



The  
**HILL TOPPER**  
Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center Newsletter

**SPRING  
2022**



## **LIVE**

"This place is the best place in the country I could find other than my own home. Because they make it feel like home."

## **WORK**

Discover careers at the region's only non-profit and locally owned senior care organization.

## **SERVE**

Opportunities to grow in your faith and serve your communities greatest generation.

# From the President's Desk

*Reier Thompson*



I came across a great quote in a recent devotion from Smith Wigglesworth. He said, “Great faith is a product of great fights. Great testimonies are the outcome of great tests. Great triumphs can only come out of great trials.”

As usually happens, this devotion spoke to me at the exact moment I needed it the most. God is in control and is using all our present situations to mold us into the people we need to be.

We are all feeling battle-tested and worn from the ongoing pandemic, rules, restrictions, and workloads. Why we continue is such an inspiration to all. We do it to bring quality care to our residents, our tenants, and to each other as colleagues. We do it to support our families and our community. We gain much more than we put in, however, which has been the most important lesson I’ve learned. The personal and professional growth I have experienced through my relationships with the countless residents/tenants, family members and team members is an enormous blessing. We call ourselves healthcare workers, caregivers, healers, etc. but at the end of the day I feel it is my life being healed and improved through these connections, experiences, stories, trials and tribulations.

My journey in healthcare began at birth as both my parents worked in the industry. At the age of 14, I had an opportunity to work in the kitchen at Missouri Slope. Delivering meals and bussing tables all while getting to know the residents and team members was where I developed a love for healthcare and my future was set. I wanted my future career and work to impact the lives of others in a positive way. I have also come to realize the added benefit of working in a Christ-centered organization such as Missouri Slope. Beginning our meetings with prayers and being part of the spiritual care that is just as important as the physical care has been an incredible blessing in my life.

Another advantage at Missouri Slope is being locally owned and operated. We are a non-profit healthcare organization with our nine local member churches having ultimate authority. We make decisions based on our local needs that have allowed us to respond in ways such as having some of the best wages, benefits, and training opportunities. I invite any and all who have been considering a change, looking for a sign, or just beginning their careers to give Missouri Slope a call.

We were created by this community to serve this community. May God continue to bless and guide us through the future as we hope and pray for more good people with the hearts and minds of caregivers to join our team!



## Newest MSLCC Inc. Board Member

FLC member Lisa Bennett was recently appointed to fill Faith Lutheran's spot on the governing board of Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center, which was held over the past few years by Diane Laub. Lisa has this to say about her new role:

I am excited to represent Faith Lutheran Church on the Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center board of directors. I have big shoes to fill, even though Diane was so much smaller than me.

The mission of MSLCC resonates with me.

"Our Mission is: founded in Christian faith, we enrich lives with love and compassion. Our Vision is: To become a care center of learning and innovation."

I am passionate about both children and Seniors. My background in Early Childhood Education and my experience as Site Manager at Burleigh County Senior Center seem to be the perfect fit to serve on the MSLCC board.

The goal of having a childcare center on campus is so very exciting. The outcome is a win-win for both the children and the residents. Missouri Slope places the needs of its employees at a high level of importance. The need for quality Early Childhood programs will benefit the staff. I feel that Missouri Slope is exceptional - they place value on both the residents and the employees. I look forward to representing you on the board and hope that if you have any concerns, questions or ideas, that you would let me know.

How wonderful that all the local Lutheran Churches in our area worked together to incorporate Missouri Slope Lutheran Homes as a non-profit organization in 1962. MSLCC enriches the lives of the residents, tenants and staff still today.

Thank you, Lisa, for your willingness to serve!



## Chaplain's Corner

"And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Revelation 21:5, NRSV

Easter is the season of the church year that inspires hope and wells up images of new life. John at Patmos uses the Greek word *kainos* for new. *Kainos* is not the common word used in the New Testament for new, which is *neos*. *Neos* is when you take an old car and overhaul it and restore it. Or when you remodel a room in your home or take an antique piece of furniture and refurbish it and say, "Just like new!" *Kainos* represents something completely and comprehensively new, totally new, brand-new!

