

THE ST. LUKE SPIRIT



Spring 2018

Volume 6, Issue 1

ST. LUKE RECEIVES FIVE-STAR RATING

Congratulations

to the staff of

St. Luke Lutheran Home

in Spencer



for achieving a

Five-Star Overall Quality Rating

from the

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

St. Luke Lutheran Home: A caring community recognized for providing quality care



Letters have been sent to church pastors and/or board chairpersons seeking representatives to attend the St. Luke Homes & Services Annual Meeting on the afternoon of Sunday, March 4, at St. Luke Lutheran Home in Spencer.

Upcoming Resident & Tenant Activities:

- **First English Preschool student visit**
March 12 & 13 at 10 a.m.
St. Luke Lutheran Home
- **Irish Talk with Faith Blaskovich**
March 13 at 2:30 p.m.
Riverview Terrace
- **Ladies Gospel Trio**
March 19 at 2:30 p.m.
Riverview Terrace
- **Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran student visit**
March 21 at 1 p.m.
St. Luke Lutheran Home
- **Hymns & Hers Music**
April 9 at 2:30 p.m.
St. Luke Lutheran Home
- **Bridges of Madison Countyplay**
April 19 at 7:30 p.m.
Spencer Community Theatre
- **Ladies Day Tea**
May 19 at 2:30 p.m.
Riverview Terrace &
St. Luke Lutheran Home

More activities are available online at www.stlukelh.com

A special Valentine's Day meal served the evening of February 13th featured the following choices:



Bourbon Street Steak, Creamy Garlic Butter Shrimp or Asparagus Stuffed Chicken Breast



Half Baked Potato or Potato & Cheddar Pieces

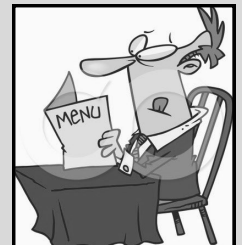


Roasted Vegetables or Creamy Broccoli Bacon Salad

Sour Cream Raisin Pie or Chocolate Covered Strawberry Cheesecake

Spencer Hy-Noon Kiwanis members served this extra special meal prepared by St. Luke Homes & Services' dietary staff and coordinated by activities staff members.

See photographs taken on Page 3 and on St. Luke Homes & Services' Facebook page.



▪ WELCOME

Lavon Kephart

Marjorie Eeten

Clare Wheeler

Nancy Roland

Marlene Frey

Louise Vogt

Marjorie Forey

Robert Beatty

Rosella Rosacker

Ellen Sorenson

Allen Klumper

Elsie Anderson

Lola Wright

Duane & Verna
Campbell

Raymond Muller

▪ BEST WISHES

Deanna Logan

James & Edith Pitts

Rodney Gritten

Juanita "Sally" Peterson

Eleanor Nielsen

▪ SYMPATHY

Leona VerMeer

Floyd Faulkner

Betty Behrends

Robert Guerttman

Robert Beatty

Richard Riedemann

Rita McCarty

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.

- The St. Luke Lutheran Home Auxiliary contributed \$250 toward the purchase of Christmas presents for residents of St. Luke Lutheran Home.

- First Lutheran Church, of Milford, contributed \$500 to St. Luke Lutheran Home for operating expenses.

- Dale & Kay Meyer, of Spencer, donated \$20 to the Special Gifts Fund of St. Luke Lutheran Home in memory of Ken West.

- Frank & Brenda Halverson, of Linn Grove, donated \$10 to the Special Gifts Fund of St. Luke Lutheran Home in memory of Ken West.

- The Robert L. Schmid Revocable Living Trust Agreement, of Brandon, South Dakota, donated \$1,000 to the Benevolent Fund of St. Luke Lutheran Home and \$1,000 to the Chaplain Fund in memory of Dorothy Schmid.

- Don & Sylvia Moore, of Spencer, contributed \$75 to St. Luke Lutheran Home.

- John & Pat Jensen, of Everly, contributed \$1,000 toward the realization of a Chapel room at St. Luke Lutheran Home.

- Pastor Donald & Barbara Berg, of Decorah, donated a \$10 memorial to the Special Gifts Fund of St. Luke Lutheran Home in memory of Ernest Wilcke, an inaugural and 29-year member of the St. Luke Lutheran Home Board of Trustees.

- Former Clay County Veterans Affairs Director Joan Waller donated "Vietnam War 50th Commemoration: A Time to Honor" and "25th Anniversary: The Liberation of Kuwait" books to Riverview Terrace Assisted Living and St. Luke Lutheran Home.

- Gladys Knapper and members of the Christ Lutheran Church Sewing Group, of Slayton, Minnesota, made and donated 13 lap quilts for residents of St. Luke Lutheran Home.

