



**LUTHER MANOR**  
A Life Plan Community

FALL 2019

# News & Notes

## ANGELS AMONG US

Street Angels Milwaukee Outreach is a volunteer-based non-profit that provides basic necessities to many of the homeless population in Milwaukee. As a part of our outreach to the larger community, residents across our Wauwatosa campus shared God's love as they made and packed homemade soup, homemade applesauce, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, desserts, and notes of encouragement into beautifully decorated bags to support the Street Angels mission. Several residents even delivered the donations to Street Angels headquarters in the Luther Manor bus.



## BEST IN SHOW

Independent Living resident **JoAnn Holze** received two blue ribbons and one Best in Division award for her art at the 2019 Wisconsin State Fair! Here she is pictured with her winning artwork, along with her paints, craft supplies, and shelves full of "a few of her favorite things." The painting is of Door County on a quiet Fall day. The sculpture, done in her signature original style, was inspired by a sermon about the Good Shepherd. JoAnn has been crafting, painting, sewing, and doing other handwork since a very young age, and was honored to receive this recognition. Congratulations, JoAnn!



# *You're Invited to the* **BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

**By Pastor Laura Gerstl-Beukema, Director of Pastoral Care**

Christmas is often thought of as a time for parties, gift-giving, concerts, carols, visits with friends and family, decorations, and the joy of welcoming the Christ child into our world. However, there are times in our lives when Christmas is a painful time of grief, emptiness, or loneliness.

Perhaps you lost a loved one recently, and this is your first Christmas without them? Perhaps your loved one died around the holidays and you associate their loss with all the Christmas festivities? Perhaps you lost someone years ago, but Christmas never feels the same since? Perhaps you have had a loss of your sense of purpose, your home, a relationship, or sense of wholeness, and you aren't feeling the "Christmas cheer" this year.

Blue Christmas acknowledges the grief experienced by those mourning the death of a loved one, the sadness of a broken relationship, the loneliness of having loved ones far away, the fear caused by a loss in health, the hopelessness related to the loss of a sense of purpose, or any circumstance that casts a shadow over us.

We will read scriptures that validate our pain and grief. And, we will read scriptures that remind us that Christ is our light in the darkness. Christ doesn't always take away the darkness, but Christ is our hope in the midst of a sometimes dark world.

Our Blue Christmas service will provide an opportunity to have your loved one or circumstance acknowledged. Blue Christmas worship will be a full worship service with a sermon, scriptures, songs, communion, prayers, and litanies. This unique service strives to be a meaningful worship opportunity to leave you with a sense of peace, comfort, and hope we have in Christ.

If you have any friends or family experiencing grief or loss, please invite them to this service as well, Wednesday, December 11 at 2 pm in the Faith & Education Center. All residents, families, staff, and community members are welcome. Please see **Pastor Laura Gerstl-Beukema (414.847.5217, lgerstl-beukema@luthermanor.org)** with any questions or for more information.

## **HOLIDAY WORSHIP**

*All are welcome to attend in the Faith & Education Center!*

### **Reformation Sunday Worship Service**

Sunday, Oct. 27, 9:30 am

### **Thanksgiving Program**

Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2 pm

### **Thanksgiving Day Worship Service**

Thursday, Nov. 28, 9:30 am

### **First Midweek Advent Service**

Wednesday, Dec. 4, 2 pm

### **Midweek Advent Service: Blue Christmas**

Wednesday, Dec. 11, 2 pm

### **Midweek Advent Service: Christmas Pageant**

Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2 pm

### **Christmas Eve Worship**

Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2 pm

### **Christmas Day Worship**

Wednesday, Dec. 25, 9:30 am

# GET TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBOR

## *A Blind Date Led to Love at First Sight*

Bonjour! An engineer's wife, **Sharon Annen Fenske** (T400) was born in 1935. Her childhood was in the village of Pewaukee. Growing up, Sharon enjoyed the small town's lazy, hazy days of "summer feeling" with no hustle or bustle. She recalls many fun days fishing, swimming, and ice skating on the lake. Sharon walked daily to the elementary and high school from home. As a summer job, she picked strawberries, "one for the bucket, and one for me." She was raised in a musical family, playing the clarinet, commonly called the "licorice stick," and the piano.

