REFLECTIONS is the newsletter published by The Lutheran Home for the Aged Association-East, a not-for-profit organization, providing quality health care, housing and services for seniors.

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Learning— a life-long Process

By Rev. Larry Schmidt—Vinton Chaplain

As a country boy from Northeast Iowa, I had the privilege of attending a Christian elementary school. Along with reading, writing, and arithmetic, religion was an important part of every school day. Integrating Biblical teachings into school subjects and activities equipped me with values and attitudes important for coming years.

Following the footsteps of an older brother, I left the farm and attended a Christian teachers’ college in Chicago. As in earlier schooling, here too the Christian faith was an integral part of all academics and extra-curricular activity. Spending 20+ years as a Lutheran School principal, and more as a pastor, has convinced me of the importance of teaching and learning. I’ve seen thousands of individuals grow and mature as citizens of this country and God’s Kingdom, the Church. The Holy Spirit, through God’s Word and the Sacraments, has created and nurtured faith in the hearts of many people.

Chaplaincy at our Lutheran Homes in Vinton and Davenport presents many opportunities for Christian teaching and learning. Worship services, Communion times, Bible studies and pastoral care visits offer opportunities for residents to continue to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (II Peter 3:18). Learning is truly a life-long process, blessed by God for people of all ages.
Happenings Since Our Last Issue...

DEDICATION HELD

Pastor Neuendorf conducted the dedication service at the Davenport Lutheran Home on July 23rd to celebrate our new Memory Care Unit. Thanks were given to God for His guidance throughout the course of this undertaking, and His blessing sought for future residents who will make their home in this beautiful addition. The public was invited to attend and tours followed.

NAVIGATION SIMPLIFIED

“Find” us on the corner of 13th St. and 2nd Ave., via the new digital sign that has been strategically located to identify our campus and inform the public of current Lutheran Home happenings. In addition, several smaller signs have been placed to assist with navigation throughout the campus.

LHAA-E Activities & Dining experiences

At left: Davenport residents enjoyed shucking sweetcorn this summer as they reminisced about their past gardens and canning their vegetables.

At left: Vinton tenants and activity staff close out National Assisted Living week with a picnic along the banks of the Cedar River.

RECENTLY....

VINTON LUTHERAN HOME:

October 26th– Halloween Ball at 6:30pm
December 1st– Memory Care Resident/Family Christmas Party at 11:00am
December 5th– Assisted Living Tenant/Family Christmas Party at 5:30pm

DAVENPORT LUTHERAN HOME:

October 27th– Family Christmas Party at 5:30pm
October 31– Halloween Party at 2:00pm
November 10th– Veterans’ Reception at 10:30am
December 8th– Family Christmas Party at 5:30pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

VINTON LUTHERAN HOME:

December 7th– Family Christmas Party at 5:30pm

DAVENPORT LUTHERAN HOME:

October 27th– Family Christmas Party at 5:30pm
October 31– Halloween Party at 2:00pm
November 10th– Veterans’ Reception at 10:30am
December 8th– Family Christmas Party at 5:30pm

Listed below are the names of persons or groups who have made a special gift, and the persons so remembered, from May 1, 2017– September 1, 2017:

Contributions:

Dennis & Joyce Andresen– Keystone, IA
Bev Baker– Davenport, IA
Sherry Barnes– Springfield, MO
Robert & Deborah Brecht– Keystone, IA
Sherry Burmeister– Davenport, IA
Charles & Patricia Campbell– Cedar Rapids, IA
Evelyn Cassel– Coralville, IA
Nellie Cobl– Vinton, IA
Jeff Ealy– Urbana, IA
Marvin & Patricia Farr– Cedar Falls, IA
Robert & Linda Fischer–Vinton, IA
Maurice & Joyce Fritch– Vinton, IA
Dean Folkman– Newhall, IA
Bunny Fritch– Atkins, IA
Dorothy Gee– Marion, IA
Carolyn Garbers– Vinton, IA
Dolores Glass– Vinton, IA
Grace Lutheran Church– Blairstown, IA
Marlene Grimm– Garrison, IA
Dee & Mona Hanson– Vinton, IA
Brent & Patricia Harstad– Toddville, IA
Marcia E. Hilt– Vinton, IA
Chris Henzen– Dixon, IA
Rev. Leon & Janet Hodges– Atlantic, IA
Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church–

