



# where caring counts

A quarterly newsletter for family and friends of St. Luke's Home and Park Avenue Villa

Spring 2026

VALENTINE'S DAY ~ PARK AVENUE VILLA ~ ST. PATRICK'S DAY ~ MARDI GRAS ~ SERVICE DOG

## Congratulations to St. Luke's Royalty

Valentine's Day brought a special celebration for St. Luke's Home residents as we crowned our royalty. St. Luke's Staff, fellow residents, families, and visitors cast votes for a king and queen for each household weeks prior to the event.

Ernie Hecker had the residents singing and dancing to old-time music during the party. When the time arrived for the coronation, the joy of surprise filled the room as the names of the royalty were called. As the residents' names were called, the crown was passed to their family members to have the honor of placing the crown on their loved one.



▲ Patricia Ewoniuk

### Congratulations to our Kings & Queens!

Willis Johnson & Lorraine Bren  
Arnie Betlaf & Madella Brinkman  
James Granberg & Roberta Sand  
Ryan Lynne & Pat Ewoniuk



▲ Ryan Lynne



▲ Madella Brinkman & Arnie Betlaf



▲ Roberta Sand & James Granberg



◀ Willis Johnson & Lorraine Bren



# *Park Avenue Villa*

## *Enriching The Lives Of Our Tenants*



▲ Mae and Cara enjoying a heartfelt afternoon of Valentine's Day fun!

▲ The tenants and Lisa could not stop laughing while playing a new game, Granny Pants!



Susie and Anna Marie joining in on the fun. ►



▲ An afternoon well spent with cards, treats, and great company!



▲ Agnes is picture perfect!



▲ King and Queen Tony and Bev Volesky

### **Valentine's Day Royal Court**

Prince and Princess Curt Brinkman and Adeline Temanson



▲ The start of the tenant parade.



▲ Marlys and Anita displaying their friendship and decorated masks.

◀ Beautiful smiles and a great friendship between Mary and Monica.

Park Avenue Villa Assisted Living Community provides you with a caring and supportive environment that helps you maintain your independence and enjoy a carefree lifestyle. We offer comfortable living, convenience and a homelike atmosphere with your well-being in mind.

Call 701-483-3000 for more information or to set up a tour.

# Coffee With Stark County Sheriff's Department



▲ A heartfelt thank you to the Stark County Sheriff's Office for the yummy donuts and a wonderful visit!

St. Luke's residents had a great time, sharing coffee and donuts with the Stark County Sheriff's Department in honor of National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day. Thank you to the Stark County Sheriff's Office for visiting and having coffee with St. Luke's Home residents.



▲ Nothing beats good conversation and tasty donuts. Sissy Bush and Sheri Robinson enjoyed a chat with Chief Deputy Kaylor.

*It's candy time! Volunteer, Dave Aasmundstad is ready to spin the wheel for the residents to win some sweet treats. ►*

## Mardi Gras!

Mardi Gras, meaning "Fat Tuesday" is a celebration prior to the start of Lent. St. Luke's Activity Staff brought the magic of Mardi Gras to our residents with an afternoon full of fun and games. The room was decorated in a Mardi Gras theme. Mardi Gras masks and colorful beads, which are often associated with the festive event, were placed on the residents as they came in the room by St. Luke's Activity Staff.

The residents tried their luck at booths, including Ping Pong Toss, Ring Toss, Lucky Ducks, Candy Wheel, and Plinko for a vast array of prizes.

*Ann Wert proved that sometimes it's all about skill and a little bit of luck at the Ring Toss Game. ►*



▲ Congrats to Gerald Sevik for picking the lucky duck and snagging a great prize!



◀ Scottie Bird had a blast at Mardi Gras and walked away with some fantastic prizes!

## Memorials and Donations

Your contributions to St. Luke's Home and Park Avenue Villa help us create a home-like environment for everyone we serve. You help us to reach our mission of providing quality care that enhances the dignity of each person we serve.

### OTHER GIFTS

Belfield Lutheran Church  
ND Community Foundation

Northern Bottling Co.  
Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church, New England

Prima Exploration Inc.

### IN MEMORY OF

**BENNIE & IRENE BENZ**  
Joyce Decker

# Our Furry New Friend, Henry



▲ Meet our new furry friend at St. Luke's, Henry.



Sissy Bush is in heaven our new furry companion. ▶

Meet our newest furry friend at St. Luke's Home! He is being trained as a service dog by Glen Koffler of Dakota Sky Pudelpointers. Our residents had a blast picking names, and Henry was the clear favorite!

Stay tuned! Our Facebook page is the place to be for all the latest announcements and pictures.



We extend our sincere appreciation to Anthony J. Volesky for his outstanding restoration of the St. Luke's Home nativity scene. After Christmas, he took on the challenge of repairing several pieces, demonstrating the skill and passion he has developed over two decades. Thank you, Anthony, for your exceptional craftsmanship.



