



Echoes of Mercy

A PUBLICATION OF LUTHER HOME OF MERCY • WILLISTON, OHIO

Winter Edition 2021



*Abounding
in Hope!*



Terri Rodriguez
President & CEO

A Time to Preserve, Protect and Provide

As we usher in the New Year many of us, those we serve, and those who serve, have suffered great loss during the past months whether it be financial, the absence of what we know to be the “norm” in our daily lives; even the loss of those so dear to us. Through these struggles- what seems like never-ending vigilance and at times heartbreaking and difficult choices- staff members, donors, families and volunteers have joined together to preserve the work of our essential LMM ministries.

Countless untold acts of generosity, hard work and compassion have enabled us to remain persistent in our work to bring hope and healing. Work that is needed now more than ever before in our histories.

Day to day and every day, these ministries wrap their loving arms around those who come to us; tirelessly working to care and protect those who seek our help. We work too, to protect those who toil beside us, seeking ways to support and uplift our co-workers and their families through this uncharted ground.

Yet amid the turmoil of the past year there has always been hope. With the dawn of a new year we are called to provide for the future of our ministries. Endurance and innovation, the hallmarks of our ministries, guide our opportunity for a new path forward. The hope that shines out of the darkness leads us to a better future.

Wishing you health, happiness and a bright New Year!

Terri Rodriguez
President & CEO

Preserve



Protect



Provide



Preserve, Protect & Provide

Join us on March 8 • 6:30pm



**RSVP by February 12, 2021
to Karen at:
kshaffe@lutherhome.org or
419-972-4394.**

Please leave your name,
telephone number,
and when applicable your
church name and city.

Lutheran Ministries of Mercy and our affiliates Filling Homes, Luther Home of Mercy, and Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio invite you to participate in our Virtual Annual Meeting. Additional information on using Zoom and “how to connect” will be sent to you with the agenda and reports in February.

For our Association of Congregation Churches, we do plan on voting this year! Please consider having a Pastor and guest or two (2) members of your congregation in attendance. You have played a vital role in our success and having you celebrate and hear our news will be wonderful.

We are honored to have Rev. Dr. Kevin Wilson, President of the LCMS Ohio District as our guest speaker.

Abounding in Hope

Winter days are usually a gloomy time in Ohio. Once the excitement of Christmas has past, the grayness of the earth seems to be never ending. Yet, despite the dreary forecast, our ministry is filled with light and hope through the promise of vaccines to end COVID-19.

For the last year, those we serve have largely sheltered in place. The chance of exposure to those who are medically fragile is too great even for short periods of time. To protect the health and safety of our community, families sacrificed seeing their loved ones. Each day, staff risked their personal health to provide loving care in uncharted waters.

As we enter a new year, those we serve along with our staff within four counties are among the first Ohioans to be offered the COVID-19 vaccine. While schedule varies by county, we see each inoculation delivered to a member of the LHM family as an opportunity for a bright new beginning. We know that it will take some time to get back to “normal” but we also see hope on the horizon. There are still many weeks of Ohio grayness in the forecast but we also find ourselves planning for offsite day programming, dreaming of cookouts and most importantly - reconnecting with hugs from Mom and Dad.



Mike and Tony (cover) were among the first residents of Sandusky County to receive COVID-19 vaccinations.

So Long, Big Red!

Just before the holidays, Luther Home of Mercy joined millions around the world on Giving Tuesday. Aimed at encouraging philanthropy, this annual day of giving has provided the spark needed to fund programs and equipment for our residents and clients. We are delighted to report that the shared generosity of our friends along with \$5,000 from Presenting Match Sponsor, Hylant, generated over \$17,000 for our Transportation Fund. Initial monies will allow us to finalize the replacement of an aging station wagon with an accessible minivan for our Nursing Department.

This will improve the resident access to out of county medical appointments and response time to urgent needs.



Using accessible LHM transportation, Martha is ready for her next adventure!



**GIVING
TUESDAY**

HYLANT
Insurance & Employee Benefits

Many thanks to all who helped make this lasting impact!



