

## Purpose Statement for Life Lines Lay Ministry

Life Lines Lay Ministry has been part of this congregation for many years. Its purpose is to provide compassionate caring to individuals that desire emotional or personal support. Lay ministry supports the work of the Minister.

The responsibilities of the members of Life Lines are to respect the privacy of each individual contacted, to remember and respect boundaries and to consult with the Minister or professional advisors when appropriate.

Life Lines Lay Ministers help the congregation by:

- Visiting the sick or homebound, sending notes of encouragement, lending a helping hand and arranging for transportation or meals during times of stress or loss.
- Being a caring presence by keeping Life Lines visible to the congregation.
- Preventing people from falling through the cracks by making contact with new people or those who have not been around for a while.
- Supporting other Lay Ministers when they need assistance.
- Participating in ongoing training to help ministers be more skilled in caring for the congregation.

## Benefits of Life Lines Lay Ministry

- More pastoral care needs of the congregation are met.
- Lay ministers support each other in reaching out to the disconsolate and disconnected.
- Over time as more and more people are trained, there is a growing body of members who can provide lay pastoral care.
- The program helps the congregation become more comfortable in giving and receiving care.

## Current activities of Life Lines Lay Ministry

In addition to providing care and support individuals in need, Life Lines is focusing on increased training to enhance the experience of being a lay minister as well as increase our skills. We are also looking at ways that we can increase our visibility as well as increase our knowledge of those in need of care as soon as we can. We are also looking at ways that Life Lines can provide more service to the congregation by focusing on groups of individuals who have similar life issues. We anticipate that this will be an ongoing focus for Life Lines over the next several years.