She moved to Milwaukee to attend Spencerian Business College, riding the streetcar from her dorm. After graduation, she worked as a secretary at Wisconsin Pharmaceutical. She met Ron Fenske on a blind date. With a twinkle in her eye, she claimed it was "love at first sight." Ron was a mechanical engineer at General Motors. After marriage, they moved to Madison where she worked typing papers for doctors at the medical college. One day she had to retrieve a paper during a postmortem examination. The doctor couldn't hand her the paper until after his job. Sharon was not squeamish. She leaned against the wall for strength so she could slide down if she had to. She watched the entire autopsy.

They moved to Roanoke, Virginia, the first of many moves in their marriage lifetime as Ron crawled up the ladder of success. Sharon's secretarial days were traded for life as a "stay at home engineer." They had three living parents at the time, so they needed to stop living so far away. They decided to live in Indiana. Ron worked for 15 years at NASA's space program through General Motors.

After the children were gone from their nest, Ron and Sharon took French lessons to prepare for their move so Ron could work in Versailles, France.

There, Ron and his employees all spoke English. While he worked, Sharon learned to live with the French people. She joined a group of American women to busy herself with sightseeing, lunching, touring, sewing, and learning French cooking. The cost of living was high as magazines were \$10, books \$25, and fabric had to be bought in the fabric district as there were no stores that sold it, and the topper, three bags of marshmallows for \$20.

They eventually retired and settled in Merritt Island, Florida. For 10 years after Ron died, Sharon found a traveling companion and cruised every winter for three months. Her favorite destinations were Australia, the Orient, and Alaska sightseeing the giant icebergs.

In 2012 Sharon moved to Luther Manor because of its continuum of care life plan. Sharon enjoys it here. She likes the activities Luther Manor offers. She's also an avid bridge player hoping to find more new players.

Well, Sharon, I sure enjoyed our "memory lane" visit, as I too grew up and met my husband, Jim, in Pewaukee. Reminiscing always puts smiles in our eyes and warms our hearts. I loved this interview. Merci!

*Healthfully yours,*  
**Sharon Porfilio**



# DEN OF ANTIQUITY

*Celebrates Its 28<sup>th</sup> Anniversary*



By Cheryl Schmitz, Director of Volunteer Services

The Den of Antiquity resale shop supports the Luther Manor Foundation's goal to provide supplemental financial assistance to skilled nursing and assisted living residents who have outlived their financial resources. Thanks to the leadership of **Sr. Rose Kroeger**, a dedicated team of volunteers, and generous in-kind donations, the Den of Antiquity resale shop officially opened October 22, 1991. Through the years, the Den of Antiquity has changed its location and gradually expanded to include a furniture room. Over 28 years of operation the Den volunteer team has welcomed new members and recognized retirements. We gratefully acknowledge and appreciate **Carol Coraggio's** amazing leadership and volunteer service with the initial Maxwell St. Day sales in 1987 and as a charter Den volunteer, serving a total of 32 years.



Resident volunteer **Joyce Van Valzah** shows off the items for sale in the Den of Antiquity

Through the years, the Den has also provided in-kind donations of clothing to Luther Manor residents in need, items for various departments, and shared culled items with several other nonprofit organizations that benefit individuals challenged with special needs, various faith-based ministries, the homeless, and the Veterans Administration.

A special thank-you to the current Den of Antiquity volunteer team for their collective talents, time, and creative resale fundraising efforts, and the Den donors and customers who support the work of the Luther Manor Foundation. To date, the Den of Antiquity has generously gifted the Luther Manor Foundation with over \$578,538 in proceeds.