Love is Brewing in Ginny's Kitchen



"Food brings people together on many different levels. It's nourishment of the soul and body; it's truly love."

- G. De Laurentiis

Each day at Luther Home, residents gather around the table at mealtimes to enjoy conversation and quality offerings that are both tasty and nutritious. Food has always been a daily highlight and the anticipation of what treats will be served up next is something that is looked forward to with anticipation. What was once an operation that relied on bushels of peaches and butchered hogs from local farmers now serves up four food textures and five diet choices per meal by a team of trained dietary professionals. Meals are prepared with love by people who care about the wellbeing of our residents and express that love through recipes that replicate what many of us may serve and enjoy in our own homes.



Working to enhance care and meet future needs, Luther Home of Mercy is undertaking one of the largest capital improvements on our Williston campus as we build a state of the art kitchen and central storage facility. Ground will break this spring with the up-to-date facility enabling us to replace outdated equipment and systems built in the 1960s and renovated in 1970 and further modernize processes. While kitchen staff are most looking forward to central air conditioning for those hot Ohio summers, the structure will also boast updated and much needed storage space for medical supplies.



A \$1.5 million dollar investment, The Richard Feusse family (see inset) has stepped forward to provide a "Champions" level sponsorship toward the construction of the new building complete with new stoves, refrigeration, walk in freezers and more. In addition, this single story building will have a central loading dock for deliveries and allow staff to improve food distribution processes

Meet Dick and Ginny Feusse



World War II veteran Richard (Dick) Feusse and Virginia (Ginny Weir) met at Central Michigan University, fell in love and were married for 64 years. For many years, the two educators worked in the Dearborn Michigan area, attending Our Redeemer Lutheran Church where they served on Church Council and as Sunday School teachers. In 1990 the couple relocated to Waterville, Ohio to be closer to their children, Tom Feusse and Laure Wimmer and family. As members of Waterville Zion Lutheran Church, Dick and Ginny were asked to participate in annual meetings and to represent the church at a variety of activities for Luther Home of Mercy. They agreed, and for years their involvement continued to grow, making Luther Home a favorite among their volunteering activities.

In September, 2014, Ginny passed away and in her memory, Dick and his children continued to support the LHM residents. It was their families love of Luther Home of Mercy that led Dick, on his 95th birthday, to make the Champions Legacy gift for the kitchen campaign. In memory of his beloved wife, Ginny, Ginny's Kitchen construction will begin in the Spring of 2021.

According to Dick, "Ginny was always a great cook and spent many hours in her home kitchen and also the kitchens for church. God has been very good to our family and we know that this gift will help continue the wonderful care the residents receive at Luther Home."

to each of our eight residential cottages. Over the next several months, Virtual Design Group, Wasserstrom Kitchen and Dotson Construction will bring this plan to life.

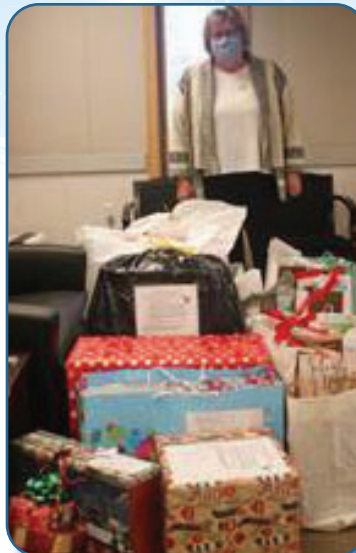
We are grateful to all of our partners and the Feusse family for their dedication to our ministry. Several sponsorship and recognition opportunities are available for Ginny's Kitchen and the Central Storage area, and we would love to have you join us. If you would like to learn more about Ginny's Kitchen, making a memorial or honorarium gift, please contact Jeanette Hrovatich, Director of Planned Giving at 419-972-4373.

