



Echoes of Mercy

A PUBLICATION OF LUTHER HOME OF MERCY • WILLISTON, OHIO

WINTER 2026



A JOURNEY OF GROWTH



Lutheran Ministries of Mercy



Terri Rodriguez
President and CEO
Lutheran Ministries of Mercy

SEEING FAITH IN ACTION

Dear Friends, Families, and Supporters,

Each day in our ministries, we are privileged to witness small, but meaningful steps toward change. With the steady support of our staff, a client attends counseling regularly for the first time, learning healthier ways to manage stress and rediscover hope. Another secures an ID, keeps a case management appointment, or takes the courageous step of asking for help at our food pantry. Others, living with significant disabilities, are learning how to form friendships, enjoy life in the community, or simply feel safe, supported, and cared for. These moments may appear modest, but they are powerful milestones on the journey forward.

Rooted in compassion and guided by faith, our programs meet people where they are. We strive to remind each person they are not alone, they matter, and they are deeply valued by God and by their community. Over time, these small steps add up. With consistent care and practical support, lives once shaped by crisis or uncertainty can begin to reflect hope, connection, and stability. Often, the change is not only in circumstances, but in how individuals experience life itself—meeting challenges with growing confidence, trust, and resilience.

The impact of this progress extends beyond the individual. Positive change ripples outward to families, friends, and neighborhoods, strengthening the fabric of our community. As we notice and celebrate everyday acts of kindness and service, we are reminded that faith is lived out in small gestures of love, woven together by God into lasting change. For these moments, and for the lives they touch, we give thanks today and always.

Best Wishes for a Happy 2026!

Sincerely,

We welcome you to be a part of

Rejoicing in
HOPE

2026 Annual Meeting

Monday, March 9th at 2:00 PM
The Pinnacle in Maumee, Ohio

R.S.V.P. today!

lutheranministriesofmercy.org

Come be inspired and enjoy fellowship and food with mission-minded people like you! Hearty appetizers and desserts will be served, along with a coffee station. Our guest speaker is Toledo Mayor Wade Kapszukiewicz.

Tickets are \$20.00 each, and Pastors are our guests at no charge (we would love to have pastors and two representatives from each church present for voting).

Please RSVP online through our site, lutheranministriesofmercy.org, or call Karen Shaffer at 419-972-4394.



Adding A New Leaf by Megan O'Brien, Vice President

One of the things we take great pride in at Luther Home is employee longevity. It takes just a few steps down our hallways to meet people who have dedicated their skills and talents for 10...20...40...and even 63 years! In an industry where turnover is common, we are blessed to have faithful staff who enable us to provide loving and consistent care.



Talmadge points with pride to his name on the tree

For the first time ever, we have a new employee milestone to celebrate. Talmadge, a Janitorial Aide, is the first person who is served by Luther Home of Mercy to also reach his 20th year of employment. Recognizing this extraordinary accomplishment, Talmadge's name joins dozens of others on our "20 Years of Service Tree."

Guided by staff at his community home and at the Genesis Community Center where he works, Talmadge has consistently achieved small goals that have advanced into mastered skills. Staying focused, maintaining personal hygiene, and task completion are just a few of the areas where Talmadge is proud of his personal growth.

He shares, "I like Luther Home of Mercy and how they have helped me better myself for all these years. I am able to be more responsible and I have learned that I can serve even with my disability. I am able to do my work and help others because staff help me. I like to achieve the assignments given to me. Luther Home of Mercy has helped me have better shelter and live a better life. Luther Home of Mercy is a blessing place."

Talmadge's journey is a shining example of what is possible when people are supported over the course of a lifetime. His 20 years of service reflect not only his dedication and perseverance, but also our belief in walking alongside those we serve—year after year, milestone after milestone—providing opportunity, encouragement, and consistency. With patience, support, and faith in one another, individuals can thrive, contribute meaningfully, and build a life filled with purpose. And that's what truly makes this ministry a blessing place.

Celebrating with Friends



Joanne & Robert Craze (left) and Richelle Gargas enjoyed each other's company

In October, we enjoyed a luncheon with friends that was filled with conversations and ministry updates.