*Kainos* is also used in 2 Corinthians 5:17 where Paul wrote, "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away, see, everything has become new!" 1 Corinthians 15:17, NRSV Paul is describing you and me. The new creation has already begun. This is why many theologians refer to God's redeeming grace in Christ as "the already and the not yet." The sentence of death because of sin has been reversed, is being reversed, and will someday be reversed. We define this reality with a four-letter word known as hope.

I remember Luther Valley Lutheran Church near Beloit, WI, where the cemetery was just across the road from the front entrance to the church building. Every Sunday when members and guests gathered, they were reminded that we have to walk through death to get to the new life. One life at a time, we are bringing the future into the present. I remember Dr. Priebe at Wartburg Theological Seminary used to say in Christian Apologetics, "Resurrection" doesn't necessarily mean "going to heaven when you die"... It is certainly not about keeping the commands of a distant deity. Rather, it is the new way of being human, the Jesus-shaped way of being human, the cross-and-resurrection way of life, the Spirit-led journey. It is the way which anticipates, in the present, the full, rich, glad human existence, which will one day be ours when God makes all things new. Christian ethics is about practicing, in the present, the tunes we shall sing in God's new world."

So think about your deepest hurt, your greatest loss, the place in your heart that is most breakable and broken, and know that you can trust God right now. You can wake up tomorrow and trust God's promise and know beyond a shadow of a doubt that it will be worth it in the end because God really will wipe every tear from your eyes.

In Christ's service,  
Pastor Larry



# Featured Board Member

**Paul Gurholt** was born in a small town in Wisconsin to a poor farming family. He quickly learned a hard work ethic that followed him throughout his career. They moved to Watford City during his formative years. It was there, at the age of 13, that he met his future wife, Marcia. They were high school sweethearts and dated for six years through high school and college before marrying in 1968. After attending college at Concordia and then the University of North Dakota, Paul got a job teaching high school math in Braham, MN. Realizing that teaching wasn't his passion, Paul later went on to do construction work for a few years in Minneapolis, and then made his way west.

His goal was Montana, but after a stop in Bismarck to work a construction job, he decided to put down his roots in Bismarck with his wife and family. Paul created a successful construction company and has built and remodeled many homes in his career. When Missouri Slope was looking for someone to build a gazebo in our memory care courtyard, we were told Paul Gurholt would be the man to ask. And eventually, he was.

Paul's carpenter skills also led him into property investments with a friend. Paul did the labor fixing up homes, his partner kept track of the rental income, and his wife Marcia was responsible for cleaning after tenants moved out. She got the dirty work, literally, and never complained or got paid.



Paul at a Packer Football Game.



Paul on vacation in the Dominican Republic.

Paul and his wife became members of Lutheran Church of the Cross in 1978 and were active singing in the choir, serving on many committees and teaching Sunday school. Paul served two terms on the church council as well as president. He led various construction projects at the church and also spent 25 years volunteering at Camp of the Cross on many rebuilding projects. Even after retiring from 45 years in the construction business, he continued to use his skills to help others whenever possible.

Most recently, he spent one year in Medora working on a facility reconstruction at the amphitheater. He was raised and taught to work hard and give back, and he has lived out that legacy with conviction.



In September of 2012 and after 44 years of marriage, Paul's wife, Marcia, passed away after a six-year battle with dementia. She left behind her beloved caretaker, Paul, their three children, and six grandchildren.

Paul joined the MSLCC Inc. board in 2019 after being introduced to long-time Missouri Slope board member and donor, Alton Larson, while volunteering at Camp of the Cross. He has brought good energy and enthusiasm to both the BOD and the Foundation Board. Knowing he was the man to ask about building our gazebo in the Memory Garden, our Foundation Officer sat down with him to discuss. Paul had no interest in sponsoring the gazebo, he wanted to sponsor both the outdoor Memory Garden and Therapy Garden, with a \$250,000 donation! What a wonderful, unexpected surprise.

The silver lining in this story is that these funds were made available when Paul sold his investment properties. The Gardens are in memory of his late wife, Marcia, as his thank you and memorial to her for all the countless hours she gave to managing and cleaning these investment properties. Such a heartfelt and generous tribute from a man of faith and character.



Paul on a mission trip in Guatemala to build houses for the God's child project.



Paul in the Black Hills for Thanksgiving with his 6 grandkids. Cutting down trees for Christmas!

