



# BETHEL COMMUNITY FOCUS

“Sharing Christ Through Caring Service”



Volume 17, Issue 4

July 2010

## Contributing Staff:

- Jim Iverson
- Linda Ford
- Sandy Bordewyk
- Gary Johnson
- Jeanne Simpson

## Leadership

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 Eileen Peters, Dietary/  
 Housekeeping/Laundry  
 Jerry Bergheim, Maintenance  
 Linda Ford, New Hope Day  
 Service  
 Sandy Bordewyk, Nursing  
 Cathy Stromberg, Social Worker  
 Rev. Conrad Krahling, Chaplain

## From the Administrator's Desk:

I begin my article with an apology to the over 900 who receive our newsletter every other month. The last two issues were late coming to you. The March issue was sent out late when we discovered that the local printer had held onto our copy for two weeks before printing the issue. We were assured it would not happen again, but it did with the May issue. We have changed printing companies and are hopeful that this issue and future issues will reach you within the intended date.

Work is underway for laying a new concrete surface on our east staff parking lot areas. The original asphalt surface had simply worn out and the entire surface needed to be overhauled. By the end of this month, both the east parking lot and the apartment driveway and parking lot will be cleaned, new oil applied, and totally restriped. We will also stripe the parking lots of the other parking areas within the Bethel Community.

Genworth Financial released an article which compared South Dakota health care costs in 2010 to our neighboring states. I added our

figures to their table:

### SNF; Private Room; daily

Bethel	\$181
SD	\$185
MN	\$204
ND	\$203
IA	\$155

### Assisted Living; monthly

Bethel	\$2,700
SD	\$2,825
MN	\$2,818
ND	\$2,790
IA	\$3,170

Beginning this July, none of the 108 skilled nursing facilities in South Dakota received any increase in their daily Medicaid rates. None of the few assisted living providers who have been accepting state assistance residents received any increase either. One of the candidates for governor has an ad where he states that state government spending must be cut. The other candidate claims we are not in a budget crisis, but that we will “grow ourselves out” of our current situation.

Over one-half of our Bethel Home residents are on the Medicaid program. As we later focus on fiscal year 2011, what options are left to us? Raise private pay rates? Cut expenses which means cut staffing, services, and care? We need political leaders and a new governor who will



commission a study to look at all possible ways to fund state government and fund current and future Medicaid expenditures. The inaction of our current legislature and Governor Rounds has left us with few options at all.

As we move further into this political campaigning season, I encourage our loyal supporters - residents, staff, families, friends - to raise this issue to both local and state candidates for office. The projected deficit in state government next year is now at (\$110 million). We do not need fancy TV ads or some rhetoric that is meaningless. We need political leadership to point us in the right direction financially, and we need to quit funding long term care on the backs of both our employees and our private pay residents.

I invite you to attend our long range planning retreat planned for August 14<sup>th</sup>. Our governing board of directors will use the input from the retreat in laying out the updated long-range plan for the overall Bethel Community.

Jim Iverson  
Administrator

## Comfort Care—Part 3

—A 3 Part Series by Sandy Bordewyk, RN, DON



**Comfort Care—  
Providing care at end of  
life.**

Hospice is a service that is available at Bethel. Resident/families have a choice of either Avera Hospice through Madison Community Hospital, or Compassionate Care hospice out of Sioux Falls. The resident's physician, at times, suggests that the resident/family may request hospice if they desire, or the facility can contact the physician to request hospice if they or the resident/family has asked for this service for the resident.

The hospice nurse and/or the hospice social worker from the agency meet with the nursing home staff and the resident and/or family members to outline the services they provide and to complete necessary paperwork. They then meet with the nursing home care team, and we put together a plan to meet the resident's needs. The goal is, again, the comfort and well-being of the resident, and an at-

tempt to truly address all of the resident's needs, not simply the physical aspects.

A part of our comfort care is also to keep you, the family/POA truly informed as an important member(s) of our resident's care team. Our charge nurses understand that they have an obligation to provide you with updates when a change in condition occurs.