We're grateful for the friendships that continue to grow and the shared passion for serving individuals with disabilities.

Thank you to everyone who joined us—you are a vital part of our ministry's story!



Ramona was delighted by the group of carolers from Solomon Lutheran Church



Darryl and friends at Advent Day Program learned about fire safety & more from the Sylvania Fire Department



Gifts

Mr. & Mrs. Fred Anson

Baldwinsville, NY

Mr. & Mrs. Duane Arndt

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Mr. & Mrs. Richard Arndt

Oak Harbor, OH

Dr. & Mrs. Charles Austerberry

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Mr. Charlie Babb

Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

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Toledo, OH

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Perrysburg, OH

Mr. & Mrs. George Beery, Jr.

Bellevue, OH

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Oak Harbor, OH

Mr. & Mrs. John Bergman

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Monthly gift in memory of
Rev. Don Wukotich
 Terry Bossert
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 Grand Ledge, MI
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Mrs. Alice Siglar
 Genoa, OH
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 Hartsburg, MO
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 Sylvania, OH
Ms. Donna Young
 Millbury, OH
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 Port Clinton, OH
Mr. & Mrs. John Zechman
 Sylvania, OH

Lists in this issue acknowledge gifts from October 1 - December 31, 2025. 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 or mgregg@lutherhome.org.



Memorials

Jimmy Baron

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Baron
Indianapolis, IN

Craig "Ted" Benadum

Mrs. Jo Elaine Schimming
Williston, OH

Agatha Dekreon Benadum

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Williston, OH

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Toledo, OH

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Williston, OH

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Williston, OH

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Mr. Paul Clark
Helena, OH

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Mrs. Mary A. Damschroder
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Williston, OH

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Mrs. Jo Elaine Schimming
Williston, OH

Patricia Delventhal

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Curtice, OH

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Mrs. Jo Elaine Schimming
Williston, OH

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Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

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Pittsburgh, PA

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Mrs. Myra Brazeau
Allen Park, MI

Thomas Duris I

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Pemberville, OH

Brian Eisenhour

Mrs. Joyce Eisenhour
Pemberville, OH

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Sioux Falls, SD

Donna Jean Meyers

Mrs. Janet Nestander
Sioux Falls, SD

Glenn & Jean Moenter

Mr. & Mrs. Brad Moenter
Waterville, OH

Pat Morral

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Sulphur Springs, OH

In Loving Memory of Those We Lost in 2025

We remember those who have gone before us with love and gratitude. Their lives continue to shape us, and their memory is a blessing. While we grieve their absence, we trust that they are held in God's eternal care—and that He walks with us as we remember.

Dalaina Chaffee
Erika Hinrichs
Kimberly Kieswether
Maryrita Mansfield
Mable Marshall
Jamie Nath
Nadine Pfaff

Maryann Presock
Eduardo Shea
Scott Taraschke
Rita Torres
Marsha Vandemark
Richard Villagomez

Memorials

Ann Nuhfer

Ms. Jane Phillips, Pastor Mark & Christa Havel, Erica & Brent Celso Curtice, OH

Linda O'Leary

Ms. Sandee Sledd
Union City, GA

Beverly Pangle

Mrs. Laurie Pangle-Watrol
Rossford, OH

Nadine Pfaff

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Oregon, OH

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Mr. Michael Pommeranz
Toledo, OH

Mrs. Pat Pommeranz
Toledo, OH

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Perrysburg, OH

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Mr. & Mrs. William Reif
Graytown, OH

Mrs. Norma Reif
Genoa, OH

Michael Rentz

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Kenneth Schimming

Mrs. Jo Elaine Schimming
Williston, OH

Milton Schimming

Mrs. Jo Elaine Schimming
Williston, OH

May Kohlman Schimming & Dale Schimming

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Naples, FL

William Seibert

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Lindsey, OH

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Siek

Mr. & Mrs. Russell Siek
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Pastor Al Swartz
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Mr. & Mrs. Bernard J. Ashyk, Jr.
Huron, OH

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Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Storm
Dundee, IL

