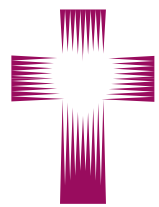


Link-Age

NEWSLETTER • SUMMER ISSUE 2008



The Lutheran Home Association

Where the Care of the Soul is the Soul of Care®

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Dedication service and celebration of our newest ministry, Kingsway Retirement Living

More than 1,000 community members, supporters, friends, residents, families, team members and special guests from Belle Plaine and across the nation joined together on Saturday, June 21, to attend the Kingsway Retirement Living Dedication Service and Celebration. Kingsway, located on The Lutheran Home Campus at 815 West Main Street in Belle Plaine, Minnesota, is our newest Christian community for seniors 55 and older. It offers independent living, assisted living and memory care apartments along with a variety of services and amenities.

It was a beautiful summer day filled with a memorable dedication service, a ribbon cutting ceremony, many talented musicians, German **Kingsway — Continued on page 8**



Many attended the ribbon cutting ceremony on a beautiful Saturday.

Photos courtesy of Front Porch Photography



Guests enjoyed delectable treats.



Some ribbon cutting participants (L-R): Norm Lindberg, Karolee Coppoc, Lillie Hinz, Rev. Curtiss Seefeldt, Armin Karnitz, Michael Klatt and Rev. David Ponath.



Rev. Robert W. Schlicht preaching at the dedication service.

Frontlines

For those readers unable to attend our Kingsway Retirement Living Celebration, we'd like to share with you Michael's words of welcome to the guests gathered at the Dedication Service and Celebration.

Welcome

"One hundred and ten years ago this November, a large group of people gathered just a few hundred yards from here to dedicate the first building and the founding of the ministry which would become The Lutheran Home Association. Today a like-minded group gathers on the same campus for the Dedication Service and the Grand Opening Celebration of Kingsway Retirement Living.

Since 1898 profound changes in services for the aging have occurred. Beginning in the year 2010, for the next

three decades, 10,000 Americans—the baby boomers—will daily turn 65. This growing number of older adults and providing for their needs will dramatically shape and change our society. In recent years, new technologies have developed, extraordinary medical advancements have been discovered and the ways in which seniors are served have dramatically changed. Kingsway represents a community reflecting these rapid changes where people may reside to

Michael R. Klatt

**President and
Chief Executive
Officer**



the very end of their lives. It is a place ready to provide the right care in the right place at the right time.

The completion of Kingsway is the culmination of a vision of transformation for our Belle Plaine campus over the past three decades. The innovations we are making will provide a profound impact to those we serve, our family members, our community, our team members, others and beyond. We are excited to be on the leading edge of change and transformation. We are confident that the 'Kingsway Experience' will be a part of our historic tradition of excellence and innovation in Christian care and service.

The needs and demands of our society are constantly changing, but our mission and purpose remain constant. **Frontlines — Continued on page 8**

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Christian Insights

“Do you need more memory?”

When the message flashed across my computer screen, I smiled. I instantly knew it was an advertisement for more computer memory, but I allowed myself to take the bait and think about being able to remember more things myself. Hardly a day goes by without me recognizing that I can't remember everything I should. Actually, I recall saying out loud “oh, yeah” in response to the advertiser's question.

Sometimes my personal memory need is evident when I meet someone I've met before, but I can't remember their name—that's embarrassing. Sometimes it is evident when I've put something away in a place where I thought I'd certainly look. When I actually want it again, and I just can't think of that place I thought was so logical—that's frustrating. Sometimes it is so embarrassing and frustrating when there is something important I need to remember, but I just can't—even though I'm absolutely sure I should be able to—that's scary.

Yes, the message mentioned above was an advertisement telling me I should consider replacing my Double Data Rate Synchronous Dynamic

Random Access Memory with the new DDR2 SDRAM for my computer.

There are also some memory aids on the market for our minds. Some are techniques, others are natural foods and still others might be drugs. Of course, how well we remember things is only valuable in relation to what we remember. Being able to remember all the useless knowledge in the world and not remembering what is important for life and eternity is a pretty big waste. Jesus' rhetorical question: *What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul?* (Mark 8:36) points out that even being able to remember many things useful for this life while ignoring God's saving Word leads to eternal death in hell.

The Apostle Peter was concerned about my memory and yours. He, as God's servant, took part in writing down what we need to “remember” for life and eternity:

So I will always remind you of these things, even though you know them and are firmly established in the truth you now have. I think it is right to refresh your memory. ... And I will make every effort to see that after my departure you

Rev. Dallas Miller
Director of
Spiritual
Services
Administrator
of Jesus Cares
Ministries



will always be able to remember these things.

We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.” ...

And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. ... men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:12-17,

selected verses).

We meet up with God every day because He is evident in all the creation, but sometimes people fail to recognize Him there. That should be very embarrassing.

Sometimes, although knowing that we learned God's answer to some important question of life, we've become lazy or apathetic and have failed to keep fresh the memory of that knowledge. The sad result of going through life not remembering God's guidance will certainly be filled with trouble and be frustrating.

