

# THE ST. LUKE SPIRIT

December 2016

Volume 4, Issue 12

## Upcoming Resident & Tenant Activities:

- **Trinity Kids Care & Share**  
December 9 at 9:30 a.m.  
Riverview Terrace and St. Luke Lutheran Home
- **Club Armadillo Kids to sing Christmas carols**  
December 12 at 10:30 a.m.  
St. Luke Lutheran Home
- **Christmas in the Gallery**  
December 14 at 10 a.m.  
Arts on Grand, Spencer
- **Christmas shopping for Riverview Terrace**  
December 19 at 10 a.m.  
Many Hands Market
- **Riverview Terrace Christmas Light Tour**  
December 19 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran School Christmas program**  
December 20 at 6:30 p.m.  
First English Lutheran Church, Spencer
- **Fairview Elementary students to play bingo**  
December 21 at 9:30 a.m.  
Riverview Terrace and St. Luke Lutheran Home

**More December activities are available online at [www.stlukelh.com](http://www.stlukelh.com)**

## JESUS: THE REASON FOR THE SEASON



**David West**  
CEO/Administrator

As we have just celebrated the Thanksgiving season, a time in which we reflect on all that we have to be grateful for, and now move into the Christmas season, let us be full of joy. We live in a world that sometimes seems to lack joy. We live in a culture that is speeding down the freeway without taking time to enjoy the scenery. No time is this more apparent than the Christmas season. Soon after we are finished with the turkey dinner, we are amped up to hit the road running to Black Friday. Then, there are Christmas concerts, Christmas parties, office parties, church services and the list goes on and on.

These are all joyful events where we can celebrate the Christmas season. We seem to pack so much into the month of December that we don't always get to take time to reflect on the meaning of Christmas. Aside from Santa Claus and the holiday frazzle, we remember the simple story of our Savior's birth in a stable. God could have sent His only Son to the earth with a great fanfare, and thrown galas and had lots of music and dancing. Instead, He sent the Savior of our world to a very humble setting.

It is through this humble beginning that the story unfolds and we are to see that our Lord has truly left Heaven and become one with us. He encountered our world, He was here for us to relate with. As we are rushing through our holidays, remember the true spirit of Christmas is that our Lord came to us in the flesh, to experience our life and through His death, offers us life. Indeed, this is the greatest Christmas gift of all time.

Merry Christmas.

## OH COME, LET US ADORE HIM

Join us for worship on Christmas Day  
as we celebrate Jesus' birth:

† 10 a.m. at St. Luke Lutheran Home

† 11 a.m. at Riverview Terrace Assisted Living



## HANDS OF HARMONY BELL CHOIR PERFORMANCES



- 2 p.m. on Thursday, December 1  
at Northshire in Spencer
- 12:30 p.m. on Monday, December 5  
at Grace United Methodist Church in Spencer
- 2:30 p.m. on Monday, December 12  
at the nursing home in Hartley
- 3 p.m. on Thursday, December 15  
at St. Luke Lutheran Home in Spencer
- 3 p.m. on Wednesday, December 21  
at Keelson Harbour in Spirit Lake

### ▪ WELCOME

James Vollmer  
Carol Douglas  
Lawrence Smith  
Wayne Hanson

### ▪ BEST WISHES

Duane Kracht  
Helen Damstrom  
Claire Ferguson

### ▪ SYMPATHY

Beverly Dunkelberger

Betty Schwarck

Donald Lamaak

Beth Bohrns

Jean Ferguson

Rev. Ernest Paul  
Hansen

Lucille Rusk

### ▪ NEW STAFF

*Welcome to the following individuals who recently joined the St. Luke Homes & Services campus:*

- Krystal Ross  
St. Luke CNA
- Matthew Fox  
St. Luke Dietary Aide
- Cooper Fox  
St. Luke CNA
- Shelley Parrott  
St. Luke Cook

### Christmas parties will be hosted:

- ▶ December 22 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Luke Lutheran Home
- ▶ December 23 at 2:30 p.m. at Riverview Terrace



### DECEMBER HOMEOWNER, TENANT & RESIDENT BIRTHDAYS

3 - Virginia Christensen  
7 - Stanley Jespersen  
8 - Adrienne Crouch  
8 - Mary Grover  
8 - Mildred Hoefgen  
10 - Shirley Rients  
10 - Roy Stroud  
13 - Audley Tensen  
14 - Ellen Geerdes

14 - Iris Hanson  
15 - Fern Hargens  
16 - Stan Andersen  
19 - Marion Peters  
20 - Gerald Graeber  
24 - Michael Anderson  
27 - Fred Schmidt  
28 - Norma Patten  
31 - Lucile Carpenter

### THANK YOU

We appreciate your tax-deductible gifts and donations. They enhance the lives of campus homeowners, tenants and residents and continue to help make the fulfillment of St. Luke Homes & Services' Christian mission possible.

