

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS

The concept of neighborhood groups began in the early years of American Lutheran Church. Most members of American Lutheran Church then as now, have come from other parts of the country, and have somewhat separated from family and friends, in some cases for a portion of each year, and in other cases, permanently.

Neighborhood groups were established within the ALC to provide some sort of tie to friends or neighbors who were also ALC members.

In the world of 2010, with cell phones, e-mail, Facebook, twittering, etc., family ties are much closer than in the early years of ALC. However, none of these methods of long-distance communication can replace a face to face visit, a warm hug from a friendly neighbor, or perhaps a sharing of food with a warm-hearted neighbor.

With these basic ideas in mind, the purpose and objectives of Neighborhood Groups remain today as in years past.

1. To provide a network of friends and neighbors who can share in life experiences and lend support when necessary.
2. To gather on a regular basis to visit, provide fellowship and interchange with other members of the group.
3. To provide support to fellow members during time of stress; such as illness, family difficulties and other times of trouble.
4. To assist neighbors with food and assistance as the need may arise, especially following illnesses or hospital stays.
5. To promote the efforts and programs of ALC as may be accomplished by groups as well as individually.
6. ALC provides council members to be of assistance in organizing, structuring, and functioning of the Neighborhood Groups.
7. Groups are divided into geographic areas, which are monitored and modified as needed.
8. Each group needs to assign leaders to organize and conduct meetings, to provide communication to members, and to coordinate activities.
9. Each group is an independent unit, and operates as agreed by its members. Frequency and style of meetings, is optional for each group.
10. All members of ALC are assigned to a Neighborhood Group and encouraged to participate.