And, finally, when people set aside the simple Gospel truth that is the basis of faith, even though God's Law in their hearts tells them they badly need it, they may not be able to find it again. Scary is not a sufficient word to describe the resultant situation.

Share the saving Gospel of God's perfect love today so those you love will not forget it tomorrow. *These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name (John 20:31).*

The joy of the unknown

I had forgotten what fun it is! I used to go fishing often with my dad when I was little. As a pastor, I enjoyed fishing when we lived in rural Minnesota too. But it's been quite some time since I put a line in the water.

While at a camp, I spent a few hours with my son on beautiful Lake Rooney. And the fish were biting! Lots of them! Some even large enough to make it to the frying pan!

It became clear to me why so many people love to fish. It's because of the

unknown! It's because each tug on the hook, each strike on the lure, is a mystery. Reeling in each catch is an adventure. On the end of the line is a surprise every time. That's what makes fishing fun!

What would be the excitement if each fish were exactly the same, and each fishing hole produced identical results? What kind of adrenaline rush could there possibly be if each cast resulted in the same, identical fish?

The fun and excitement of fishing is

Rev. Carl Henkel
serves Mt. Olive
Lutheran Church
in St. Paul,
Minnesota, and
TLHA's Board
of Directors



in the fact that you don't know what's on the other end of the line until you get it into the boat.

For the same reason, I used to love to buy grab bags! I would buy several of them for the sheer joy of discovering what was inside. In most cases, I probably wouldn't have even considered purchasing the items that I got, but because the contents of the grab bag were hidden treasures, I enjoyed the unknown. Why don't more stores sell grab bags!?

Fishing and grab bags. The adventure is in the hidden mystery. The excitement is in the unknown.

I remember fondly Forrest Gump: “My momma always said, ‘Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get.’”

What makes fishing exciting, grab bags enjoyable and life like a box of chocolates is the simple joy of the unknown.

Today's world has been emptied of so much of that simple joy by modern technology. Seems to me, the harder we work at peering into the future, the more we rob ourselves of life's little excitements. The more we mess with

what was formerly known only to God, the more ordinary and routine and blasé life becomes.

I know there have been many times when I've wished I could see into the future. Many times when I would have loved to see what was around the corner, over the next hill, behind the trees, beyond the horizon. But the Lord has kept much of the future hidden. And for good reason. Not to keep us wandering aimlessly in obscurity, but to keep us trusting in Him. Not to keep life full of unknown fears, but to keep life exciting and packed with adventure. Not to keep us in the dark, but to make the light ever more brilliant.

I don't have to know the future. It is vital, though, that I trust the One who holds the future. As a believer in Jesus, I rest securely and confidently in the certainty that whatever happens to me in the unknown future is filtered through His love and sifted through His mercy.

Rejoice in the unknown! Appreciate the unknown! Find adventure and excitement in the unknown!

And, dear people, find security in knowing that your Lord knows what kind of fish is on your hook before you land it, what kind of treasures are in the grab bag before you open it and what kind of sweet delight is in the piece of chocolate before you bite into it!

Even more, He holds your future in His loving and gracious hands!

Live life to the fullest! Joyously uncover each adventure the Savior has planned for you!

Mission Statement

*In Christ's love, the mission of
The Lutheran Home Association
is to provide for the spiritual, physical, mental and
emotional needs of people entrusted to our care.*

The purpose of The Lutheran Home Association is in keeping with the words of the Lord Jesus (Matthew 25:34-36, 40): “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me,



I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. ... I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’ ”

Link-Age

The official newsletter of
The Lutheran Home Association
Summer Issue 2008

**President &
Chief Executive Officer**
Michael R. Klatt

Editorial Staff
Lisa L. Woestehoff, Editor
Karen L. Lambrecht,
Editorial Assistant
Jessica L. Gehrke,
Editorial Assistant

Link-Age is published three times per year by The Lutheran Home Association (TLHA). This ministry provides numerous services from seven communities and is owned and operated by an Association of more than 200 Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) and Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) congregations and those in fellowship. TLHA provides health care, housing and service options to active seniors, the elderly, persons with developmental disabilities, mental illness, Alzheimer's disease, dementia, and other unique needs. TLHA also offers a national evangelism outreach program through Jesus Cares Ministries. Please direct correspondence or inquiries to:

The Lutheran Home Association
National Ministry Offices
337 South Meridian Street
Belle Plaine, MN 56011-1919
(952) 873-6000 or
1-888-600-TLHA (8542)
Fax: (952) 873-6111
E-mail: info@tlha.org
www.tlha.org

