

# Older Adult Ministry

Iowa District West

August 2010

The annual **Saints Alive Retreat** scheduled for Friday, August 20, to Sunday, August 22, is nearly here. The retreat, to be held at beautiful Camp Okoboji and sponsored by the IDW Older Adult Ministry Committee, is for all members and friends of our District who are 55 or older.

This year's retreat, having the theme "An Unchanging God in a Changing World," will feature Rev. Paul Sieveking, President of Iowa District West; Rev. Greg Wilcox, Director for Spiritual Ministries of the Good Samaritan Society; Kelly Helm, former DCE at St. John and Grace Lutheran Churches, Storm Lake; Elroy and Barb Koch from Orphan Grain Train; and Dr. Renea Gernant, Director of Gerontology at Concordia University, Seward, NE.

In addition, this year we will have the special treat of hearing the Baumann Brothers from Lakefield, MN, as they present a live concert on Saturday evening.

The retreat concludes on Sunday morning with breakfast, Bible Study, a worship service and a light brunch.

If you haven't registered for the retreat, you can still do so by calling the camp at 712-337-3325. Don't miss this great opportunity to enjoy a spirit-filled, informative, relaxing weekend at Camp Okoboji. You will be glad you did.

My next suggestion is for the pastors of our District. How about, once or twice a year, having a Pastor's "Listening Post" for older adults? The setting might be something like a simple tea or a coffee and cookies party on a mid-afternoon.

To listen to and respond in love to seasoned disciples of Jesus, as they share ideas, concerns, thoughts and frustrations, could have many positive results. It could draw pastors closer to the older adults in their congregation. It could provide some insight to pastors as they seek to minister to perhaps the fastest growing segment of their congregation. It could give older adults a meaningful platform to be heard by someone that they respect and honor. It could also draw older adults closer together as they travel through the final stages of physical life here on this earth.

Older adults, do you sometimes struggle with searching for information on the web? If you are like me, I suspect that you do at times. If that is the case, let me introduce to you a user-friendly search engine designed for older adults. It is called Good50.com. It was developed by a 16 year old high school honor student from Germantown, MD, when she noticed her 82 year old grandfather struggling to search the web. The site features a larger search box and fonts and has fewer text ads above the results. Give Good50.com a try. You might like it.

In closing, let me share with you a powerful quote from holocaust survivor, Corrie ten Boom. She says, "When a train goes through a tunnel and it gets dark, you don't throw away the ticket and jump off. You sit still and trust the engineer." My friends, our gracious God is a dependable, loving, understanding engineer. As we travel through life, let us continue to trust Him.

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
 Rev. Curtis L. Foreman, Chairman  
 IDW Older Adult Ministry Committee