

SENIOR MOMENTS

January 2019

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Happy New Year!



2019 is here and with it comes my prayer for you and your families. I pray this year will be filled with God's peace and a renewed sense of joy in the fact that you are a treasured member of God's family. Being a senior does not mean you are old. Being a senior means that in most cases you have experienced God's love for a long time and are eager to share your experiences with others. More than any other group in the church you have a grasp on Scriptural teachings, traditions, life experiences, sadness of life, joys of life, disappointments of life, new life, and end of life. You and I have much to share with those who have yet to see the different aspects of God's beautiful creation. Children, youth, and young families should look to us as mentors and examples along life's journey. I am convinced that every day God gives us opportunities to be a guiding light to His family. The physical part of our journey may become increasingly challenging, but it is more than balanced with the insight we have gained along the way.

2019 has the possibility to be a pivotal year in our congregation, our church, and in the way seniors are looked at and treated. In our congregation participation in senior activities is alive and well. Senior involvement in regular church activities and volunteering are at exciting levels. When members look to see what it means to live the life as a follower of Jesus, I feel confident in showing them the way you live. I can see God working in you. But, don't let this go to your head. This is God working through you. This is what you are supposed to do. You should feel humbled and honored that you are His special tool.

2019 is the year in which a task force has been created to specifically look at ways to enhance the ministry of seniors. It will be studying what congregations have been doing in different areas. The goal is to not only see how to be more attentive to the needs of seniors, but even more important, how seniors can partner more effectively in ministry to meet the needs of God's church. I think that Trinity's seniors can be role models for the church at large.

2019 will prove to be a year that has the country looking to see the importance of people retirement age and beyond. A relatively new field of study in universities across the nation deals in gerontology: the study of us older folks. They realize there are many more of us than ever before and the number keeps rising. They see that generally we are more active and somewhat healthier. In many cases our resources are improving as well. Concordia University, Chicago has become a national leader with their school of gerontology. They are uniquely positioned to merge the advantages and challenges facing seniors in a faith-based setting. They are aware of Trinity's program and are eager to work with us in some way.

2019 looks to be a year full of opportunities. I invite you to be a part of this. We will continue to try to offer chances for you to learn more about your faith, give you opportunities to learn how to make your life more manageable, ways to serve and of course have fun along the way. You are a great group and I look forward to working with you. Happy New Year!

December



Wow! You sure were an active group in December! We started out by caroling to a number of our home-bound at two different facilities. We had about twenty-five warblers who lifted their voices to make Christmas a little warmer for others. It was nice to see the residents join in with us. After our last carol somebody called out for all to join in "God Bless America," so everyone joined in with a memorable rendition. What fun!

Next came the annual 50+ Christmas party with a wonderful turkey dinner. The fellowship hall was filled with celebrants. Many carols were sung and even Santa made a special appearance. The afternoon ended with all of us singing the "Twelve Days of Christmas." I am not so sure that it was the best presentation, let's just say it was memorable. Thanks to the committee who organized the afternoon and to Santa Ken.

Less than 24 hours later we celebrated the Shawnee Christmas brunch. The food provided was delicious (I love breakfast casseroles). We played a couple games and had a chance to get to know each other better. The Pre-School sang for us and then the 4-6 grade choir from Hope Lutheran came and entertained with a special Christmas choral program. Many thanks to Gloria, Sandy, Trinity's Pre-School, and Hope Lutheran for the enjoyable festive atmosphere. A free-will offering was collected and benefitted an area family. It was a Merry Christmas!

Coming Up

Be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, January 12, at 3:30pm. We will be celebrating being senior members of God's family. This is a chance for all us to gather and celebrate the joys of being in God's family. For a special treat The Kansas City Improv Company will be giving us their version of "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" If you are unable to attend some of our events during the week, this is a perfect opportunity join us. We will be meeting in the fellowship hall at the Mission campus. We will have some refreshments during the show. There is no cost for this afternoon event, and we are breaking "new ground" for Lutherans—there will not even be a freewill offering. If you know you are coming, please sign one of the sign-up sheets at both campuses for planning purposes. If you forget to sign up please come anyway.

On Friday, February 1, Ben Spalding will give us a talk about our worship services. He will explain why we have the format we do, some of the history of it, and what goes into planning and offering our worship services. We will meet in the Mission sanctuary at 2pm. If you have experienced Ben's talks to our group before, you realize what a good and well-prepared speaker he is. Come and learn why we worship in the manner we do.