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is the Soul of Care®*



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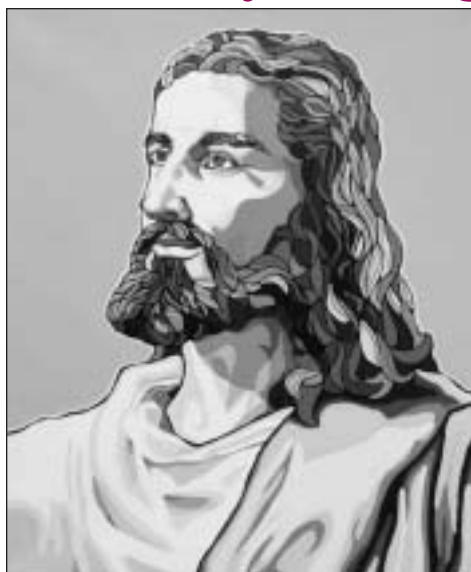
Belle Plaine
Campus (952) 873-2215
Cochrane (608) 248-2658
Home to Home Thrift Store
(Belle Plaine) . . (952) 873-6901
Fountain City . . . (608) 687-7721
Jesus Cares Ministries Office
(Milwaukee) . . . 1-877-505-3675
Mankato (507) 625-1512
River Falls
Campus (715) 425-5353
Watertown (920) 206-9448

From Jesus Cares Ministries New Philippians Bible study coming soon

The need for curricula options for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities is becoming more and more apparent. Students accustomed to a traditional "Bible story" approach deserve a chance to study the Bible directly. Jesus Cares Ministries (JCM), a ministry of The Lutheran Home Association is striving to meet these needs by launching a new Bible study series that makes the Bible come alive through a simple explanation of God's Word. By writing this Bible study in a simplified manner, these materials will benefit many. Children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, challenges and unique needs, teachers in JCM programs, special education teachers who conduct Bible studies in the classroom and anyone who seeks an understanding of the Bible will gain from these works.

The first Bible study in this series, *Jesus, My Peace and Joy*, is a study of the book of Philippians. Ardis Koeller, a Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) parochial school teacher who has a Master's Degree in Exceptional Education, is the author. She is also author of *Joy in Jesus' Love* and co-author of *The Simplified Catechism*. This unique study also features paintings by Reginald Baylor, an artist from Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The artwork adds dramatic effect to the lessons. This material is being produced in cooperation with the WELS Commission on Special Ministries—Special Education Services Committee.

The study consists of ten lessons, and each lesson has three aims. Each of these goals is reinforced by Scripture and includes an explanation of Scripture passages and questions to



Artwork by Reginald Baylor from Bible study

evaluate comprehension. Scripture passages for memorization and memory aids are also included.

Many benefits come from this Bible study series, including offering an easy, understandable way to search the Scriptures for all ages and all of God's people. Jim Esmeier, Administrator of Resources and Education, says, "The mission of Jesus Cares Ministries is to assist churches in meeting their responsibility to share the Gospel with people who have an intellectual and developmental disability as well as their families and communities. By offering this new series of simplified Bible

study materials, we will ensure that the Gospel message is available to everyone we serve. And if we are able to provide the series to other groups outside our ministry, even better!"

These products are being produced through JCM Media, the publishing division of JCM (formerly JCM Publications), and distributed through Northwestern Publishing House beginning in August. *Jesus, My Peace and Joy* is a spiral-bound book and costs \$14.95. For more information about the Bible study series, contact Jim Esmeier at (414) 259-0292 or jesmeier@tlha.org. To order, visit www.nph.net.



Artwork by Reginald Baylor from Bible study

JCM Mission Statement

In Christ's love, our mission is to assist congregations in meeting their responsibility to share the Gospel with people who have a developmental disability, their families, and communities.

Summer Ministry Experience 2008

The Lutheran Home Association's (TLHA) fifth Summer Ministry Experience (SME) began the first week of June. Under the direction of Staff Minister Michael Hennig, the six college students selected for this summer spent nine weeks experiencing various opportunities to work with and for people served by TLHA. They worked with people who have developmental disabilities and those with various issues of aging. The students gained understanding for these people as well as valuable experience as they served in health care and congregational settings. In every case, the ultimate goal of this mission project is concern for the eternal welfare of people entrusted to TLHA's care.

One focus this summer was helping congregations establish a new outreach program or broaden the scope of an existing outreach program to better include people with disabilities and their families. This may involve the start-up or expansion of a Jesus Cares Ministries program for a congregation or group of congregations. TLHA's prayer and expectation is that both the students and the people with whom they worked gained from this

experience. The program, which is funded entirely through special gifts, is designed to provide a ministry experience that will encourage young people to continue serving after college as they become leaders in their

congregations. For more information about the Summer Ministry Program, contact Michael Hennig at mhennig@tlha.org or call our National Ministries Offices at (952) 873-6000 or 1-888-600-TLHA (8542).



Summer Ministry participants, back row (L-R): Jenny Roberts, Alissa Barkholtz, Cindy Lendt. Front row (L-R): Josh Mayer, Katie Spaude, Micah Haar.

“The Kingsway Experience”

At Kingsway Retirement Living, old world charm meets out of this world service. All involved are committed to providing the best spiritual and physical care possible.

