

RIMROCK Echoes

RIMROCK



ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN MINISTRIES

6/2017
Vol. XVIII, No. II

Special Edition

2017 ST. JOHN'S Summer Concert Series

20
years

OPENER: JESSICA LECHNER



LARRY GATLIN AND
THE GATLIN BROTHERS
July 6th

OPENER: PIERRE & KRISTIN LAVE



DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH
THE MUSIC OF NEIL DIAMOND
July 13th

OPENER: GRANT JONES



PARKER BROWN AND
THE BLEEDIN' HEARTS
July 20th

OPENER: LINDSEY JACOBSEN
& KELLY BABER



THE MIDLIFE CHRYSLERS
FREE WILL OFFERING TO
LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF MT
July 27th

OPENER: CHUCK HOLLAND
& AL JORDAN



VICTOR WAINWRIGHT
AND THE WILDROOTS
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MAGIC CITY BLUES
August 3rd

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The Summer Concert Series has come a long way from its humble beginnings in 1997 with a modest attendance of fewer than 100 fans. With 19 seasons under our belt, it is not unusual to have 2,000 fans gathered to enjoy one of our concerts during the season, with season attendance around 10,000.

Why does St. John's Foundation provide a free concert series?

- Concerts bring joy to our seniors, their families and our staff.
- Concerts allow our residents to welcome you to their home and into the life of our dynamic campus.
- Concerts provide a precious occasion for interaction and sharing across the generations.
- Best of all, they are a lot of fun and help make our community a great place to live.

Thanks to all attendees, sponsors, volunteers, and all other friends of the St. John's Summer Concert Series for your participation and support in making the Concert Series a summer tradition for the community of Billings!

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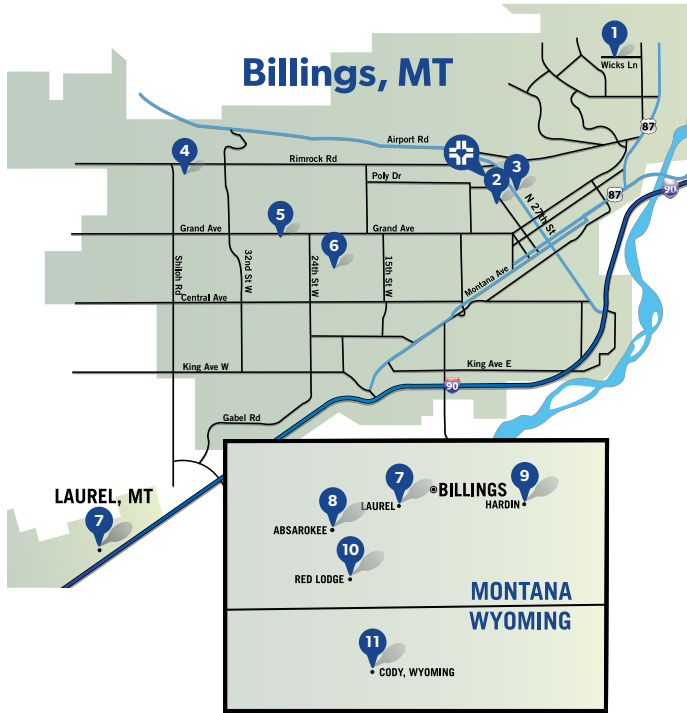
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Concert Courier

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Porta Potties are located northeast of the Food Court.

The campus of St. John's Lutheran Ministries is smoke-free.

Be considerate and safe! Hard balls such as baseballs, footballs, golf balls, etc. are not allowed on the lawn.

For the safety of your children we ask that you do not leave them unattended, especially around the fountain and ponds.

Pets are welcome at St. John's, but please respect others. Please pick up after your pets, and if they are barking or making noise, take them elsewhere.

