



Adult Lutherans Organized for Action

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

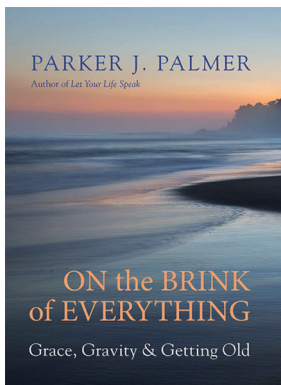
Fourth Annual Resource Edition

November 2018

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

by Rich Bimler, ALOA Board

Author Parker Palmer has just come out with an excellent new book that surely will be a "God Sightings" resource for many! Entitled *On the Brink of Everything – Grace, Gravity, and Getting Old* (Berrett-Koehler, 2018), Dr. Palmer affirms the gift of aging in so many insightful ways. It is so affirming to hear this 80 year old begin by stating, "I like being old!" From that simple, yet profound state-



ment, I knew I was going to like this book! And what about this one: "Aging and Dying – one is a privilege and the other is not up for negotiation."

Palmer speaks eloquently about the fact that our culture celebrates youth, disparages old age and discourages us to face our own mortality. He urges us to see the "God Sightings" around us as we reframe aging as a pas-sage of discovery and engagement

and not decline and inaction. Check it out and watch for the "God Sightings" imbedded throughout these pages!

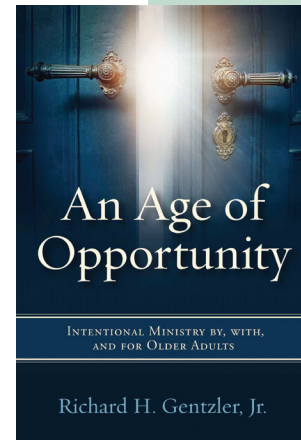
[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

by Marty Richards,
ALOA Board

An Age of Opportunity: Intentional Ministry By, With and For Older Adults by Richard H. Gentzler, Jr. (Discipleship Resources, 2018) updates this expert's

previous work on older adult ministry. It is a comprehensive exploration of the ways intentional ministry can be incorporated into practice. It includes many resources available to a congregation. Gentzler's book builds on three important facets of older adult ministry: 1) building on creativity, wisdom, experience and faith of older members; 2) encouraging ways for older people to find meaning and purpose; and 3) providing opportunities for individuals to grow in faith and discipleship. [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

See page 3 for more reviews



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

Resource Reviews ...3
In the Words of..... 4
Coming Events.....7

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Earl Alton
ALOA President

Videos, toolkits, Best Practice manuals, gerontology studies, readings, references: all of these are resources available or found through ALOA's website or Facebook page. Many were organized by persons who have served on the ALOA Board: videos by Dr. Mary Manz Simon and Pr. Ken Holdorf - Best Practices through Pr. Holdorf - the Toolkit from the Equipping Project led by Dr. Bob Hughes - writings from Dr. Rich Bimler - studies led by Dr. Lydia Manning - books by Marty Richards. The development of these resources was possible not only by the leadership of these people, but also the work of a host of students and persons supporting Lutheran Senior Ministry.

ALOA is an arm of the Lutheran Churches' ministry to persons in the second half of life. The resources of ALOA listed in this newsletter are part of this ministry, which assists congregations to help parishioners optimize their life in transition. As you see the variety of resources through ALOA, think also of the commitment that persons have made in providing these materials. Think of ways you can contribute by writings, projects or finances to continue this vital ministry of helping persons celebrate their second half of life. Thank you for your support

Eligible for Thrivent Choice® Dollars?
Make ALOA your organization of choice if you have Choice® Dollars. Go to www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice/ or call 1-800-847-4836 to make your Choice®.

MORE RESOURCES

Spirituality and Aging

- ❑ *Half Two: The Quest for a God-Honoring Encore* – Wes Wick, with foreword by Ward Tanneberg. Once the start of the long period of decline and disengagement, retirement now means engaging in new ways. If you have ever wondered what God is calling you to do with your remaining years, this book will help guide you in making those years count. In it, we are challenged to choose God's higher purposes over complacency, to remain vitally connected to younger generations and to use our gifts, life experiences, time and resources for a powerful, God-pleasing encore. amazon.com

Group Study

- ❑ *Lifecrossings Seasons of Christian Life Series* – Dick & Judy Reuning. The final 2 of this 4-part adult study series are particularly pertinent for older adult ministry. *Autumn of Christian Life: Finding Meaning and Joy Amid Change & Loss* focuses on the years before and beyond retirement, and encouraging all to make plans for the future that enable us to avoid isolation and live in hope and joy. *Winter of Christian Life: The Generations Consider Difficult Choices* explores end-of-life choices through deep spiritual reflection, and includes practical suggestions and resources for end-of-life planning and for reaching out to those who are suffering. Both are available for free for a limited time at lifecrossings.com

ALOA is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS and an affiliated Social Ministry Organization of the ELCA.



