

# **Aging Ministry in the North American Lutheran Church**

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The country and world are aging at a rapid rate. Since people are living longer, lower birthrates, and declining populations, older adults and their needs will take center stage in the next several years.

## **Some Facts:**

- **Every eight seconds someone is turning 65 years of age**
- **By 2035, there will be more older adults over 65 than children under eighteen**
- **The average age of a Lutheran is over 60.**

While some will see an aging church as one in decline moving toward death, we look at it differently in the NALC. We see these congregations full of life and potential when it comes to discipleship, care and outreach. Why can't an aging church reach out to other middle age and older adults? Can't this bring hope and revival to the parish?

## **How can the NALC offer assistance?**

- ***Schedule a meeting with the leaders of the congregation to share about the need for senior adult ministry.***
- ***Lead an aging ministry retreat/workshop for the local church.***
- ***Continue to consult with the congregation and provide resources on how to implement a mature adult ministry***

# **What are some important aspects of aging ministry?**

## **1.The promises of God for the aging-**

*Isaiah 46:4-"Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will sustain you and I will rescue you."*

## **2.Discipleship and aging-**

*Psalm 92:14-1-5 "They still bear fruit in old age; they are ever full of sap and green, 15 <sup>25</sup>to declare that the LORD is upright; he is my <sup>26</sup>rock, and there is <sup>27</sup>no unrighteousness in him."*

## **3.The aging sharing faith with future generations-**

*Psalm 71:17-1-8 "O God, from my youth, you have taught me , and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me until I proclaim your might unto another generation, your power to all those who will come."*

## **4.Aging and service**

II Samuel 19:31-32-"Barzillai of Gilead came down from Rogelim to cross the Jordan River with King David and send him on his way home. Barzillai was a very old man, 80 years old. He had given the king food and other things when David was staying at Mahanaim."

## **5. Aging and grandparenting-**

*2 Timothy 1:5- "I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."*

## **6.Aging and wisdom-**

*Job 12:12- "Wisdom is with the aged, and understanding in length of days."*

