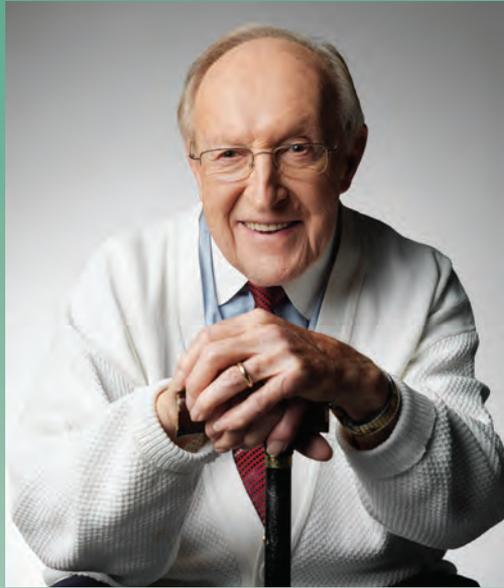


# Karl Lutze Visionary Leadership Fund



Remembering and honoring  
Karl E. Lutze  
as visionary, mentor, teacher,  
leader, counselor and friend



**Adult Lutherans Organized for Action**  
A quarter century of service to Lutherans  
and their Congregations.

**Rev. Karl E. Lutze was a true leader whose life and ministry were models of servant discipleship. Twenty five years ago, when looking to hire a full-time executive director to help launch its new senior ministry organization – the Association of Lutheran Older Adults (ALOA) – ALOA’s Board of Directors turned to Karl. At the age of 71, and for the next five years, Karl helped shape ALOA. Now, 25-years later, ALOA is planning for the future of ministry to adults 50 and above, re-invigorated by the vision and memory of Karl through the establishment of the Karl Lutze Visionary Leadership Fund.**



## A Man of Vision

Karl E. Lutze was born June 24, 1920 into a tightly knit Lutheran community in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. From there, Karl wrote, God took him “into a wider world.”

A 1945 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Karl first served as pastor of African American congregations in Muskogee and Tulsa. After 14 years in those congregations he

joined the faculty at Valparaiso University and also accepted a staff position with Lutheran Human Relations Associations of America (LHRAA), an inter-Lutheran agency focused on improving race relations. Karl served as executive director of LHRAA during the most volatile times of the civil rights movement.

An associate professor of Theology at Valparaiso University until 1991, he taught both theology and race relations courses. In 1992, after retiring from both LHRAA and Valparaiso, he became the first executive director of ALOA.

Karl remained active throughout his long life and ministry as parish pastor, civil rights leader, university professor and author. A model of servant discipleship and truly part of God’s “wider world,” Karl died peacefully at home in Valparaiso, Indiana on May 7, 2015, at age 94.

## ALOA’s Visionary Leader

Karl did a remarkable job of shaping ALOA’s ministry. He established the basic organizational structure; guided the process of obtaining official status in the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA); initiated a quarterly publication; and launched Lutherhostel week-long retreats. He began the process of fostering creative adult ministry in ALOA’s “Covenant Congregations” now, Partner Congregations.

Karl’s visionary leadership was embraced by his fellow pioneers in ministry to those in the second half of life, as together they gave birth to a creative and successful adult ministry grounded in the Lutheran tradition.

*“Among older adults there’s an incalculable reservoir of skills, talent, experience and strength. If enlisted, harnessed, and deployed in the service of God, all this could make a significant contribution to God’s ministering among us and in the world about us. That’s the purpose of ALOA.”* – Karl Lutze

*“Churches are pretty well convinced that they must have programs to serve the children and youth ...so they spend a large share of their energy and budget to serve young people. COMMENDABLE! That same sort of attention, however, is rarely given to ministry with the aging. WRONG. Older people are going to be around longer than most people think and there are going to be many more of them...this can be wake up time for those who plan parish programs...ALOA wants to be here to help.”* – Karl Lutze

## Advancing Karl’s Vision

Today, as the first and only inter-Lutheran organization focused on ministry for persons over the age of 50, ALOA plays an important role as “Adult Lutherans Organized for Action”.

