In January, the Albert Lea Tribune spotlighted Lacey Karsjens and Amber Carberry from the St. John's Activity Department. The headline was “Creating Opportunities for Residents.” People that move into one of St. John's nursing homes or one of the St. John's apartment buildings need meaningful and purposeful things to do. For some people baking cookies or bars is meaningful because it is something they did their entire life. For others, it might be playing cards like 500 or hearts. I actually enjoy playing BINGO, so if I live in a nursing home someday, I hope that they will offer bingo.

Sunday worship is very important to many of the people that live at St. John's. We are very fortunate to have a fulltime chaplain on our staff. Chaplain Don does Sunday worship services and bible study at both St. John's locations. He is also available to meet with residents and their families when a person is at the end of their life, or when a person is just struggling with something in their life. An active faith life is a core value for many of the people that we serve.

A number of our residents collect pop tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. This seems like such an insignificant activity, but it's not! The residents that collect pop tabs are helping children with health problems. It's a meaningful and purposeful activity. It's about giving back to the community and reaching out to help others in need.

When I first came to St. John's 15 years ago, one of the residents asked to see me. Walking down to her room, I was anticipating what she might want to see me about? The vegetables at lunch were too chewy, or that her room was too hot or cold, or her bed wasn't made by 10am. My speculation was so wrong. She asked to see me because she needed some help with a fundraiser. The resident wanted to raise funds for the people whose lives were impacted by Hurricane Katrina. This little lady, that lived in the nursing home and was confined to a wheelchair, needed supplies to make apple magnets. She wanted to sell the apples for one dollar and then give the money to the Salvation Army to help people whose lives were turned upside down by Katrina. She raised about $85 dollars. I will never forget this lady or her passion to reach out and help others in need. She wasn't done living her life when she moved to St. John's. She still wanted to give back to people. She still wanted to reach out and touch the lives of others.

I love the headline in the Albert Lea Tribune, “Creating Opportunities for Residents.” Whether playing BINGO, going to bible study, or raising money for someone in need - life is still meaningful and purposeful for the people that live at St. John's. Visitors and families will often comment, it takes a special person to work in the nursing home. In some ways, I guess that's correct. In other ways, we get to work with some pretty amazing people and we are blessed by them. I'll close with Amber's comment in the Albert Lea Tribune to the question, “what do you love about your job?” Amber responded, “The relationship that I can build with the residents.”

Thank you for entrusting the care of your loved one to our staff at St. John's. We are honored and blessed to work with each and every resident and their family.

God Bless,
Scot Spates
Thoughts and Prayers for the New Year
Pastor Don Malinsky, Chaplain-St. John’s Lutheran Community

“Be a bright flame before me, O God a guiding star above me. Be a smooth path below me, a kindly shepherd behind me today, tonight, and forever. Alone with none but you, my God I journey on my way; what need I fear when you are near, O Lord of night and day? More secure am I within your hand than if a multitude did round me stand Amen.*

These words from St Columban reflect my prayer for all that serve, and are served, here at St John’s.

As 2020 brings a new beginning, some things, thank God, remain the same; God’s never ending love and presence. And oh, how we need God’s love and presence. Everyday at St John’s I witness the travail of our human existence.

On one hand, the joy of faces smiling, laughing, singing, praying, accepting, persevering, and on the other the face of resignation of this reality of the brevity of life. Through it all the staff meets the challenge by caring, loving, feeding, consoling, and going beyond the call of duty. We are not doing it alone. To this end I offer a New Year’s devotional from the chaplain I had as a student at St John’s University.

A brief review: We have four books in the New Testament that we call Gospels, the “good news” of the works and words of Jesus Christ. Two of them, Matthew and Luke, give us the stories pictured on Christmas cards: angels, magi, shepherds, a manger and the Holy Family as refugees to another country. Mark does not have the infancy stories but begins with John the Baptist’s preaching and baptizing Jesus. The Gospel of John has none of that. Instead it begins: “In the beginning was the Word.” Jesus is the Word of God. God reveals God’s self in the Son become the man Jesus.