The Den of Antiquity

Open Tuesdays  
& Thursdays  
9 am-2 pm

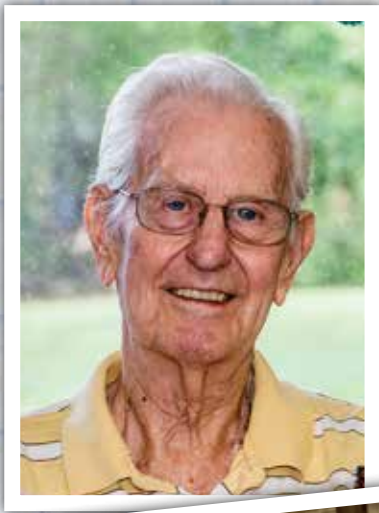
Located in the Lower  
Level of the  
Health Care Center

*Welcome New  
Volunteers*

Catie Hansen  
JJ Hansen  
Laurel Hansen  
Carol Henk  
Sally Janke  
Connie Kling  
David Konkol  
Shannon Linehan  
Bittany Marsden  
Tom Marsden  
Rogene Vandriest  
Sarai VanLeer



# What's Happening @ LUTHER MANOR



Each week, the teams the Nuts and the Bolts face-off in a fierce dart ball match, cheered on by their devoted fan club. Once a year, they set their competitive spirit aside and gather together for a picnic and enjoy good food and even better company!



"I love playing at Luther Manor because music is a shared experience and I want to share my joy with the residents," shared Tieg Gielow after traveling from Spain to perform a soulful classical cello and piano concert with Luther Manor's Music Therapist Yaping Liu to a full Faith & Education Center. Tieg added, "Also, Yaping is a spectacular pianist and playing with her helps me become a better musician."



For more, find  
Luther Manor on Facebook!  
[facebook.com/luthermanorwi](https://www.facebook.com/luthermanorwi)

# What's Happening @ LUTHER MANOR



Luther Manor's 14th Annual Car Show was held Saturday, September 7. People of all ages were delighted to see the wide variety of hot rods and classic cars on display. A big thank-you to the dedicated Luther Manor staff members and volunteers who organized and worked the event!



What's better than a tour of the beautiful Milwaukee Art Museum? A tour lead by a museum docent who also happens to be a Luther Manor volunteer! Mary Tollander (far right in the group picture) graciously toured Independent Living residents Dick Merkley, Karen Merkley, Lorna Reiter, Emily Braver, Audrey Richter, and Lois Engseth through the new exhibit, Old Milwaukee and Georgia O'Keeffe's collection.



For more, find  
Luther Manor on Facebook!  
[facebook.com/luthermanorwi](https://facebook.com/luthermanorwi)

# HALLOWEEN

## *It's Not-So-Spooky Origins*



By Harvin Abrahamson

I was five years old and in first grade and was completing the two miles daily walk to a one room rural school near Tigerton, Wis., with my older brother and two other boys. The date was November 1st.

As we passed by a wooded area and some farm buildings, we could see the school with the white country church just behind. Looking for other kids to play with before school opened, we were taken when we spotted the fully-assembled hay wagon, complete with wooden wheels, steel rims, and the wagon tongue (on one side of the chimney), straddling the ridge of the roof of our school. I do not know who perpetrated the Halloween prank – but older high school boys volunteered to take it down.

Where did Halloween begin? The word Halloween originated with the Catholic Church from “All Hallows Eve.” All “Hollows Day,” or “All Saints Day,” as a day for honoring saints.

The Celts believed that spirits of the dead came back on October 31st every year to mingle with the living. Not wanting to be possessed, they put out fires in their homes to make them undesirable and would dress in costumes, do destructive acts to drive off the spirits.

“Trick or Treating” may have originated in 9th century Europe with a custom called “souling”, where poor Christian people on November 2nd (All Saints Day) would pray for villagers’ dead relatives in exchange for “soul cakes” – square pieces of bread with currants.

