



ADULT MINISTRY IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Re-Inventing Ministry to Serve Those In Need

by Mark A. Staples
ALOA Media Council Member

ALOA has been reframing itself to re-energize folks in the second half of life and the congregations they are a part of. We want to be relevant -- to “matter” to people in that critical time of life.

As people of faith we are united under a God who loves us unconditionally. We have many things in common. For example, folks I know in our peer group of “mature” people spend a lot of time taking care of their grandchildren -- much more than our parents did as I recall. And we have differences. I have been re-energizing myself in retirement (age 67) to ministry beyond the walls of the church

TrinityConnect
when we know each other, we can help each other

Are you part of a company looking to hire? • Are you interested in networking?
Are you in a career transition? • Have you changed jobs—want to share your experience?

We are interested to learn more about you in order to help make connections with others in our church community. TrinityConnect began meeting a year ago in order to connect people with one another to help them with their career/job transition needs. We would like to expand the network, connections beyond the monthly meetings by asking you to share with us your current profession, employer, or potential career options. This will help connect us and get to know each other better. Please take a few minutes to fill out the information below. Return the completed form to Trinity using this as a tri-fold (address is on back), place it in the offering plate or the church office.

Name: _____
Contact info (phone and email): _____
Employer: _____
Profession (job type/title): _____
I am looking for employment: _____
Skills/job type: _____
I know of a job opening: _____
Job Description: _____
Company Name: _____
Can we contact you to talk about the opportunity? Yes No
Would you be willing to be a resource/contact person in your industry/field/profession? Yes No
My company is looking for people? Yes No
Job description: _____

TrinityConnect meets the 3rd Sunday of each month at 3:00 p.m. in room 125/127 - All are welcome!

For a complete copy of this form, email us at aloa4u@gmail.com

-- volunteering for a day shelter for the homeless in my hometown, also visiting ships in the Port of Philadelphia to greet seafarers who bring us our “stuff” (grapes, bananas, steel slabs, automobiles). I say thank you to them a lot.

Within the walls of the congregation where we belong (Trinity Lutheran in Lansdale, PA) we have invented Trinity Connect, a program that serves as a network-starter for people chronically out of work, who have been down-sized, laid off, who sadly have been falling through the bottom of the middle class. By formalizing the process of gathering information from those in our church community who are looking to hire, as well as those seeking work (see form), this ministry has been able to make intentional and valuable connections that have helped people succeed.

We're excited that after months -- even years in some cases -- people are finding new employment lives now. In one case a dear friend is newly employed as a contracts administrator for the University of Nevada at Reno. He had been out of work for many months. Now, in part due to concern and support of others, he has found a whole new life far from Pennsylvania. After less than a month on the job he received a generous promotion because of the early impression and effective skills he brought to his new post. Just before writing this article we bid farewell to his wife, who, after completing moving arrangements, is beginning the drive west to complete their new life together.

Mark Staples taught marketing fundamentals for 10 years at LaSalle University's Nonprofit Center and is a part-time seminary writer for LTSP.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

2014 SeniorFests

Texas

In the Austin area, more than 125 attendees heard certified counselor Rev. Sharyn Reynolds address ***Living with Change and Loss***. Colorful pinwheels and bubbles lightened the day and the workshop on laughter was an overwhelming favorite. Planning is already underway for their next event. ***Making a Difference*** will be held Feb. 7, 2015 at Bethany Lutheran in Austin.

The 7th annual SeniorFest in the Dallas area was held in Plano. Kurt Senske of LSS encouraged 80 attendees to live out their significance as a child and disciple of Jesus and they took in a variety of workshops.

Florida

Over 400 people attended SeniorFest in 5 locations. ***Renewed for a New Time: The Vocation of Retirement*** featured either Bob Baker of Lutheran Ministries or Rev. Mark Allen Powell of Trinity Seminary. Each location tailored workshops to meet the needs of attendees in their area. Diverse topics ranged from mission trip travel opportunities to retrofits that help older adults to remain in their homes longer.

California

Rev. Greg Seltz of the Lutheran Hour was the featured speaker at SeniorFest at Concordia University, Irvine. More than 150 attendees gathered to hear Rev. Seltz discuss the how many are searching for a story and, as we have THE story, we just need to deliver it. A variety of breakout sessions were offered as well, including subjects that shared University resources and one by Lutheran Hour Ministries on their international volunteer trips.

2014 Lutherhostels

Camp Arcadia

August 23-29, 2014, Arcadia Michigan

Rev. Dr. Loren Kramer (past Chair of the ALOA Board) and Reed Lessing (former board member) were featured speakers in the UP of Michigan. Attendees enjoying this retreat setting learned lessons from Moses and explored ways to use God's plan for significant living in the bonus years of life.

Colorama Lutherhostel

Thrivent's Heartwood Conference & Retreat Center, Trego, Wisconsin

Colorama Lutherhostel is held in Northern Wisconsin at Thrivent's Heartwood Conference & Retreat Center. Attendees enjoy nature's beauty in the fall and stay in spacious Eagle Lodge hotel rooms and take part in daily bible study and worship, along with a servant event, day trip, evening programs and outdoor activities.

Week I - Sept. 28-Oct. 3, 2014

Mark Granquist of Luther Seminary will guide us through "History and Habits: How Americans are Religious." Attendees will look at our uniquely American religious culture, and how Americans express their beliefs. He'll be joined by Pastor Frank and Deaconess Jan Janzow as music and devotion leaders.

Week II - Oct. 5-10, 2014

Rev. Dr. David Buegler, who's known for making bible study entertaining as it is inspirational, will retell the story of Jonah, relating it to the greatest challenge to America and the Christian Church today, which comes from within. Pastor Jake Dyrhaug will return as music and devotion leader.

Adult Ministry in the Spotlight highlights successful adult ministry programs in Lutheran congregations around the country. We hope these stories generate ideas you can use.