



# EncourAGING and Equipping Congregations for Older Adult Ministry

Celebrating  
1992  
2022  
Thirty Years!

November 2022

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

*This issue, we're sharing an article Rev. Lee Hovel, Pastor Emeritus of Trinity Lutheran Church, Mission, Kansas, wrote for the newsletter of the Older Adult Ministry Task Force of the Kansas District LCMS. Learn about the Task Force's work in the District at [kslcms.org](http://kslcms.org).*

***"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***

By Rev. Lee Hovel

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 Matthew 13."

He wanted to be remembered as the seed that was planted in the good soil of his heart and multiplied a hundredfold. **What do you want to be remembered for?**

*Continued on page 3*



Rev. Lee Hovel

**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.*

*Hans Springer***LUTHERHOSTEL**

Recently my wife, Marie, and I had the opportunity to attend this years Lutherhostel at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch near Stewartville, MN. What a delightful experience. We learned from

some outstanding leaders and presenters, got to make new friends and enjoyed a beautiful lodge and outdoor facility. We enjoyed learning the rest of the story behind various Bible accounts from Pastor David Buegler and worship leaders Frank and Jan Janzow introduced us to new songs and a look at a new way of understanding the parables recorded by Luke. There was a cornhole competition and, for the more adventuresome, horseback riding and a zip-line trip across the Root River.

ALOA owes a great "thank you" to Ernie and Kathy Freudenburg for the fantastic job they do each year in putting this great program together. This year they included a speaker about German prisoners of war in Minnesota and a wildlife photographer sharing a collection of stupendous photos who shared how he was able to take his fabulous photos.

I can only urge, if you have never attended such an event, try ALOA's Lutherhostel---It is worth the time and investment. You will be refreshed, renewed and grow spiritually.

May the Lord give you the opportunity to see and enjoy the beautiful fall colors, like we did, too.

## ALOA Celebrates 30th Anniversary

ALOA commemorated its 30 years of ministry with a joyous celebration dinner on November 5 in Tampa, Florida. The evening celebrated facets of ALOA's ministry as it has developed, and lifted up a number of individuals who have been dedicated to the organization since the early years.



We were inspired for the next 30

years and challenged to train the next generation of leaders by speaker Tom Cedel, Co-Director of the Thrivent Fellows Program and President Emeritus of Concordia University Texas. Comedian Al Ernst provided lighthearted moments, too, with his uniquely Lutheran humor.

## Support ALOA thru Thrivent

You can donate to ALOA in several ways thru your association with Thrivent.

1. Direct your Choice® Dollars to ALOA! It's easy: Go to [thrivent.com/thriventchoice/](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice/) or call 1-800-847-4836
2. Make a Personal Donation thru Thrivent by credit card or your bank account. Thrivent will pay all fees.

*Celebrate Life.... from page 1*

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 the 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. Tend to your relationship with Jesus, your Savior. There you will discover you are God’s one thing.

## ALOA Board Refines Messaging

To better communicate "what ALOA is" to a wider audience, the Board endorsed the following at its recent meeting in conjunction with the 30th Anniversary Celebration.

### What We Believe

- Older adults, as all humans, are created in the image and likeness of God,
- ALOA embraces God’s unconditional love as the cornerstone for older adulthood as a significant chapter of life.
- ALOA values older adults as contributing members of church, community and society.

### Our Vision

In vital communities, older adults will find meaning and purpose, enabling them to

more fully explore their God-given potential and spiritual gifts. As a result, they can joyfully reflect on past blessings, actively engage in current opportunities and eagerly anticipate the future.

### Our Mission

- ALOA partners with those who are committed to positively impact individuals as they journey through the aging process.
- ALOA empowers those in the second half of life by equipping through education, connecting through service and celebrating by living as disciples of Jesus Christ.
- ALOA serves as a nationwide resource focused on strengthening congregational ministry for, with and by those in the second half of life.



**Our faithful supporters makes everything we do possible!**  
**Thank you!** We are grateful to all who made donations during our 30th Year!

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# 10 Ways for Your Congregation to Encourage a Culture of Aging With Purpose

1. Create a task force on Abundant Aging that includes multiple generations.
2. Assess opportunities currently available in your congregation for older adults for
  - Services
  - Support
  - Leadership
  - Volunteer ministry
  - Connection to other generations
  - Learning
  - The Arts
3. Listen to your older adults when they describe the “holes” in opportunities your congregation provides. What would they like to see your congregation provide? How might they help create and publicize these opportunities?
4. Consider which opportunities currently offered by your congregation might be adapted to the needs of older adults who:
  - Need a ride to an event
  - No longer drive in the dark and need meetings or events during daylight hours
  - Need their volunteer or part time work schedules to be considered
  - Might be partnered with a person with greater strength or physical stamina to lead Sunday school, care for children in the nursery, or serve in other ways in the congregation
5. Identify needs in your community that might offer opportunities for older adults to use their gifts, skills, passions and time to serve the community, such as:
  - Reading buddies in a local elementary school
  - Staffing a latch key program after school, so children are not home alone
  - Teaching wood working skills to interested youth
  - Cooking and serving community meals
6. Offer older adults a chance to
  - Update or write a will
  - Create an advanced medical directive
  - Consider end of life planning
  - Learn more about estate planning
  - Consider pre-planning their funeral or memorial service
7. Invite youth to interview older adults about their life experiences, their values, their accomplishments or their faith. Videotape these interviews for the individual, for the congregation’s archives, and as a legacy to those who will survive them.
8. Develop faith milestones for:
  - Retirement
  - Employment or volunteer experiences
  - Service to the community
  - Celebrating milestone birthdays
  - Surviving the death of a spouse or partner or dear friend
  - Moving out of the family home
  - Moving into senior or assisted living
  - Funeral or memorial service

Faith milestones include an opportunity to name this transition as a part of a life of faith, as leaving a treasured place or part of life, of moving into and embracing new opportunities.
9. Make sure that the needs, concerns and celebrations of older adults are present in the prayers of the people and in sermon illustrations.
10. Lead a study on *Abundant Aging: Living the Second Half of Your Life on Purpose*, a small group study published by Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota.