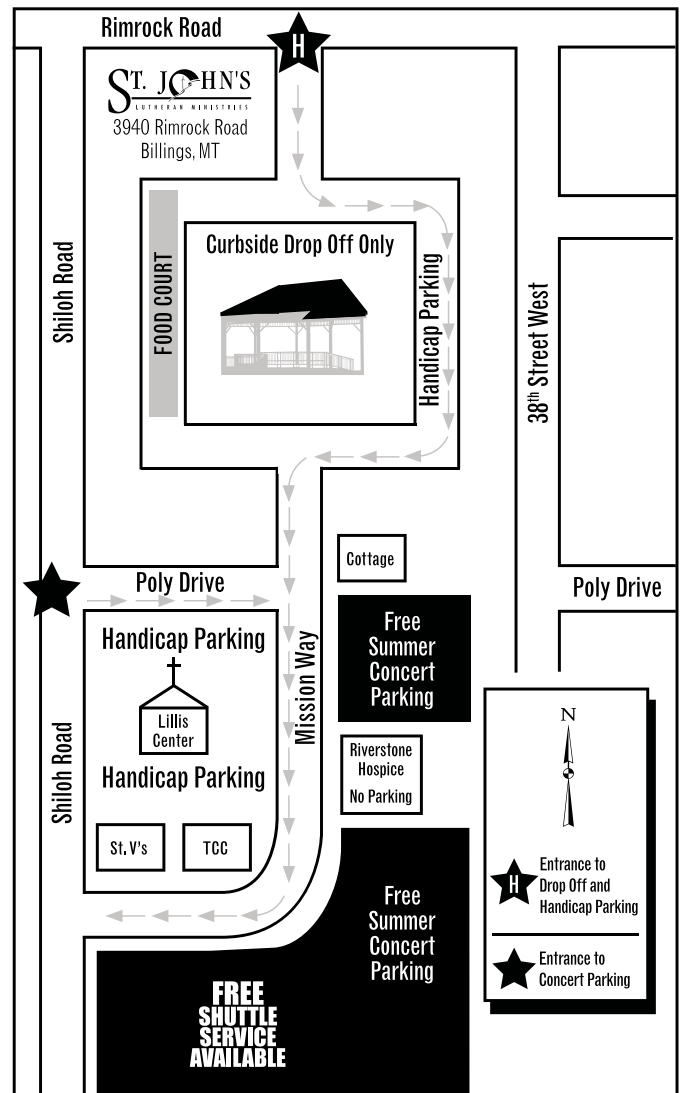
Thank you for respecting the space that has been reserved for our residents' use.



Tips for a great night of music

- Use reserved parking for handicapped guests.
- Curbside drop-off and pick-up for your convenience.
- Continuous shuttle service for all guests from the parking area south of campus.
- Comfort is king... Remember to bring a blanket or lawn chair!
- No solicitation please.
- Please do not obstruct the view of other concert goers with umbrellas or tents.

PARKING FOR 2017



OPENER: JESSICA LECHNER



**LARRY GATLIN AND
THE GATLIN BROTHERS**
July 6th

Over 50 years ago, Larry, Steve, and Rudy Gatlin started singing in their little hometown of Abilene, Texas, and from there went on to make music history. Over the course of a four-decade career that has taken the Gatlin Brothers from dusty Texas stages to White House performances, from Broadway to Grammy Awards to the top of the country charts, there has been one unifying element, music. Larry, Steve, and Rudy love to sing together. Raised on Gospel music, the brothers first began entertaining audiences in churches and then with guest appearances on the Slim Willet radio and TV shows in Abilene, Texas when they were 2, 4, and 6 years old.

Throughout the 70's and 80's, the Gatlin Brothers lit up major marquees and packed concert halls across America. Then, in 1992, the brothers made a decision to stop touring. They ended with "The Adios Tour" along with an accompanying album release of the same name, and it gave the boys a chance to say goodbye to their fans. Explains Larry, "We just thought our time in the spotlight was probably over. We had a great run and are thankful for it. We felt it was someone else's turn in the spot light."

According to Larry, a promoter in Dover, Delaware "made us an offer we couldn't understand...so we took it! Since then a popular ground swell, maybe not a large popular ground swell, but a ground swell nonetheless, has arisen that has persuaded us to do some selected dates that we are calling 'The Gatlin Brothers Never Ending Reunion Tour.'" Visit www.gatlinbrothers.com for a list of performances across the country!

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PayneWest agents live in Billings. When we live and work in a place, we tend to share many of its hopes, dreams and goals. At PayneWest, we support the things that pull our community together and make it such a great place to live and work. Contact a local agent today.

