



# How to Start and Enhance an Intentional Older Adult Ministry in Your Congregation

A Webinar Presented by ALOA

Featuring Deacon Tom Perry and Pastor Mark Schulz

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## Our presenters . . .

- ▶ Deacon Tom Perry
- ▶ Pastor Mark Schulz
  
- ▶ Both serving at Trinity Lutheran Church of Mission and Shawnee, Kansas (suburban Kansas City)



# Why ENHANCED older adult ministry?

- ▶ 10,000 people per day turn 65 in the United States
- ▶ What is our attitude regarding older adults?



# Why ENHANCED older adult ministry?

- ▶ What is our attitude regarding older adults?
- ▶ Do we view them as a problem? “Oh, no, we have so many seniors!”

OR

- ▶ Do we view them as an asset? “Oh, great, we have so many seniors with so many gifts for ministry!”

## Ephesians 2:8-10 ESV

<sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.



## Ephesians 2:8-10 ESV

- ▶ God has saved us by His grace!
- ▶ He has equipped us to do good works!
- ▶ Note: No mention of “retirement” or of stopping doing good works.



It's helpful to think of ministry both FOR  
older adults and WITH older adults



## Enhancing ministry FOR older adults

- ▶ Train others, including seniors, to assist the pastor with visits to older adults who are homebound or hospitalized





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- ▶ Train others, including seniors, to provide telecare
- ▶ Provide devotional and Bible study opportunities and resources for older adults

# Enhancing ministry FOR older adults

- ▶ Provide worship resources for older adults:
  - ▶ Assess ease of access to your facility
  - ▶ Hearing assistance
  - ▶ Large print hymnals, pew Bibles, easily readable screens
  - ▶ Online worship options: pre-record, livestream



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- ▶ Offer speakers/workshops on life topics

# Q & A on enhancing ministry FOR older adults . . .



# Enhancing ministry WITH older adults

- ▶ Spiritual
- ▶ Health and Wellness
- ▶ Life Issues



# Enhancing ministry WITH older adults

- ▶ Emphasize the wonderful resource older adults are in spoken and written communication **REPEAT OFTEN!**



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- ▶ Writers for devotional books, inspirational poetry, etc.
- ▶ Easter baskets for shut-ins / “Hand up” bags for homeless

# Enhancing ministry WITH older adults

- ▶ Develop intergenerational opportunities:
  - ▶ Lenten mentors
  - ▶ Sunday School mentors
  - ▶ Read to preschoolers
  - ▶ Family Christmas caroling
  - ▶ Don't forget the importance of the intergenerational component of worship



# Q & A on enhancing ministry WITH older adults . . .



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- ▶ Assess—ask your older adults what they would like to see

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- ▶ Assess—ask your older adults what they would like to see
- ▶ Utilize resources that are “out there” in the greater church and community
- ▶ Keep on praying

## Additional resources

- ▶ [tom@tlcms.org](mailto:tom@tlcms.org)
- ▶ [mark@tlcms.org](mailto:mark@tlcms.org)
- ▶ [tlcms.org](http://tlcms.org)
- ▶ [kslcms.org](http://kslcms.org)
- ▶ [aloaserves.org](http://aloaserves.org)



Q & A