Jack-O-Lanterns probably came from an Irish tale of a man named Jack, a drunkard and trickster, who tricked Satan to climb a tree and then quickly carved a cross in the trunk below, thus trapping him in the tree. Jack made Satan

promise never to tempt him again and then let the devil down from the tree. When Jack died, because of his sinful life, he was not allowed into heaven. Neither was he allowed into hell, because he had tricked Satan. However, the devil gave him an ember, to carry through cold and darkness. The ember was placed in a turnip to keep it glowing longer. When the Irish came to America, they found pumpkins to be more plentiful than turnips for their “Jack’s Lanterns.”

So, what are your thoughts? Are we worshiping and promoting evil? Is trick or treating teaching extortion? I leave you with the words of Jerry Wilson. (One source for this article.) Though some cults have adopted Halloween as their favorite “holiday”, the day did not grow out of evil practices, and today it is only as one cares to make it.

### AT THE BAR THE OTHER NIGHT...

An elderly looking gentleman, very well dressed, hair well groomed, great looking suit, flower in his lapel, smelling slightly of a good after shave, presenting a well-looked-after image, walked into an upscale cocktail lounge. Seated at the bar was an elderly looking lady.

The gentleman walked over, sat alongside her, ordered a drink, took a sip, turned to her and said, “So tell me, do I come here often?”





# VETS CLUB DATES

By Dave Myers, Vets Club Coordinator

## “Milwaukee in WWII”

October 17, 2 pm in the Faith & Education Center. Megan Jones, author & journalist, will present program about her book.

## Veterans Day Program

November 11, 10 am in the Welcome Center. Pay last respects to our resident-veterans lost in 2019.

## Special Veterans Day Luncheon for Resident-Veterans & Spouses

November 11, 1 pm in the Hearth Club. MUST SIGN UP with Dave Myers (414.445.7855).

## Vets Annual Christmas Party

December 11, 7 pm in the Redwood Room, featuring live entertainment, with lots of goodies to eat & drink.

# VOLUNTEER SNAPSHOT

## *Dennis Schindler* *Off Campus Medical Escort*

By Cheryl Schmitz, Director of Volunteer Services

Dennis Schindler began his Luther Manor volunteer service as a Therapy Transporter and helping with the Courtyards Men’s Club, before serving in his current position as an Off Campus Medical Escort. If a family member is unable to accompany their loved one to a medical appointment, a CNA or volunteer will escort the resident. Dennis is on a call list along with two other volunteers. He arrives 15 minutes before the pickup time to check-in and to be introduced to the individual he is escorting.



Dennis enjoys meeting people and often is privileged to learn part of their unique life stories. As an Off Campus Medical Escort, he is very familiar with many hospitals and medical services in the greater Milwaukee area. He especially appreciates Paul, the Luther Manor Medical Bus Driver, and his excellent customer service.

Dennis served in the Air Force as a Parachute Jumper. His military service took him to Texas, Kansas, Korea, and North Africa. Three years ago he participated in the Honor Flight to Washington, DC which was an amazing experience. After his military service, Dennis worked for 33 years in the brewing industry. The last 12 years of his career he was a manager in the pricing department of Pabst Brewing Company. Dennis and his wife have traveled to Europe, Canada, Mexico, Australia, and New Zealand. His favorite part of volunteering is helping others, stating, “I can do things for people that they can’t do”. Dennis also has volunteer experience with Meals on Wheels, Interfaith, and Froedtert Hospital. He was a recipient of the Luther Manor 2018 Good Samaritan Award. We salute Dennis for his continued volunteer service to Luther Manor and the greater Milwaukee community.

Learn more about volunteering at Luther Manor by calling 414.831.8964 or visiting [luthermanor.org/volunteer](http://luthermanor.org/volunteer).





