's resources are designed to support this ministry.

You are a Resource. You in prayer provide Strength. You are a vital resource for ALOA.

About ALOA — A nationwide, inter-Lutheran resource to the church, ALOA encourages and supports ministry for adults age 50 and up, in Lutheran congregations and through events which foster intellectual, social & spiritual growth.

Contact us at: 1-800-930-2562

Email: aloe4u@gmail.com

RESOURCES

Spirituality and Aging

❑ *Embracing Aging: How New Attitudes and Changing Lifestyles are Shaping Perceptions of Aging* – Lydia K. Manning. Once the start of the long period of decline and disengagement retirement now means engaging in new ways. Life transitions of a new career, relocating, losing a loved one, remarrying, becoming a caregiver, illness and more. Part of reimagining older age is navigating these transitions and making meaning of these new life ages and stages. Available to download on ALOA's website at aloeserves.org/resources/on-aging/

❑ *Laughter!* Living, lifting and laughing as a person of God – Richard W. Bimler and Robert D. Bimler. Full of practical wisdom, humor, insights and theology of living joyfully as God's children. Great for sharing in group bible study or special events. Purchase at lulu.com/shop

Devotionals

❑ *Hope-Full Living* – Daily devotions for Christian Seniors. Quarterly issues. View at hopefuldevotions.com. Order by mail on the website or call 855 325-4673

Other Resources

❑ The Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN) newsletter for Autumn 2017 is a Resource Guide for Older Adult Ministries. Download a copy at: poamn.org/index.php/newsletter/

IN THE WORDS OF... WALT SCHOEDEL

With this newsletter, we launch a new feature to share insights from veteran leaders in senior adult ministry. Pastor Walt Schoedel has served as editor of Engaging the Aging, a newsletter from Lutheran Senior Services. He retired from parish ministry at the age of 71, retired again this fall, at the age of 91.

By Mary Manz Simon, ALOA Board

What compelled you to choose senior adults as your focus for the past 20 years?

Schoedel: I stepped out onto the stage of "retirement," but I viewed it as "being repositioned." During the closing years of my pastoral ministry I saw the need to reach out to the growing number of older adults. Psalm 92 touched my heart, especially verse 14 – "I will still bear fruit in old age."

So much time and attention is directed toward growing congregations with children, youth and families. Why are senior adults important?

Schoedel: I focused my attention on a congregation's ministry to, by, for and with older adults because we are living at a time where there is a dynamic shift in population, from a youth dominated culture to an elder culture. **In the next 20 years there will be a 74% increase in the number of people over the age of 50 and only a 2% increase of folks under 50.** After all, older adults are still members of God's family and they have gifts, abilities, skills and experiences to share.

What is the current state of senior adult ministry in Lutheranism? What's going well? What needs improvement?

Schoedel: Here are my observations after visiting over 125 congregations during the past 21 years:

- There has been a decline of leadership from national headquarters. There has been an increase of leadership in area synods and districts.
- More congregations are beginning to seek and know the skills and abilities of older adults and are challenging them to

use their gifts for Kingdom work.

- Too few congregations are promoting an inter-generational ministry.
- More congregations are helping older adults adjust to changes in their lives.
- Few larger congregations have a staff member involved in older adult ministry.



Walt Schoedel (left) was recognized and honored by Ken Holdorf (right) on behalf of the ALOA Board.

Why are you hopeful about the future of senior adult ministry?

Schoedel: I am optimistic because the new generation of retirees (the Baby Boomers) will be in greater numbers and they will seek to make things happen as they have been doing throughout their lives.

What motivated you to continue serving until the age of 91?

Schoedel: I wanted to continue to answer the question, "Why is God letting me live these extra years?" Not to be a couch potato, but as long as I have fair health I should seek ways to use my gifts to God's glory and for the welfare of my peers. My confession – I am a pilgrim and a pilgrim is an individual who has a shrine in his heart – that's Jesus Christ; has service in his hands, using his gifts to touch people with Jesus Christ for healing and service; and a destiny in his goal – heaven.