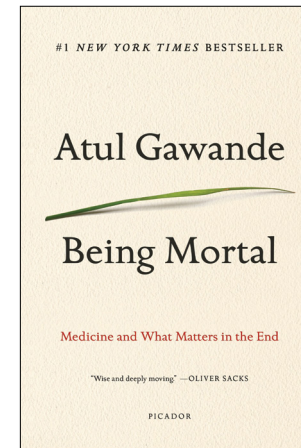
aloa4u@gmail.com

RESOURCE SPOTLIGHT

by Mark Schoepp, Executive Director

One of the best books I've read

dealing with the important medical decisions that come at the end of life. *Being Mortal*



was written by a medical Doctor who was honest about the fact that even while he was writing a book about being more honest with patients, he was saying things to his own patients that he didn't think were helpful. The book doesn't come from a Christian perspective, but still raises

critical questions for us. Having recently gone through this with both of my wife's parents and also with a brother-in-law, I can affirm the importance of the subject. The book is helpful for medical professionals, and for those of us who may find ourselves facing hard questions about medical care at the end of life. Truthfully that could be any one of us. Helpful reading for everyone!

The book's web page says it best: **From Atul Gawande, a book that has the potential to change medicine – and lives.** Medicine has triumphed in modern times, transforming the dangers of childbirth, injury and disease from harrowing to manageable. But when it comes to the inescapable realities of aging and death, perhaps what medicine can do can run counter to what it should do.

Through eye-opening research and gripping stories of his own patients and family, Gawande reveals the suffering this dynamic has produced. Nursing homes, devoted above all to safety, battle with residents over aloaserves.org

the food they are allowed to eat and the choices they are allowed to make. Doctors, uncomfortable discussing patients' anxieties about death, fall back on false hopes and treatments that are actually shortening lives instead of improving them. And families go along with all of it.

In his bestselling books, Atul Gawande, a practicing surgeon, has fearlessly revealed the struggles of his profession. Now he examines its ultimate limitations and failures – in his own practices as well as others' – as life draws to a close. And he discovers how we can do better. He follows a hospice nurse on her rounds, a geriatrician in his clinic, and reformers turning nursing homes upside down. He finds people who show us how to have the hard conversations and how to ensure we never sacrifice what people really care about.

Riveting, honest and humane, *Being Mortal* shows the ultimate goal is not a good death but a good life – all the way to the very end. amazon.com

by Marty Richards, ALOA Board

Spirit Boosters for the Journey of Aging

by Missy Buchanan (Upper Room Books, 2016) is a large print perpetual calendar of devotions for older adults and their families. This could be another addition for older adult's spiritual life. Each page has a thought and Scripture for the day. Many topics are explored with the purpose of encouraging and challenging older adults in their daily life. amazon.com



IN THE WORDS OF... BOB HUGHES

A continuing series of interviews with veteran leaders in senior adult ministry.

By Mary Manz Simon, ALOA Board

Robert Hughes served Lutheran congregations in Pennsylvania, completing his years of ministry at Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia, where he served as



Bob Hughes

President from 1990-99. From 2006-15 he served on the Board of ALOA, the final four years as President.

Leadership training has been an area of special interest to you. What are the essential characteristics of an effective leader?

Hughes: Let's begin with a single characteristic. Martin Luther had few good words to say about the New Testament book of James, but James has a key lesson for all leaders, "Be quick to listen, slow to speak" (1:19). By careful listening, a leader comes to understand the culture of a congregation or a ministry group, its life experiences, joys, sorrows and pressing concerns. Active and concentrated listening is at the heart of leadership.

Do leaders in senior adult ministry need any different skills or additional qualities?

Hughes: Patience is essential, perhaps more essential for leaders in senior adult ministry. I try to follow the old carpenter's adage, "Measure twice, cut once." Leaders sometimes sprint from listening and planning to action. Patient senior ministry leaders take their time. Haste is destructive when it comes to long-term cooperation.

In what ways has social media changed our expectations of leaders?