- Ivan "Lou" and Mary Lou Reed, of Spencer, donated an organ for use in the Riverview Terrace Assisted Living Chapel.
- James and Mareen Erwin, of Spencer, donated \$25 to St. Luke Lutheran Home in memory of Beverly Dunkelberger.
- Members of the St. Luke Lutheran Home Auxiliary purchased a \$2,600 Yamaha Clavinova piano and donated it to St. Luke Lutheran Home.
- Audrey Johannsen, of Storm Lake, made a \$100 donation to St. Luke Lutheran Home.
- The Lutheran Women's Missionary League of First English Lutheran Church, of Spencer, donated \$100 to St. Luke Lutheran Home.
- Carol Hansen, of Spencer, donated a lift chair and three shepherd hooks to St. Luke Lutheran Home in memory of her father, Rev. Ernest Paul Hansen.

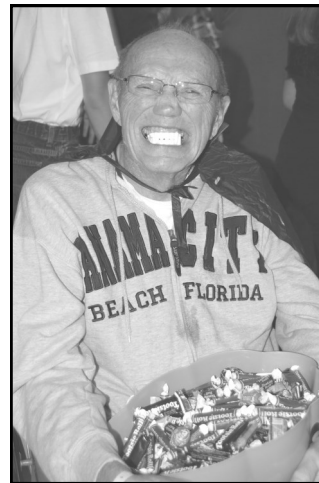
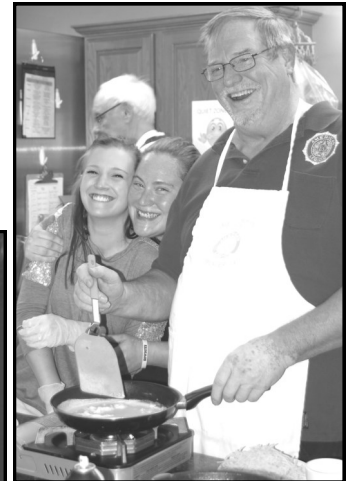
## CAPTURING A FEW 'SPECIAL MOMENTS' IN PHOTOGRAPHS

On the morning of November 4, members of the Glen Pedersen American Legion Post 1, in Spencer, personalized breakfast for tenants of Riverview Terrace Assisted Living who placed requests for delicious made-to-order omelets.

Hundreds of area youth visited homeowners at The Highlands, tenants of Riverview Terrace Assisted Living, and residents of St. Luke Lutheran Home on Halloween night. Curtis Paulsen is shown greeting trick-or-treaters with a costume, a very large smile, and a large bowl of candy.

Members of the Social Ministries Committee of Bethany Lutheran Church, of Spencer, recently presented St. Luke Lutheran Home residents with two dolls. Arla Gould and Margareta Thiner (center, seated) are shown with the dolls. The calming effect of the dolls was instantaneous. Members of the Social Ministries Committee include (from left) Jan Rusk, Jalyce Storley, Hannah Blum, Rita Storm, Jamie Blume, St. Luke Lutheran Home residents Gould and Thiner, Pastor Jennifer Henry, Susan Rohan, Lily Rohan, and Onalee Wright.

- More photographs of recent events on the St. Luke Homes & Services campus are available on the St. Luke Homes & Services' Facebook page.



## CELEBRATING OUR VETERANS

Forty-five veterans were recognized during a Veterans Day ceremony at St. Luke Lutheran Home. These men and women served their country in wars and conflicts ranging from World War II to Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Members of Glen Pedersen Post No. 1 of the American Legion, of Spencer, conducted a flag folding ceremony and veterans were pinned as they received framed certificates of appreciation for their military service.



## SANTA'S WORKSHOP



Santa's Workshop  
 Saturday, December 3  
 9 a.m. to Noon  
 Southpark Mall in Spencer

- Children, ages 3 to 12, may purchase gifts for their loved ones at Santa's Workshop.
- Spencer Women of Today members will volunteer their time to keep children "on track" with their shopping lists in Santa's Workshop.
- St. Luke Lutheran Home residents helped to fill Santa's Workshop with special handmade gifts.