The Bible is the basis for all we do. This commitment is displayed in the spiritual services we offer. The Lutheran Home Association (TLHA) Chaplain is available to offer Biblical answers to spiritual questions and conducts weekly Chaplain-led Bible study, devotion opportunities and weekly worship services. These are accessible to all residents and especially designed for those in assisted living and memory care. Beginning in 2009, there also is a new partnership with Martin Luther College of New Ulm, Minnesota, for staff ministry candidates to gain experience in this type of ministry.

The Christian Resource Room also offers devotional and study materials, including Bibles, hymn books, Biblical media resources and publications, outreach materials and resources developed by TLHA to help individuals and congregations reach out to the elderly and persons with developmental disabilities.

The Kingsway building also reflects our German heritage. It is graced with traditional German architecture and specifically designed to resemble a European village. The community has an old-world atmosphere, both inside and outside. The multiple colors of the homes, the traditional half-timber arches, slate roofs and the cedar details mimic the homes found in Europe. Throughout the building, distressed bricks, natural stones, and warm, rich colors create a heart-warming and welcoming home. The common spaces are roomy with nine-foot ceilings, yet still feel cozy.

Through Kingsway, the Belle Plaine campus provides a continuum of care for every stage of the aging process, helping individuals live their lives as they wish. Through independent living, assisted living and memory care, everyone involved with Kingsway is dedicated to accommodating the needs and requests of each person as much as possible.

Kingsway features many daily living conveniences that are easily accessible. These services include the Christian Resource Room, the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging office, the Kaffee Haus—our Internet café, the Ratzkeller, fitness center, hobby and game rooms, underground heated parking, laundry machines located in each apartment, business center, art gallery, museum, salon and spa, barbershop, transportation, concierge services and much more. Everyone making their home at Kingsway will be able to take advantage of these spaces designed especially for their use. People can fully enjoy and participate in the lifestyle Kingsway offers. Whether it is cheering from the Ratzkeller during a Super Bowl party, curling up with a good book from the library or surfing the Net in the Kaffee Haus, there is always something for people to do!

Kingsway's assisted living serves those who desire a higher level of service for everyday living. Residents



This assisted living dining area showcases Kingsway's old world charm.

may choose how they wish to spend their time each day. Everyone is welcome to use the interactive kitchen—the social center of each floor—to assist in food preparation, eat at the counter, serve themselves coffee or simply enjoy others' company.

Kingsway complements our continuum of care by offering a homelike and secure memory care unit, specifically designed to skillfully care for those with memory issues. Individuals are able to live in a supportive, caring and accepting environment. Residents live in private apartments surrounded by the comforts of their personal belongings while still receiving socialization and stimulation.

Throughout Kingsway, our wish is for people to enjoy their home and the amenities provided for their well-being, pleasure and convenience. We are committed to the complete spiritual and physical care of our residents.

Telemedicine and technology

Kingsway Retirement Living offers top-of-the-line, innovative technology throughout the entire community. A variety of features, including the best technology has to offer, are available for all of the residents, providing an array of choices for their comfort, convenience and safety.

These technological features include telemedicine! One example of this is if a resident requires X-rays, rather than requiring a long, disruptive trip to a place that has an X-ray machine, it can be done in the privacy and comfort of one's apartment. The X-rays are then sent via Internet to the appropriate medical personnel. In addition, if needed, people can choose to receive reminders for medication, have medical conditions monitored and have the information sent to others, such as their children or physician, who may desire to know their loved ones and residents are doing well.

In addition, the WatchCare program is offered, which utilizes eNeighbor™ by Healthsense™. This program provides independence and safety simultaneously as residents and their loved ones are able to choose what options best fit their needs. When

necessary, staff is silently alerted to possible problems, such as someone falling or significant changes in routine. This type of program promotes early prevention—if these types of things are noted and addressed right away, it is

TLH: Belle Plaine staff members win national Alzheimer's award

At the Meeting of the Minds: Dementia Conference 2008, Sarah Beckius, licensed social worker (LSW), and Tammy Dvorak, registered nurse (RN) and Special Care Residence Unit Manager, were recently presented with national awards from the Alzheimer's Association. They were honored for their outstanding talents as Alzheimer's support group facilitators. Both are staff members at The Lutheran Home: Belle Plaine, located on The Lutheran Home Campus at 611 West Main Street in Belle Plaine, Minnesota. The Meeting of the Minds Conference is the most comprehensive and prestigious dementia conference in the upper Midwest. The Alzheimer's Association and Mayo Clinic are the primary sponsors for this inspirational and educational event.

The Alzheimer's Association conducted surveys and interviews of Alzheimer's support group participants across the state. The Lutheran Home's Alzheimer's support group program received the highest ratings of quality and excellence in the state of Minnesota. Sarah Beckius and Tammy Dvorak successfully completed their certification as Alzheimer's support facilitators and have enthusiastically implemented the Alzheimer's support group.