MILLENNIUM THERAPY AT YOUR SERVICE



As a full-time Speech Therapist with Millennium Therapy, Ellen Engel provides proactive services for those living at St. Luke Lutheran Home, Riverview Terrace Assisted Living, South Ridge Heights and The Highlands.

"For example, when someone is coughing at meals, or having trouble with their memory, I can work with them before it gets any worse," Ellen said.

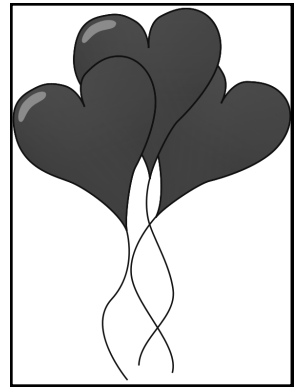
Being able to communicate with family and friends better and not having a cough, phlegm or runny nose at meals are just a few of the many benefits possible from working with a Speech Therapist.

"Our new swallow machine, a Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallow, allows a person to stay here and not have to go to the hospital for an X-ray swallow study. We get a video of what is happening in your throat while the food is passing through," Ellen described as another possible benefit to interacting with her.

Ellen has 35 years of experience and began working on the St. Luke Homes & Services campus in October 2017. She is well versed in working with swallowing disorders and with speech disorders related to stroke, Parkinson's disease and dementia.

VALENTINE'S DAY: HY-NOON KIWANIS STYLE

Thank you to the following Hy-Noon Kiwanis Club members who helped to make our special Valentine's Day meal so much sweeter: John Rahn, Scott & Cameron Ten Kley, Roger Morris, Al Edmundson, Ellen Riepma, Karen Buchholz, Maureen Oechslin, Andrew Hasley, Greg Meeter, Susan Christensen and Kelsie Baccam.



▪ **NEW STAFF**

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

- Ellie Thompson
St. Luke Dietary Aide
- Cheyenne Manwarren
St. Luke Dietary Aide
- Silvara Roach
Riverview Terrace
Cook
- Jill Elbert
Riverview Terrace
Personal Service
Assistant
- Christine Lowe
Riverview Terrace
Personal Service
Assistant & CNA

▪ **WISH LIST**

Your tax-deductible contributions could be allocated toward the following identified needs on the St. Luke Campus:

- ♥ 32-inch flat screen televisions
- ♥ Straight back chairs
- ♥ Wide wheelchairs
- ♥ Empty one-gallon plastic ice cream buckets

2017 EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR



St. Luke Homes & Services
congratulates Lori Jensen for being selected
2017 Employee of the Year!





Lori has been with Riverview Terrace Assisted Living and St. Luke Lutheran Home for 20 years. As a Nurse, she exemplifies a strong work ethic, positive attitude and upholds impeccable standards. We appreciate Lori's service and loyalty.

Congratulations, Lori!

ATTEND A TENANT COUNCIL MEETING

The aim of these gatherings is for tenants and family members to visit informally with other tenants, family and staff members to work toward advancing positive situations and resolving issues of concern.

The next Tenant Council meetings are scheduled for 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6 and Tuesday, April 3 at Riverview Terrace Assisted Living.

PERFECT ATTENDANCE

St. Luke Homes & Services is grateful for the dedicated service of all its employees. We would like to recognize the following individuals, who had perfect attendance in 2017:

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|------------------|
| Barb Tomlinson | Stephanie Warner | Lori Jensen |
| Dana Zernehel | Abigale Riesgraf | Michelle Miller |
| Erik Forslund | Tricia Steward | Mary Kacmarynski |
| Julie Behrens | Cindy Ruppert | Brenda Devers |
| Barb Simonson | Natalie Thiessen | Latosha Burger |

RESIDENT OF THE MONTH

Known for always wearing a smile, sharing a good word and having lots of patience, JoAnn Kemp has been a wonderful addition to the St. Luke Campus since 2011. Her caring nature and positive spirit allow her to make an impression at numerous events.

Born in May 1936, JoAnn grew up with seven siblings on the family farm near Ruthven.

On December 4, 1954, JoAnn married Korean War veteran Darold "Pug" Kemp. As newlyweds, JoAnn served as a waitress at a Spencer restaurant and at an area fish place. Darold worked as a driver for Hakes Foods of Laurens. The couple lived in Marathon for a while before moving to Laurens.

Together, the Kemps raised six daughters: Julie, Janeen, Jacque, Jill, Janelle and Jayne. When their daughters were young, JoAnn babysat several other children in their home. Over the years, she served as a Girl Scout leader, assist-



JoAnn Kemp
St. Luke Lutheran Home
resident since
November 2015

ed with Meals on Wheels in Laurens, and owned her own quilting business, JoAnn's Quilting Machine.