Hughes: Unfortunately, characteristics such as charisma and super-aggressiveness are dramatically overvalued in today's media world. Leaders do need to take risks sometimes, but aggressiveness can undermine the essential task of building trust and can sabotage Christ-like servant leadership. Effective leaders are typically positive and hopeful, and are skilled in communicating those traits to others.

How do colleges and seminaries educate church professionals about senior adult ministry?

Hughes: The old model, which sees ministry as the task of church professionals, supported by the people, is fading. The biblical model views ministry as the task of the people supported by professionals. I would hope that curricula for professional leaders and their field experiences are focusing on enlisting and empowering persons of all ages for ministry.

Some have said, "if you don't develop leaders, someone will rise to fill the challenge." In your experience, is that true in senior adult ministry?

Hughes: The adult ministry movement, of which ALOA is the primary Lutheran expression, is committed to working side by side with congregations and other partners to develop and support adult ministry leaders. Local congregations are (or should be) the primary training schools where budding leaders learn and practice the attitudes and behaviors that mark leadership among those who are committed to live the gospel in daily life.

Cont. on next page

aloa4u@gmail.com

VIDEO RESOURCES



Be sure to check out the video resources on the ALOA website at aloaserves.org.

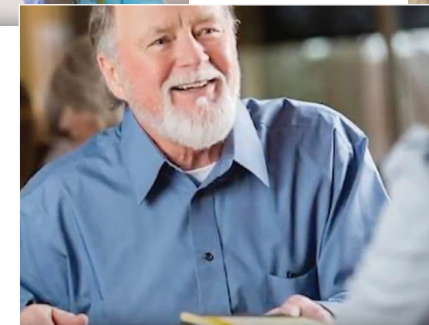
Move your mouse over the "Resources" tab at the top of the home page, and then click on the "Video" link. You'll find dozens of very practical videos that fall into three categories:

1. The Basics of Aging
2. Ideas for Your Senior Ministry
3. The Personal Side of Aging

They are all short format videos (most are 5 minutes or less) and can be used in many settings such as study groups, planning groups and for personal use as well. Each video invites a follow-up conversation at the end, which is particularly useful for congregational study settings.



If you see this blue Bible icon by the video description, that means there is an ac-



companying Bible Study as well that can be downloaded and reproduced as needed.

Ten new videos have been added this year, and additional videos are now in production. All were created under the guidance of Dr. Mary Manz Simon and in partnership with teacher Nick Weiss and his video class at Prince of Peace Christian School in Carrollton,

Texas. Rev. Ken Holdorf wrote the accompanying bible studies.

View all 30 of ALOA's videos at aloaserves.org/resources/videos



In the Words of Bob Hughes... from pg. 4

What is essential for an effective transition to new leadership?

Hughes: The Holy Spirit, working through God's Word and human mentors, raises up new leaders. How does it happen? There are numerous igniters. A committed lay person attends a life-changing conference, and brings ideas and excitement back to the congregation. A study process preced-

aloaserves.org

ing the arrival of a new pastor energizes volunteers. A new vision or ministry is embraced. What is essential is to prayerfully keep asking, "What is God doing already in our congregation, and how can we make ourselves available to participate in that ministry?"

IS NOW THE TIME?

By David Solberg, former ALOA Board member

New payout rates for charitable gift annuities were recently announced for the first time since 2012. The rates increased by 0.30 to 0.50 percentage points, making the charitable gift annuity a more attractive investment strategy. The new rates became effective July 1, 2018.

ALOA enjoys the representative services of both the ELCA and LCMS Foundations for such gift giving arrangements. If a charitable gift annuity interests you as a way of supporting ALOA while increasing your current income, simply contact one of the Foundation offices. Find out more by going to elca.org/foundation or lcmsfoundation.org



Give to ALOA when you shop Amazon.

Go to smile.amazon.com & designate your charity as Adult Lutherans Organized for Action. Amazon will donate .5% of your purchase amount to ALOA...and at no cost to you!

Passion Play & Holy Land Trip June 18-30, 2020

Enjoy 13 days seeing the best of the Holy Land, Germany and Austria. Retrace the footsteps of Jesus through Galilee, Nazareth, Jerusalem and Bethlehem, then fly to Germany to witness the Passion Play. Tickets for the world-famous Oberammergau Passion Play are included, and there will also be time to explore sites of interest in southern Germany.