These humble and talented women provide an Alzheimer's support group each month for families and community members, presenting valuable educational resources to the Belle Plaine community and surrounding areas. “We were surprised and honored that the people in our support group would speak so highly of our program,” stated award-winning Sarah Beckius. The Lutheran Home offers a special memory care residence that is the foundation of this specialized support group.

more likely they will not become serious issues later on.

The system works through a variety of wireless sensors that are used to monitor actions to discover if residents are in need of help, and if so, staff is alerted by the cell phones they carry. The different sensors monitoring different types of routines are able to safeguard against false alarms. Moreover, this system allows individuals to stay independent as long as possible. In fact, the benefits of the eNeighbor™ system were recently highlighted in *The New York Times*.

The Lutheran Home Association is planning on expanding these benefits for greater community use. This service will begin within the Belle Plaine school district boundary and will soon be offered to neighboring communities.

In addition, a variety of technological features and enhancements are available for purchase, including Internet and phone services, cable modem options and wireless Internet throughout the building. Kingsway offers cutting edge technology in a state-of-the-art environment.



(L-R) Sarah Beckius, LSW and Tammy Dvorak, RN

This Special Care Residence provides innovative services, spiritual care, secure home design and programs for persons with Alzheimer's and dementia. Individuals are assisted with developing their personal interests, achieving a meaningful daily routine and maintaining their maximum independence. This home is uniquely designed with an open vaulted layout, a secured patio and safe outdoor walking areas. The professional staff complete extensive training based on the guidelines of the Minnesota Alzheimer's Association. The special memory care residence provides support, education and resources to family members and the community.

Through laughter and tears, the Alzheimer's support group meets each month at The Lutheran Home Campus to share stories, resources, personal struggles and hope. The Lutheran Home works in collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association to provide families, loved ones and interested community members with valuable resources, cutting-edge research information and support. For additional information regarding the Alzheimer's support group please contact Sarah Beckius or Tammy Dvorak at The Lutheran Home: Belle Plaine at (952) 873-2215 or e-mail sbeckius@tlha.org or tdvorak@tlha.org.

Association churches profiled



**Trinity Lutheran Church
of Smith's Mill—
Janesville, MN**

and



**St. John Lutheran Church —
Janesville, MN**

Both of these churches are led by Rev. Keith J. Bilitz. Trinity Lutheran Church was organized in 1892 and has 88 baptized members and 78 communicant members. St. John Lutheran Church was organized in 1910 and has 169 baptized members and 155 communicant members.

Dates to remember

August 15: Annual golf tournament of TLHA Foundation. Proceeds benefit the new state-of-the-art therapy department opening at The Lutheran Home Campus in Belle Plaine this winter. Noon shotgun start at Valley View Golf Club in Belle Plaine, MN.

September 28: Auxiliary Pie and Ice Cream Social at The Lutheran Home Campus in Belle Plaine, MN.

November 2-8: Heritage Week throughout TLHA.

November 6: 110th anniversary of TLHA's founding.

November 23: 20th anniversary of TLH: Cedar Haven in Mankato, MN.

For more information about these events, please call 1-888-600-TLHA (8542) or visit www.tlha.org and look under "Events."

Mailing note

Individuals: If you do not wish to receive this publication, have moved, or wish to add a friend or family member to our mailing list, please contact Karen Lambrecht, Support Systems Coordinator, at 1-888-600-TLHA (8542), extension 115. If you are receiving duplicate copies you may mail *both* sets of labels to: The Lutheran Home Association, National Ministry Offices, Attn: Karen Lambrecht, 337 South Meridian Street, Belle Plaine, MN 56011-1919.

Congregations: If you wish to change the quantity of *Link-Age* received or make an address change, please contact Karen Lambrecht (see above).

Letters are people . . . Here's what they say

To The Lutheran Home Campus in River Falls, WI:

Dear Lutheran Home Staff,
Thank you so much for all you always did for our family and in caring for Alice Schultz. She was the best grandma anyone could ask for.

Enclosed is a memorial to The Lutheran Home.

Keep up the good work and caring attitudes.

Forever in your debt—
Dave and Pat Rogowski,
Scandia, MN

I want to thank you for the nice evening on May 16th, when I attended your volunteer tea. The kind words spoken and the refreshments were appreciated. The guitar player was very good and the Music Madams enjoyed him.

Thank you for the nice volunteer pin, the certificate and the beautiful floral centerpiece I won at the drawing.

Sincerely,
Janet K. Leonard,
River Falls, WI

To the National Ministry Offices in Belle Plaine, MN:

Dear Mr. Klatt,

Congratulations on the upcoming grand opening celebration of Kingsway Retirement Living. On behalf of the City Council and the citizens of Belle Plaine, I would like to recognize the magnificent Kingsway Retirement Living facility and its importance to the City. The grand scale of this new residential complex will be a significant asset to our community.

We appreciate and support your investment in Belle Plaine. Under your guidance, we are confident Kingsway

Retirement Living will be very successful.