Looking to the future, ALOA seeks to:

- Prepare and motivate Lutheran adults for discipleship in the second half of life, so they are challenged to Celebrate and Serve for as long as God gives them
- Provide training for leaders and equip Partner Congregations in all regions of the U.S.
- Engage organizational partners and agencies in “Embracing Life’s Second Half”, a program to enable those 50 and up to identify and affirm their gifts for lay ministry and to find meaning and new opportunities to serve.
- Build a reserve or endowment base to support the ongoing work and ministry
- Reinstate the executive director position to fulfill the full scope of ALOA programs and carry out the organization’s mission.

## Living Karl’s Vision and ALOA’s Mission

St. Paul wrote to the young church at Ephesus, “...equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.”

*Ephesians 4:12-13*



This passage from Ephesians is a foundation for ALOA’s mission statement:

**To equip persons in the second half of life as disciples of Jesus Christ for their service to family, church, community and world.**

*Your gift to this fund is critical to advancing ALOA’s mission. Please join friends, colleagues and congregations in bringing to life this unique and fitting tribute to Karl.*

**To make a gift, please:**

- **Complete and mail** your check in the enclosed remittance envelope
- Donate online at [aloaserves.org/Lutze](https://aloaserves.org/Lutze)

## What is ALOA's mission?

ALOA is a vibrant organization where adults grow in their faith, have a sense of meaning and purpose in their later life, and reach out to others of all generations. *ALOA's mission is to equip persons in the second half of life as disciples of Jesus Christ for their service to family, church, community and world.*

### 2017 GOALS

- Enlist 6 pilot groupings of congregations for Equipping Project and add 5 Partner congregations in order to focus on intentional senior ministry in congregations
- Add 50 new individual Partner members to expand our base of support
- Raise \$70,000 for Lutze Visionary Leadership Fund to fulfill the campaign's first year goal
- Establish a Resource Panel to provide knowledgeable review of reliable senior ministry materials that ALOA can add to its library of recommend resources
- Engage an Executive Director to provide leadership to effectively carry out the mission of the organization

### 2020 GOALS

- Add 25 Partner congregations - five of which are non-traditional and add 100 new individual Partner members to expand ALOA's mission by specific inclusion of non-traditional, non-caucasian congregations and enlisting additional individual partners
- Develop ALOA regions in two new areas to provide an intentional presence and centers of activity in new areas
- Be recognized as the "go to" resource for senior ministry for the LCMS and the ELCA
- Successfully complete the \$500,000 Lutze Visionary Leadership Fund campaign to provide necessary fiscal stability and ensure effective leadership

## A Look at ALOA in Action

**Lutherhostels** – Four to five day events in retreat-like settings with inspiring bible studies, music, devotions and fellowship. Ironwood Springs – Sept. 11-15, 2017 in Southern Minnesota.

**Pilgrimage Experiences** – such as the Rhine River Cruise & Reformation Tour of Martin Luther's Germany. Guest speaker Rev. Keith Loesch - Nov. 11-20, 2017.

**SeniorFest & ALOAFest** – Single day, regional events incorporating learning, worship, fellowship and a variety of workshops, often co-sponsored by synods and districts. These events are often planned by local committees. In early 2017, these events were held in Texas, California and Florida.

**ALOAFest at Sea** – Week-long trip combining inspiring spiritual presentations, worship and music with the fun and fellowship of a Caribbean cruise. Jan. 29-Feb. 5, 2017

**Boomers** – Events that encourage those nearing or at retirement. Create & Connect explores passion and purpose for the second half of life. Nov. 13-15, 2017 Luther Springs, Gainesville, Florida.

**Intergenerational** – Events that help pass on the faith. Grands Weekend features spiritual growth and fun for grandparents and grandchildren. Sept. 8-10, 2017 Luther Springs in Florida

**Equipping 21st Century Disciples** – Encourage intentional adult ministry thru online partnerships among groups of congregations to equip adults age 50+ for discipleship in new ways.

**Adult Ministry Resources** – ALOA is committed to cultivating and passing on resource information through its website, email communications and annual resource issues of its newsletter.



## Adult Lutherans Organized for Action

A quarter century of service to  
Lutherans and their Congregations.

Adult Lutherans Organized for Action – ALOA

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A 501(c)3 non-profit organization, ALOA is a  
Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS and  
an affiliated Social Ministry Organization (SMO) of the ELCA.



Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