JoAnn took pleasure in baking chocolate chip cookies, bread and dough-

nuts for her family, playing cards, square dancing with her husband, and camping. Other gratifying activities for JoAnn included traveling with her family to Malden, Missouri, volunteering in a number of roles at United Methodist Church in Laurens, and serving as an officeholder with the Ladies Auxiliary of Veterans of Foreign Wars in Laurens.

In September 2011, she moved to the former Hillside Terrace Assisted Living residence before moving to St. Luke Lutheran Home in November 2015.

JoAnn enjoys spending time with her family including daughters Julie Birchard of Spencer, Jayne Johnson of Webb, and Jill Rink of Eugene, Oregon, her 17 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren (with another expected this month), two great-great grandchildren and her siblings: Doris Anderson of Riverview Terrace Assisted Living and Dan Simington of Creston.



If you volunteered at St. Luke Lutheran Home in 2017, we want to honor you!
Our annual Volunteer Brunch is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 28.

VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED

Round-Up team members and musicians are being sought to assist with several upcoming Sunday church services.

Teams of six to eight Round-Up members are asked to be at St. Luke Lutheran Home by 9:15 a.m. to help setup the Chapel, hand out bulletins, assist residents in attending the service, and to return chairs following the service. Volunteers are currently needed for the following Sundays:

- Sunday, April 1
- Sunday, April 29
- Sunday, June 3
- Sunday, June 24

A musician is asked to be at St. Luke by 9:45 a.m. to provide a prelude for the 10 a.m. service on:

- Sunday, April 1

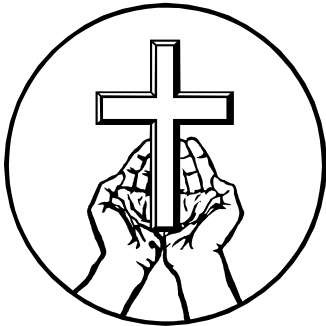
Please call Chaplain John Syvertson at (712) 262-5931 if you are interested in volunteering for either position.
 Thank you in advance for your ministry!

Do you have questions?

Please give us a call.

- South Ridge Heights (712) 260-1950
- Riverview Terrace (712) 262-5932
- St. Luke Lutheran Home (712) 262-5931
- The Highlands (712) 262-5404

Check out
St. Luke
Homes & Services
on Facebook!



Our Mission:

“To enhance the life, health and faith of all who choose to live in the St. Luke Christian community.”

COLLABORATIVE CONNECTIONS



We were happy to host these Spencer High School students for a recent afternoon learning session at St. Luke Lutheran Home.

Sydney DeVlaeminck, Cecilia Carrillo, Delaney Weeks, Darby Erb, Sophia Fassbender, Jossie Hanson, Isabel Bustos, Nya Lo, Trey Sievers, Katie Moser, Jenna Dirx, Madison Carpenter and Cassie Winters

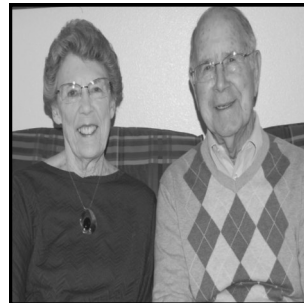
They are enrolled in the Extended Career Experience Health Science class.

HOMEOWNERS OF THE MONTH

Marvin and Pat Thuringer moved to The Highlands on April 15, 2015. The couple attended high school in Parkston, S.D., together, where Marvin still holds the school's record of five touchdowns in one football game. He graduated, served on a U.S. Navy destroyer during the Korean War, and then, on the G.I. Bill, attended the former Southern State Teachers College in Springfield, S.D.

The two began dating while Pat pursued her two-year associate degree in education at the same college. Before marrying in May 1958, Marvin taught history and government classes for five years in Alcester, S.D. Pat taught kindergarten and first grade students for four years in Scotland and Freeman, S.D., and one year in Sioux City.

The Thuringers moved to Spencer from Sioux City in December 1973, when he was asked to open a So-



Marvin & Pat Thuringer

Homeowners at
The Highlands
since April 2015

cial Security Administration office in town. She, meantime, played volleyball and met new friends at the Spencer Family YMCA. Chuck Pletke, the organization's former executive director, convinced Pat to begin working at the YMCA's daycare center.

During her over 35-year tenure at the YMCA's Dvergsten Child Care Center, "Grandma Pat" filled her days working with area tots in the building's daycare and child care centers.

Once Marvin retired from the local Social Security office in the mid-1980s, he served as a RIDES driver for several years and enjoyed his self-taught hobbies of painting and drawing.

The couple, which has always enjoyed participating in different physical activities and exercises, continue this passion at The Highlands. Pat swims and takes part in exercise classes while Marvin walks. They enjoy watching Spencer Community Theatre plays, working on puzzles together and with others, attending Sacred Heart Catholic Church, and watching sports, namely the Minnesota Vikings, Iowa Hawkeyes, and anything associated with golf or baseball.

