



Accessibility Sunday

October 10, 2010



At its 1994 Assembly, the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod designated the second Sunday in October as "Acceptance through Accessibility" Sunday. Here are some suggestions from the synod's "A Team" (Accessibility Ministry Team) to emphasize "open hearts, open doors" on October 10 or on another Sunday.

Open Hearts, Open Doors

A Starter List for Church Accessibility

- For **physical** challenges (people using wheelchairs or walkers, or with poor ambulation): accessible parking, walkways/ramps, entrances, seating/pew spaces, bathrooms.
- For **visual** challenges: remove hazards, good lighting, large-print and/or brail materials.
- For **hearing** challenges: good PA system, individual assistive hearing devices, sign language interpreter.
- For **mental** challenges: 'church friend' volunteers to sit with or assist, as needed.
- For worship, greeters/ushers **trained to welcome** people with mental, physical, and sensory challenges.



- For learning ministries, be **inclusive as much as possible**; provide special, separate opportunities when necessary.

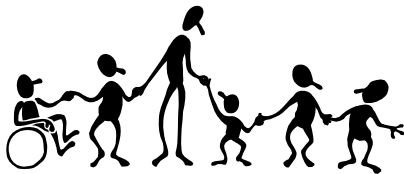
The "A Team" 2-Step

Attitude All God's people need to worship and learn. All God's people need the spiritual gifts of people with disabilities. The church is 'disabled' without people with disabilities.



Adapt With the right attitude, you discover that most adaptations are cheap and simple. Plan and budget for the 'biggies'...ramps, elevators, and renovations.

For a longer accessibility check list, contact the Rev. William Horn of the "A Team" at 610-797-6019, or melchior@ptd.net



Worship Suggestions for Accessibility Sunday

In the Prayer of the Church

Creator God, you have blessed each of us with our own gifts and abilities, despite the disabilities we all have. Help us to open our hearts and minds and doors to people with special needs and challenges as partners in your kingdom and lead us to be advocates for full opportunity and justice for them in our churches, communities, and nation.

From the day's readings

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c: The healing power of God's servants

Psalms 111 (1): Hearts led by God's love

2 Timothy 2:8-15: Endurance is a great spiritual gift

Luke 17:11-19: Faith makes us well

In the hymns (Evangelical Lutheran Worship)

- #360 Love consecrates the humblest acts
- #359 Where charity and love prevail
- #533 Open now thy gates of beauty
- #592 Just as I am
- #610 O Christ the healer, we have come
- #650 In Christ there is no east or west
- #652 Built on a rock
- #654 The Church's one foundation
- #669 Rise up, O saints of God
- #674 Let us talents and tongues employ
- #583, #685 Take my life and let it be
- #712 Lord, whose love in humble service
- #719 Where cross the crowded ways of life
- #835 All creatures, worship God most high

