

Planning Our Church's "Senior Ministry Sunday" (and/or "Lyngblomsten Sunday")



To Do List:

- ___ Working with the Lead Delegate, contact the pastor to choose a date
- ___ Inform anyone else who needs to know about the date, i.e. church office staff, musicians
- ___ Gather for coffee with my other delegates (and the pastor, if possible) to plan our special Sunday
- ___ Give original of bulletin insert to office staff to make copies and insert (if using)
- ___ Reserve display board from Lyngblomsten (call Ethan Cook at 651.632.5360)
- ___ _____
- ___ _____
- ___ _____
- ___ _____



Ideas about what we could do to celebrate the older adults in our congregation, to help inform congregants about resources and opportunities that enhance the lives of older adults, and/or engage them in the mission and ministry of our church:

Suggested Activities for Celebrating...

Senior Ministry Sunday

- Create a sermon emphasizing the value of older adults, i.e. “Honor Your Father and Your Mother”
- Have a mini resource fair in your gathering space, showcasing all the ministries that support older adults – either as resources for them or as opportunities to serve. Include a display from Lyngblomsten (see note below).
- Explore having special prayers, readings, or music that celebrate older adults – their lives, the contributions they’ve made to society, etc.
- Have a blessing of older adults.
- Recognize milestones – like retirement.
- Host a breakfast for seniors (served by the youth).

Lyngblomsten Sunday

ANYTHING FROM ABOVE PLUS:

- Show the Lyngblomsten video "The Work of Our Hands" during coffee time or an adult forum. (If you need another copy, contact Patricia Montgomery at 651.632.5322.)
- Invite a Lyngblomsten staff person, board member, volunteer, or delegate to present a “temple talk” during Sunday services. Utilize the Lyngblomsten Speakers Bureau for an adult forum.
- Work with your church office staff to copy and insert the enclosed Lyngblomsten Sunday sheet for distribution in your Sunday bulletin and/or church newsletter.
- Highlight members of your congregation involved at Lyngblomsten. Example: staff, volunteers, delegates, Board members or committee members. Also, help your congregation get to know YOU as the delegates representing your church in the partnership with Lyngblomsten!
- Have a special collection, or insert a Lyngblomsten Foundation donation envelope into each Sunday bulletin. A sample is enclosed. To request envelopes for your church, contact Patricia Montgomery.
- Place your copies of the *Lyngblomsten Lifestyle* magazine in a prominent place; encourage people to read them and share them with others. If you need more copies, contact Patricia Montgomery.

Overall

- Brainstorm with the other delegates from your church to plan the activities for your special Sunday. Involve the pastoral staff to choose a Sunday/weekend that works with the liturgical schedule and other church activities. There’s a planning sheet in your Senior Ministry Sunday folder.



LYNGBLOMSTEN SUNDAY

Celebrating our partnership, reaffirming our mission

Why we Celebrate

Lyngblomsten began in 1906 as a dream in the hearts of 11 Norwegian women. They wished to provide a home where the elderly could live in a comfortable, Christian environment. Their ministry, begun so long ago, continues today over 100 years later, because of the partnership between Lyngblomsten and churches like yours. Today, Lyngblomsten is a nonprofit social ministry organization serving as a resource to older adults and their families by providing home- and community-based services, senior housing, and skilled nursing care.

Lyngblomsten is affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Together, Lyngblomsten and its corporate congregations (more than three dozen Christian churches across the Twin Cities) uphold a commitment to provide for the needs of older adults--a task we believe is inherent in the mission of the church and clearly expressed in Lyngblomsten's mission statement:

Influenced by Christ, Lyngblomsten provides a ministry of compassionate care and innovative services to older adults in order to preserve and enhance their quality of life.

The participation of you and your church is important in carrying out this mission. We are here to be a resource to your congregation.

We celebrate because our partnership is working.

The Blessings are Abundant

So many blessings have arisen from the partnership between Lyngblomsten and the congregations. For example:

Together we help older adults and others stay healthy and maintain their independence through church-based programs like Care Team Ministry, Parish Nurse Ministry, Community Wellness & Education, and The Gathering. Generous donors help make these programs possible through gifts to the Lyngblomsten Foundation.

Together we provide opportunities for individuals to live out their personal ministry (by volunteering or donating) by enhancing the lives of older adults through your church and through Lyngblomsten.

Explore how YOU can be a Part of this Partnership

You can personally be part of the partnership with Lyngblomsten by using the services established at your church or at Lyngblomsten, by volunteering as a delegate for your church or volunteering through the volunteer program at Lyngblomsten, or by contributing financially to the Lyngblomsten Foundation.

Learn more at www.lyngblomsten.org or call (651) 646-2941.

A LYNGBLOMSTEN SUNDAY PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

On this day with lift up before you a special ministry with and through Lyngblomsten.

You have blessed our congregation with this partnership, and together, Lyngblomsten and our church are one in mission-- to work together to strengthen each other's service to older adults and their families.

Jesus taught us to "love thy neighbor as thyself," and so, together, strengthened by our love of God and our desire to honor and care for older adults, we work to enable each other to live more completely as the Body of Christ.

We give you thanks for the older adults in our community and congregation-- for their experience, wisdom, and example of faith. We pray for the families who are experiencing the new realities and changes that aging often brings. Grant them strength and comfort. Your Spirit compels us to continue your work. We pray that many will answer your call to serve in ways that honor and care for older adults.

May you continue to bless this partnership in all that it is doing among your people in praise and glory of you.

In your name we pray,
Amen.