Davenport, IA
Roger & Joanne Hurt– Moline, IL
Jane Lagrange– Vinton, IA
Geraldine Lenburg– Cedar Rapids, IA
Lutheran Women Missionary League–
Milan, IL
LWML IED Benton Zone Tabitha Society–
Newhall, IA
Ronald & Pamela Madden– Bettendorf, IA
Doris Mauer– Cedar Falls, IA
Robert Moen– Vinton, IA
Willie Moser– Hawatha, IA
Ruth Mund– Cedar Rapids, IA
Gilbert & Anita O’Gara– Des Moines, IA
Peg O’Rourke– Marion, IA
Our Savior Lutheran Church–
Bettendorf, IA
Jolyn Petermeier– Highland, IL
Rev. Donald Pohlers– Statesboro, GA
Douglas & Glenda Rigdon–Albuquerque, NM
Risen Christ Lutheran Church– Davenport, IA
Norman & Zelda Sackett– Center Point, IA
Pat Salger– Vinton, IA
Merlyn & Joanne Schanbacher– Newhall, IA
Rev. Lawrence & Jane Schmidt– Cedar Rapids, IA
St. John’s Lutheran Church– Reinbeck, IA
St. Mary’s Catholic Church– Vinton, IA
Joan Struss– East Moline, IL
Joan Tarbox– Cedar Rapids, IA
The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod Foundation– St. Louis MO
Thrivent Choice Program– Appleton, WI
Trinity Lutheran Church– Davenport, IA
Trinity Lutheran Church– Vinton, IA
Dr. Alan & Janet Woodhouse– Vinton, IA
Yvonne Weideman– Vinton, IA
Marvin Witt– Vinton, IA
Women’s Evening Guild, College Hill Lu-
theran Church– Cedar Falls, IA
Pamela Woolison– Vinton, IA
Van & Julie Zimmer– Vin-
ton, IA
In Loving Memory of:
Pauline Schmink
Jean Meier
Ethel Moen
Grace Deming

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The Memory Care Unit addition of the Davenport Lutheran Home is complete! We are pleased to announce that applications for residency in this beautiful addition are now being accepted. The dedicated efforts of contractors and staff alike have resulted in a warm and welcoming environment specifically designed to meet the needs of those living with dementia. From cozy fire places to the aroma of home baked cookies, our devoted Lutheran home staff will continue to build on the preferences and unique lifestyle of each resident. Our goal remains that of creating a home like atmosphere where quality Christian Care is provided.

At Left: Full service kitchens are available to meet resident needs. After all, hot cocoa tastes good day or night.

Below: As frost coats the autumn ground, the warm glow of the fire will

Feeling of Nostalgia

School Days, School Days….

School days, school days,
Reading, and writing, and ‘rithmetic
Taught to the tune of a hick’ry stick.
You were my queen in calico
I was your bashful bare foot beau
And you wrote on my slate:
“I Love you, Joe”,
When we were a couple of kids!

~Gus Edwards & Will Cobb 1907

At Left: Pumpkins and gourds create nostalgic autumn displays throughout our Lutheran Home

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EMLOYEE MILESTONES

Congratulations to:
Amber Knoeferl, CNA, Davenport
5 year anniversary (October 11, 2012)
Alec Gantz, CNA, Vinton
5 year anniversary (November 1, 2012)
Robert Brown, Dining Services Director, Davenport
5 year anniversary (November 29, 2012)
Daesha Corrales, CNA, Davenport
5 year anniversary (December 12, 2012)
Amanda Hatton, CNA, Davenport
5 year anniversary (December 12, 2012)
Kellie Van Ree, Administrator, Vinton
10 year anniversary (October 1, 2007)
Cheryl Cole, CNA, Davenport
10 year anniversary (October 4, 2007)
Michael Newburry, CNA, Vinton
10 year anniversary (November 2, 2007)
Lonna Verhelst, Laundry/Housekeeping Director, Davenport
10 year anniversary (November 11, 2007)
Carrie Anderson, CNA, Vinton
10 year anniversary (November 28, 2007)
Zach Warm, Maintenance Director, Davenport
10 year anniversary (December 6, 2007)
Humble Beginnings

Davenport Lutheran Home resident, Arlene Johnson Jens, has led a very accomplished life. She became a published author as a teenager, a registered nurse as a young adult, and later an avid spokeswoman for the rights of nursing home residents. Arlene was the Director of Nursing at The Davenport Lutheran Home from 1972-1976.

Arlene’s first years of life, however, were quite modest. She recalls a childhood full of family time, chores, and days spent in a one-room schoolhouse. Arlene walked a mile and a half to her country school which included a cloakroom, a pot bellied stove and an outhouse. The student body was responsible for keeping the black slate chalkboard clean and for bringing in firewood for the stove. Arlene’s classroom was divided into separate areas. In one area art was created, in another, reading was done, and a third section contained maps for geography studies.