In John 1:14 we read, “So the Word became flesh; he came to dwell among us.” Or, “The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.” Jesus (the Word) in becoming flesh (what we celebrate at Christmas) was not beginning a short stay, a trial visit, a weekend, but a human life which continues. Ronald Rolheiser writes: “In the incarnation God has chosen to let his power flow through us.” And other words, through Jesus living in us God works and touches our fellow human beings to heal and help. Fittingly we sing: “Joy to the World, the Lord has come!” A prayer attributed to Teresa of Avila spells this out: “Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ’s compassion must look out on the world. Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which he is to bless us now.” “Be assured, I am with you always, to the end of time.” Matthew 28:20.

In Christ
Pastor Don Malinsky

Senior Spotlight

Arden Bergland has lived at Knutson Place apartments for a year and a half. He has one son, Brent Bergland and one daughter, Brenda Miller. Arden says “I’m really proud of both my children and wouldn’t trade them for a million”. Arden also has a niece, Gloria, who Arden says makes him soup, banana bread and anything else he wants.

Arden is a very proud United States Marine who served in Korea after he turned 18. Arden formerly lived just outside of Emmons, MN for many years. Arden also worked at Wilson’s for over 35 years. He enjoyed riding snowmobiles and breaking horses for riding and driving covered wagons. Arden still has two horses which he enjoys getting out to see every now and then. Arden said he loves everything about living at St. John’s but his favorite thing is to play bingo with the many friends he has made.
Jeanne Herman has been the receptionist at the St. John's Fountain Lake Campus for the past 2½ years. She likes being creative and likes being busy. Jeanne recently started a “Crafts and More” craft group that meets at the Fountain Lake campus library every Thursday from 4-6pm. All are invited to attend this weekly craft group.

When asked what she likes best about her role, she said “Being with the residents and others makes every day special. “I like the challenge of my job and making every ones day as special as mine.” Wanda Wangness, Materials Manager at St. John’s Lutheran Community commented, “Jeanne is always wearing a smile and is welcoming and kind.” Wangness also stated. “Tenants, families, visitors & staff appreciate Jeanne’s cheerful greeting, lending a helping hand and undivided attention to any and all questions they might have.”

Jeanne is married to her husband, Rick, and has two grown daughters, Krista and Lisa. Krista lives in Buffalo, MN and is a OB/GYN at Allina Health. She is married and has three daughters. Her other daughter, Lisa, lives in Albert Lea and is the accountant for the Freeborn County Highway Dept. Lisa is married and has three children.

Outside of work Jeannie has a passion for quilting. She actually has 2 long arm quilting machines. She enjoys quilting for others and every year at Christmas she makes each grandchild a quilt from “grandma”. She also has and enjoys old cars and going on car trips with friends. Jeannie attends her grandchildren’s many events and delights in making memories with them.

Jeanne has many friends, residents as well as fellow employees, and is grateful to have them since she started at St. John’s Fountain Lake. Everyone at St. John’s is very special to her and she considers everyone to be family.

Thank you Jeanne for all you do for us. We love having you on our team at St. John’s Lutheran Community.

FEATURED EMPLOYEE

Jeanne Herman

A WONDERFUL PLACE TO WORK, LIVE AND VOLUNTEER

Director of Public Relations, Fund Development and Marketing

I want to extend a huge thank you to everyone who has given me a very warm welcome. I am so honored and blessed to be given the opportunity to serve the residents of St. John’s Lutheran Community. We have so many wonderful residents, volunteers and coworkers that make every day so rewarding. As we were finishing up the busy holiday season, I was able to witness so much team work with the staff and volunteers at St. John’s. It was amazing to see so many positive people coming together to make the Christmas parties and so many other holiday activities perfect for each resident.

