



SPIRITUAL LIFE

A life of possibilities for people with intellectual disabilities.

 **MOSAIC**[®]

Our Ministry Today: “How Can We Help You?”

We endeavor to create inclusive churches and communities by offering our support in a variety of ways:

A Legacy of Love

Mosaic was formed by the consolidation of two Nebraska-born Lutheran ministries, Bethphage Mission and Martin Luther Homes, dedicated to the needs of people with disabilities.

Throughout their histories, both legacy organizations changed as needed to carry forth the vision of their founders.

The priority has been, and continues to be, meeting the needs and desires of the people we serve—one of which is the opportunity to explore spiritual life.



Behavioral Education and Curriculum Adaptation

Many churches are uncertain how to respond when a family, child or adult with an intellectual or developmental disability comes into their midst. Mosaic offers expertise around mental and behavioral health and autism to churches and pastors looking for guidance. We also help adapt educational curriculums so people with disabilities can continue to explore their spirituality.

Volunteerism

Mosaic is committed to helping the people we serve give back to the community, rather than the community giving to them. The people Mosaic serves often volunteer at churches—greeting people, assisting with mailings and stuffing bulletins—and participate in outreach ministry—cleaning parks, stocking pantries and visiting nursing homes. The relationships that form through these volunteer opportunities are often both life-giving and life-changing.

“People get really nervous by the thought of working with people with intellectual disabilities. They’re afraid that they’re not going to know how to communicate with them, but they can’t be afraid of it. These are people who have a lot to teach us about how God works in the world.”

—Dara Stull, student, Wartburg Theological Seminary

Rejoicing Spirits

Mosaic’s Rejoicing Spirits ministry provides churches a model of worship that has a hallmark rule of “no shush.” People with disabilities can be themselves, with no one giving disapproving looks or telling them to “be quiet.” This has helped many families worship together.

“The freedom of movement, of voice, from judgment is invaluable to families. Laurie and I are so happy we discovered how joyous and freeing this very special Rejoicing Spirits service is.”

—Pam Abbott, sister of Laurie, who was born with Down syndrome

Seminary Partnerships

Mosaic provides education to help faith leaders-in-training create welcoming, affirming places for people with disabilities and their families through hands-on, immersion experiences and seminars that explore the theological and pastoral understanding of disability.



It is Mosaic’s legacy to love and serve our neighbor, both near and far.

While many times churches and pastors are called upon to help others, Mosaic hopes to connect with faith communities and ask, “How can we help you?”

Social Justice Retreats

Mosaic’s campus in Axtell, Nebraska serves as an active retreat center for church groups and university students looking to learn more about disability ministry. We currently have partnerships with two universities and we’re looking to expand this program.

“These kids are our future and to willingly give of themselves at this point in their lives leaves me hopeful for all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities long after I am gone.”

—Curtiss Dill, Executive Director of Mosaic in Axtell

Socialization and Friendship

Mosaic fosters relationships between congregants and people served by Mosaic in an effort to combat loneliness and inspire meaningful connections for all involved.

Family Support Groups

Mosaic establishes congregation-based support groups that allow parents and families of people with disabilities to connect and navigate the disability services system together.

Disability Awareness

Mosaic alerts congregations to the life that many families who have a loved one with disabilities lead and shares the challenges that come with accessing services. Many of our church partners also invite people served by Mosaic to share their personal stories during worship to awaken congregants to the realities of living with disabilities.

“This is ministry the way Jesus intended, bringing people at the margins to the center of what we do and who we are. ... This is the most life-giving thing I do as a pastor.”

—Rev. Brigitte Weier, Pastor of Faith Formation, Bethany Lutheran Church

Community Hubs

Mosaic partners with local organizations, often churches, who welcome people served into their work or faith communities for several hours each week. These community hubs allow people to build social connections and try new activities.



Learn more about Mosaic at:
www.mosaicinfo.org



The church body is not whole unless everyone is welcome and included. We seek to bring Mosaic’s mission to life every day by working with churches and pastors to help the people we serve find a welcoming home in the church.



“The love of Christ constrains us ...”

—Rev. K.G. William Dahl, 1913, Bethphage Mission



“Always forward!”

—Rev. August Hoeger, 1925, Martin Luther Homes



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