



**Encore
Lutheran
Ministries**
a program of
ALO A

Adult Lutherans
Organized for Action

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May-June 2011

KEEPING IN TOUCH...a newsletter on aging for Lutheran leadership

- Last month the Social Security and Medicare Board of Trustees released a report showing that **while Medicare and Social Security are financially strong today, there is work to be done.** The Medicare Part A Trust Fund will remain solvent for another 13 years, eight years more than expected thanks to the Affordable Care Act. The combined Social Security Trust Funds have resources to pay full benefits for the coming 25 years. (www.whitehouse.gov/blog/05/13)
- **Regulations directing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) have been updated.** New ADA regulations include accessibility requirements for swimming pools, parks, golf courses, boating facilities, exercise clubs and other recreational facilities. The revised regulations also set standards for the use of wheelchairs versus other mobility devices and provide guidance on selling tickets for accessible seating at entertainment venues and reserving hotel rooms.
- In May, **the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health approved a bill that would allow states to cut back Medicaid enrollment,** a proposal some argue would leave millions of the nation's most vulnerable Americans without health coverage. The measure would repeal "maintenance of effort" requirements for states to maintain current eligibility standards for Medicaid or risk losing their federal matching funds.
- **The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care has launched a new guide.** *Piecing Together Quality Long-Term Care: A Consumer's Guide to Choices and Advocacy* is available on-line, with HTML and PDF versions and including portions in audio format. There are also three state-specific guides for Kansas, North Carolina and Virginia. To access the guide, consult: www.theconsumervoice.org.
- **The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has contracted with fifteen states to design new ways of meeting medical needs** of about nine million people dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. These people have very low incomes and complex, costly health care services. The states will receive up to \$1 million to develop person-centered models of care that coordinate primary, acute, behavioral and long-term supports and services. Participating states: CA; CO; CN; MA; MI; MN; NY; NC; OK; OR; SC; TN; VT; WA and WI.

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- **Last week the Indiana District (LCMS) sponsored a “Senior P.R.O.M.” at Calvary Lutheran in Indianapolis.** The District’s Senior Adult Ministry committee developed a one-day workshop on Programs-Resources-Opportunities-Missions related to older adult ministry. Speakers were Dr. Richard Bimler, Dr. Charles Mueller, and Judith Baker (ALOA). Ten presenters gave overviews of different senior ministries, followed by round table discussions. The event was well attended, with representatives from 19 LCMS churches, two from ELCA churches, and one person each from the English Synod and a Roman Catholic congregation. ALOA’s hope is that this might be a model for other districts and synods. For information, contact Dave Ebeling (dave.ebeling@in.lcms.org); Emily Spelde (espelde@clcs.org); or Judith Baker (aloha4u@sbcglobal.net).

- **The pan-Lutheran Lutheran AIDS Network (LANET) has published a new HIV and AIDS Curriculum for Older Adults.** *Brokenness to Wholeness: The Senior Edition* is an adaptation of a curriculum for youth written by Thomas H. Carlson and Mary H. Zentner. Writer and editorial consultant was Becky A. Johnson. A pan-Lutheran advisory team reviewed the material. The Rev. Richard Hafer, Temple Terrace, FL represented ALOA. According to 2008 statistics, 31% of persons currently living with HIV are over age 50; and 17% of new HIV cases were found in older adults—a statistic that is increasing. The purpose of this curriculum is to help break the silence about this taboo subject within the church and to raise awareness of a health issue about which most older adults are either unaware or misinformed. For more information, consult www.lutheranaids.net or contact info@lutheranaids.net.

- **Upcoming ALOA events:**
 - June 11-14 Wisconsin Lakeshore Lutherhostel
 Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon WI
 - July 20-24 Lutheran Summer Music Lutherhostel
 Luther College, Decorah IA
 - Aug-27-Sept. 2 Camp Arcadia Lutherhostel
 Camp Arcadia, Arcadia MI
 - October 2-7 *Colorama Lutherhostel
 Heartwood Conference Center, Trego WI
 - October 9-14 *Northwoods Adventure Lutherhostel
 Pine Village, Heartwood Conf. Center, Trego WI
 *Co-sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
 - October 16-21 Lutheridge Lutherhostel
 Lutheridge Camp & Retreat Center, Arden NC

For complete information on all ALOA events, consult the website: ALOA.serves.org; or call 1-800-930-ALOA.