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OPENER:
PIERRE & KRISTIN LAVE



**DIAMONDS IN THE ROUGH
THE MUSIC OF NEIL DIAMOND**

July 13th

HOSPITALITY TENT SPONSOR:



Neil Diamond has charted an unheard-of 38 songs in the "Top 40" in his years of composing, recording and touring. Songs such as: Song Sung Blue, Cherry Cherry, Thank the Lord for the Nighttime, Love on the Rocks, Kentucky Women and on and on... Songs for Monkees (I'm a Believer), cartoon birds (Jonathon Livingston Seagull) and Grammy winning soundtrack of his own movie (The Jazz Singer). Everything about him is legendary. He is so much a central figure in the fabric of American popular music that millions can remember and recite his songs at the mention of his name. When is the last time you went to a large sporting event and DIDN'T hear Sweet Caroline? Diamond, in April of this year, has begun his world-wide "50th Anniversary Tour" at a young 76 years-old. He is not coming to Billings this tour but his songs are...

David Oltrogge has been a "working" singer/musician/composer for many years here in Southern Montana, and presently serves as a director of worship arts and music at Billings 1st United Methodist Church. Gathering these varied tribute shows is his mission to remind people of these influential songs and artists and, even more importantly, to show young people the music of their parents and grandparents. Diamonds in the Rough found it's genesis as the people who make the Summer Concert Series happen implored "Neil Diamond next!!" so here we are- ready to celebrate many of these songs and bring them to the Mission Ridge Pavilion. A band of fine musicians sets the stage for these "jewels" and Trevor Krieger brings his varied talents as musical director for this large ensemble (with a "unique" opportunity to perform with his wife Alyssa-one of singers)... Diamonds in the Rough- come remember and sing along with us!



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OPENER: GRANT JONES



**PARKER BROWN AND
THE BLEEDIN' HEARTS**
July 20th

Blending elements of American folk music, jazz fusion, soul, rock, hip-hop, and neo-mysticism, Parker Brown and his band bring listeners an experience equal parts groove, exuberance, and contemplation. These guys have played together in jazz combos, acoustic sessions, and rock bands for years, and this aged integration becomes apparent in the contagious energy of their shows; you may jump for joy and you also might cry as you partake in the dappled sounds of Brown and his buddies.

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OPENER: LINDSEY JACOBSEN & KELLY BABER



THE MIDLIFE CHRYSLERS
 FREE WILL OFFERING TO
 LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF MT
July 27th

HOSPITALITY TENT SPONSOR:



In 1997, a small group of physicians began gathering regularly to play music and relax away from the pressures of their vocation. Bob Snider, Mac McClave, and Doug Ezell would play and sing old folk tunes and rock standards. It was pretty ragged at first. After a while, though, they were sounding pretty good and added two more doctors: Hal Forseth and Jim Epler. They had a great time and began to sound almost good. Paula McClave joined. Then for Christmas, 1999, their shifty wives booked them a gig! It was to be the following April at the Club Carlin. They panicked! They practiced! A lot!! They came up with a name. The MidLife Chryslers were born!

Playing for a few friends and loved ones went pretty well, and a few more gigs were added. A few more electric guitars and amps were added, too, and they began to sound more and more like a real rock band. Epler retired from the band and late in 2000, Mark Moak joined as drummer. Just as they were getting going, the death of Bob Snider in March 2001 dealt them a major set-back. After a few months off, however, the music and the spirit of Bob called them back and the Chryslers re-formed. With the additions of Russ Harvey and Cathy Hansen Brown, the MidLife Chryslers took another form.

In 2006, Mac and Paula left the band; Hal moved over to bass and Scott Milikan came on to share lead guitar with Russ. Then Cathy departed, and in April 2007, Holly Malloy Hanson joined the Chryslers as lead female vocalist. In 2008, four horn players joined the band, adding a new sound to the Chryslers. Laurel Linde on saxophone, Steve Patton on trombone, along with Laury Sealy and Kevin McBride on trumpets. Pianist/singer/songwriter Chris Smith is a newer addition to the Chryslers and is their lead male vocalist.

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OPENER: CHUCK HOLLAND & AL JORDAN



**VICTOR WAINWRIGHT
AND THE WILDROOTS**
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MAGIC CITY BLUES
August 3rd

TENT RESERVED:



Power-house blues, Memphis soul, and roots rock'n'roll. Featuring the high-octane boogie piano and big soul sounds of vocalist and blues man Victor Wainwright, backed by one of the tightest smokin' bands on the scene; the WildRoots.