Best wishes to you and your staff.
Warmest regards,
Tom Meger
Mayor of Belle Plaine

Dear Mr. Klatt and Members of The Lutheran Home Association,

Congratulations on the ribbon cutting commemorating the grand opening of Kingsway Retirement Living. I deeply appreciate your invitation to attend today's festivities but my schedule does not permit me to do so. Please welcome my staff

member Gerald Woodley and accept this letter of congratulations.

This project has come a long way since you broke ground back on April 3, 2007! With twenty-two assisted living apartments, fourteen memory care apartment homes, and forty-five fully equipped independent living homes, The Lutheran Home Association through Kingsway Retirement Living has done a fine job providing many options to address senior housing requirements. The architecture and amenities of the German village and town center you have created with three restaurants, a

bank, fitness center, and library create a community for not only residents of Kingsway but for all of Belle Plaine. The care and concern for people's needs—corporal and spiritual—are integral to this project and will no doubt be reflected in the residents' quality of life. You have done a tremendous job!

Congratulations again on today's ribbon cutting and grand opening. I know Belle Plaine will be better and well-served by Kingsway Retirement Living.

Sincerely,
Norm Coleman
United States Senate



This Is Our Story

Our names are Loren and Shirley Stier.

Our family founded Stier Transportation.

We have had the joy of watching nervous kindergarten students turn into wonderful, educated students prepared for the world.

Part of our company has been devoted to helping The Lutheran Home Association with their transportation needs. Words are not enough to express the love we have observed as their caregivers serve their residents and this community.

This Is Our Ministry This Is The Lutheran Home Association



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Mission Advancement

Planning is everything

It seems like we just went from winter weather to the midst of a hot and humid summer. Along with the unusual weather patterns, the news stories gaining national attention have predominantly been about the torrential rains and flooding. If pictures say a thousand words, then how unspeakable has the damage been done by water? Water can be something as innocent and refreshing as a cold glass on a hot day and as horrendous as the flooding of millions of homes, as seen all over the media. One recent story told how a muskrat helped cause the devastation by burrowing into a levee, something few people think about happening. How does someone plan for such a catastrophe, especially if they feel safe living by levees that have stood strong for many years or living in areas not considered flood zones?

Just like the flood waters caused by a muskrat burrowing into a levee that weakens it enough to collapse, a family's life can be devastated by a tragic death or illness. A flood of feelings can come pouring into one's life and home. Questions like "What do we do now?" and "Who should I call?" arise. If both spouses have passed away

**James C. Klein,
CFP®**

**Director of
Mission
Advancement**



unexpectedly, questions like "Where do the children go?" and "Who will manage the money?" are asked. The list goes on and on.

In Biblical times, God used the prophet Isaiah to tell King Hezekiah to get everything planned out because he had a short time in which to do it. In 2 Kings 20:1, it says, "In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, 'This is what the LORD says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover.'" Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to God for more time. God answered his petition by graciously granting him 15 additional years. It's the same in our lives. Sometimes we are told by doctors when we will die. Sometimes we are given more time, sometimes not. God knows

what is right for each of us. Every day is another day of grace, and we must acknowledge this. We should be wise stewards of the time and treasure God has given us. Planning is important!

I like to tell the story about what happened to one man during a big flood years ago. It goes like this:

A farmer was sitting on the front stoop of his farmhouse with water just outside his front door when a boat with two men in it pulled alongside him. They told the farmer they were there to take him to safety. The farmer politely refused, saying the Lord would provide for him; he was okay. A day later the farmer was sitting outside of his second story window with his feet dangling in the water when another boat with two men pulled alongside him. They told the farmer they were there to take him to safety. Again, the farmer politely declined, stating the same reason, the Lord would provide for him. The next day the farmer was standing on the rooftop of his house with water lapping at his feet when a helicopter appeared, and the pilot asked him to climb into the harness and be taken to safety. The farmer responded as before and declined. Shortly after, the farmer met

St. Peter at the pearly gates and questioned why God had not spared him. St. Peter said, "The answer is simple. We sent two boats and a helicopter—what more do you want?"

That's the way life is—God has a plan, and many of us don't. Where are you in life? Are you somewhere between the first boat and the helicopter?

The Lutheran Home Association's (TLHA) Office of Mission Advancement team of Resource Development Coordinators and the Director of Mission Advancement are trained and ready to help families plan ahead. With our combined years of experience, we can assist in making a solid plan for you, your family and the Lord's work. Don't let the muskrat burrow a hole in your estate levee and wreak devastation. King Hezekiah was given time to put his house in order, and as you read the rest of 2 Kings 20, you see he put it to good use. May all of us do the same. Please contact our Office of Mission Advancement at 1-888-600-TLHA (8542) or e-mail us at info@tlha.org with no cost or obligation. God has given us the responsibility to help, and we are eager to do so.