Lois Walters Ebka

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Pike Road, AL

Ronald Walters

Mrs. Cheryl Maas
Pike Road, AL

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Fremont, OH

Ms. Fiona Dierksheide
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Bradner, OH

Robert Alan Wittman

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Elmore, OH

Thomas John Yeagle

Mr. & Mrs. James Garner
Elmore, OH

William Zahs

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Paul & Iris Zeitner

Mrs. Vickie Davis-Mahler
Sylvania, OH

Roy & Frieda Zunk

Mrs. Darlene Carstensen
Williston, OH

Sharing Their Abundance

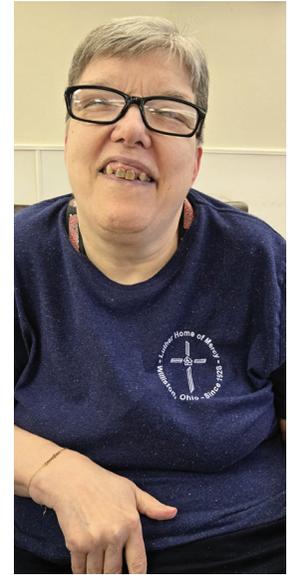


Michelle showing off the snowman that she made with help from staff

Last year, Grace Lutheran Church's Junior High Sunday School class was gifted new necklaces and bracelets, each with initials and feminine names. The class decided to sell some of the jewelry within the congregation, using the proceeds to support a mission. It was a simple, but powerful way to turn a gift into generosity.

And yet... they still had a lot to share, so they donated it to Luther Home. These special treasures were then given to residents for Christmas! Jayne, the Sunday School teacher, shared that the class had talked often about using their resources for others—and with three boxes of leftover jewelry, they wanted to share in the abundance.

We are grateful for Grace encouraging and teaching their young people to live generously and faithfully.



Jennifer proudly shows off her name bracelet



Honor Roll

Mary Pat Dombi

Ms. Virginia Agricola
Cincinnati, OH

Richard Feusse's 100th Birthday

Mrs. Mary Billow
Toledo, OH
Mr. Thomas Phillips
Findlay, OH

Mr. & Mrs. Michael Scheiding
West Chester, OH

Mr. & Mrs. Tim Ellerbrock
Whitehouse, OH

Mr. & Mrs. Roger Goetz's 60th Wedding Anniversary

St. John Lutheran Church Women
Oak Harbor, OH

Lowell Hartman's Birthday

Mrs. Lenore Harmeyer
Genoa, OH
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Hartman
Aurora, OH

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Goose Creek, SC
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Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Luebke
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Ms. Barbara Meder
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Mrs. Jo Elaine Schimming
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Mrs. Evalyn Witty
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Charles Louys

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Helen Prah

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Syracuse, UT

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Ms. Barbara Dipierro
Pompano Beach, FL
Ms. Debra Gable
Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Ms. Renee Haley
Tamarac, FL

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Mr. & Mrs. Allan Yanaros
Vero Beach, FL

Harold & Carol Tewers

Ms. Elaine Money
Plano, TX

Thank You

for sharing the spirit of Christmas



We've been blessed, for decades, by the generosity of our community during the Christmas season. The kindness of those who support our Adopt A Resident program make a real difference in the lives of over 150 individuals with disabilities we serve. Thank you for supporting our residential facility, community homes and day programs!



Danny checking out his new OSU shirt

Individuals

Free Ackah
 Jennifer Almroth
 Cindy Arndt
 Dr. Charles & Gloria Austerberry
 Dawn Avery
 Dawn Balduf
 George & Barb Beery
 Dave & Cindy Bench
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Brandt
 Jennie Buckenberger
 Dr. Julia Burrow
 Rev. Chuck & Jeri Campbell
 The Craze Family
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 Cyndy Fiser
 Tamianna Fisher
 Rev. Cindy Getzinger
 Melissa Gregg
 Cindy Gribble
 Joy Hecklinger
 Allison Heyman
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Higgins
 Connie Hill
 Dennis & Becky Holt
 Carolyn Kamala
 Valerie Kowalski
 Victoria Kreinbihl