With grades one through eight all sharing the same classroom, it was necessary for each child to complete their coursework at their own pace. Arlene was an excellent student and by the time she entered high school, she had already completed all of the algebra she needed to graduate.

Arlene maintained her dedicated work ethic long after her days as a country school pupil. She continued to envision the life that she wanted to live, and thanks to her humble beginnings in that one-room school house, she

Never Lose Your Desire to Learn

Ninety year old tenant, Glenn Krug, resides at the Vinton Lutheran Home Assisted Living apartments and leads a luxurious life. He enjoys participating in the many offered activities, the choice menu options for each meal, having his apartment cleaned on a regular basis, and spending time with his VAL friends.

Glenn remembers a time however, when living wasn’t so easy. “I grew up in a very different era,” Glenn explained. “My childhood and school days were very unlike what children experience today.”

Glenn started school in a one-room school house in the country.

“There was not a kindergarten class at my country school,” Glenn remarked “We started school in first grade. Classes were much smaller and students in grades 1st-8th sat at desks in the same room, taught by the same teacher.”

Glenn went on to explain that older students were expected to help the younger students with their lessons, which greatly helped the teacher.

“All of us kids worked together. We were like a big family.” Glenn stated.

Glenn only attended his one room country school for a year. After that his family moved to Dysart where he enrolled in the town’s public school. Glenn only attended that school until the 8th grade.

“In those days the law stated that kids only had to go to school until 8th grade. After my 8th grade graduation, I was expected to help my father farm,” Glenn said.

Although Glenn was done with the public school system after 8th grade, he remained an avid learner. After training to become a mechanic, he developed such a fantastic reputation that Kirkwood Community College recruited him to instruct their diesel engine program. Because Glenn only had an 8th grade education, Kirkwood paid for Glenn to acquire his G.E.D. - allowing him to teach the course.

Teaching Through Change

Shortly after World War II, VLH resident, Bob Arnold, obtained his teaching degree from the Iowa State Teacher’s College (now known as the University of Northern Iowa). Over the span of his career, he taught band and music in the Iowa towns of Terril, Mechanicville, Central City and Marion. Ultimately, his career led him to the Cedar Rapids School District where he spent fifteen years as a principal.

While reminiscing recently about significant changes during the span of his career, Bob noted that when he began teaching there were 900 distinct school districts in Iowa, compared to the roughly 300 that exist today. He feels that the shrinking numbers of districts is due largely to the improvements in travel and transportation. “Modern transportation was not as prevalent back then as it is now,” Bob explained. “During my first year of teaching, the nearest paved road was nine miles away.”

Triple the number of school districts “back then” meant there were far fewer students attending each school. Bob recalled that during his time at Mechanicville, there were only sixty students in the entire high school, twenty of which were in the marching band that he conducted. “Of course, the band marched during the football games, which prevented the boys from participating. This translated into a band comprised of nineteen females and one eighth grade male student who was not yet eligible to play football.”

He expressed, “Young people ‘then’ were more involved with extracurricular activities both in and outside of the classroom and I believe that kept them out of trouble.” Additionally, times were ‘simpler,’ recounting that ‘back when,’ students used to bring their shot guns to school in the morning so they could shoot wild game on their walk home. They would drop their gun off in the main office when they got to school, and pick it up at the end of the day. He exclaimed, “That is something no student would even think of doing these days!”

A Legacy of Teaching that Started in One Room

Davenport Assisted Living tenant, Nancy Kelly, was only four years old when she began attending a one-room school house, just north of Sully, Iowa. The local school found themselves in need of a teacher. When the call remained unanswered, Nancy’s mother was offered the position because they knew she had a teaching degree. Initially, Nancy’s mother declined, explaining that she had a four year old at home. The solution was for Nancy to accompany her mother to school which began her early love of learning.

Upon graduating from high school, Nancy wanted to attend a Catholic College. She relocated from Grinnell, Iowa, to Davenport where she attended Marycrest College and earned her teaching degree.

Nancy’s first teaching job was at Walcott Junior High, where she taught Family and Consumer Science. Following a transfer to the Davenport School District, she taught for six years before getting married. Nancy took a twenty year break from teaching, opting to stay home and take care of her six children. When her youngest was in second grade, however, Nancy began substitute teaching and eventually took a full-time teaching position in Pleasant Valley, where she taught for fourteen years before retiring.

Nancy feels that being in her mother’s classroom, in that one-room school house, definitely influenced her decision to become a teacher. Teaching seems to run in her family’s blood. One of Nancy’s six children also became a teacher and currently teaches grades four through six at Keystone School in Davenport. The beginning of this school year found Nancy’s granddaughter in her first teaching job in