

## In This Issue

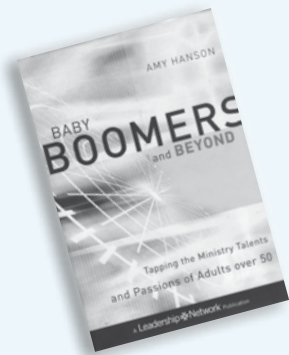
- Reaching the 50+ Crowd
- Take the Next Step
- Potpourri
- Resources for Changing Times
- Taking Your Pulse
- Wedding/Anniversary Gift

# Engaging the Aging

FALL 2011  
Vol. 14, No.4

## WALT'S WORDS

### REACHING THE 50+ CROWD



**BABY BOOMERS  
AND BEYOND**  
by Amy Hanson  
Jossey-Bass, A.Wiley  
Imprint, San Francisco,  
CA 94103-1741 ISBN  
978-0-470-50079-8 (2010)

Here is a practical, down-to-earth book to help church leaders touch the lives of the growing 50+ crowd. The author challenges church leaders to embrace a new paradigm to tap the ministry talents and passions of adults over 50. The result? An enriched inter-generational ministry.



**LUTHERAN  
SENIOR  
SERVICES**

## Take the Next Step with MOST



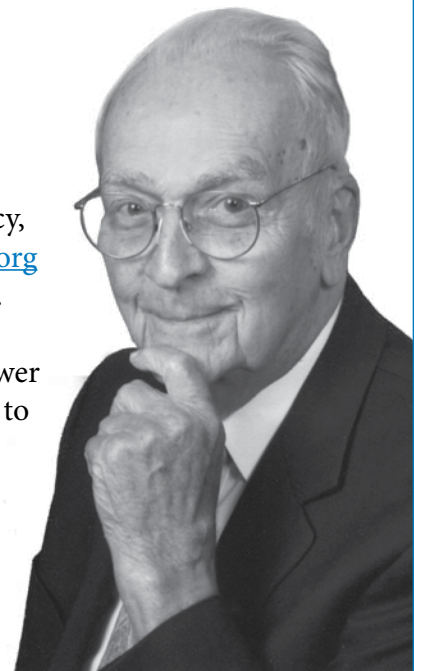
Mission Opportunities Short Term (or MOST Ministries for short) is a Christian mission agency that recruits, trains, and sends short-term mission teams to support missionaries and national churches around the world. They have sent over 300 teams to 40 different countries over the past 20 years, with mission teams made up of members anywhere from age 14 to the early 90s. Now that's a remarkable intergenerational ministry!

Interested? MOST Ministries offers a whole array of ways to get involved:

- Consider taking a stateside mission trip.
- Become a prayer ambassador, prayer partner, or evangelism partner.
- Volunteer here in the United States.
- Become a Financial Partner.

For more information on this mission agency, check their website at [www.mostministries.org](http://www.mostministries.org) or contact the MOST office at 734.994.7909.

It's another way for a congregation to empower their members to carry the mission of Jesus to the ends of the world!

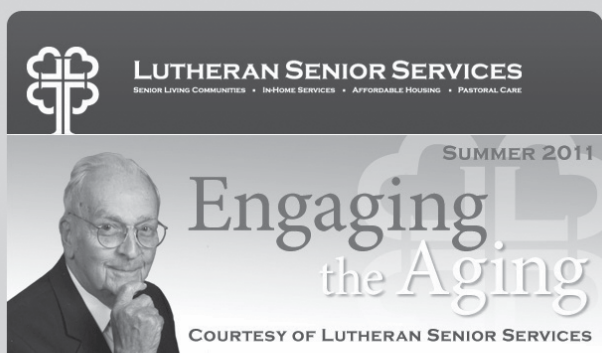


## POTPOURRI

- In 2020, for the first time in the history of the human race, people over 65 will be greater in number than children under six.
- Seventy percent of Americans who reach the age of 70 will need some form of long-care services and support.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report the seven causes of death in order of occurrence — heart disease, cancer, stroke, chronic respiratory disease, accidents, Alzheimer's disease, and diabetes.
- *Masterpiece Living* reports that the physical, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being of older adults living in retirement communities improves steadily with age.
- Research suggests that older adults who have a strong social network are healthier, happier, and live spirit-filled lives.

## HELP US SAVE A TREE (AND SOME DOUGH!)

Help us keep the cost of producing *Engaging the Aging* low! Consider signing up for the email version of ETA. It's free and it's easier to share with friends. Visit [www.LSSLiving.org/ETA](http://www.LSSLiving.org/ETA) to sign up today!



### Walt's Words

Welcome to the Summer 2011 edition of *Engaging the Aging*, a timely newsletter for congregations serving older adults. (To download this issue as a PDF, [click here.](#))

While you're online today, be sure to visit [Lutheran Senior](#)



## RESOURCES FOR CHANGING TIMES

### PRACTICAL AIDS FOR BOOMERS AND BEYOND

Contact "First Street" for their catalogue by calling 1.800.704.1210 or visiting [www.firststreetonline.com](http://www.firststreetonline.com).