This trip will be led by ALOA Board member Rev. Dr. David Maack. For more information, contact Pastor Maack at dmaack@lutheran-missionsociety.org

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

Ronald & Judy Baker	Rosalynn Koepsell
Harold & Margaret Bernthal	Loren & Arlene Kramer
Ken & Karen Black	Gail Lutze
Richard & Judith Cornwell	Dennis & Grace Pegorsch
Ann Doering	Donald & Doris Rotermund
Darrel Gilbertson	Donald & Marilyn Sandmann
Doris Hanson	Walter & Leota Schoedel
Fred & Alice Hedt	David & Diane Solberg
Lee & Jan Holtzen	Lydia A. Volz
Edie Hovey	Natalie Wehrman
Philip & Sheila Ilten	Robert & Shirley Zimmer
C. Sue Isaacson	
Norman & Barbara Johnson	

Kathleen Barrett	F. Thomas Kull, Jr.
Florence Bencivenga	Stephen & Deborah Kauffman
William & Elizabeth Benson	Robert & Judith Mickelson
Terry & Cherie Dittmer	William Moller
Ernie & Kathy Freudenburg	Lyle & Marlene Muller
Allen Freudenburg	Daniel Oetzman
Raymond & Sharon Hitzemann	Robert Rowe & Helen Dennis
Lyle & Betty Hoppe	James & Margaret Schlegel
Tom & Phyllis Jacobson	Karen Schmohe
Warren & Christine Jennison	Mark & Becky Schoepp
	David & Diane Turner



Go Green! Sign up on our website or send us an email at aloa4u@gmail.com if you'd like to get event updates and meaningful resources for individuals and for adult ministry in congregations in your inbox.

Let us know if you prefer to receive the ALOA newsletter by email, too.

aloa4u@gmail.com

COMING EVENTS

SeniorFest

Austin, Texas - Feb. 2, 2019 - The 14th Annual Austin & Central Texas SeniorFest will be hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church in Austin. Bishop Mike Rinehart of the Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod (ELCA) will speak on *Living Fearless Lives of Courage and Faith*. The day will include a choice of workshops and lunch. Austin & Central Texas SeniorFest takes a collection each year to benefit a different community organization. Donations this year will go to Texas Ramp Project Austin, "Building Freedom for the Homebound". For information and to register, contact austinseniorfest@gmail.com

Plano, Texas - Feb. 23, 2019 - *Our Church—Faith in Action* will be the theme of the day at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Plano. Bishop Eric Gronberg will be the keynote speaker. Workshops will cover subjects such as outreach, Christian care-giving and receiving as well as brain health. For more information and to register, contact Dennis Schurter woodquilter@gmail.com

ALOA Fest in Florida

Tampa, Florida - March 2, 2019 - Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, in Temple Terrace will serve as host for this ALOA Fest. A planning group of 7 congregations in the Tampa area is organizing the day's events. Featured speaker will be ALOA Executive Director Mark Schoepp, and the day will include a number of workshops and lunch. More information will be available soon at aloaserves.org/fla/aloafest

Support ALOA

Your donation helps ALOA provide more support & resources for older adult ministry. Use the enclosed envelope or click the blue [Donate Now](#) button on our website to donate online.

aloaserves.org

Experience Italy & the Oberammergau Passion Play September 22 - October 2, 2020

Join ALOA on an 11-day tour with stops in Rome, Assisi, Florence, Padua and Venice, followed by the world famous Oberammergau Passion Play. This once-a-decade



event has been faithfully performed every 10 years since 1633 by the residents of this lovely Bavarian village.

Take in sights meaningful to many Christians in Italy before the play, including highlights of Christian Rome, Vatican City and the tomb of the Apostle Paul, the Sistine Chapel and treasured masterpieces of Michelangelo, Giotto and more.

Cost: \$4,722 per person/dbl occupancy from Tampa. Includes round-trip airfare, lodging, 2 meals daily, transfers, tours and sightseeing, along with guaranteed tickets to experience the Passion Play.

EARLY BIRD savings of \$100 if initial deposit of \$500.00 is received by Sept. 22, 2019. For full brochure and registration, go to aloaserves.org/events/passion-play



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**

Mark Schoepp
Executive Director
Carol Murphy
Publications Editor
© 2018

Contact Us

1-800-930-ALOA (2562)
Email: aloa4u@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

Bethlehem, Ridgewood, NJ

Calvary, Green Bay, WI
Christ Our Redeemer,
Temple Terrace, FL
Emmanuel, Venice, FL
Good Shepherd, Tampa, FL
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, Westfield, NJ

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)

Austin & Central Texas Senior Fest

LaClede Groves, St. Louis, MO
Lyngblomsten, St. Paul, MN
Village On The Isle, Venice, FL