Tax-Free Gifting from Traditional and Roth IRAs to Charities Approved by President Bush

President Bush has just signed into law an extension of a very much anticipated opportunity for charitable-minded people to make tax-free gifts from their traditional and Roth IRAs. Other types of retirement plans are not included in this law, i.e.: 401K, 403b, etc...

Now donors do not have to worry about including a gift from a traditional or Roth IRA into their gross income and wonder if the charitable deduction will cover the tax due. People do not have to itemize to use this benefit.

Anyone over the age of 70.5 years, from now until December 31, 2009, can make a gift directly from their IRA to their favorite charity and not worry about including the distribution as taxable income. Better yet, it also qualifies as part on the minimum required distri-

bution required by the IRS when the donor turns 70.5 years old. People also can give up to \$100,000 per year.

There are some definite procedures to follow to make a charitable gift under this new law. The Lutheran Home Association's Office of Mission Advancement team is here to assist you to make a gift to your church or favorite charity at no cost to you.

Contact The Lutheran Home Association at (952) 873-6000 or at 1-888-600-8542 to request a visit or call from James C. Klein, CFP®, Director of Mission Advancement, or Rev. Curtiss Seefeldt, Resource Development Counselor. They will set up a time to visit with you and provide the needed letters or forms to work with your IRA investment people.

You may also direct the administrator of your plan to make a direct distribution to your favorite charity, such as The Lutheran Home Association or Jesus Cares Ministries. There are documents available for this purpose. Please note that anything other than a direct distribution will cause the gift to be fully included in your taxable income. Upon receipt of the direct distribution, The Lutheran Home Association provides the donor an IRS-acceptable letter of thanks and explanation needed for income tax preparation.

This new law provides a wonderful opportunity to help your favorite charity. The Lutheran Home Association's professionals will be happy to meet with you without any cost or obligation to you.

Support Jesus Cares Ministries by donating your vehicle

Our Vehicle Donation Program is a way to make a year-end Christmas gift to help us spread the good news of our Savior's birth. This type of gift supports the work of Jesus Cares Ministries, our gospel outreach program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

We can use your donated vehicle for:

- Use in our services that require transportation or

- Resale in order to fund Jesus Cares Ministries

We accept:

- Drivable vehicles in good running condition
- Vehicles with no maximum mileage limit

It's easy to do:

- Call Karen at (952) 873-4744 or toll free at 1-888-600-TLHA (8542)

to have someone from the Office of Mission Advancement help you complete a few simple forms about the donations.

- Provide and sign over title of ownership to The Lutheran Home Association.
- We provide you documentation of your tax-deductible donation.

Three opportunities for matching funds

We have three programs underway which enable our financial supporters to make their gifts go even further!

Summer Ministry Experience:

An anonymous donor will match all donations dollar for dollar, up to \$25,000 total. The match will end on September 30, 2008.

JCM Publications: Revising and printing the series, "Our Living Hope," Volumes I-III:

An anonymous donor will match 50 cents for every dollar given, up to \$50,000 total. The match will end on September 30, 2008.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans: If you are a Thrivent member your donation to any program, home or service within

The Lutheran Home Association, including Jesus Cares Ministries, can be matched by 50 cents on every dollar given, up to a \$300 match.

If you have any questions concerning the matching gift programs please contact our National Ministry Offices at (952) 873-6000 or 1-888-600-TLHA (8542).

Gifts of Love

The following gifts have been received and are used to minister to the spiritual, mental, emotional and physical needs of families, persons with developmental disabilities, Alzheimer's disease, various forms of dementia, the elderly, active seniors and others whom we serve. We wish to thank them for their support!

IN HONOR OF:

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Randy & Tori Kluess
NORM & MARLYS LINDBERG'S WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
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As a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit ministry, we appreciate all gifts.

If you would like to name us as a beneficiary in your will, insurance policy, pension plan or 401(k) plan, our legal name is: The Lutheran Home Association National Ministry Offices 337 South Meridian Street Belle Plaine, MN 56011-1919

For more information on these and other types of gifts, please call the Office of Mission Advancement at (952) 873-6000 or 1-888-600-TLHA (8542).

Kingsway - Continued from page 1

cuisine and beverages and fun activities for children. This exciting community event was held at the newly built Kingsway Retirement Living.

The schedule of events began with a dedication service on the south lawn of the campus. Rev. Robert W. Schlicht, President Emeritus of The Lutheran Home Association (TLHA) from 1961-1993, was the special guest speaker. "The Care of the Soul—A bold statement, expecting challenge and prevailing by inspiration" was his sermon theme.

He reminded those gathered of the awesome privilege to live in a country where a ministry could dedicate a beautiful new structure on a continuum of care campus which is so firmly committed to caring for the soul. He also thanked God for all caregivers. He noted all are valuable regardless of where they serve, whether they provide spiritual or physical care or if they care from a distance through their prayers, offerings or talents. He concluded by saying, "What we have left behind, that legacy, God willing, will be to continue the motto, 'Where the Care of the Soul is the Soul of Care'—that the Home will continue to stand by its motto. It is still a bold statement. It will prevail due to inspiration. May the Lord always use the building and each one of us to His glory and the salvation of many."