Volunteering your time, energy and skills here at St. John’s is extremely rewarding, not only for the residents but for yourself as well. No matter the amount of time you choose to give, whether it be an hour a week or many hours a day, it all matters and makes a huge difference in the quality of many lives here.

Our residents, tenants and volunteers benefit so much from your time, energy or financial gifts. Please contact me directly with any questions regarding the many opportunities to participate in one of our giving programs.

Giving Options:
St. John’s Foundation
St. John’s on Luther Place
Knutson Place
St. John’s on Fountain Lake

There are many different funds in which to donate, including but not limited to:
Activity
Building
Chapel
Garden
Dietary
Maintenance
Specific Neighborhoods & Households

Please contact me if you have questions about donating or volunteering at (507) 473-1013. I look forward to serving with you.

Kathy Woodside
Director of Public Relations, Fund Development and Volunteers

FOR MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE ST. JOHN’S FOUNDATION
PLEASE CONTACT:

Kathy Woodside at 507-473-1013 or Scot Spates at 507-373-8226.

To make a gift to the St. John’s Foundation, please send your tax deductible donation to:
St. John’s Lutheran Community
Attn: Kathy Woodside
901 Luther Place
Albert Lea, MN 56007

EMPLOYEE
YEARS OF SERVICE

40 YEARS
Dawn Gilbertson
Yagira Ortiz
Traci Solum
Judy Duquette

25 YEARS
Sharon Colstrup
Judy Carlson
Patty Yebra-Carrillo
Lucy Martinez
Leslie Govea Rosales
John Adams
Taylar Tieskotter
Jennifer Hernandez
JoAn DePoppe
Hannah Nelson
Emily Benson
Deb Hanson
James Keithley
Brianna Brandt
Sharee Bogenschutz
Larissa Brune
Elena Romo
Nathan Sullivan
Kassandra Madrigal
Sandra Stephens
Delani Hernandez
Jazmin Lopez
Graciana Studier
Nyapout Jal
Amber Avery
Madison Reyerson
Marisella Tellez
Krista Somnis

1 YEAR
Patty Yebra-Carrillo
Lucy Martinez
Leslie Govea Rosales
John Adams
Taylar Tieskotter
Jennifer Hernandez
JoAn DePoppe
Hannah Nelson
Emily Benson
Deb Hanson
James Keithley
Brianna Brandt
Sharee Bogenschutz
Larissa Brune
Elena Romo
Nathan Sullivan
Kassandra Madrigal
Sandra Stephens
Delani Hernandez
Jazmin Lopez
Graciana Studier
Nyapout Jal
Amber Avery
Madison Reyerson
Marisella Tellez
Krista Somnis

10 YEARS
Robin Phelps
Riki Johnson
Larry Mandrell
Yagira Ortiz
Traci Solum
Judy Duquette

5 YEARS
Tabitha Avelar
Nancy Rivera
Bonnie Gullickson
Hailey Christenson

3 YEARS
Robin Crawford
Nyapout Ruei
Meredith Iverson
Janet Rodriguez
Dana Wayne
Cameron Potz
Alexis Christenson

1 YEAR
Jazmin Lopez
Graciana Studier
Nyapout Jal
Amber Avery
Madison Reyerson
Marisella Tellez
Krista Somnis
Join us for Crafts and More every Thursday Afternoon 4-6pm at the Fountain Lake Library.

Everyone is welcome, tenants and residents, staff and family. Bring your favorite or current project to work on or just enjoy a beverage and get inspired by watching others enjoying a craft. We have had Diamond art, coloring, stitching on pillow cases and baby blankets, knitting and card making with water colored pencils. One person brought a cake to share and said, “This is my talent!”

