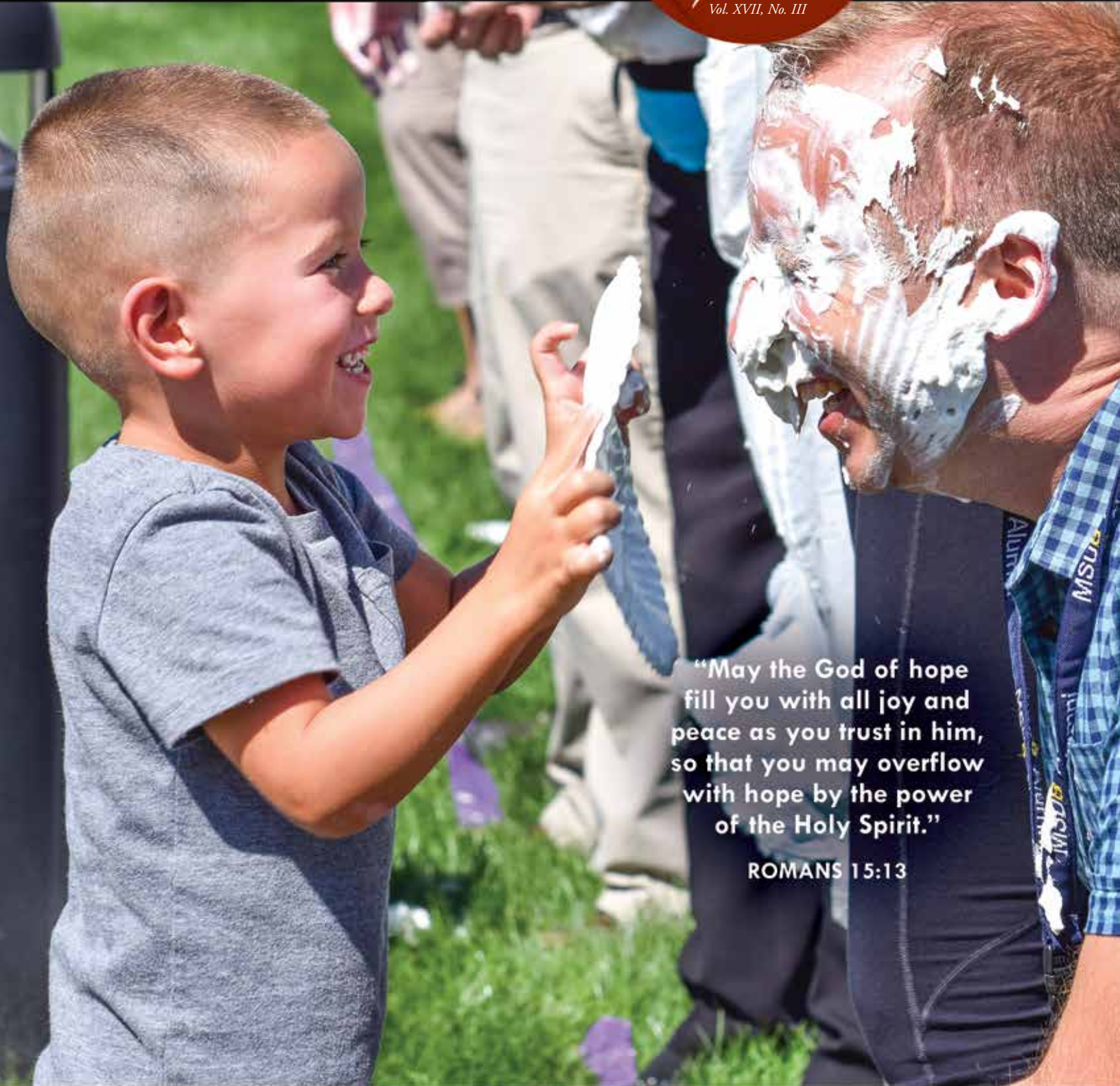


RIMROCK Echoes



ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN MINISTRIES



"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

ROMANS 15:13

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A Busy Year For LSS

Lutheran Social Services has been bustling with activity over the past several months! In April, LSS conducted the Adoption Preparation Workshop and welcomed five new families into the Infant Adoption Program. July 21, 2016 brought the St. John's Concert Series and an opportunity to share the good works of LSS with the audience, sell fresh Flathead cherries and be the fortunate recipient of many generous donations. Thank you! In August, we said good bye to our wonderful Administrative Assistant Margaret Thomas who is moving out of state with her family. We welcomed Rita Kuka to be our new Administrative Assistant and the transition has been flawless! Since January 2016 to the present, seven children and adoptive parents have joined their hearts in hope! Also, over the last 9 months, 16 birthparents have been served by LSS staff statewide. LSS finds itself in need of more adoptive families therefore in November LSS will be conducting another Adoption Preparation Workshop and have invited 8 prospective adoptive families to attend the workshop.