We also want you to know that you are welcome to call us at any time, day or night, to check on your loved one. We are happy to accommodate you should you decide you want to visit in person and stay in the resident's room overnight.

Upon the death of a resident, our staff joins in your sorrow and loss. We want you to know that we not only cared for and about your loved one, we also care about you, the family members.

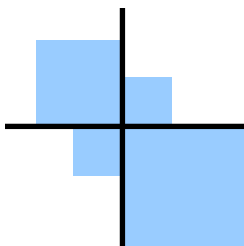
Shortly after the death of a resident, we invite family who are present, residents who desire, and staff to gather in the resident's room to pay respect to them and to say good-bye through a short memorial tribute. The tribute, led by a staff member, thanks God for allowing us the privilege of caring for His precious child and rejoices in the fact that He has prepared a place in heaven for them.

I hope that this series helps in some way to bring a sense of comfort to you that your loved one's needs will be recognized and met throughout their life with us, and when end of life occurs. Please feel free to visit with me or any of our staff regarding any questions or concerns you might have related to end of life care/comfort care. It is an important part of what we do; "Sharing Christ through caring service."

*"We want you to know that we not only cared for and about your loved one, we also care about you, the family members."*

## Upcoming Activities Within the Bethel Community

- Annual Bethel County Fair - Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup> times?
- 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Foundation Golf Tournament; Friday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, Madison Country Club
- Long Range Planning Retreat; Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 - 3:00
- Annual Bethel Community Picnic; Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, Noon



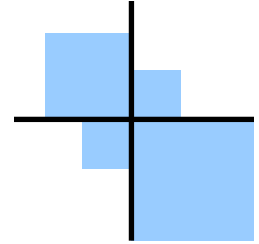
## Well Done, Faithful Servant!

Kristie Barry is retiring the end of July in her position as Cook, after being on our staff since August of 1976. We thank Kristie for her nearly 34 years of dedicated service to our residents, and all who have benefitted from her meal service with us.

Our food service program provides daily

meals to both our skilled and assisted living facilities; noon meals to our congregate housing apartments; and meal services to both our adult day and childcare programs. Kristie has been an integral part of our meal service program, and we thank Kristie for her service!

Best wishes for your retirement!



## Long-Range Planning Retreat—August 14th!

The governing board of directors wants to hear from as many of our supporters as possible in what the future direction and shape of Bethel's ministry should be! They are scheduling a Long-Range Planning Retreat for August 14, 2010.

Dr. Jack Walters, Associate Professor for Business and Information Systems; Dakota State University, will serve as our facilitator for the session. We are

planning the session to begin between 9-10:00 am and conclude by 3:00 that afternoon.

You can help answer the questions to:

- Should we expand our assisted living program?

- Is there a need at Bethel for a "memory care" unit?

- Should we add to our congregate apartments?

- Is there a need for additional "cottage homes" or some other type of hous-

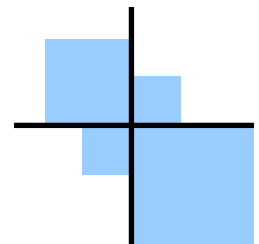
ing for seniors within the Bethel Community?

—Are there present or future needs that Bethel is not addressing today?

Help shape the future of a ministry that has been locally owned and operated in the Madison community for nearly fifty years! Call the business office to place your name on the registration for the Long-Range Planning Retreat. It will be a special and rewarding day!



*"Help shape the future of a ministry that has been locally owned and operated in the Madison community for nearly fifty years!"*



**Bethel Community Picnic—August 21**  
**Bring a dish to pass and come join the fun!**  
**Entertainment by the Karaoke Krooner!**



Bethel Lutheran Home, Inc.  
1001 South Egan Avenue  
Madison, South Dakota 57042

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We're on the Web!  
[www.bethelcommunity.com](http://www.bethelcommunity.com)



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## *Evening at the Ritz!*