Finding Joy at Home

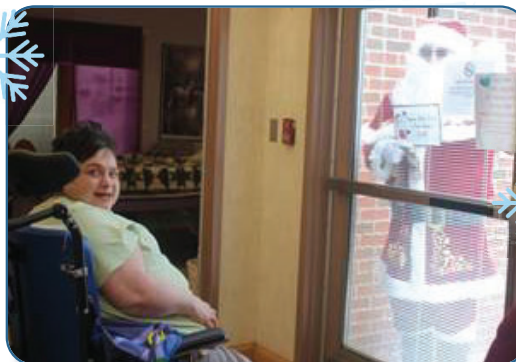
Christmas festivities were quiet this year with celebrations limited to individual homes. While we missed the jolly carolers that typically fill our hallways, countless faithful friends and members of our team went the extra mile to make sure that the holidays continued to be merry. These acts of kindness brightened spirits and remind us of the hands and feet of the One whom we celebrate.



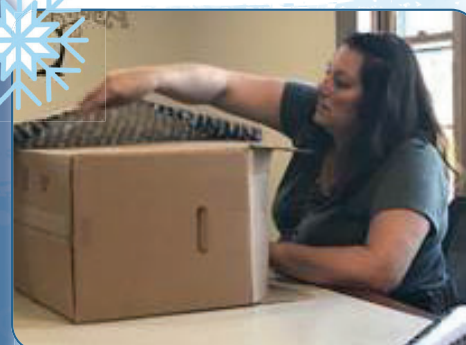
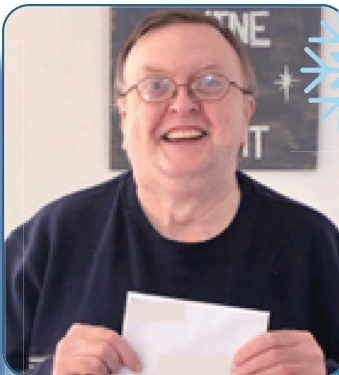
Guided by Direct Care Staff, Jackie Campbell, Jerry beams as he uses an iPad to visit with his brother.



Congregations and friends galore filled their vehicles-and our offices- with something special for our residents and clients. Over 600 gifts brightened the holidays, including a haul delivered by Sonjia Bilski from St. Paul Lutheran in Maybee, MI.



Pastor Shawn O'Brien of St. John-Williston, AKA, "Santa" checked his list twice and made a window stop on our campus to congratulate Jim and Ramona for making the "nice list".



In our outreach homes, December began with a countdown to Christmas activity box filled with daily projects. From colorful Christmas elf hats to mailing Christmas cards, each new day brought excitement and joy.



Memorials

Oliver, Ruth, Gary, and Monty Anderson

Mr. and Mrs. Charles S. Miller
Haverhill, MA

Virginia "Ginny" Andrews

Mr. and Mrs. Barry Sandrock
Elmore, OH
Mr. and Mrs. Michael O'Connor
Woodville, OH
Mr. and Mrs. Craig L. Traver
Bowling Green, OH

Richard Auxter

St. Paul Lutheran Church Women
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Mr. and Mrs. Terry P. Cleary
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Mr. and Mrs. James H. Fouke
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Huron, OH

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Doraville, GA
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Ms. Joan Rentz
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Waterville, OH

Pat Florio

Mrs. Bernadine Florio
Elmore, OH

Lester Friemark

Mr. James P. Crozier
Graytown, OH

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Mrs. Jeanine Gast
Aiken, SC

David Geldine

Mr. Robert Allgier
Curtice, OH

Almeda Gibson

Mrs. Janet Belluso
Redding, CA

Dorothy Gottfried

St. Paul Lutheran Church Women
Upper Sandusky, OH

LaVada Graening

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Cincinnati, OH

Jacquelyn Graeser

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Upper Sandusky, OH

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Jim and Livvy Schleicher
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Mr. Luther Henline
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Port Charlotte, FL

Alice Johnston

Ms. Barbara Moellman
Elmore, OH

Alice Marie Keener

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Judy Kaufman

St. Paul Lutheran Church Women
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Toledo, OH
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Port Clinton, OH

Scott McGuckin

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Norton Shores, MI

Elmer, June and

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Mrs. Janet Nestander
Sioux Falls, SD