Recently, a LSS staff member received a thank you note from a grateful client. Her words are touching and do reflect the quality of services LSS provides to all those they serve. She said, "We were not clients to the LSS staff but a family that was hurting and they helped with the healing we so desperately needed. They are truly amazing and loving individuals."

Lutheran Social Services remains grateful for all the prayers, support and generous donations. LSS will continue to work diligently to provide quality and compassionate services to all those we serve.

Sign Up for our Email Newsletter



Scan the QR Code to the left or visit the website to sign up www.sjlm.org Click on "stay connected"



and stay up to date on St. John's news!

Mission Ridge - A Night of Gypsy Jazz!

Benefit for Lutheran Social Services of Montana

Thanks to all who attended and supported a terrific benefit event for Lutheran Social Services of Montana, September 30th! The Mission Ridge Dinner Theater was a memorable experience that evening, inclusive of a gourmet meal, beautiful decorations and some of Billings' finest musicians playing 1930's -1950's throwback Gypsy Swing! Based on the rich tradition of the Django Reinhardt/Stephane Grappelli Hot Club Gypsy Jazz, the show captured the soul and sound of that classic era! A standing ovation by those in attendance gave witness to the quality of performance offered by the musical artists.

Dia Hollinger, Director of Adoption Services for Lutheran Social Services of Montana, shared with the full house gathered a couple of heartwarming stories about children adopted into forever families. All proceeds from the Dinner Theater event benefited the valued adoption and counseling services provided by Lutheran Social Services to people throughout the state of Montana. Appreciation goes out to all who generously offered financial gifts of loving support to Lutheran Social Services, which is a ministry of St. John's.



Rimrock Hot Club



Montana Hospital Association Lifetime Achievement Award

On September 29th, Kent Burgess, Retired President and CEO of St. John's Lutheran Ministries, was presented the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award by the Montana Hospital Association during their Annual Convention and Trade Show. The award was given to honor and recognize Kent for his persistent and unwavering commitment to advocating for the health and well-being of elders in Montana communities. Congratulations to Kent! Thank you for compassionate leadership!



President/CEO Dick Brown, Kent Burgess and MHA Board Chair Rick Haraldson, CEO of Sidney Health Center

Welcome Home to WyndStone!

October 3, 2016 will go down as a special day in the history of St. John's Lutheran Ministries. It is the date that WyndStone, a remarkable independent and assisted living community, opened doors to welcome its first new residents. Staff joyfully assisted four move-ins by the end of day-one, with many more people scheduled to call WyndStone home by the time Thanksgiving turkeys are carved in late November.

Some of these new residents, having learned long ago that a decision had been made to build, waited expectantly for as many as six years while WyndStone developed and emerged on the hill. We are grateful for their patience and trust during the planning and construction phases of the project. These good folks embody a true pioneer spirit.

When WyndStone residents arrive, their welcome includes a beautiful new home, a life plan that includes predictable monthly expenses, a sense of control over big life decisions and future health care needs, and the power of a self-directed life. These are good housewarming gifts available to all who desire to have a home at WyndStone.

For those considering WyndStone, know that apartments still remain available, including remarkable savings for those who choose to move in within the first 120 days of WyndStone's opening. The First Choice Waiting List continues to expand, but people are encouraged not to delay too long.

All people are invited and encouraged to come by WyndStone to walk the grounds and view the beautiful interior features. Helpful staff are eager to extend a warm and generous welcome.



Annual Fund Campaign Kicks Off

Seeds of Kindness is the St. John's Foundation annual fund campaign that seeks to plant gifts of hope, dignity and love within the lives of people needing compassionate care. The joyful invitation to invest in this campaign goes out to all employees and friends of St. John's.

The Seeds of Kindness employee giving campaign was launched in October. This effort provides annual opportunity for staff to give back to beloved ministries of the St. John's community such as the Center for Generations Daycare, the Employee Crisis Fund, the Resident Needs fund, and Lutheran Social Services of Montana. A November 3rd complimentary luncheon concludes the employee giving campaign as an expression of gratitude to those who participated.

Included within this issue of the Echoes is a Seeds of Kindness invitation and brochure for you and all friends of St. John's. Please, read it through and consider offering a gift that will help to deliver loving care to those whom St. John's serves.

Thank you!



ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

COMMEMORATIVE BRICKS

*Want to leave a family legacy? Want to honor a loved one?
Want to remember a special occasion or achievement?*

For a tax deductible donation, an inscription of your choosing will be engraved on a granite brick to be placed in the Fred & Marie Miller Pavilion on the Townsquare. The Townsquare is the location for the Summer Concert Series, weddings and other special events throughout the year. Proceeds from the sale of the bricks will benefit St. John's Lutheran Ministries.

