

DISABILITY MINISTRY



Mission: *To equip the Church to reach out, include, and encourage full participation of people with disabilities and their families in the life of Christ's Church.*

Vision: *To see people with disabilities and their families welcomed and included as members of Christ's Body, the Church.*



View the Disability Ministry Video:
http://cnh-lcms.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=274635
What is Disability Ministry?

Disability ministry is as much about making people feel comfortable and welcoming to people with disabilities as it is about removing physical barriers. This does not need to be “one more ministry” to reach out to another group of people to meet their needs, but rather a gradual process of teaching congregations the needs of people with disabilities. This may or may not require a disability ministry committee, though this encourages an intentional ministry, but a change in culture of how people with disabilities should be welcomed. This is an awareness that crosses all committees and ministries, from the board of elders to community ministries to Sunday School classes and more. It crosses all social groups, whether by ethnicity, by economic status, or by age. As members of our congregations age, they acquire disabilities that need to be accommodated so that they can continue to share in fellowship with other members of the congregation.

First Steps

Physical Layout Survey



Facility Accessibility Checklist: Is it possible to get from a parked car into the building without using stairs? Are 1 in 25 parking spaces accessible to people with disabilities? Are spaces available for people who use wheelchairs in the sanctuary, or are they sitting in the aisle?



Church Facility Accessibility Survey:

<http://www.cnh-lcms.org/uploads/ChurchFacilityAccessibilityChecklist.pdf>

Congregational Survey

Assess the needs of your congregation. Do you have people attending your church who have disabilities? Do you have people who have hidden disabilities? People affected by disabilities may be hesitant to ask for architectural changes, or just as important,

support and help to relieve them of the 24/7 care of a family member.

Perform a congregational survey of the needs of your congregation:

<http://www.cnh-lcms.org/uploads/ChurchSurvey.pdf>



Amplified sound system for people with hearing impairments.

Classes and events for people with developmental disabilities.



Buddies for people with sensory overload issues.

Resources

LCMS web site:

<https://www.lcms.org/social-issues/disability>

DMTF web site:

http://cnh-lcms.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=274639

Joni and Friends Irresistible Church Resources:
http://www.joniandfriends.org/church-relations/starter_kit_signup/

Bethesda Lutheran Communities:
<https://bethesdalutherancommunities.org/services/faith-supports/faith-resources/>



The best resources may come from the families affected by disability and other people with disabilities, including those using wheelchairs; people with hidden disabilities, which includes those who are sight impaired, people with fibromyalgia (to name a few); and people who have experience helping people with disabilities.

CNH Disability Ministry Task Force

Visit the DMTF web site for more exciting information:

http://cnh-lcms.org/pages/page.asp?page_id=274639

Contact the DMTF at:
disability-min@cnh-lcms.org

