

Echoes of Mercy

A PUBLICATION OF LUTHER HOME OF MERCY, WILLISTON, OHIO

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Luther Home of Mercy is a Lutheran Ministries of Mercy Affiliate



Our Festival Tradition— A Spirit of Compassionate Caring



Weeks before LHM's annual festival have, historically, been busy ones. Plans are made to welcome families, friends and neighbors, volunteers and donors, residents and clients. Pastor Edmund Schleicher, Luther Home's Executive Director from 1962-1982 remembered it this way:

"Early on the day before festival, truckloads of 2x6 and 2x10's were brought to the grove. A-Frames, slotted to receive 2x6's were brought out of storage. After lunch, board members and volunteers – brotherhood members, chiefly from Solomon, Woodville – went to work setting up seating in shady areas. Assisted by a carpenter or two, a stand was erected large enough to accommodate the preacher for the day, combined Williston and Blackberry choirs, and a piano. Green and white bunting was stapled to three sides. Also, at front center, was a cross made of cedar twigs. This, for Lester Caris, and later Clarence Eckerman, was a special labor of love.



Generations later, many friends still share fond memories from Annual Festival's of long ago. Offerings collected at the worship service made a significant impact in our ability to sustain early operations.

"Earlier on Festival morning, in the basement of Cottage Two, volunteers (and draftees) had worked diligently to prepare 1500 minced ham sandwiches to be served later in the day. That went on for years, until a committee member ventured to ask, "Couldn't we just serve sloppy joes?" As the worship hour approached, an impressive line-up of red vehicles appeared at the edge of the campus. Uniformed firemen emerged and proceeded to direct traffic, pass out programs, and take up the offering. Apparently those uniforms also served as a deterrent to crime. Only once in 69 years did a professional pickpocket succeed in lifting billfolds from several worshippers!"

With the passing of years, our festival plans have understandably evolved Residents and clients now offer more participation in the day's events. Tents shelter worship and chairs have, thankfully, replaced those 2 x 6 and 2 x 10 planks. We have retired our beloved "sloppy joes" for the trendy new "pulled pork" and the day's meal is prepared and served inside to save our residents and visitors from the rain, the heat and of course, the bees.

Yet amid this evolution the basics have remained constant...a time to gather for worship and thankfulness, the blessings of friends, the kindness of staff, the inspiration of residents, and the caring of so many. Like clockwork our dear friends from the fire department still arrive and again this year the Deutschmiester Band will be a wonderful part of our annual celebration.

I hope you will join us on September 16th as we continue to celebrate our 90th anniversary year. We truly "Love to Tell the Story!" As Pastor Schleicher wrote: "The spirit of compassionate caring is with us not only on Festival day... but all throughout the year."

-Terri Rodriguez, LMM President & CEO

On Our Cover...

From volunteer to close friend:
Steven Westrick of Gloria Dei Lutheran, Toledo
is part of a group that has spent the last five years ministering
to Sue and her community housemates each month.
Close bonds have formed between group members and visits
are cherished among these special friends.



"God's Work. Our Hands"



Each September, volunteers from ELCA congregations join us for a Day of Service and help clearing our warm weather "to do" list. We invite you to join us Sunday, September 9th, to assist with both inside and outside projects. For more information or to RSVP, contact Megan O'Brien: 419-972-4436, mobrien@lutherhome.org.

Shining Stars



Each Spring, the Sandusky County Board of Developmental Disabilities hosts a Provider Recognition Banquet as a thank you for the compassionate care offered to their community. This year, (L-R) Kristen Guhn, Alexis Smith, Lyndsy Gargas and Andrea Bartson attended the event to represent both LHM supported living and day habilitation services in the county. Guhn

was among attendees who received special recognition receiving a 2018 Direct Support Professional Shining Star award for showing exceptional dedication and care to those she serves. Congratulations!



In Loving Memory

Service of Remembrance

Throughout the course of our storied ministry, we have been blessed to serve more than 1,000 residents and clients. No matter how long or short their stay may be, each person entrusted to our care becomes part of the Luther Home family and we treasure the time we have to share in life's journey. Walking alongside each individual, we take delight in the sense of accomplishment residents feel when they master a new skill and offer support during setbacks and moments of frustration.

As we commemorate our 90th Anniversary, we invite you to join us Sunday, November 4, at 2:30 p.m. in the LHM habilitation center for a Service of Remembrance to celebrate the lives of deceased individuals who have been served by the LHM ministry. Pastor Alvera Brandt will lead the service with light refreshments to follow. As a special tribute, a memory wall to honor the lives of deceased LHM residents and clients will be unveiled. This event is open to all and we hope that you will join us to share memories and reconnect with friends.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Megan O'Brien: 419-972-4436, mobrien@lutherhome.org.

