



Echoes of Mercy

A PUBLICATION OF LUTHER HOME OF MERCY • WILLISTON, OHIO

WINTER 2025



**GOD'S PERFECT
TIMING**

Luther Home of Mercy is a Lutheran Ministries of Mercy Affiliate

Lutheran Ministries of Mercy

Dear Friends, Families, and Supporters,

Our LMM ministries are rooted in the belief that transformation begins with compassion. We strive to create spaces where individuals can find not only assistance, but also a renewed sense of purpose. Through collaborative efforts and tireless commitment, our agencies address pressing issues such as hunger, the need for care for people with developmental disabilities, substance use disorders, and mental health issues, ensuring that no one is left behind. In the midst of sometimes overwhelming challenge and adversity, we encourage people to rejoice in the hope that change is possible, even when the road seems long.

The impact of our ministries extends far beyond immediate relief, nurturing a spirit of resilience in the individuals we serve. The diverse expertise of all those connected with our ministries provides the tools for empowerment. Whether through education and counseling or through love and compassion in caring for daily needs, we plant the seeds of long-term hope. It is within this nurturing environment that people are able to rejoice, not just in the help they receive, but in the new possibilities that emerge.

Grounded in our shared faith and tradition of service, the daily practice of hope grows stronger with every act of kindness, every step toward progress and every moment spent in unity. We are thankful to all those who join us in this journey.

In appreciation,

Terri Rodriguez *Rev. Juli Lejman-Guy*



Terri Rodriguez
President and CEO



Rev. Juli Lejman-Guy
Board Chair

Rejoicing in Hope

2025 Annual Meeting

Monday, March 10

2:00 PM

The Pinnacle
Maumee, Ohio

\$20.00 for guests
(clergy at no charge)

R.S.V.P. today!



lutheranministriesofmercy.org

Filling Homes • Luther Home of Mercy
Lutheran Social Services

2025 Annual Meeting

Guest Speaker

**Ohio Senator
Paula Hicks-Hudson**



Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson proudly serves the people of Ohio. As the first black female mayor of Toledo, state Senator Paula Hicks-Hudson has always exhibited a commitment to empowering and helping children, adults and families improve their quality of life. She currently represents Ohio's 11th Senate District.

During her 35-year professional career, she has worked as assistant Lucas County prosecutor, assistant public defender and assistant state attorney general. Prior to her election to the Senate, she served as a state Representative for Ohio House District 44.

Outside of her dedicated, successful professional career, she enjoys many rich connections and activities with family and friends. She was married to her husband, Freeman W. Hudson, from 1973 until his passing in 2018, and is the proud mother of two adult daughters, Patricia Hope and Leah Free Star, and grandmother of seven grandchildren. An accomplished musician, Hicks-Hudson serves as minister of music at Redeemer Lutheran Church.



Filling Homes, Luther Home of Mercy and Lutheran Social Services of NWO are working together under the Lutheran Ministries of Mercy umbrella to share resources. These combined efforts allow us to foster hope, create change and meet the needs of individuals and families in our care. Visit our website at lutheranministriesofmercy.org to learn more.

God's Perfect Timing

by Megan O'Brien, Vice President

God has made everything beautiful in His time.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

It's a very rare occurrence to have two openings in the same LHM community home. When an individual moves in, they often stay for many years. A rare double-vacancy recently became available at one of our Toledo homes, allowing new friends, Mindy and Mandy, to jump at the chance to move in together.

Mindy and Mandy share the same Service and Support Specialist (SASS) and both expressed a desire for a new home at the same time. For Mandy, the need arose as a result of vacancies at her former housing arrangement. Finding herself alone in a 3-bedroom house, the days were lonely and the rent unaffordable. Mindy has lived her entire life with her family, but recently decided she was ready to move out on her own. With the help of their SASS, the pair became fast friends and wanted to live together.

Luther Home of Mercy is excited to be the next step in Mindy and Mandy's journey. The women moved in this past December; joining two roommates in a neighborhood home. Watching horror movies, shopping and trips out to eat are all activities that have brought the friends closer together. Mandy shares, *"I feel better here because there's always someone to talk to. I love all my new roommates and my staff. It's a beautiful place."* Mindy is enjoying the challenge of learning to be more responsible and meet new friends on her own. She shares, *"I love moving here and meeting the lovely ladies, staff and getting to know people. I love that I met Mandy. She's always smiling and jolly. She's a sweet girl."*



Card games, shopping and movie nights are all favorite ways that Mindy and Mandy (L-R) spend time together.