Justin loves his new water toy

Joan Lenke
 Jeanne Lesniewicz
 Jacklyn Lewis
 Stan & Marilyn Machosky
 Ashlee Marchal
 Terry Martaus
 Ken & Janet Meyer
 Viktoria Mixon
 Tina Novotney
 Rev. Shawn & Megan O'Brien
 Mike & Joy O'Donnell
 Nina Pfisterer
 Andrew Prewitt
 Joan Pugh
 Kasey Purtee
 Lynn Reau
 Ken & Lindy Richmond
 Jeff & Laurie Ruch
 Steve & Aimee Rutz
 Barry & Susan Sandrock
 Matt Sarver
 Heidi Shank

The Skinn Family
 Neveah Smith
 Carol Snyder
 Becky Sparks
 Sandy Tank
 Judy Thrift
 Jim & Kathy Vermilyea
 David & Tena Walker
 Vincent & Rita Whitacre
 Kristi Williams & Family
 Katie Wojnowski & Family
 Lena Worrell
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Advent Lutheran Church
 Union Town, OH
 Christy's Corner Café
 Elmore, OH
 Community of Christ Lutheran Church
 Whitehouse, OH
 Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church
 Elmore, OH

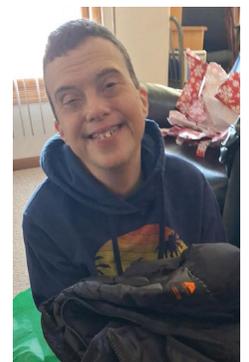
Immanuel Lutheran Church
 Britton, MI
 Memorial Lutheran Church
 Toledo, OH
 Our Lady of Mount Carmel
 Martin, OH

Peace Lutheran Church
 Port Clinton, OH
 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
 Oregon, OH
 Solomon Lutheran Church
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 Pemberville, OH
 St. James Lutheran Church
 Bradner, OH
 St. John Lutheran Church
 Rocky Ridge, OH
 St. John Lutheran Church
 Williston, OH

St. Paul Lutheran Church
 Sulphur Springs, OH
 St. Paul Lutheran Church
 Blissfield, MI
 St. Paul Lutheran Church
 Lakeside Marblehead, OH
 St. Paul Lutheran Church
 Maybee, MI
 St. Peter Lutheran Church
 Martin, OH
 Trust Company Family Offices
 Holland, OH
 Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church
 Waterville, OH



January excited for her gift



Nino with his new winter coat

Thanks to the radical generosity of our community and our matching donors, Hylant and Lee Terry Holdings, LLC, over \$20,000 was raised. These funds will help us enhance our outdoor spaces, creating more welcoming and comfortable areas for everyone to enjoy.

Honor Roll

Janell Graves

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Centers
Norwalk, OH

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Mr. & Mrs. Mike Lenhardt
Livonia, MI
Mallory Thornton
Waleska, GA

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In Memory

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Mrs. Helen Nowak
Genoa, OH

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Fremont, OH

Donald & Elnora Vorwerk

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Vorwerk
Napoleon, OH

Pastor Donald Wukotich

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Upper Sandusky, OH

Gifts

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Baldwinsville, NY

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Mr. David Baertschi

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Mr. & Mrs. George Beery, Jr.