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Elmore, OH

Sharon Moellman

Ms. Barbara Moellman
Elmore, OH

Glenn and Jean Moenter

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New Palestine, IN

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Mrs. Norma L. Miller
Fremont, OH

Walter Purdham

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Clyde, OH

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Pemberville, OH

Gene Ruch

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Mr. and Mrs. Russell L. Siek
Pemberville, OH
Mr. and Mrs. Craig Kleine
Bowling Green, OH
Mr. and Mrs. Matt Lenke
Pemberville, OH
Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Ernsthausen
Pemberville, OH
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Eilert
Luckey, OH
Mr. and Mrs. Carl W. Dierksheide
Bradner, OH
Mr. Richard Meyer
Pemberville, OH

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Jim and Livvy Schleicher
Nashville, TN

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Mrs. June Schaefer
Dublin, OH

Evelyn Schimming

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Oak Harbor, OH

Edmund and Wilma Schleicher

Mr. and Mrs. Uwe L. Schuettler
Manassas, VA
Jim and Livvy Schleicher
Nashville, TN

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Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey L. Schwartz
Maumee, OH

Linda Semprich

Ms. Barbara Moellman
Elmore, OH

Memorials continued

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Elmore, OH

David and Jean Shugert

Mr. & Mrs. Larry E. Thomas
Powell, OH

Jim and Livvy Schleicher
Nashville, TN

Louis Snyder

Mrs. Jean Snyder
Perrysburg, OH

Logan and Nathan Staib

Mr. & Mrs. William Staib
Walbridge, OH

Janice Stoycheff

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Milbrodt
Genoa, OH

Sandra Stuckey

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Hartschuh
Sycamore, OH

Carl Titgemeyer

Mrs. Doris Titgemeyer
Curtice, OH

Lucinda Swartz

St. Paul Lutheran Church Women
Upper Sandusky, OH

Donald and Elnora Vorwerk

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn R. Storm, Jr.
Dundee, IL
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Vorwerk
Napoleon, OH

Dale and Maxine Wax

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Elmore, OH

Phyllis Weaver

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Tom Wilhelm

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Walter Windisch

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Arndt
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Mr. John Zatko
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Paul and Iris Zeitner

Mrs. Vickie Davis-Mahler
Sylvania, OH

Max and Elsa Ziegler

Mr. Max Ziegler
Ann Arbor, MI



Gifts



ANONYMOUS

"Boy Scout Troop #66

Toledo, OH

Christ Lutheran Church

Bowling Green, OH

Community Of Christ Luth. Church

Whitehouse, OH

Concordia Lutheran Church

Toledo, OH

Dr. & Mrs. John F. Sundermeyer

Sylvania, OH

Dr. and Mrs. Roger Sell

Napoleon, OH

Dr. Julia Burrow

Perrysburg, OH

First St. John Lutheran Women

Toledo, OH

Girl Scout Troop #11596

Oak Harbor, OH

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Columbus, OH

Grace Lutheran Church

Elmore, OH

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Palmyra, MI

Luther Home of Mercy Auxiliary

Williston, OH

Lutheran Church of The Master

Perrysburg, OH

Mark Feldstein & Associates

Sylvania, OH

Messiah Lutheran Church

Toledo, OH

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Woodville, OH

Mr. A. J. Machosky

Sylvania, OH

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Perrysburg, OH

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Toledo, OH

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Lambertville, MI

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Curtice, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Draves
Cridersville, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Spahn
Venice, FL

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Mr. and Mrs. Barry Sandrock
Elmore, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Carlton H. Giesler
Perrysburg, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Driftmeyer
Lambertville, MI