## CAREERS AVAILABLE

St. Luke Lutheran Home & Riverview Terrace are seeking to fill the following positions:

- FT Weekend CNA
- FT Personal Service Assistant
- PT Dietary Aide
- FT Indirect Care Aide
- FT CNA

• Apply today! •

[www.stlukelh.com/employment.html](http://www.stlukelh.com/employment.html)

- Or pick up an application at: •  
 St. Luke Lutheran Home  
 1301 St. Luke Drive  
 Spencer, Iowa

## THE GIFT OF GIVING

An annual food drive will occur through December 20 at The Highlands, Riverview Terrace and St. Luke Lutheran Home. Please donate your non-perishable food items in support of the Upper Des Moines Opportunity and the Dream Center food pantries. St. Luke Homes & Services' representatives will deliver your donations. Thank you in advance for your contributions.



## PLAN TO ATTEND

The Festival of Lessons and Carols  
 Sunday, December 4, at 3 p.m.  
 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Spencer



- *Performance sponsored by St. Luke Homes & Services.*

## RSVP FOR CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS MEALS



Plan to enjoy a traditional Christmas Eve dinner featuring oyster stew or chili and a festive Christmas noon meal highlighting ham and all the fixings with your loved one(s) at Riverview Terrace Assisted Living and St. Luke Lutheran Home.

Please call between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. to make holiday dining arrangements. At least a 24-hour advance notice is requested. Meals may be charged to a resident's or tenant's account with his or her permission, or may be paid for directly at the front desk or dietary department.

## COMMUNITY CORNERSTONES

▪**Bethany Lutheran Church**

15 West 14th Street, Spencer  
Rev. Jennifer Henry  
(712) 262-2327  
[www.bethluthspencer.com](http://www.bethluthspencer.com)

▪**First English Lutheran Church**

1311 E. 18th Street, Spencer  
Pastor Paul Kaldahl  
(712) 262-5598  
<http://spencer-church.com>

▪**Grace Lutheran Church**

380 N. Rerick Avenue, Primghar  
(712) 957-4795

▪**Immanuel Lutheran Church**

206 Terril Avenue, Terril  
Pastor David Doellinger  
(712) 853-6192  
[www.facebook.com/lcmsterril](http://www.facebook.com/lcmsterril)

▪**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

207 Church Street, Royal  
(712) 933-2229  
[royalbethlehemlutheran.com](http://royalbethlehemlutheran.com)

▪**First Lutheran Church**

1525 Three Cross Road, Milford  
Pastor Perry Aalgaard  
(712) 338-4514  
[www.3cross.org](http://www.3cross.org)

▪**Hope Lutheran Church**

206 N. Washington Street, Everly  
Pastor Dan Taylor  
(712) 834-2767  
[www.hopeeverly.com](http://www.hopeeverly.com)

▪**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

60 N. Central Avenue, Hartley  
Pastor Chris Nitzel  
(712) 728-2711  
[www.stpaullutheranhartley.com/](http://www.stpaullutheranhartley.com/)

▪**Trinity Lutheran Church**

9th & 11th Avenue West, Spencer  
Rev. C. Peter Maisenbach  
(712) 262-1287  
[www.trinitylutheranchurchspencer.com](http://www.trinitylutheranchurchspencer.com)

▪**Christ the King Lutheran Church**

500 Fourth Avenue SW, Spencer  
Rev. David Zimmer  
(712) 262-2244  
[www.ctkspencer.com](http://www.ctkspencer.com)

▪**Grace Lutheran Church**

801 Hill Avenue, Spirit Lake  
Rev. Dr. Martin Lucin  
(712) 336-2446  
[www.gracelutheranspiritlake.org](http://www.gracelutheranspiritlake.org)

▪**Immanuel Lutheran Church**

2300 27th Street, Spirit Lake  
Rev. David Simonson  
(712) 336-1010  
[lcmslakes.org](http://lcmslakes.org)

▪**Trinity Lutheran Church**

105 East High Street, Linn Grove  
(712) 296-4438



## JOIN IN OUR HOLIDAY PEN PAL EXPERIENCE

The anticipation, the extra effort of going to the mailbox, the surprise of a handwritten letter arriving, and the excitement of what could be inside, are all becoming a part of life for residents of St. Luke Lutheran Home this holiday season.

In mid-November, St. Luke Homes & Services' Activities Department staff initiated a pen pal exchange with Christmas greetings sent to long-term care facilities in all 50 states, as well as the provinces and territories of Canada.