# MISSION: POSSIBLE

It was difficult to narrow down to one story the reason why **Kathy Jastromski** was chosen for the Mission Possible Award. If you speak to anyone who has worked directly with Kathy, or to anyone who has even met her periodically, they will tell you that what Kathy does here at Luther Manor is not just a job; it is a necessary and vital part of her ministry and life service.



*Kathy Jastromski & Jayne Hochschild*

As explained by Pastor Laura Gerstl-Beukema: "Kathy really exemplifies the mission of Luther Manor by coming in voluntarily on her day off and coming in on Sunday mornings to help guide volunteers and help transport residents to church. She is such a team player, oftentimes seeing the need and stepping in to help on holidays (like Father's Day) and even during weather advisories."

As explained by Life Enrichment Specialist Brooke Miller: "Kathy consistently and selflessly goes above and beyond to make sure our residents have rich, full lives...She cares truly and deeply about enriching the lives of the people around her".

See more *Mission Possible* stories at [luthermanor.org/missionpossible](http://luthermanor.org/missionpossible)

# SCAM CALLERS *Get More Sophisticated*

**By Neal Hinze, MAL, SSOE, Director of Loss Prevention, Safety, Transportation & Campus Reception Staff**

Luther Manor has shared many times about the various scam phone calls you may receive and the dangers of them. Technology is allowing scammers to be increasingly sophisticated and tricky in their attempts to steal from innocent people.

Most recently it has been reported that these scammers are now able to have the Caller ID screen on your phone say "US Department of Social Security" when the call comes in. People see this name on the screen, assume that the call must be legitimate, and share copious amounts of personal information. Please be warned: these are scam calls!

The Department of Social Security will *never* call or email you! They will only contact you by US Mail Service, delivered to you by the US Post Office. This means no delivery from Social Security via Federal Express or United Parcel Service...only the official US Mail Service.

Thank you for noting this, and if you have any questions or feel that you may have been tricked by one of these calls (do not feel bad it happens easily), please let one of Luther Manor's staff members know so we can assist you in making sure nothing comes of the scam or the information you shared.





**LUTHER MANOR**  
A Life Plan Community

**HOLIDAY  
BAZAAR**

**FRI, OCT. 11  
8 AM-3 PM**

Luther Manor's Lippold  
Faith & Education Center  
4545 N. 92nd St.  
Wauwatosa

Join us for handcrafted items created by the residents and volunteers. Bazaar items will include our famous dried soup mix, Yooper sticks, baked goods, seasonal crafts, jewelry, wood crafts, small quilts, plants, and more.

Proceeds from the sale will benefit special Life Enrichment entertainment for all Luther Manor residents.



Friends of  
Luther Manor  
**Love  
lights**

*Please join us*  
for a tree lighting  
ceremony and reception.

**Thursday, December 5, 2019 | 4:30 pm**

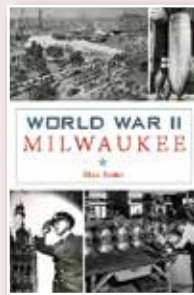
Honor and remember your loved ones and friends this Christmas with a light on the Love Lights tree. Single lights cost \$5 and a strand of lights is \$100.

Again this year, special lighting ceremonies will be held in the Courtyards, Terrace, and Health Care Center. Please watch your mail for your invitation! If you have questions, please contact **Cherie Swenson** in the Luther Manor Foundation at **414.831.8950**.

**friends**  
of LUTHER MANOR

**"WORLD WAR II MILWAUKEE"**  
with Meg Jones,  
Author & Milwaukee Journal  
Sentinel Reporter

**Thurs., Oct. 17 | 2 pm**  
Faith & Education  
Center



Join the Vets Club and hear how Milwaukee, the "Machine Shop of the World", along with local men and women played a significant role in the Arsenal of Democracy on the home front.



**Christmas  
PAGEANT**

**Wed., Dec. 18 | 2 pm**  
Faith & Education Center

Join the Luther Manor community as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Residents, staff, and volunteers come together to perform and celebrate the birth of Christ.