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Perrysburg, OH

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Wellington, CO

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Waterville, OH

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Marysville, MI

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Genoa, OH

Mr. Lawrence N. Schultz
Toledo, OH

Mr. Luther Henline
Pemberville, OH

Mr. Matthew Liberatore
Toledo, OH

Mr. Richard H. Feusse
Waterville, OH

Mr. Roger Shoffner
Perrysburg, OH

Mrs. Barbara Sprouse
Oak Harbor, OH



Honor Roll

Betty Baillie

Mr. and Mrs. John P. Wynne
Bechtelsville, PA

Pastor Rita Bair's Retirement

Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Brown
Millbury, OH

Mary Pat Dombi

Ms. Virginia Agricola
Cincinnati, OH

Tonya Kosakowski

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Reuss
Toledo, OH

Charles Louys

Ms. Nancy Chamberlain
Bryan, OH

Milton R. Pommeranz

Mr. Michael Pommeranz
Toledo, OH

Helen Prah

Mr. and Mrs. James Kusian
Curtice, OH

Alex Purtee

Ms. Therese M. Martaus
Seattle, WA

Kurt Rager

Ms. Juanita M. Laidig
Goshen, IN

Paul Reinke

Mr. and Mrs. Randall G. Koch
Sandusky, OH

Ardella Rolf's 94th Birthday

Mr. William Welling
Phoenix, AZ

Luther Home of Mercy Staff

Mr. and Mrs. David I. Roberts
Holland, OH

Verris Tabol's 87th Birthday

Mrs. Cheryl Peterson
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Ms. Marian Dobkin
Pompano Beach, FL
Ms. Barbara Dipierro
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Mr. Carlo Leonardo
Pompano Beach, FL
Lauderhill, FL
Dr. Richard Brohammer
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Mr. & Mrs. Warren V. Kroll
Davie, FL
Mr. and Mrs. David Wistinghausen
Oak Harbor, OH
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Parker
Port Clinton, OH
Ms. Julia Ponce
Carrollton, TX

Mr. and Mrs. Allan Yanaros
Vero Beach, FL
Ms. Helen Ogle
Cincinnati, OH
Ms. Jane Ford
Lake Worth, FL

Katelyn Vermett and Evan Soto's marriage

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Bair
Martin, OH

Pastor David Westphal

Ms. Barbara Moellman
Elmore, OH

Sharon Ann Wheeler

Mrs. Margery C. Guinther
China Twp, MI

Beth Wott

Mr. Paul F. Wott
Clyde, OH



Giving Tuesday

Mr. and Mrs. Douglas F. Agricola
West Chester, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Anson
Baldwinsville, NY

Mr. and Mrs. George Beery, Jr.
Bellevue, OH

Mr. and Mrs. John Bergman
Elmore, OH

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond M. Bilecky
Columbia Station, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Neil S. Bower
Genoa, OH

Mr. and Mrs. William J. Buckenberger
Perrysburg, OH

Rev. and Mrs. Charles Campbell
Toledo, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Craze
Sterling Heights, MI

Mrs. Sharon Dailey
Northwood, OH

Mr. & Mrs. Erich Darr
Dublin, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Carl W. Dierksheide
Bradner, OH

Mrs. Mary Farley
Toledo, OH

Ms. Christina Fletcher
Toledo, OH

Mrs. Susan M. Flick
North Ridgeville, OH

Ms. Doris Genzen
Columbus, OH

Mrs. Donna L. Genzman
Oak Harbor, OH

Mr. and Mrs. George J. Glinski
Hudson, OH

Ms. Beth Gottschling Huber
Washington, DC

Rev. and Mrs. Ray G. Gottschling
Maumee, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Jan D. Graves
Norwalk, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Larson Haines
Holland, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Lowell L. Hartman
Williston, OH

Mrs. Eloise Hellwig
Martin, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Roland A. Henderson
Genoa, OH

Hylant Group
Toledo, OH

Mr. Thomas Jaye
Mayfield Heights, OH

Mr. Fred Johlin
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Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Krehlik
Reno, NV

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Kwiatkowski
Maumee, OH

Mrs. Lillian Lager
Oregon, OH

Mrs. Joan Lenke
Pemberville, OH

Mr. & Mrs. Kevin McGonagle
North Webster, IN

Ms. Penelope J. Meitz
Houston TX

Mrs. Janet Meyer
Napoleon, OH

Rev. and Mrs. Kurt T. Meyers
Toledo, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Milbrodt
Genoa, OH