**For more information please contact
Mara Flynn at 655-5716
or go to our website www.sjlm.org
for an order form.**



Fundraiser for Alzheimer's Association

St. John's and Mission Ridge staff took a break from their work day to help support the Alzheimer's Association by purchasing plates of whip cream to smash into the faces of volunteer management and co-workers. Below are some pictures of the fun had at "Pie Your Boss 2016."



Philanthropy Debit Card



St. John's has partnered with Montana Health Federal Credit Union (MHFCU) for the new Philanthropy Debit Card program. Each time you use your St. John's debit card, a percentage of the purchase will come directly back to us. What an easy way to make a difference!

If you are a current MHFCU member, you can simply request a new SJLM debit card. If you are not a current member and are interested in learning more about the program, contact MHFCU at 259-2000 for details.

Thank you, Betty!

Generous Planned Gift Leads to Goodness in All Directions

On the afternoon of September 24th, Elizabeth Nefzger, known as “Betty” to most, invited her five living nieces and nephews to visit at her home within The Vista, on campus of St. John’s, so they could all enjoy family connection time. Les Olsen came from his home in Vida, Montana, where Betty and her husband, Ray, had lived and farmed for decades. Agnes Hesper came from her home in Wolf Point, Montana. Margaret Graef came from her home in Indianapolis, Indiana. Charles Olsen came from his home in Spokane, Washington. Ruth Laramee lives in Billings. All the nieces and nephews looked forward to the family gathering, but only Betty knew of an additional reason for her invitation – a surprise \$20,000 Charitable Gift Annuity to each, contracted with the St. John’s Foundation. A \$100,000 gift in sum!



The beauty of these planned gifts is that each was established as a two-lives immediate gift annuity Agreement. What this means is that Betty’s generosity will lead to goodness in four specific expressions. First, because the gifts were offered to the St. John’s Foundation Endowment, Betty receives a substantial income tax deduction and substantial Montana state tax credit – goodness to her! Second, for all remaining years of her life, Betty will receive monthly fixed payment cash flow from the St. John’s Foundation – goodness to her! Third, at conclusion of all required annuity payments to Betty, each niece and nephew will receive monthly fixed payments from the St. John’s Foundation – goodness to them! Fourth, after all required annuity payments under the Agreement are completed, remaining funds shall be distributed to the St. John’s Foundation Endowment with no probate fees – good for all whom St. John’s serves by providing living opportunities within nurturing environments of hope, dignity, and love. Because Betty’s planned gift total of \$100,000 will have home within the St. John’s Foundation Endowment, investment policies are in place to pursue growth of gift value, combined with 5% annual earnings distribution to fund ministries of St. John’s. Betty’s gift truly is a gift that will keep on giving, compassionately impacting lives for generations to come.

When asked to share some additional thoughts about planned giving, Betty offered these responses.

Why did you decide to offer these substantial gifts to the St. John’s Foundation?

“These are not the first gift annuities I have given to St. John’s. I made other gifts and found they were good for my heart. St. John’s has been very good to me. I have been very happy here and made lots of friends.”

What was the response of your nieces and nephews when you presented these gifts?

“They were very surprised. They all had tears in their eyes. It was kind of hard to see that because I had tears in my eyes.”

Did you and your husband, Ray, ever talk about planned giving? What would he have thought of this gift?

“Ray was a generous man who, in addition to ranching and farming, served as a Baptist pastor in two small congregations nearby where we lived. We did not know about this kind of giving. I learned that from St. John’s people. Ray and I worked so hard for all our lives on the farm. If he knew now how our money is being used to help others, he would be happy. He would be very happy. I figure, why not put our money to work to help people.”

**Thank you, Betty, for your generous planned giving.
This truly is goodness in all directions.**



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Opportunities to Give...

There are many ways to give to the very worthy Ministries of St. John's. We rely on philanthropic support to help us meet the varying needs across our campus. Have you considered gifts of the following types?


- Gifts of Appreciated Stocks or Bonds
- Gifts of Home or Farm
- Gifts of Other Real Estate
- Gifts of Life Insurance
- Gift Annuities
- Bequests

If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation, please contact the Foundation at

406-655-5332
 for more information



MISSION RIDGE PRESENTS
ART *for the* AGES



*A charitable event benefiting the
 Seeds of Kindness Annual Fund*

ART SALE & EXHIBITION

FRIDAY & SATURDAY
**NOV. 17 & NOV. 18
 2018**

All events held at Mission Ridge • 3840 Rimrock Road, Billings, MT

Friday, November 17th
**Art Sale &
 Artist Reception**
 Tapas/No Host Bar
 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Saturday, November 18th
**Art Sale &
 Exhibition**
 Gallery Open
 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

*No charge to attend Art for the Ages.
 For more information please contact Event Coordinator, Margie Prokop
 at 655-5218 or email margiep@sjlm.org*