The Thuringers take great pride in their family, which includes three great-grandchildren (with two more anticipated this summer), seven grandchildren, and three children: Tom Thuringer of Omaha, Cathy Shea of Bellevue, Neb., and Mark Thuringer of Cedar Falls.

COMMUNITY CORNERSTONES

▪**Bethany Lutheran Church**

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

▪**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

207 Church Street, Royal
Rev. Dr. Mark Wilms
(712) 933-2229
[royalbethlehemlutheran.com](http://www.royalbethlehemlutheran.com)

▪**Christ the King Lutheran Church**

500 Fourth Avenue SW, Spencer
Rev. David Zimmer
(712) 262-2244
www.ctkspencer.com

▪**First English Lutheran Church**

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

▪**First Lutheran Church**

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

▪**Grace Lutheran Church**

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

▪**Grace Lutheran Church**

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

▪**Hope Lutheran Church**

206 N. Washington Street, Everly
Pastor Dan Taylor
(712) 834-2767
www.hopeeverly.com

▪**Immanuel Lutheran Church**

2300 27th Street, Spirit Lake
Rev. David Simonson
(712) 336-1010
lcmslakes.org

▪**Immanuel Lutheran Church**

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

▪**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

60 N. Central Avenue, Hartley
Pastor Chris Nitzel
(712) 728-2711
www.stpaulslutheranhartley.com/

▪**Trinity Lutheran Church**

105 East High Street, Linn Grove
Rev. Rhonda Wykoff
(712) 296-4438

▪**Trinity Lutheran Church**

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



St. Luke Homes & Services has a fund that supplements tenants and residents who do not have the financial resources available to participate in optional activities.

If you would like to assist, please make a tax-deductible donation to:

**St. Luke Homes & Services
c/o The Benevolent Fund
1301 St. Luke Drive
Spencer, Iowa 51301**

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

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
- Roger Morris
- Rev. Peter Maisenbach
- Jerry Clausen
- Dr. Dean Pingel
- Gary Halverson
- Jim Hitchcock
- Rev. Deb Mechler
- Sandi Schmidt

EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER

Cindy Ruppert enjoys working as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) at St. Luke Lutheran Home and it shows.

"If you enjoy helping people, like I do, it is truly enjoyable – especially when you know that it is appreciated," Cindy said. "Every day is different here at St. Luke. Some days don't go as smoothly as others, but strong relationships are formed with residents because of the trust I earn when helping them on a daily basis. The smiles I receive are worth it."

Other people she comes into contact with know



Cindy Ruppert
St. Luke Lutheran Home
CNA since September 2015

that Cindy is caring, patient, reliable and on time.

She grew up in Currie, Minnesota, and earned her CNA certification the

summer before her senior year of high school.

Cindy served 21 years as a CNA, two of those 21 years as a Trained Medication Aide, at Prairie View Senior Living in Tracy, Minnesota. In September 2015, she moved to Spencer and began working at St. Luke Lutheran Home.

Outside of work, Cindy likes spending time with her family. She enjoys walking her dog, reading Janet Evanovich novels, and tending to the African violets in her home. The Sacred Heart Church member also likes to knit and crochet, put jigsaw puzzles together, and bake homemade pies and chocolate chip cookies.

TENANT OF THE MONTH

Born in October 1924, Helen Andersen was raised with seven brothers and one sister on a farm near Linn Grove. Her ways of helping the Halverson family stay fed and nourished included gathering many eggs and peeling many potatoes.

After graduating from Sioux Rapids High School, much of Helen's free time was spent earning teaching certifications and bachelor and master's degrees through nighttime and summertime classes and correspondence courses.

Helen attended Waldorf University in Forest City and the former Iowa State Teachers College in Cedar Falls. In June 1948, she married Arnold Andersen, an Alta native and World War II veteran who worked as a general contractor.

The couple moved to Costa



Helen Andersen
Riverview Terrace
tenant since July 2011

Mesa, where Arnold built the former Antique Guild building. Both received a master's degree from Chapman University in Orange, California.

Helen taught a mixture of kindergarten through third grade students over the course of 33 years in Linn

Grove, Rembrandt, Alta and Farnhamville, Iowa, and in Costa Mesa, Santa Ana, Orange, Crescent City and Modesto, California. She retired from teaching in 1983.

"I loved working with kids. I taught wherever I went," Helen said. "For fun, I would serve as a Sunday school teacher in the Lutheran church I was affiliated with."

After her husband passed away, Helen asked her brother, Norman Halverson, to help find her a new place to live.

"I wanted to move back to northwest Iowa because I grew up and still have a lot of relatives around here. I didn't want to be without my family," she said.

In July 2011, Helen retired to Riverview Terrace in Spencer. "I love this place. They are very good to me here," she said. "I like the people, the safety and the care I receive at Riverview Terrace."