Mr. and Mrs. G. Thomas Moore
Circleville, OH

Mr. and Mrs. David Pfisterer
Findlay, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Pollauf
Sylvania, OH

Mrs. Nancy Pries
Elmore, OH

Mr. Kent Rager
Fort Wayne, IN

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Rager
Toledo, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Arnie Rodriguez
Sylvania, OH

Mrs. Linda Romstadt
Northwood, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Craig R. Salhoff
Hagerstown, IN

Mr. and Mrs. Barry Sandrock
Elmore, OH

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Schanke
Graytown, OH

Mr. & Mrs. Roger R. Scheid
Monroeville, OH

Mrs. Mary A. Schimming
Genoa, OH

Mrs. Evelyn Schulte
Pemberville, OH

Mrs. Dailey Sharon
Williston, OH

Ms. Sandee Sledd
Doraville, GA

Dr. & Mrs. John F. Sundermeyer
Sylvania, OH

The Starfish Foundation
Boston, MA

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Thornton
Roswell, GA





Bequests

Clayman A. & Ruth M. Kabat
Chicago, IL

J. Henry Huseman
Chicago, IL

Norman K. Figy
Tampa, FL

Estate of Martha M. Johnson Living Trust
Estate of Melvin C. Johnson Living Trust
Maumee, OH



Thrivent

Frederick and Mary Lou Anson
Baldwinsville, NY

Josh Gerwin
Gibsonburg, OH

Charles Gundlach
Sandusky, OH

Dennis and Margery lehle
Sandusky, OH

John Lusch
Waterville, OH

Lola Nelson
Perrysburg, OH

Joan Slebos
Bowling Green, OH

Norbert Sonnenberg
Archbold, OH

Ruth Wiechman
Columbus, OH

Lawrence and Linda Velliquette
Castalia, OH



This list acknowledges gifts from October 1- December 30, 2020. While we strive to acknowledge all gifts accurately, it is possible that errors have been made. If any are discovered, please accept our apologies and notify Megan O'Brien, Director of Mission Advancement at 419-972-4436, mobrien@lutherhome.org.

Garden of Compassion

Vaccines are slowly making their way throughout Ohio, allowing us to dream of a future that is COVID free. We will not soon forget the sacrifices of our team to provide quality and compassionate care, the generosity of our friends and neighbors who blessed us in so many ways or the lives of those we have lost to this devastating virus. As we remember and heal, plans are underway to establish a garden outside of the Williston chapel area. It is our hope that this space will offer an opportunity for all who visit to find solace and take comfort in the serenity of nature's beauty.



BID for the ROSES

BID FOR THE ROSES CANCELLED



AS THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC CONTINUES TO DIRECTLY IMPACT OUR MINISTRY AND THAT OF OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS, WE HAVE DECIDED CANCEL OUR BID FOR THE ROSES EVENT PLANNED FOR THIS SPRING.

WE WILL RESUME GATHERINGS AT A TIME WHEN WE FEEL IT IS SAFE.



We are blessed by our partners who generously contribute to our work, sharing gifts of time, talents and resources. Individuals, families, churches, businesses and corporations make our work possible. It is their dedication that helps to sustain the life-changing work of our ministries at Filling Homes, Luther Home of Mercy and Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio. Your gifts are already at work and are reflected in the program stories in this newsletter.

We gratefully acknowledge those donors who joined us with gifts to our combined, 2020 Together Toward Tomorrow annual appeal.

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This list acknowledges gifts from May 27, 2019 through December 16, 2020. Gifts received after December 16 will be recognized in the next edition of our newsletter. If you have additional questions regarding this campaign or our combined program and fundraising efforts, please call our Director of Planned Giving, Jeanette Hrovatich, at 419-972-4373.

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Luther Home of Mercy is an ICF/DD (Intermediate Care Facility for Developmentally Disabled) - the main campus is located in Williston and Community ministry serves clients in four NW Ohio counties.



Home for the Holidays: (L-R) Nino, Dale and Matt enjoyed hot chocolate, brightly decked halls and the company of each other on a quiet Christmas at home.