Me Love to Tell the Story of our Faithful Congregations

he year was 1928. It was a time of silent movies, Duke Ellington and the invention of sliced bread. For a pastor from the cornfields of Williston, Ohio and his young wife to have a vision for a home where people with disabilities would have opportunities to experience the best life offers was an idea that was ahead of its time. Pastor Max Schleicher approached congregations from both near and far to help in the establishment of this special ministry. While many clergy and parishioners were supportive of the idea in theory, they were reluctant to pass the offering plate or get too heavily involved in what was seen as a risky mission. Disabilities at this time were poorly understood and often hidden among families. "Was there even a need for a ministry of this kind?"

Though many doubted, through trust in the Lord the Schleichers moved forward with their progressive vision. As cottages were built and quickly filled to capacity, the need was apparent to our faith communities and support for the home grew. Annual Festival was an early highlight of congregational support and more than 2,500 participants joined us for worship, campus tours and fellowship each year. Seeing our ministry in action sparked interest with many participants feeling called to share our story with their fellow congregants back home.

The sharing of our story and the passion with which it is told by fellow pastors and church members has helped our ministry to grow and thrive throughout the last nine decades. Simple gestures in the early years coming in the form of donated hymnals, volunteers for mending and an extra Christmas ham not only helped our daily operations to continue but allowed us to offer a nurturing environment for residents to live even when our country faced challenging economic times.

Today, scores of congregations each use their unique gifts and talents to further the mission of Luther Home of Mercy. Over 100 churches have joined us as members of our Association of Congregations and faithful volunteers have served so diligently as board leadership. From flipping pancakes at church suppers and sending us the proceeds to rolling up shirt sleeves to aid with landscaping, each gift enables us to provide quality care in a Christ centered atmosphere. As we celebrate our 90th anniversary, we are ever so thankful for the faith and trust that congregations have invested in our ministry and look forward to many more decades of continued partnership as a community of Christ.

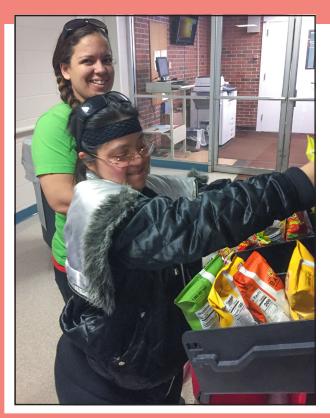


Merry Christmas Indeed! Each fall our phones start ringing from congregations who want to "adopt" a resident for Christmas. Over 150 Christmases are made merry through the generosity of our faithful friends.



In the 1980's and still today, the sharing of musical talents is a beloved gift offered by area churches. Residents love the exciting new sights and sounds and the opportunity to express emotion through listening to these joyful expressions.

Snack Time with a Smile!



ate Thursday mornings at the LHM administration building are a highlight of the week because it marks the time for snack machine refill day! We not only look forward to the replenishment of our favorite delectable treats but time spent in the company of our enthusiastic vending machine attendants. LHM's Genesis and Emmaus Community Centers both operate vending machine enclaves and they are happy to take care of your snack time needs! Clients are paid to work with our team of professionals and travel to various locations throughout Ottawa, Lucas and Sandusky counties. Each week, they work to select desirable snacks and ensure that machines are fully stocked with a variety of favorites. This opportunity not only creates a sense of purpose and a source of income for individuals but helps to form bonds and personal relationships with community partners. Looking for a new vending machine attendant? We would love the opportunity to serve you! Contact: Shelly Coker, Director of Hab Services, scoker@lutherhome.org, 419-704-8978 for more information.

Working alongside our team of professionals (Juanita Mendoza, L), Yvonne (R) looks forward to her stop at the LHM administration building where she tops off snacks and takes a moment to greet longtime friends.

A Lesson that Stuck

Well, you might not think it today, but there were some who spoke against the notion of establishing a Home for people with disabilities in Williston, Ohio back in 1928. The late Rev. Dr. Paul Moeller, who was ordained in that year, told me how it was at the Iowa Synod Conference when Pastor Schleicher shared his vision and asked for support. Voices of resistance listed several reasons why such an endeavor was either unwise or unnecessary.



One especially unfortunate comment that was remembered: "In all due respect to Pastor Schleicher, the people he's talking about are incurable; so what is there to be accomplished. Our resources are limited, and must be available for causes that offer a greater prospect of success."

"I'll never forget," said Pastor Moeller. "We met at St. Peter in Blackberry; and there was Pastor Max Schleicher, standing there in front of those stained glass windows on the East side of that Church. Such a calm and easy presence, he was not loud, not arguing. But when he spoke, he looked straight at everyone. 'Some of you know,' he said, 'that my wife, Emma, died alone in a strange place at a time when we could not be with her. She was there because she had suffered a disability that no one could understand. We tried everything, looked everywhere searching for an answer, a reason, a cure; but there was none. Incurable they said; but we loved her still, as God gave us to love one another. Anyone who has ever experienced such hardship and loss would perhaps understand all of this; and why I feel so strongly that the Church reach out in love to establish a Home of Mercy for the Lord's afflicted.