A LOOK BACK

During ALOA's 25th Anniversary year, we are reprinting articles written by **Rev. Karl E. Lutze**, the first Executive Director of our organization, from early editions of ALOA's newsletter. This article was published in July/August, 1994, as an editorial, reflecting on personal resources.



Re-Evaluating Our Investments

The blitz of TV and magazine ads – plus unwelcome phone calls that disrupt our dinner hours – all vie for the confidence of a nervous public, trying to persuade us that their "obviously genuine" interest in us and our security warrants investing all our resources with them.

The nervousness they attempt to exploit is understandable. The spectacular interest rates of a few years ago simply aren't there any more. And we are learning we'll probably live longer than we'd thought, so financial reserves may have to stretch over a longer time span. What is more (or should we say less!), the money we have *now* will not be worth as much in the years ahead.

Though Jesus warned people not to become obsessed with care for tomorrow, faithful stewardship calls for managing and using God's gifts thoughtfully ("with all your mind") and responsibly.

Of course, ALOA encourages such faith-full, care-full and unselfish deploying of resources. Investing monies in certain ministries may produce more truly beneficial returns than other investments.

We urge taking inventory, too, of less tangible resources – assets near *frozen* because of long disuse: skills acquired through the years, wealth of experience, wider wisdom, more unencumbered time. As God gives us more years, we'd do well to take inventory, checking how we've invested those resources in the past – and whether there are possibilities for investing them to yield a bigger profit – to our neighbors, to our Lord, to His church, and to ourselves, of course.

We welcome *your* investing in ALOA's endeavor to help more and more people to perceive and invest their added years as God's *gift* designated for service.

RESOURCES

Dementia Support

- ❑ *Balm In Gilead National Brain Health Center for African Americans* has a Memory Sunday toolkit which provides awareness and support for those struggling with dementia and their carers. Find out more at brainhealthcenterforafricanamericans.org/memory-sunday-toolkit

Give to ALOA with your Thrivent Choice® Dollars

Whenever you have Thrivent Choice® Dollars available, don't forget to designate where you'd like them to go. Use them to support older adult ministry by making ALOA your organization of choice. Go to thrivent.com/thriventchoice/ or call 1-800-847-4836 to make your Choice®.

aloa4u@gmail.com

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS & COMING EVENTS

Coming Events

SeniorFest

Georgetown, Texas - Feb. 3, 2018 - Christ Lutheran Church in Georgetown will host the 13th Annual Austin & Central Texas SeniorFest. Rev. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick will speak on *Being a Christian in 2018*. The day includes workshops and catered lunch. \$25.00 per person. Contact Mike Naleieha mnaleieha@msn.com for more information. Registration brochure at aloaserves.org/events/senior-fest

Plano, Texas - Feb. 24, 2018 - Caring for God's Creation will be the theme of the day at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Plano. Dr. Tim H. Robinson will speak on equipping the saints for healing and care of creation. The day will include workshops and catered hot meal at noon.

Lafayette, Indiana - Sept. 29, 2018 - The Indiana District Senior Ministry Task Force will hold a SeniorFest at St. James Lutheran Church. Dr. Reed Lessing will speak on "Why Am I Here?", based on Psalm 71:18.

ALOAfest in Florida

Venice, Florida - Feb. 2, 2018 - Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Tampa, Florida - Feb. 3, 2018 -



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
ALOAfest in Florida comes back on land this year for two single-day events that will feature speakers, music, workshops, fellowship, food and FUN! Details and registration available soon at aloaserves.org/fla/florida-region-events/

2017 Ironwood Springs Lutherhostel

By Ernie & Kathy Freudenburg, Directors

56 participants enjoyed Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch as the new location for the Fall Lutherhostel. Located along a wooded area of the Root River near Stewartville, Minnesota, the camp offers private hotel style rooms in their Miracle Lodge, along with many indoor and outdoor amenities. All the rooms for the September 11-15, 2017 retreat quickly filled.

