

Older Adult Ministry

Iowa District West

June 2010

ANOTHER HELPFUL RESOURCE

For congregations and individuals who are interested in and concerned about Older Adult Ministry, ministry to and by older adults, there is another resource that could be extremely helpful. That resource is ALOA, the Association of Lutheran Older Adults.

ALOA is inter-Lutheran, national, volunteer driven, engaged in service, education and advocacy. It was formed in the early 1990's by a group of LCMS and ELCA church leaders to help prepare the church for "the age wave." ALOA's initial focus was three fold:

- To help congregations strengthen their ministry with older adults
- To support caregivers
- To encourage older adults to affirm their gifts and use those gifts in service

ALOA's web page is <http://www.aloaserves.org>. In the next few paragraphs I will share with you some of the helpful information that is found there.

"ALOA is the only national inter-Lutheran organization focused on identifying and serving the needs and interests of Lutheran older adults, with a focus on working with and through congregations, districts, synods and other service ministry organizations to encourage senior ministry and senior involvement locally, regionally, nationally and internationally."

The quarterly newsletter of ALOA is "Encore Times." It includes helpful articles, suggestions and ideas, all directed toward older adult ministry.

Another helpful tool available from ALOA is "A Guide for Older Adult Ministry." It is a tool designed to assist congregations and other groups to plan and strengthen this ministry. The cost is only \$5 for shipping and handling. Order from ALOA by calling 1-800-930-ALOA.

ALOA is supported primarily by memberships, individual memberships and congregational memberships. See the ALOA web page for details.

Your Brother in Christ,
Rev. Curtis L. Foreman, Chairman
IDW Older Adult Ministry Committee

PS: Don't forget the annual "Saints Alive" Retreat scheduled for August 20-22 at Camp Okoboji. The theme, "An Unchanging God in a Changing World," will be of much value to the older adults of your congregation. Contact Lori Gamble at Camp Okoboji for more information (712-337-3325).