



Resources and Services



Congregational health
ministry guidance



Parish nursing



Disability resources

Health Ministry serves the church through resources for serving neighbors with disabilities and the parish-nursing program.

Most parish nurses work alongside the pastor in a congregation to provide care for the physical well-being of parishioners. Yet parishioners aren't the only ones in need of spiritual and physical wellness, and Health Ministry recognizes this need and works with other LCMS ministries to provide opportunities for church worker health and respite care.

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Life, Health and the LCMS

In Luke 10:27, God calls on His people to love their neighbors. Yet in the business of life, we are tempted to define “neighbor” only as spouse, children, family, church members — people in our daily routines. Yet the parable of the Good Samaritan, which continues in Luke 10, urges us to consider the term more broadly. Our neighbors are not only the people who are easy to love; they also are the poor, the powerless, the weak and the forgotten. And as the church, we find these neighbors along the path and show mercy to them in both body and soul.

The Synod established LCMS Life and Health Ministries, part of the Office of National Mission, to do just that — to serve our neighbors, near and far.

It might be surprising to learn that Life and Health Ministries — two separate categories that function as one complete ministry — rely heavily on volunteers and the collaboration of church workers across the globe. Yet the ministry’s extensive reach is proof that God has

the power to multiply the labors of His people.

Life Ministry

Life Ministry seeks to be a guiding voice for the LCMS on life issues, for influence both in the church and the culture at-large. Although the current major “life issues” are abortion and end-of-life choices, Life Ministry also encompasses issues of marriage, family, sexuality, infertility, bioethics in health care and more.

The main goal of Life Ministry is to uphold the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. We produce a number of resources and publications — such as the Notes for Life newsletter, the ultrasound curriculum, frequent symposiums and conferences, and Life Sunday resources — to educate LCMS members on life issues. We also



are involved in life marches on the East and West Coasts, the LCMS Youth Gathering and pregnancy resource centers in Russia and Malaysia.

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We pray that God would give us eyes to see our neighbors, ears to hear their groaning and dedication to celebrate their lives as a reflection of the image of God Himself. ✠

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