"What a blessing it was," said Pastor Moeller, "to have been there at that time, to hear a motion of support for the Home, and affirmation by the entire Assembly. I don't remember all the sermons and prayers, but the Home of Mercy stands witness to a lesson that stuck: There is no accomplishment, no measure of success greater than to love one another as God has loved us." — Pastor Don Wukotich, Executive Director Emeritus



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Luther Home of Mercy

Fall Fest 2018

"We LOVE to Tell the Story"

Sunday, September 16

Beginning with Outdoor Worship at 2:30 pm

Black Swamp Storyteller, Rev. Dale Kern, will deliver the message

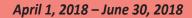
5810 N. Main Street Williston, Ohio

Picnic Supper

Craft * Bake Sale Photo Booth Petting Zoo

Free Event: Bring your family & friends

Volunteers are needed & RSVPs by 9/11 are appreciated. Please contact Arielle Semer: asemer@lutherhome.org, 419-972-4431.





Memorials

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LMM Gifts

April 1, 2018 - June 30, 2018

Wukotich Scholarship Fund Community Of Christ Lutheran Church Whitehouse. OH



Honor Roll

April 1, 2018 - June 30, 2018

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

Dale and Maxine Wax

Ms. Barbara Moellman Elmore, OH



Two Decades of Travel



or many of us, dreaming up summer travel plans helps to cure our winter blues. Visions of sunny skies and the chance to explore new surroundings offer the opportunity to look forward to something exciting on those grey Ohio days. The LHM Community Ministries



With a curiosity for destinations that resemble simpler times, Elizabeth enjoys a day trip to the historical Sauder Village.

team has supported individuals for more than twenty years as they plan summer vacations and venture off to new destinations. Team guides leadership individuals as they choose the location they would like to explore and budget money for expenses. Often times, housemates take on the road and journey together for a relaxing getaway. Others prefer independent travel with the support of our team or help to meet up with family in other parts of the country. While Dollywood, Disney and Niagra Falls are familiar favorites several individuals have saved up for the trip of a lifetime journeying to Scotland and taking on the seas for a tropical cruise. Wherever their desti-



Road trip: With Supported Living Provider, Kim Cole, at the wheel, Carolyn took in the sights at one of nature's greatest wonders: Niagara

nation takes them, assisting individuals as they travel has become an important part of our ministry to help others live full and vibrant lives.



Included in your fun day for \$35.00 (or \$25 for a half table):

- Light continental breakfast, lunch and dinner
- Snacks & bottled water
- Full 8 ft. table space (or 4 ft. with half option)
- Raffle prizes (Tickets 6 for \$5)
- Help unloading & loading your supplies

Contact Megan O'Brien with any questions at (419)972-4436 or: mobrien@lutherhome.org

Whoo's Ready For Some Scrapbooking Fun?

JOIN US: SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH, 2018 9:00 AM- 9:00 PM

> Location: Luther Home of Mercy **Habilitation Center Gymnasium** 5810 N. Main Street Williston, OH 43468

Proceeds will benefit the ministry of Luther Home of Mercy

Register and pay online at lutherhome.org

A Delicious Success!

hat a night! We are so thankful to all of our friends who helped make our 90th Anniversary Auction & Dinner an evening to remember. It was a wonderful night of mouthwatering food, lively entertainment and sharing our story of 90 years of ministry. Special thanks to Genoa Bank for sponsoring the meal, Thrivent Action Teams for sponsoring various projects, and the many donors, guests and volunteers who helped make this event happen!



Lots to choose from: Shoppers browsed a selection of over 60 silent auction items.



LHM residents and families were among the crowd who helped us celebrate this milestone occasion.



Friends gathered to enjoy a time of fellowship while the Swingsters serenaded the crowd with big band hits.



Volunteers served up delicious dinners prepared by Ole' Zim's Wagon Shed. Their famous chicken was a crowd favorite!



A sold-out crowd filled our gymnasium for spirited bidding.



Three auctions and counting: Maria Rodriguez donated her auction services for our third bi-annual event. We hope to see you again in 2020!

LUTHER HOME OF MERCY 5810 N MAIN ST PO BOX 187 WILLISTON OH 43468-0187





CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED







Luther Home of Mercy

"Enriching Lives and Individual Abilities"

5810 N. Main Street, PO Box 187, Williston, Ohio 43468-0187 419-836-7741 • Fax (419) 972-4357

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Visit our Web Site: www.lutherhome.org

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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.





Backyard Excitement: With the help of scouts from Troop 66, LHM residents reeled in some fun with a fishing derby at the LHM pond. Myrtle investigated a freshly caught bass before it was released back to its home.