

Trinity Lutheran Church

Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania

Taskforce on New Ministries Meeting: June 5, 2024

1. Introductions:

The second meeting of the *Taskforce on Aging* was chaired jointly by Todd Rehder and Pr. Mathews. Those present for the meeting were Haydn Evans, Angel Garcia, Cheri Graboski, Helen Gregosh, Carol Howell, George Mathews, Kathy Mathews, Todd Rehder, and Dee Smith.

2. Opening Prayer:

The meeting was opened with prayer by Pastor Mathews.

3. An Initial Discussion:

A question was raised at the beginning of the meeting regarding the name of the taskforce. Several members expressed the thought that the name *Taskforce on Aging* tended to limit the scope of the focus of the effort. It was therefore agreed that this effort would be known as the *Taskforce on New Ministries*.

4. Summary of Activities at the Hillside Senior Center:

Terry Bockelkamp, although she was not able to be present at this meeting, submitted a written summary of the activities that are currently being presented at the Hillside Senior Center. She also presented a summary of the ways in which new programs might be impacted or restricted by the current preschool program (*document attached to these minutes*).

5. Idea Gathering Process:

The meeting continued with the “idea gathering process” that was the primary focus of the previous meeting. The list of possible ministries identified at that meeting included the following possibilities:

- Christ Centered Senior Center
- Family Gatherings/Meals
- “Fun for Seniors”
- Lunch and Learns
- Book Clubs
- Bible Study for the Elderly
- Shut-in Ministry
- Host an Open House
- Donations to the Community
- Grief Support
- End of Life Support
- Host Social Gatherings, Hangouts
- Adult Gifts to Go Packages Made
- Veterans Groups
- Saturday and Sunday “Fun Days”
- Health Screenings
- Highlight Members – Share faith stories.
- Transportation
- Become more known in the community.
- Youth Groups, Scouts, and AA Meetings
- Youth Gatherings (ages 16-25)

6. Prioritization of Suggested Initial Program/Ministry Proposals:

Realizing that we can initially effectively implement only a few new programs, a conversation followed in which we attempted to determine which proposals would become the focus of our initial efforts. After discussing each possibility, we reached the consensus that we would begin with the following:

“Fun for Seniors”
Shut-in Ministry
Adult Gifts to Go Packages / “Adult Blessing Bags”
Youth Gatherings (ages 16-25)
Hosting Site for Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings

“Fun for Seniors.” This program has been initiated by Terry Bockelkamp. We are hopeful that this program will be able to expand with events being offered with increased frequency. We will discuss with Terry to learn what she considers to be the best way to proceed.

Shut-in Ministry: This ministry is usually associated with activities focused on the membership within the local congregation. We envision that this might be expanded to include people within the wider community. Cheri Graboski will convene a group of individuals who are interested in exploring the range of possibilities that this ministry might eventually include.

“Adult Blessing Bags” (previously referred to as “Adult Gifts to Go Packages”): Kathy Mathews shared the concept of a bag distributed regularly at worship services which would include a variety of resources. These resources are intended to affirm the gifts people have to offer through their daily lives. Kathy will continue to develop this idea.

Youth Gatherings (ages 16-25): Angel Garcia is very excited about the possibility of the development of a ministry to persons in the 16-25 age bracket. He will discuss with Heather Klien how this might interface (if at all) with the present youth program that is currently attracting a small group of very young children.

Hosting Site for Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings: Angel Garcia is continuing to explore the possibility of the Trinity facilities becoming a site for Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings

7. Publicizing our New Ministries as they emerge:

Pr. Brad Hales reminded us of the importance to plan ways to advertise both within the congregation as well as to the larger community our emerging programs as they develop. The taskforce also discussed the critical need for a parish newsletter to return and to be published on a very regular schedule.

8. Reconvene:

We determined that the next meeting of the *Taskforce on New Ministries* would be held in the Parish Center Social Hall on Wednesday, June 26 at 7:00 PM.

9. Closing:

The meeting concluded as those present prayed the Lord’s Prayer.

Minutes prepared by:
George Mathews