With a 500th anniversary of the Reformation theme, Pastor David Buegler gave daily spiritual talks on the key events of the Reformation, and Tom Kuseske provided perspective of life and times in that era. Pastor Frank and Deaconess Jan Janzow provided leadership in devotion and music, singing new and familiar worship pieces. Ironwood

Participants enjoyed inspiring presentations, relaxing activities and plenty of fellowship.



Springs offers relaxing activities such as mini golf and hiking, but also more strenuous activities including a zip line, archery and a trail ride, and these were enjoyed by many participants.

Planning is currently underway for September, 2018, with specific dates available soon.

aloaserves.org

ALOA BOARD NEWS



The ALOA Board of Directors recently met at the International Center of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod for their Annual Meeting. During the meeting, the Board hosted a Luncheon for members and adult ministry leaders in the area to share ideas on ministry to older adults. Many thanks to the LCMS and to Lutheran Senior Services' LaCleda Groves for their support and help in hosting the luncheon.



During the Luncheon, ALOA presented crosses to Rev. Walt

Schoedel and Betty Gundermann, in memory of Vern Gundermann, in recognition and gratitude for their many years of work in older adult ministry. The handcrafted wood crosses were made by Rev. Ken Holdorf.

Everything we do is made possible through your faithful giving. We are grateful for the support of the following individuals for donations received August thru October, 2017:

10+ Year Supporters

Orville & Juan Alitz	C. Sue Isaacson
Lois Bayer	Dennis & Caron Janko
Ken & Karen Black	Norman &
Carl & Ruth Brighton	Barbara Johnson
James Carlson	Betty Kempff
Earl &	Harvey &
Shirley Carpenter	Dolores Kroening
Ann Doering	Nancy Lareva
Peter & Faith Dunne	Vern & Joan Liermann
Aline Ficken	Donald &
Herbert &	Doris Rotermund
Joyce Grieves	Elisabeth Skipworth
Richard &	David & Diane Solberg
Marianne Hafer	Imogene Treichel
Doris Hanson	Leslie & Jeannie Weber
Robert &	John & Marian Wuertz
Mildred Herder	Carol Zimmer
Edie Hovey	Robert &
Robert &	Shirley Zimmer
Dona-Lee Hughes	

Earl Alton	Lloyd &
Richard & Jean Archer	La Wanda Haertling
Robert &	Tom & Phyllis Jacobson
Janice Anderson	Joseph & Cindy Kemp
Florence Bencivenga	Richard Kessmann
William &	Daniel Oetzman
Elizabeth Benson	Dick & Judy Reuning
Edith Block	Marty & Larry Richards
George Brunkhorst	Paul &
Ernie &	Jeanette Rommelmann
Kathy Freudenburg	Gene Stickelman
Delmar & Miriam Gusdal	Barbara Thalacker
John & Leslie Herman	David & Diane Turner

Support ALOA

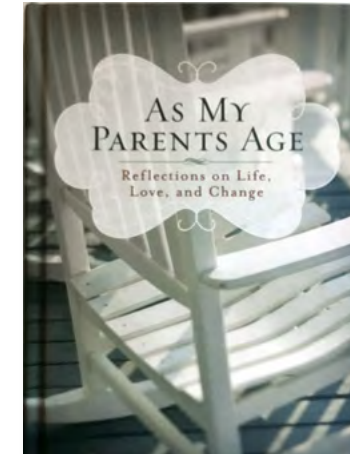
Your donation helps ALOA provide more support and resources for older adult ministry. Click on the blue [Donate Now](#) button on our website to donate online thru Network for Good or PayPal.

aloa4u@gmail.com

BOOK REVIEW

By Mary Manz Simon, ALOA Board

As My Parents Age; Reflections on Life, Love, and Change – Cynthia Ruchti. Worthy, 2017. 285 pages, hardbound.