Upon their arrival, replies are being posted in the hallway leading to the main dining room.

If you would like to take part in this fun, pen pal experience that St. Luke residents are keeping track of and enjoying, please mail your Christmas card to:

St. Luke Lutheran Home  
c/o Holiday Pen Pals  
1301 St. Luke Drive  
Spencer, Iowa 51301

Or, email your holiday greetings to: [amanda.klein@stlukelh.com](mailto:amanda.klein@stlukelh.com)



- St. Luke Homes & Services**
- The Highlands
  - South Ridge Heights
  - Riverview Terrace
  - St. Luke Lutheran Home

1301 St. Luke Drive  
Spencer, Iowa 51301

Phone: (712) 262-5931  
Fax: (712) 262-4743  
E-mail: stlukelh@stlukelh.com

If you are interested in visiting with someone about where to enjoy your retirement years, call Georgia Wrightsman at (712) 262-5931.



*St. Luke Homes & Services, Inc.*  
*"A Caring Community"*



## Governing Board

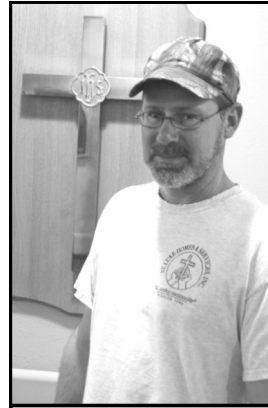
- Frank Halverson  
Mark Nothwehr  
Rev. Peter Maisenbach  
Jerry Clausen  
Neal Drefke  
Jim Hitchcock  
Rev. Deb Mechler  
Roger Morris  
Sandi Schmidt

## EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Marc Watts was born in Ames but moved with his family, as a baby, to Spencer. The 1991 graduate of Spencer High School realized early in life that he was good with his hands and enjoyed time spent outdoors.

Marc traveled for eight years working construction and building grain bins before serving as the shop manager and driving delivery routes for Culligan in Spencer. In May 1998, while delivering salt to St. Luke Lutheran Home, Marc found a new career – as St. Luke Homes & Services' maintenance and grounds professional.

Marc became the organiza-



**Marc Watts**  
Maintenance & Grounds  
since May 1998

tion's groundskeeper, responsible for mowing, weeding and spraying, as well as assisting in the removal of snow on the 13-acre campus. He also began

painting doors and trimwork on Riverview Terrace, which opened to the public in April 1999.

Over the years, he has been deemed a "reliable and dependable" individual who knows what needs to be done and accomplishes it.

"I enjoy working on something different every day," Marc said of his job.

Outside of work, Marc enjoys spending time with his daughter, Brooklynn. During the summer months, he can be found camping, canoeing, kayaking, catching catfish and grilling on his fire pit. Fall means trapping and hunting. During the winter months, Marc can be found ice fishing.

## RESIDENT OF THE MONTH

Querida Decker is content to have come full circle.

The woman who seems to always be in motion has a purpose. She was named St. Luke Lutheran Home's first Director of Nursing (DON) in December 1966. Querida, who used to wear a white uniform with starched cap, became a resident of St. Luke in June 2009. Today, she may dress more comfortably, but remains the ultimate professional, keeping watch over "her residents and staff" via her wheelchair.

Called "Sally" by many, she can wag her finger if she witnesses something not pleasing. The former DON also knows how to praise actions that set well with her.

Born March 31, 1924, in



**Querida Decker**  
St. Luke Lutheran Home  
resident since June 2009

Powel, Wyoming, Querida moved to Arnolds Park as a child, where her father was a bricklayer and carpenter on the original Arnolds Park school. Querida married Ben Decker on January 8, 1944.

The couple and their family – which includes Janet

Wright of Papillion, Neb., Paul Decker of Rossie, Ruth Jensen of Choteau, Mont., David Decker of Spencer, and William Decker of Peterson – moved to Spencer, where he worked as a patrolman before being named Chief of Police.

Serving and helping others is ingrained in Querida. She signed up for the U.S. Army Nursing Corps, received her Registered Nurse license from Broadlawns Medical Center in Des Moines, and interned at a psychiatric ward in St. Louis and a pediatric ward in Chicago. Querida also worked as a nurse in the Spirit Lake hospital, provided private care for accident patients, served as a county home nurse in Arnolds Park and worked as a public health nurse, visiting people in their homes, before being named St. Luke's DON, a role she held until retiring in July 1979.