

September 1, 2017

Dear Pastor and Congregation President,

One parent with two children with autism writes, *“I would just assume that any church that we attended would provide ministry even if there were no other children with special needs. It would never enter my mind that ministry would have to wait until ‘critical mass’.”* Think about how a family with two children with autism would feel if they came to your church and the needs of the family were not met. Too often only one parent can attend church while the other stays home with the children. Think about what message this sends to the family affected by disability. Do they think that if your church does not welcome them then God is also not welcoming them into the Church?



The California-Nevada-Hawaii District Disability Ministry Task Force (DMTF) is working to further disability ministry in churches within our sphere of influence. We are asking for your help in identifying a person who could serve in the congregation as a **Church Disability Ministry Contact Person**.

- **Prayerfully read** the qualification sheet enclosed and think of possible candidates in the congregation. Share the enclosed materials and ask them if they would be interested in serving.
- **Take** a few minutes to read the material in this packet and download a free copy of the “Start with Hello” booklet for anyone in your congregation to read.
- **Help** the DMTF by providing us with the name and contact information of a Disability Ministry Contact Person so that we can help provide resources and training. You can email the DMTF at the following address: [disability-min@cnh-lcms.org](mailto:disability-min@cnh-lcms.org).

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel to people with disabilities and their families.

Peace in Christ,

Rev. Jonathan Oetting  
DMTF Chairman

Enclosed:

“Start with Hello” introduction-Joni and Friends  
Church Disability Ministry Contact Person qualifications  
DMTF brochure  
Adapting Brochures (2) – Bethesda Lutheran Communities