As My Parents Age is a book to give our kids - not the grandkids, but our adult children. This is also an encouraging read for caregivers and all of us in the second half of life.

Fans of Ruchti's will recognize the same heart-felt, but honest conversational tone

used in her many nonfiction and fiction titles. By using personal references and stories from others, the author conveys important points we should be making, but might find hard to express. She doesn't gloss over the challenges and difficulties of aging. Chapter titles give clues: When my parents won't have the hard conversations; When their aging changes me; When I can't keep my promise to my parents; When my gratitude gets lost in life's wrinkles.

Whether read as a devotional or referenced as a convenient resource, keep a highlighter handy: you'll resonate with the content, reflect on the insights and appreciate the Christ-centered hope. Highly recommended.

A Look at the Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network

Rev. Mike Fonfara, POAMN & ALOA member

The Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network (POAMN) has served The Presbyterian Church (USA) for over 40 years. POAMN has been a resource to all levels of the denomination, but especially to those ministering in congregations. Specific ministries offered by POAMN heighten the Church's awareness to the value of older adults in ministry and include:

- An annual conference offering inspiring speakers and workshops on a range of older adult ministry topics. The 2018 Conference will be held June 5-8, 2018 in Zephyr Cove, Nevada.
- Workshops in conjunction with regional Presbyteries on subjects meaningful to local congregations;
- An annual Older Adult Ministries Plan-

- ning Guide to enrich the work of local congregations;
- A certificate program in older adult Christian education and ministry in conjunction with Atlanta's Columbia Theological Seminary;
- The POAMN Network News 5 times each year;
- A network of older adult ministry experts willing to share ideas to enrich ministry with anyone who asks for the expertise.

A few years ago, POAMN started reaching out to other denominational agencies to share older adult ministries of mutual interest. The organization now has connections with ALOA as well as the United Methodist Church. POAMN looks forward to long and fruitful relationships with both.



Adult Lutherans Organized for Action
PO Box 4367
Clearwater, FL 33758

NONPROFIT ORG
U S POSTAGE
PAID
TAMPA, FL
PERMIT NO. 1736



This newsletter
is a publication
of **Adult
Lutherans
Organized
for Action**

Shirley Carpenter

Board Chair

Earl Alton

President

Carol Murphy

Publications Editor

© 2017

Contact Us

1-800-930-ALOA (2562)

Email: aloe4u@gmail.com

Web: ALOA.serves.org

**Mail: PO Box 4367
Clearwater, FL 33758**

Special Thanks to our Dedicated Partners

ALOA depends on the generous support of our partner congregations. ***They are leaders*** in their mission for adult ministry!

Partner Congregations

Christ Our Redeemer,

Temple Terrace, FL

Gethsemane, Carmichael, CA

Grace, Clearwater, FL

Grace, Glen Ellyn, IL*

Holy Cross, Lake Mary, FL

Hope, The Villages, FL

Immanuel, Eau Claire, WI

Luther Memorial, Erie, PA

Our Savior, Nokomis, FL

Prince of Peace, Carrollton, TX

Prince of Peace, Largo, FL

Redeemer, Austin, TX

Redeemer, Westfield, NJ

Spirit of Joy, Orlando, FL

St. Andrews, St. Petersburg, FL

St. Armands Key, Sarasota, FL*

St. Paul's, Clearwater, FL*

Trinity, Walnut Creek, CA

Zion, Bethalto, IL

Zion, Dallas, TX*

**20-year Partner*

Partner Organizations

Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America (ELCA)

Lutheran Church Missouri
Synod (LCMS)

Briarwood Retreat, Argyle, TX

Good Samaritan, Kissimmee, FL

LaClede Groves, St. Louis, MO

Lyngblomsten, St. Paul, MN

Village On The Isle, Venice, FL