Victor Wainwright, singer, pianist, "hepcat" from Memphis, Tennessee by way of the Savannah, Georgia; is a raucous high-octane dynamic performer and crowd pleaser with soul to spare. After earning what he calls a "double major in Boogie, a Ph.D. in Swing and a master's in Rhythm," the "Piana" from Savannah" is making a name for himself in a big way.

Stephen Dees is a rock n' roll aficionado, touring and-or recording as bassist and vocalist for Hall and Oates, Todd Rundgren, Pat Travers, and Foghat to name a few. He was a Billboard and MTV char-tee with his band Novo Combo, and has received great acclaim for his original rock band "Bandeers."

The boogie blues "piana" player and savvy pop-rocker met in 2004 in Ormond Beach FL, where they were both on the bill of a benefit concert. Very impressed after hearing each other perform and finding that they had a common love for blues, R&B and roots rock 'n' roll out of the '50s and 60's, such as B.B. King, Ray Charles, James Brown, Muddy Waters, Otis Redding, Louis Jordan, Jerry Lee Lewis and Little Richard; they discussed the possibility of collaborating. Returning WildRoots alumni includes Greg Gumpel on guitar, along with Ray Guiser & Patricia Ann Dees on saxophones; and introducing Billy Dean on drums.



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Employer of Choice

What makes an organization a great place to work? Some might limit their answers to compensation packages, benefits or perks while others might place caring supervisors or mission-driven executive leadership at the top of the list. At St. John's Lutheran Ministries we know what makes us a great place to work and so does Billings Jobs Service Employers' Committee, recognizing us in 2017 as an Employer of Choice: it's because we are a community that cares for one another, providing living opportunities within nurturing environments of hope dignity and love. It's who we've been from the beginning. It's who we'll be tomorrow.



Our front line staff – CNA's, housekeepers and food service workers – may not have glamorous jobs, but caring for elders and ensuring that their elders' days are filled with hope, dignity and love rewards them in ways that far outweigh compensation. "I feel like I get to spend the weekends with my grandparents," says Dorothy Billips, LPN at Rimview Square. "This is a place where elders are treated like family." Dorothy had previously worked at another long term care community and swore she'd never do it again. But after moving to Billings 2 years ago, she says St. John's captured her heart, "I just think the Lord puts people here on purpose."

That sentiment is echoed by our administrative and executive teams who work tirelessly to recruit, hire and train staff while facing the challenges of ever-changing employment and health care regulations, balancing budgets and addressing the realities of health care funding. And they love it, coming back day after day inspired to do it all again! Why? Because they are changing lives: providing meaningful opportunities and experiences in that same nurturing environment of hope, dignity and love for staff and residents alike.

Hope, dignity and love are not just words thrown into a mission statement. They are actions woven into every interaction on all 5 of our campuses. They are in our DNA as an organization called to serve others and they are contagious. Come, see for yourself!

Here Comes Love!



"Here comes love," exclaimed Marge from her wheelchair with arms outstretched to welcome her favorite volunteer, Glenda as she entered Rimview Square. The two women greeted each other warmly as Glenda prepared her station for a morning of manicures. A week later, the two knitted together, each learning new stitches from the other; from a distance it was hard to differentiate between teacher and student. On yet another day, Glenda made her way to the Chapel Court recreation room to join 3 of her "regulars" in a standing game of pool. The gentlemen had clearly gathered minutes earlier, as the balls were racked and ready, but they were avidly waiting for Glenda's presence before beginning.

No matter the activity, the spirit of Glenda's interactions with St. John's elders is one of mutual benefit. She may be the creator of the party, but most importantly, Glenda comes to participate with her friends. Her story is an instructive witness to the significance of relationships and how valuable volunteers are to the process of creating togetherness at St. John's. All of our volunteers come with a purposeful mission – to enrich the lives of elders. Glenda is yet another example of hope, dignity and love in action!

For more information on volunteer opportunities, call 406-655-5600.

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Out of sincere gratitude and appreciation, donors to the 2017 Seed of Kindness Annual Fund were gathered in April and treated to an evening of Gypsy Jazz provided by the Rimrock Hot Club, fine food, spirits and fellowship. Seeds of Kindness Annual Fund donations serve to plant the seeds of hope, dignity and love to people in need across our campus, supporting elders who have exhausted their resources and employees who find themselves in financial crisis.

In addition to thanking our annual fund supporters, the St. John's Foundation inducted the first 19 donors into the St. John's Legacy Circle. These generous people have made planned gifts to ensure and sustain the mission of providing living opportunities within nurturing environments of hope, dignity and love.