▲ It was a heartwarming reunion at Sacred Heart Church with Fr. Gary, Cara Murphy, Wilma Fitterer and Louann Dobitz.

## Altar and Ambo Donated to St. Luke's Chapel

St. Luke's residents and Park Avenue Villa tenants who are from New England, had the pleasure of visiting Glen Ullin to pick up our new altar and ambo which were donated by Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

The occasion was made even more special with a visit with Fr. Gary Benz, a fellow New England native. Fr. Gary and the residents shared memories of New England and St. Mary's Church and School.

We extend our deepest thanks to Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Fr. Gary for their generous donation to St. Luke's Home.

## Resident and Family Picnic

**Wednesday, June 24**  
**4:30-6:00pm**

Mark your calendars! St. Luke's Resident and Family Picnic will be Wednesday, June 24. The picnic will be on the patio area, on the south side of St. Luke's.

**Watch our Facebook page for updates!**

## Living Grief for a Loved One with Dementia

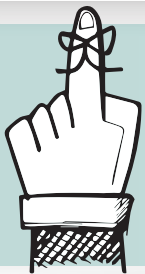
While research continues to advance our understanding of dementia, we don't have cures yet for any forms that are neurodegenerative. These are progressive diseases, meaning that they will get worse over time, with increasing symptoms. The rate of cognitive decline can vary significantly, but its certainty is universally understood, and this knowledge by itself can lead to grief.

If a loved one has dementia, there are many stages when grief might occur. It could be when symptoms are noticed, or when an official diagnosis is given. It can be felt throughout the remaining months or years of cognitive decline, and if it becomes necessary for the person to move into residential care. As dementia progresses, it can seem like the person you've known for years is slipping away, leaving behind someone else who doesn't share your memories of the past, or who seems to have a different personality. It's natural to miss the person you knew, and all the aspects of the relationship you've shared, and to feel grief over this loss.

Adjusting to the changes a loved one is going through can be extremely difficult emotionally, even more so than the practical aspects of caregiving. You may feel frustrated at times, or shocked, angry, resentful, sad, or even relieved. It's common to feel a sense of guilt for having these emotions, because you know that your loved one isn't to blame for having dementia or struggling to remember things that are important to you. You might feel "anticipatory grief" in thinking about what you both will lose in the future. You might feel a sense of helplessness or even despair about the situation, sinking into depression and withdrawing from social contact. You might go back and forth through different emotional stages of grief (shock, longing for what has been lost, anger, guilt, and acceptance) as dementia progresses, or you might not. Everyone's experience of grief is unique. However, because the emotions can be very strong, it can be helpful to talk about them even as you are still caring for your loved one. There are resources available, including nurses on helplines, counselors, and support groups.

Above all, try to remember that no matter how you might feel, your emotions are natural and valid responses to a difficult situation. Treat yourself with compassion, as you would your loved one.

*For the whole article go to: <https://www.americanbrainfoundation.org/dementia-grief/>*



## Reminders

- Please remember to give all new clothing items to the charge nurse or social services to be sent down for marking.
- When you are applying for Medicaid, please stop in or call the Social Services Department at St. Luke's Home and let the social workers know.



▲ Shelly and Margie are bringing the luck of the Irish with their fabulous St. Patrick's Day hats!

## St. Luke's Residents Celebrate St. Patrick's Day

St. Luke's embraced the spirit of St. Patrick's Day with a delicious Irish meal for our residents. They enjoyed potato leek soup, corned beef sliders, and cooked cabbage.

Celebrating St. Patrick's Day in style, our residents enjoyed a party filled with festive hats and great music. A special thank you to Cliff Walters for sharing his musical talent, making the celebration even more memorable.



▲ Cliff Walters really knows how to get the party started with his festive music.



▲ Lillian and her son Galen are ready to celebrate St. Patty's Day in style!



▲ Herb and our amazing volunteer Havyn are all set to celebrate St. Patrick's Day!



Long Term Care  
& Assisted Living

242 10th Street West  
Dickinson, ND 58601  
701-483-5000

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*caring*  
counts



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### St. Luke's Home has season passes to the Medora Musical!

Families of St. Luke's residents and Park Avenue Villa tenants are welcome to attend the musical with the passes. If you would like to attend the musical, please contact Joyce Decker, [joyced@stlukeshome.com](mailto:joyced@stlukeshome.com) by email or 701-456-8251 by phone to reserve your tickets.

*St. Luke's Home has the option of reading our newsletter online ([www.stlukeshome.com](http://www.stlukeshome.com)) or a paper copy. If you prefer to read online and would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact:*

**Joyce Decker / [joyced@stlukeshome.com](mailto:joyced@stlukeshome.com) / 701-456-8251**

[www.stlukeshome.com](http://www.stlukeshome.com)

*Our newsletter has just a fraction of all the great events that occur. If you would like to see more photos of events, please like St. Luke's Home and Park Avenue Villa's Facebook pages.*

St. Luke's Home Park Avenue Villa