Though two openings in the same home are rare, we often see things happen at Luther Home in God's perfect timing. The ability for two friends to live together, in the right place to call home, with the right staff to provide personal care, was definitely God's perfect timing.

***Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.***

Matthew 5:4

**As we begin a new year, we remember the individuals from
the LHM family who passed away in 2024.**

Dawn Keith
Joseph Lusiak
Elizabeth Mahnen
Tikeshia Pegues

Connie Salyers
Mike Short
Danale Siniard
Julie Smallman



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Monthly gift in honor of
Rev. Don Wukotich
Terry Bossert
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Lists in this issue acknowledge gifts from October 1 - December 31, 2024. 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 Melissa Gregg at 419-972-4338, mgregg@lutherhome.org.



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Mary, portrayed by Helen, during Christmas worship.



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Community Connections

The more you can get outside your bubble and comfort zone and spend time experiencing people who live differently than you, think differently than you, or communicate differently than you... it helps you grow,"
McCord Junior High Principal, Susan Felver said.

Creating partnerships in and with our communities is vital to Luther Home! It breaks down barriers and teaches the individuals with disabilities whom we serve invaluable skills.

Less than a mile from our Advent Day Program sits McCord Junior High. Their students and our clients, along with the staff from both organizations, love to have fun, visit and meet new people. The team at Advent invited the school to join them for an afternoon of cardio drumming, Halloween bingo, snacks and friendship.



Then after learning how much our clients loved music, the McCord team invited the day program to the school for lunch and performances by the orchestra & choir.

Chris Buckholtz, orchestra teacher, shared information about the songs and string instruments they were playing like the cello and violin.

"It's important for them to see individuals that have a different background, different abilities than they do," Mr. Buckholtz said.

Stay tuned to see what this dynamic duo plans next!



Spreading Joy & Helping Others

We were blessed to give back, through a variety of ways, to the communities who are kind and generous to us.

Staff and clients from several day programs volunteered to ring the bell for The Salvation Army. The smiles were plenty, fun happened and compliments were received!

As part of their monthly activities, residents made centerpieces to brighten two holiday meals served by the Helping Hands of St. Louis.

It brought joy to Luther Home of Mercy's community ministries leadership team to donate board games, toys, goodie bags and more to Kids Count Too, Inc. for their foster kids and families!

Retiree Gathering

Over 30 retirees and current staff joined together in the Chapel for a quick update, lunch and fellowship.

Hundreds of years of service were represented by those in attendance. Thank you retirees!

Thank You for Supporting Transportation

Giving Tuesday, an annual day of giving, is aimed at encouraging philanthropy. We are delighted to share your generosity along with \$5,000 from our matching sponsors (Lee Terry Holdings LLC: Terry Bossert CEO, Greer Group Construction and Hylant), generated over \$20,000 for our transportation fund! The gifts will be used to purchase and maintain accessible vehicles so our individuals are able to work, attend medical appointments and go on big adventures. Thank you!

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Larry Smith

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Well Done Good & Faithful Servants



"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19

After 185 years of faithful service to Christ, Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Hessville, has completed this chapter of its ministry. As a last act they have gifted their building to Luther Home of Mercy. The Emmanuel Campus is now being transformed into an Adult Day Program where folks with disabilities will have the opportunity for socialization, recreation and learning as well as the opportunity to enhance their life skills. Join us in giving thanks for Emmanuel's faithfulness to the story of Christ's transformative love.

Pictured (l-r): Terri Rodriguez, Lutheran Ministries of Mercy President & CEO, Pastor Paul Bailie, Eugene Nehls, Deaconess Sherri Krieger, Rev. Sarah Schaaf