### DISCOVER LIFE AFTER 50

Join the ministry of Oasis. For details, call 314.862.2933 or visit [www.oasisnet.org](http://www.oasisnet.org).

### HELPING PEOPLE LIVE THEIR FAITH

Check out Vibrant Faith Ministries' catalogue by calling toll-free 1.877.239.2492 or visiting [www.vibrantfaith.org](http://www.vibrantfaith.org).

### DEVELOPING A MENTORING MINISTRY

See what the AIMS Mentor program has to offer by calling 630.259.8415, emailing [Ken.Black@aimsnews.org](mailto:Ken.Black@aimsnews.org) or visiting [www.aimsnews.org](http://www.aimsnews.org).

### DEVOTIONAL IDEAS FOR RESIDENTS OF EXTENDED CARE COMMUNITIES

Contact Jean Peters at 989.402.1120 or [hgpeters41@charter.net](mailto:hgpeters41@charter.net).

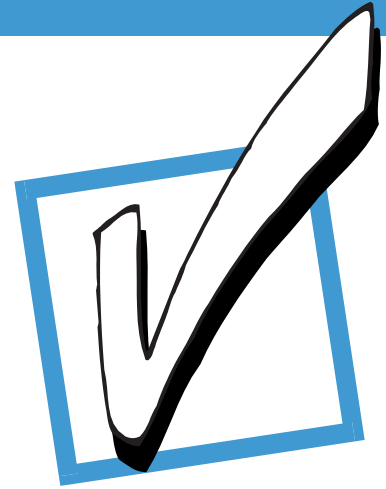
### NEW DAILY DEVOTIONS

Specially written for the 65+ crowd, this collection titled "Hope-Full Living" will be available later this fall for use in the new year. Congregations can order copies from Creative Communications for the Parish at 1.800.325.9414.

# Taking the Pulse of Your Congregation

## A Survey on Attitudes Toward Aging Parishioners

To enrich, enhance, and enlarge your congregation's older adult ministry, it is a good idea to pause and take your congregation's pulse. This will affirm what you are doing and help you find ways to improve your ministry.



There is a feeling among us that we care about older adults.	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
Our congregation prays for concerns relevant to older adults.	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
Our congregation designates May as Older Americans month and plans activities.	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
There is someone in charge of our older adult ministry.	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
We assist the 50+ crowd in discerning their gifts, talents, and Christian vocations.	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
Our older members are encouraged to tell their faith stories.	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
Our congregation celebrates significant milestones in the lives of older adults, e.g. wedding anniversaries, retirement, becoming empty-nesters, and grandparenting.	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
Our congregation provides inter- and intra-generational ministries.	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
There is an attitude among us that older adults no longer have things to contribute.	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
Our congregation trains grandparents and godparents to be effective faith-shapers.	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
Our congregation celebrates Grandparents Day in September.	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
Input is sought from the 50+ crowd on their needs and concerns.	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
Our congregation encourages the 50+ crowd to do something significant that advances God's mission in the community and in the world.	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
Our congregation reaches out to the homebound and residents in nursing homes.	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
Our older adult ministry is evaluated at least once a year.	Agree	Disagree	Unsure
Our older adults are given opportunities to be involved in ministries, e.g. mentoring, mission trips, prayer chains, and support groups.	Agree	Disagree	Unsure

*Commit yourself to making sure parishioners in your congregation take this inventory, reflect upon their responses, and begin a dialogue to decide what steps to take to build a vital ministry for the 50+ crowd.*



## LUTHERAN SENIOR SERVICES

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## AN ENGAGING BOOK

For more on older adult ministry, contact Rev. Walter Schoedel at 314.446.2393 or [WSchoedel@LSSLiving.org](mailto:WSchoedel@LSSLiving.org)

Tell your friends about *Engaging the Aging*. Subscriptions are free. Email [Info@LSSLiving.org](mailto:Info@LSSLiving.org) to subscribe for our print edition, or visit [EngagingTheAging.org](http://EngagingTheAging.org) to subscribe to our email edition.

*Engaging the Aging* is supported in part by:

  
**Wheat Ridge**<sup>™</sup>  
MINISTRIES  
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### DEVOTED TO GOD AND EACH OTHER

by Dean Schuessler. Winepress Publishing, PO Box 428, Enumclaw, WA 98022. ISBN 1-57921-837-7 (2007). Order by calling 651.731.4451.

Once again an older adult takes time to reflect on life's journey for husbands and wives. This book (which comes packaged with an audio book) is stimulating, inspiring, experiential ... in short, it's an excellent book to give as a wedding or anniversary gift.

In each of the book's two sections ("Devotions for the Early Years of Marriage" and "Devotions for the Mature Years of Marriage"), author Dean Schuessler challenges his readers to live consistently, to love compassionately, and to listen attentively to God and to each other. A must-read.