Louis Lieske, President Emeritus of TLHA from 1993-1997, and Michael Klatt, President and Chief Executive



Ollie Heitkamp demonstrates how residents can use their tools in the woodworking shop.

Officer, read selected portions of Scripture. Rev. David Ponath, TLHA Board Chairman, served as the liturgist. Barbara Vathauer played organ, and members of The Southwest Minnesota Area Lutheran Chorale raised their voices in song throughout the worship service.

The ribbon cutting ceremony, held outside the Kingsway main entrance, signified the successful completion of this innovative community for seniors. Stephen Wilson, Executive Director of The Lutheran Home Campus, provided an update on the entire campus development plan. The completion of Kingsway ends the first phase. The extensive renovation project underway at the skilled nursing home, which includes tripling the size of the rehabilitation center, is the second phase. This work will be completed in late 2008 or early 2009. The third phase is an addition of a chapel and a community center.

Michael Klatt then welcomed and reminded the group that nearly 110 years ago a similar group of people celebrated the dedication of the original Lutheran Home. He noted how the purpose of this not-for-profit ministry has remained constant—the care of the soul is the soul of care. He stated, "The completion of Kingsway is the culmination of a vision of transformation for our Belle Plaine campus over the past three decades. The innovations we are making will provide a profound impact to those we serve, our family members, our community, our team members, others and beyond. We are excited to be on the leading edge of change and transformation. We are confident that the 'Kingsway Experience' will be a part of our historic tradition of excellence and innovation in Christian care and service."

Following the ribbon cutting ceremony, guests were invited to tour this community to discover the many unique German features and amenities.

During "A Taste of Kingsway" guests had the opportunity to explore Kingsway's German themes during walking tours of the Marketplatz, the Christian Resource Room, Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging office, salon and spa, rotating art gallery featuring Toni Fogarty of Front Porch Photography, the museum featuring an extensive toy collection, fitness center, and the Kaffee Haus—the Internet café. Kingsway tours also featured model apartment homes, interactive kitchens in the assisted living areas, the Ratzkeller and the grand dining room.

Local historians recognized some



Michael Klatt greeting guests, photo courtesy of Front Porch Photography.

items from another era. The 1898 bricks from the original Lutheran Home are incorporated into the Marketplatz, the avenue that joins Kingsway on the main floor. Donated bricks and window frames from the Belle Plaine Brewery add to the unique lounge atmosphere of the Ratzkeller.

"A Taste of Kingsway" provided a variety of musical entertainment featuring the Alpensterne German band, many talented pianists, as well as The Teddy Bear Band and Lollipop the Clown, who entertained the children with face painting and balloon characters. While touring, guests enjoyed a wide range of delectable German foods and refreshments.

During the Kingsway Celebration the community had the opportunity to experience firsthand a place where spiritual care, German architecture,

specialty cuisine, hospitality and the latest technology are uniquely designed to exceed the expectations for senior living.

In addition to offering exceptional senior living in a Christian environment, Kingsway Retirement Living will provide the community with free accessible meeting spaces, educational opportunities, resource centers, dining experiences and special events. Kingsway Retirement Living offers senior adults an exciting opportunity designed to fulfill new dreams, explore personal interests and enhance their lives.

For additional information regarding Kingsway Retirement Living please contact Karolee Coppoc, Administrator/Director of Marketing, at (952) 873-5902 or visit our Web site at www.tlha.org.



The spacious billiards room is available for residents to enjoy.

Frontlines - Continued from page 1

The Lutheran Home Association, the sponsor of Kingsway, is a religious institution. People come to us because they know we take the role of Christian care and outreach seriously. Our philosophy is beautifully stated in our motto, 'Where the Care of the Soul is the Soul of Care.' Many religious groups are building senior housing and services. But in too many cases the idea of caring for the soul has been long lost. Our goal today is the same as it was in 1898, and it will remain unchanged in the years to follow.

Our core purpose is to share Christ's

love for each of us. Anyone entering Kingsway, whether as a resident or guest, is coming to a place where Christ is the center of what we do. The most important aspect we can offer in our care is the care of the soul. It is in this sense that Kingsway is not just a community, but rather, a community of purpose.

We have been blessed with the national reputation of being a Christian provider of care. Society changes, but God does not change. We need to provide new creative services, but God has to be at the forefront of what we do.

We strive to be innovative and inspirational. We pray that God will guide us as this project is dedicated and as we move ever forward as a ministry.

So today we gather. We celebrate. We thank and praise God for the good things He has done. The inspired writer, the Apostle Paul, shares these words from Philippians 4:8-9, 'Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received

or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.'

Welcome to Kingsway Retirement Living! May this always be a place that is lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy. May the God of peace always be at the center of all we do. Thank you to all of you involved with this endeavor for your prayers, time, talents and treasures that you have given to make this dream a blessed reality. To God be the Glory!"