MEMORIALS & GIFTS
DESIGNATED MEMORIALS & GIFTS - TOTALING $17,684.15

ACTIVITY FUND
Special Gift
Given by VFW Ladies Auxiliary Albert Lea

Special Gift
Given by Lions Club

BUILDING FUND
In Memory of Camilla Frydenlund
Given by Michael & Brandy Boettcher

In Memory of Clifford Buendorf
Given by Michael & Brandy Boettcher

In Memory Of Irene Weber
Given by Rex & Lois Stotts

MEADOWS FUND
Special Grant
Given by Kenneth W. Olson Foundation

WOODLANDS FUND
In Memory of Rosa Lee Ille
Given by Mary Keating

CHAPEL FUND
Special Gift
Given By Beulah Wiegand

In Memory of Irene Weber
Given by Don & Barb Malinsky

In Memory of Eleanor Pedersen
Given by Carol Zell

In Memory of Don Chryst
Given by Verona Boe

DIETARY FUND
Special Gift
Given by Norm & Joyce Fredin

Special Gift
Given by Bonnie Trampel

GENERAL FUND
In Memory of Eleanor Pedersen
Given by Carol Zell

UNDESIGNATED MEMORIALS & GIFTS
TOTALING $2,069.00

In Memory of Eleanor Pedersen
Given by Harold & Charlotte Peters
Given by Judy Hellie
Given by Lorraine Schaper
Given by Ross & Carolyn Martinson
Given by Rosalind & Alan Oachs
Given by Dr. William & Carol Zell
Given by Craig & Tamyra Williams
Given by John & Jeanne Bateman

In Memory of Joyce Halldorson
Given by Anita Helland

In Memory of Muriel Gries
Given by Bear Lake Church Women

Special Gift
Given by Mansfield WELCA

Special Gift
Given by Thrivent Giving
Plus by Anita Helland

Special Gift
Given by Grace Lutheran

Special Gift
Given by Round Prairie Lutheran

Special Gift
Given by Trinity Lutheran

Special Gift
Given by Rev. Dean & Beverly Baer

Special Gift
Given by Adeline Biedermeier

Special Gift
Given by West Freeborn Lutheran Church

Special Gift
Given by Ruth Grosland

Donations September through December 2019
Veteran’s Day Celebration and Recognition

Volunteers Marlene Thompson and Diane Wichmann help decorate over 30 trees between both campuses.

Isabel Villarreal Family

St. John’s staff purchased Christmas gifts for all skilled care residents at the Fountain Lake Campus.

Stanley and Arlean Stadheim Family

Hazel Senske & Family
Happenings

SAVE THE DATE!

Valentine’s Day Party
Feb. 14 • 10:30 AM

Mardi Gras Party
Feb. 25th @ 3:00 PM

HAPPY St. Patrick’s Day Party
March 17th • 3:00PM

Ash Wednesday Services
9:00 am Fountain Lake
10:30 am Luther Place

Lenten Services
Wednesday’s thru April 1st
9:00 am Fountain Lake
10:30 am Luther Place

Residents and activities staff prepare treats for the holiday bake sale

ALHS Caroliers perform at the Family Christmas

Waters Edge tenants help prepare for the Family Christmas party

Waters Edge tenants ring in the New Year.
Clifford and Carol Rask ring in the New Year.

Board of Directors 2020

Tiny Toes day care visits residents at the Fountain Lake Campus.

Brandy Boettcher, Loretta Wacholz and Debbie Boettcher making Lefse.

HEALTH TALK SERIES

St. John’s Lutheran Community will be partnering with Mayo Clinic Health System — Albert Lea and Austin in an upcoming Health Talk Series at St. John’s Lutheran Community, Fountain Lake Campus.

1861 Eagle View Circle, Albert Lea, MN 56007

Tuesday, March 10 • 3-4pm • Topic: Arthritis
Tuesday, April 21 • 3-4pm • Topic: Bladder Health
Tuesday, May 19 • 3-4pm • Topic: Hearing Health

Please join us for one or all three of the informative talks.

These are all FREE to the public. ALL ARE WELCOME
No matter where you’re at in life, you’ll find a home in our community!

Independent Living | Assisted Living
Secured Memory Care | Skilled Care
Short Term Rehab | Sunday Worship

Call today for a tour! 373-8226