Church Gifts

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Pemberville, OH

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Bowling Green, OH

Concordia Lutheran Church

Toledo, OH

Faith Lutheran Church

Toledo, OH

First Lutheran Church

Leipsic, OH

First St. John Lutheran Church

Toledo, OH

Grace Lutheran Church Women

Fremont, OH

Hope Lutheran Church

Bowling Green, OH

Lutheran Church of The Master

Perrysburg, OH

Messiah Lutheran Church

Toledo, OH

Olivet Lutheran Church

Sylvania, OH

Resurrection Lutheran Church

Port Clinton, OH

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

Perrysburg, OH

Solomon Lutheran Church

Woodville, OH

St. James Lutheran Church

Bradner, OH

St. John Lutheran Church

Oak Harbor, OH

St. John's Lutheran Church

Montpelier, OH

St. John's Lutheran Church

Toledo, OH

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

Lima, OH

St. Michael Lutheran Church

Ottawa Lake, MI

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Maybee, MI

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Sulphur Springs, OH

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Upper Sandusky, OH

St. Paul Lutheran Church & WELCA

Lakeside, OH

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Napoleon, OH

St. Peter Lutheran Church

Martin, OH

St. Peter Lutheran Church

Monroeville, OH

Zion Lutheran Church

Luckey, OH

Zion Lutheran Church

Perrysburg, OH

Zion Lutheran Church Dorcas Society

Saint Marys, OH

Zoar Lutheran Church

Perrysburg, OH



Technology Gives Jolene Independence

Jolene loves being able to do things for herself!

She can ask her wifi-enabled coffee pot to make coffee and reach it on an accessible counter in her community home. When she's ready to start her day, she is in control of opening her shades with a remote. The next technology being added for Jolene is a robotic vacuum cleaner.

Christmas Generosity

Thank you to the individuals, churches and their congregations for their extreme generosity for our Adopt A Resident program! All those we serve were blessed beyond measure by your gifts.



In addition to every individual being adopted and receiving donations from our wish list, our Advent Day Program Personal Needs Pantry was stocked! St. John Lutheran Church, in Williston, participated in a Reverse Advent Calendar... switching the focus from getting to giving! The generosity of the congregation resulted in 12 boxes of items donated, plus the donation from Christmas worship, will allow the clients to continue serving their community.



Churches/Businesses

- Advent Lutheran Church**
Uniontown, OH
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church**
Pemberville, OH
- Calvary Lutheran Church**
Northwood, OH
- Christy's Corner Cafe & Customers**
Elmore, OH
- Community of Christ Lutheran Church**
Whitehouse, OH
- Duval Woodworking**
Whitehouse, OH
- Emmanuel Lutheran Church**
Britton, MI
- Faith Lutheran Church**
Fremont, OH
- Genoa Elementary, Jodi Martin's 5th Grade Class**
Genoa, OH
- Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church**
Elmore, OH
- Memorial Lutheran Church**
Toledo, OH
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel**
Martin, OH
- Peace Lutheran Church**
Port Clinton, OH
- Prince of Peace Lutheran Church**
Oregon, OH
- Solomon Lutheran Church**
Woodville, OH

- SonFire by the River**
Pemberville, OH
- St. John Lutheran Church**
Port Clinton, OH
- St. John Lutheran Church**
Rocky Ridge, OH
- St. John Lutheran Church**
Williston, OH
- St. Mark's Lutheran Church**
Delaware, OH
- St. Paul Lutheran Church**
Lakeside, OH
- St. Paul Lutheran Church**
Maybee, MI
- St. Paul Lutheran Church**
Sulphur Springs, OH
- St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church**
Blissfield, MI
- St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church**
Norwalk, OH
- St. Peter Lutheran Church**
Martin, OH
- Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**
Gibsonburg, OH
- Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church**
Waterville, OH

Individuals

- Diane Bloomfield
- Dr. Julia Burrow
- Rev. Chuck & Jeri Campbell
- Sharon Dailey
- Amy Driftmeyer-Sickler

- Cyndy Fiser
- Jim and Cindy Getzinger
- Melissa Gregg
- Cindy Gribble
- Sue Harris
- Sharmarah Helm
- Jeanette Hrovatic
- Elaine Kraft
- Jennifer Krukemyer Almroth
- The Leber Family
- Stan & Marilyn Machosky
- Terry Martaus
- John & Lisa McNary
- Ken & Janet Meyer
- Mike & Joy O'Donnell
- Judy Peacemaker
- Karen Pease
- Joan Pugh
- Kasey Purtee
- Olivia Reno
- Ken & Lindy Richmond
- Jeff & Laurie Ruch
- Barry & Susan Sandrock
- Matt Sarver
- The Skinn Family
- Becky Sparks
- Sandy Tank
- Jim & Kathy Vermilyea
- Brad Whalen
- Kristi Williams
- Jean Witt
- Katie Wojnowski

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, OH 43468-0187
419-836-7741 · Fax (419) 972-4357
Office Hours: Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
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.

 **Find us on Facebook!**

Save the Date August 15, 2025

39th Annual Golf Outing Maumee Bay State Park

8 a.m.
Shotgun Start



www.lutherhome.org