Reprinted with permission from Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota. Find the full resource at [lssmn.org/get-involved/church-partnerships/resources/studies](https://lssmn.org/get-involved/church-partnerships/resources/studies)

# ALOA Trip to Italy, Germany & The Passion Play

On September 20, 2022, 25 excited and spirit-driven people traveled with ALOA to experience an 11-day tour of Italy and the Oberammergau Passion Play. This iconic play has been presented in “zero” years since its inception in 1680, but was re-scheduled to 2022 due to the pandemic.



First, we were off to Rome, where our



knowledgeable and efficient tour guide led visits

to Basilica of Saint John Lateran, the Holy Steps where Luther received his insights into the meaning of faith, the Colosseum, Vatican City and the Basilica of St. Peter. We toured the Sistine Chapel, the tomb of the Apostle Paul and the Church of Three Fountains, where Paul was executed.

Next, it was off to Florence and Assisi to visit the medieval town, the Basilica of Santa Maria Degli Angeli and the pre-



served chapels of the Church of St. Mary of the Angels. We took in the Cathedral, Giotto's bellow tower and the Baptistry, to admire Ghiberti's bronze gates of Paradise. After a traditional Italian lunch, we viewed



Michelangelo's statue of David and had a guided tour of the Uffizi Gallery. Continuing on to Padua, we visited the 14th century Scrovegni Chapel with Giotto's frescoes depicting stories from the life of the Virgin and Christ.

Venice included a walking tour, travel by water taxi and a tour of the Byzantine St. Mark's Basilica and the Doges Palace. During Venice's “high tide,” the city erected walking platforms for our convenience. We visited many of the 117 islands that are linked by canals and bridges, enjoy lunch on the Grand Canal and, yes, we crossed the Bridge of Sighs!

We travelled to Germany via luxury motor coach. On the way through the mountains of Austria and Germany and on to Oberammergau, Bavaria, our tour guide, Mary, pointed

## Support ALOA

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out the architecture and agriculture, highlighting the culture and history of the region. We arrived at our traditional Bavarian hotel just in time for an authentic 3-course German meal, lots of great fellowship with our group and a very entertaining group of German travelers also staying in the hotel.

In Oberammergau, we had an opportunity to explore and visit the many cuckoo clock vendors. We visited a quaint Lutheran church right next to the Passion Play Theater. The pastor was extremely welcoming and conducted the service in English and German. It was so special to

have Holy Communion during our trip and join in this worship service prior to the Passion Play.

More than 2000 participants presented the story of Jesus of Nazareth in a five-hour performance in the world's largest, covered, open-air auditorium, with a three-hour meal break in the middle.

The play covered the period of Jesus entering Jerusalem until his death and resurrection. Some 450,000 visitors take in the Passion Play each decade.

After a short night's sleep, we began our trip to Munich to fly home. Our 11-day journey was full of memories, our group enjoyed a terrific mix of ages and backgrounds and some wonderful friendships were formed. This trip was truly incredible!



## TRAVEL IN 2023

### Greece & Footsteps of Paul

September 18 – 28, 2023

**Walk in the footsteps of Paul on a 10-day tour of Greece that includes a 3-day cruise of the Greek Isles.**



On this all-inclusive guided

trip, you'll enjoy first class hotels and luxury cruise ship accommodations as you travel the Greek Isles. Visit historic sites in Athens, Thessaloniki, Philippi, Ephesus, Patmos, Crete, Santorini, Delphi and more!

Tour package includes:

- Round-trip airfare on scheduled flights
- All breakfast and dinner meals
- Taxes, gratuities, attraction admission, ground transportation & baggage handling.

**Cost: \$4,627.00** per person/double occupancy from Tampa. Additional departure cities on request.

#### Early Bird Savings

Book with a \$500 deposit and enjoy savings!

**\$70 if payment received by 12/18/2022**

**\$60 if payment received by 1/18/2023**

**\$50 if payment received by 2/18/2023!**

Information, video and registration under **Events** on our website, or at [aloaserves.org/greece-tour-footsteps-of-paul/](http://aloaserves.org/greece-tour-footsteps-of-paul/)

**Questions?** Call 800-930-2562 or email George Algozzina at [george@aloaserves.org](mailto:george@aloaserves.org)



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

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**Hans Springer**  
Executive Director  
**Carol Murphy**  
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### Contact Us

1-800-930-ALOA (2562)  
Email: [aloa4u@gmail.com](mailto:aloa4u@gmail.com)  
Web: [ALOA.serves.org](http://ALOA.serves.org)  
Mail: PO Box 4367  
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