Bellevue, OH

Mr. Raymond Bilecky

Columbia Station, OH

Rev. Holli Burkard

Haskins, OH

Rev. & Mrs. Charles Campbell

Toledo, OH

Mr. & Mrs. Tobias Cardone

Holland, OH

Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Craze

Sterling Heights, MI

Mrs. Vickie Davis-Mahler

Sylvania, OH

Rev. Ronald & Mrs. Judith Diener

Temperance, MI

Mrs. Colleen Dotson

Whitehouse, OH

Ms. Richelle Gargas

Oregon, OH

Mr. Walter & Rev. Cindy Getzinger

Curtice, OH

Mr. & Mrs. George Glinski

Hudson, OH

Mr. & Mrs. Jan D. Graves

Norwalk, OH

Mr. & Mrs. Merle Haar

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Holl&, OH

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Pemberville, OH

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Northwood, OH

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Perrysburg, OH

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Sylvania, OH

Rev. & Mrs. John Rutz

Perrysburg, OH

Mr. & Mrs. Barry Sandrock

Elmore, OH

Sandrock Farms

Curtice, OH

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Schanke

Graytown, OH

Mrs. Jo Elaine Schimming

Williston, OH

Mrs. Evelyn Schulte

Pemberville, OH

Mr. & Mrs. Tim Schumm

Napoleon, OH

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Silver Spring, MD

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Norwalk, OH

Ms. Donna L. Spychala

Toledo, OH

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Miss Mary Anne Wiedenheft

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Mr. & Mrs. Charles Winters

Sylvania, OH

Mrs. Jean Witt

Martin, OH

Mr. Thomas Woodings

Woodville, OH

Ms. Marilyn Woolace

Weston, OH

Mr. John Zatko

Oregon, OH



The Power of Connection



Daquan, Harold, Mike, Alex, David, Chris & Jim passed out treats at S.O.A.R. (Strengthening Opportunities, Abilities, and Relationships) Trunk or Treat

Connection with others is essential to human life. From the beginning, Scripture tells us that we were created for relationship. Individuals with developmental disabilities feel accepted, valued and connected through community involvement. Social inclusion goes beyond physical presence—it includes meaningful relationships and participation in everyday life such as recreation, faith communities and social groups.

At Luther Home, connection with others takes many forms. It may look like residents and clients visiting local businesses, making choices, and using their own money, or day program participants volunteering in the community, partnering with local businesses, and exploring new places. Connection also grows through

volunteers sharing time at our campuses and programs, community members teaching crafts or sharing music, and group outings such as church, bowling, coffee, concerts, or sporting events. Each experience builds relationships, confidence and a sense of belonging.

Thank you for connecting with us! If you'd like to explore other ways to get involved, please contact Melissa at 419-972-4338.



Church Gifts

Advent Lutheran Church

Uniontown, OH

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Pemberville, OH

Christ Lutheran Church

Bowling Green, OH

Faith Lutheran Church

Fremont, OH

First Lutheran Church

Leipsic, OH

First St. John Lutheran Women

Toledo, OH

Grace Lutheran Church

Elmore, 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

Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

Perrysburg, OH

Solomon Lutheran Church

Woodville, OH

St. James Lutheran Church

Bradner, OH

St. John Lutheran Church

Montpelier, OH

St. John Lutheran Church

Oak Harbor, OH

St. John Lutheran Church

Rocky Ridge, 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 Women

Clyde, OH

St. Paul Lutheran Church Women

Marblehead, OH

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Napoleon, OH

St. Peter Lutheran Church

Monroeville, OH

Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid

Elmore, OH

Zion Lutheran Church

Luckey, OH

Zion Lutheran Church

Perrysburg, OH

Zion Lutheran Church

Saint Marys, OH

Zoar Lutheran Church

Perrysburg, OH

Our Mission

We are a ministry *Enriching Lives and Individual Abilities*

Our Values

Faithfulness
Stewardship
Ethical Behavior
Integrity
Diversity

Our Ministries

Intermediate Care Facility (ICF)

Williston Campus

Supported Living Homes & Services

Lucas, Ottawa & Wood counties

Day Programs

Advent, Sylvania
Emmanuel, Lindsey
Emmaus, Oregon
Genesis, Northwood

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Echoes of Mercy
5810 N Main St, PO Box 187
Williston, OH 43468

Main Office - Williston
Monday-Friday, 8 am-4 pm
419-836-7741
www.lutherhome.org

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Luther Home of Mercy

5810 N MAIN ST
PO BOX 187
WILLISTON, OH 43468-0187



Luther Home of Mercy

We Are HIRING

DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONAL (DSP)

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QUALIFIED INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES PROFESSIONAL (QIDP)

LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSE (LPN)

Provide compassionate, quality care for individuals with disabilities.

APPLY NOW



www.lutherhome.org

If you'd like to learn more about Luther Home's ministries, volunteering, a tour or to request a speaker for your organization or church, please contact Melissa at 419-972-4338 or mgregg@lutherhome.org.

