



Jesus Cares Ministries

The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. –Psalm 126:3 (NIV)

Jesus Cares Ministries (JCM) assists congregations in reaching out to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, their families and communities.

Assisting congregations in developing JCM outreach programs

JCM staff assist congregations through community outreach to invite people with intellectual or developmental disabilities into church. Materials are provided to introduce residents and staff to the church and JCM program.

Worship Services

Worship at the Cross service follows a simplified format appropriate for people with a cognitive disability, including people with forms of dementia. Pictures and symbols lead participants through the parts of the service. Simple rhythm instruments allow non-readers or those who are nonverbal to make joyful noise to the Lord. A PowerPoint presentation is used for a responsive worship service for those who are able to participate in that manner. We encourage and support a message that involves multiple senses.

Fellowship

JCM programs should include fellowship events to bring together your church members, JCM participants and the community. Bowling, a carnival with games, karaoke or a picnic provide fellowship and an opportunity to invite new people who may wish to participate, volunteer or otherwise support the JCM program.

New Friends

New Friends is a Christian-based friendship network connecting young adults in high school and college with families of children with special needs. The purpose is to build relationships by focusing on abilities, not disabilities, while creating a fun-filled atmosphere where the entire family feels safe, relaxed and happy.

Bible Study

Specific Bible study materials have been developed for the JCM program. *Dear Christian Friend* was developed for people with limited reading ability by incorporating JCM Word Pictures with the text. A teacher's manual is provided for each lesson, which offers ideas for using flannel board pictures to accompany a story, special music and crafts.

Volunteer Training

JCM staff will help identify potential program attendees and can assist in making initial contacts. We also:

- Help develop publicity materials to announce events
- Provide training so congregation members become comfortable finding and recruiting volunteers
- Offer training for teachers and helpers so they can better understand the students they will serve
- Show how to effectively use the teaching materials at an appropriate level for each student



Help us share the Gospel with people who have special needs

He [Jesus] said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.” –Mark 16:15 (NIV)

JCM staff encourage and train congregations and volunteers to provide simplified Bible studies, worship services and Christ-centered activities for participants from group homes or other housing arrangements in a community.

JCM produces materials for teachers and congregations. New Bible story lessons, catechism lessons and teacher materials, designed specifically to teach people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities, are currently in various stages of planning, production and financing.

Local Ministry Materials Recommended

1. Teaching curriculum
2. Teaching tools such as desk/hand bells, music CD, flannel boards, etc. for music and lesson presentations
3. Worship at the Cross PowerPoint and bell.

We Need Your Support

The national JCM program is a ministry of The Lutheran Home Association. Its funding comes from grants and donations from churches, schools, organizations and individuals. There is no charge to the local church as JCM assists in developing a program, and there is no fee to student participants.

Ways to Donate

- By mail, with or without a JCM donation envelope
- Online at www.tlha.org by clicking on the “Donate” button at the top right of the website
- Through a church, school or organization’s offering

To learn more visit www.tlha.org or call (888) 600-TLHA.