We invite you to participate in sowing Seeds of Kindness through an annual contribution of \$250 or more and receive the satisfaction of knowing that you have helped to offer loving care to people in need. Read more about the Legacy Circle below!



Legacy Circle

Legacy Circle donors are...

- Leaving an enduring and loving impact in the world.
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The Legacy Circle has been established by the St. John's Foundation as a way to stir philanthropy and honor generous people who seek to ensure St. John's future capacity of providing living opportunities within nurturing environments of hope, dignity and love.

How can you become a Legacy Circle donor?

- Include the St. John's Foundation as beneficiary of an estate gift.
- Include the St. John's Foundation as beneficiary within your will or life insurance.
- Create a Charitable Gift Annuity or other planned gift of \$10,000 or more in value to the St. John's Foundation.

For more information on becoming part of the legacy of St. John's contact our Gift Planner, Rachel Simonson, CFP® at 655-7783



Recognition & Gratefulness

BUSINESS PARTNER OF THE YEAR

St. John's Lutheran Ministries is pleased to name and honor PayneWest Insurance as its 2017 Business Partner of the Year.

When two major hail events struck the campus community of St. John's and Mission Ridge in 2014 and 2016, damage to buildings totaled four million dollars. On both occasions, the reliable staff of PayneWest was swift and professional in response.

Although grateful for the excellent assistance with hail damage, St. John's President and CEO, David Trost, expresses deeper appreciation. "PayneWest has been more than an insurance company to us. They are a trusted advisor. They provide us with consultation on all of our insurance needs. I have found my 22 year relationship with Chris Hoiness and his PayneWest team to be one of authenticity, compassion and genuine care for this ministry. For that, I will always be grateful."

Upon receiving word about selection as Business Partner of the Year, Chris Hoiness, Senior Vice President at PayneWest, expressed humble gratitude. "From the early days of Hoiness Insurance in 1921, through the evolution of Hoiness Labar Insurance into the early 2000's, to PayneWest as it is known today, we have had an ongoing relationship with St. John's Lutheran Ministries which we are very proud of. More important than the business relationship we share is the relationship we have built on trust, community and compassion. We are thankful for that. We do business together, but our relationship is more like a family."

Congratulations and thank you PayneWest!



PHILANTHROPISTS OF THE YEAR

Tears of joy surfaced and flowed from the eyes of those who attended the 2017 St. John's Lutheran Ministries Annual Meeting when a man named Ryan Waldow shared his Lutheran Social Services of Montana (LSS-MT) adoption story.

Evelyn Dye was in the room, listening to Ryan speak. Evelyn had given birth to Ryan on September 13, 1972. During her pregnancy at a young age, Evelyn reached out to LSS-MT for counsel and support. In time, Evelyn requested that they assist with placing her child. That adoptive family turned out to be Stan and Dee Waldow.

Ryan told of experiencing a wonderful childhood within his adoptive home, loved and cared for dearly by Stan and Dee. As Ryan matured, married and became a parent, he grew in curiosity about his birthmother. In October of 2011, Ryan reached out to LSS-MT for assistance with search and possible reunion. Coincidentally, within hours of Ryan's phone call, Evelyn had reached out to LSS-MT with request for search assistance also. Neither knew the other was calling. LSS-MT was able to help with connection, leading to a joyful outcome for all.

As Ryan told his adoption story at the annual meeting, Stan and Dee sat in the front row on one side of Evelyn, while Ryan's wife, Michelle, and two of their children sat on the other side. This was a remarkable sight and a treasured experience.

Stan and Dee have been consistent and generous donors to LSS-MT. Their gifting is in gratitude for Ryan and for his siblings, but as Stan remarked at the annual meeting, "How do you say thank you for the gift of a child?"

When first contacted about their willingness to receive the St. John's Philanthropists of the Year honor, Stan and Dee declined for reason of authentic modesty. Ryan encouraged his parents to reconsider, however, suggesting it would be a great opportunity for Evelyn, Stan and Dee to connect in person for the first time ever, which they did.

When Evelyn and Dee did first meet, they hugged, held and expressed thanks to each other repeatedly. Tears surfaced and flowed. Love abounded. Thank you, Lutheran Social Services.

Thank you, Stan and Dee.





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**For more information please contact
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