Paul currently resides in Bismarck with his companion, Joyce. Paul and Joyce found each other after both losing their spouses in grievous ways. They have been together for six years now and enjoy each other's company while being retired and serving the community by giving back as much as they are able.

And, he isn't done volunteering his carpentry skills yet. The gazebo is set to be completed this spring, so be sure to notice it in the Memory Garden off the dining room on first floor SW. Also, make note of the beautiful Therapy Gardens also in memory of Marcia Gurholt.

Thank you, Paul, for your kind and generous memorial gift to Missouri Slope.

# Featured Resident

**Zona Bring** was born in August of 1929. She and her two brothers were raised and attend school in McVile, North Dakota. Her father worked livestock and operated a buying station. Although her grandparents were farmers, she was glad she never had to live on a farm.

Zona went to Mayville State University for two years. While attending, she met her future husband. After college, they got married and moved away from North Dakota. Her husband was an engineer for the state, but his job involved a lot of traveling. They moved throughout the country to cities like Sacramento, CA, and Denver, CO. She liked traveling, but she said it was hard to settle down. While residing in Denver, Zona managed three different restaurants simultaneously. She said she “liked the hiring, hated the firing.” In the 1970s, Zona’s first husband passed away. She eventually met and remarried her second husband. Unfortunately, the second marriage did not last, and she “had to ship him away!”

Zona moved back to North Dakota to care for her aging parents. She managed a local coffee shop before embarking on a 20-year career at the Bismarck Herberger’s. She worked primarily in the china and giftware department helping people choose their registry items and china sets. However, she would gladly work in whichever department they needed her. She was known for her friendly face and outstanding customer service.

Since 1999, Zona has been enjoying a relaxing retirement. She lived alone but enjoyed having time to do what she wanted. She recalled collecting over 80 Santa Clauses over 20 years. She has been at Missouri Slope for nearly a year, but she still remains as independent as possible. Zona doesn’t have any remaining family but has close friends who love to visit her. Zona explained, “My friends are my family, this place is my family.”



Zona (Left) with her mother in McVile, ND. This is a home her father remodeled and she lived at in high school.



Zona (Left) with her good friend, Patsy.



Zona's award from Herberger's for outstanding customer service.

We are so thankful to have Zona with us at Missouri Slope. She is truly a kind-hearted individual who respects her nurses and the people on her care team. “This place is the best place in the country I could find other than my own home. Because they make it feel like home.” Some of her favorite activities at Missouri Slope include Bingo, chapel Sunday church services, getting her hair done, and taking baths! She said, “Me and ‘I call her my bath lady’ have become nice friends.”

Zona has two pieces of advice for the younger generation, “stay away from men,” and “get a good education.”

Thank you, Zona, for being a friendly face for our staff and residents. Missouri Slope is lucky to have you!



# Foundation Focus

*Cathy Anhalt, Development Officer*



There is much good happening in and around Missouri Slope. Growth is upon us and phase one of our Washington campus is open and vibrant with activity. Residents are “flourishing” according to one medical professional who makes regular visits. Similar comments have come from staff and resident family members too. God continues to bless our plans and progress.

Our skilled nursing facility is home to 192 bright and pleasant private rooms. Dining, living, and activity rooms are on each of the four floors along with beautiful sunrooms featuring floor-to-ceiling windows.

Other amenities include outdoor garden areas, a beauty and barbershop, Bistro and commons area, and a chapel where our residents and their families can embrace spiritual and faith development.

**We continue to ask for community support. We are currently focusing on raising funds for resident rooms. A room sponsorship is \$10,000 which can be paid over five years. Your gift will be appropriately recognized at the entrance to the resident room as well as on our future donor recognition wall at the entrance to Missouri Slope. This is an excellent opportunity for you to memorialize or honor a loved one while supporting a valuable and much-needed resource for the community. One day we or our family members may need access to high quality skilled and compassionate care. Your generous support will ensure that care is available when needed. Gifts of all sizes will make a difference in the lives of the residents.**

Please contact Cathy Anhalt, Development Officer, at 221-9349, for more information or to schedule a tour. We are happy to share what God’s goodness and mankind’s generosity have blessed us with. Visit [missourislope.com/impact/](http://missourislope.com/impact/) to learn more.



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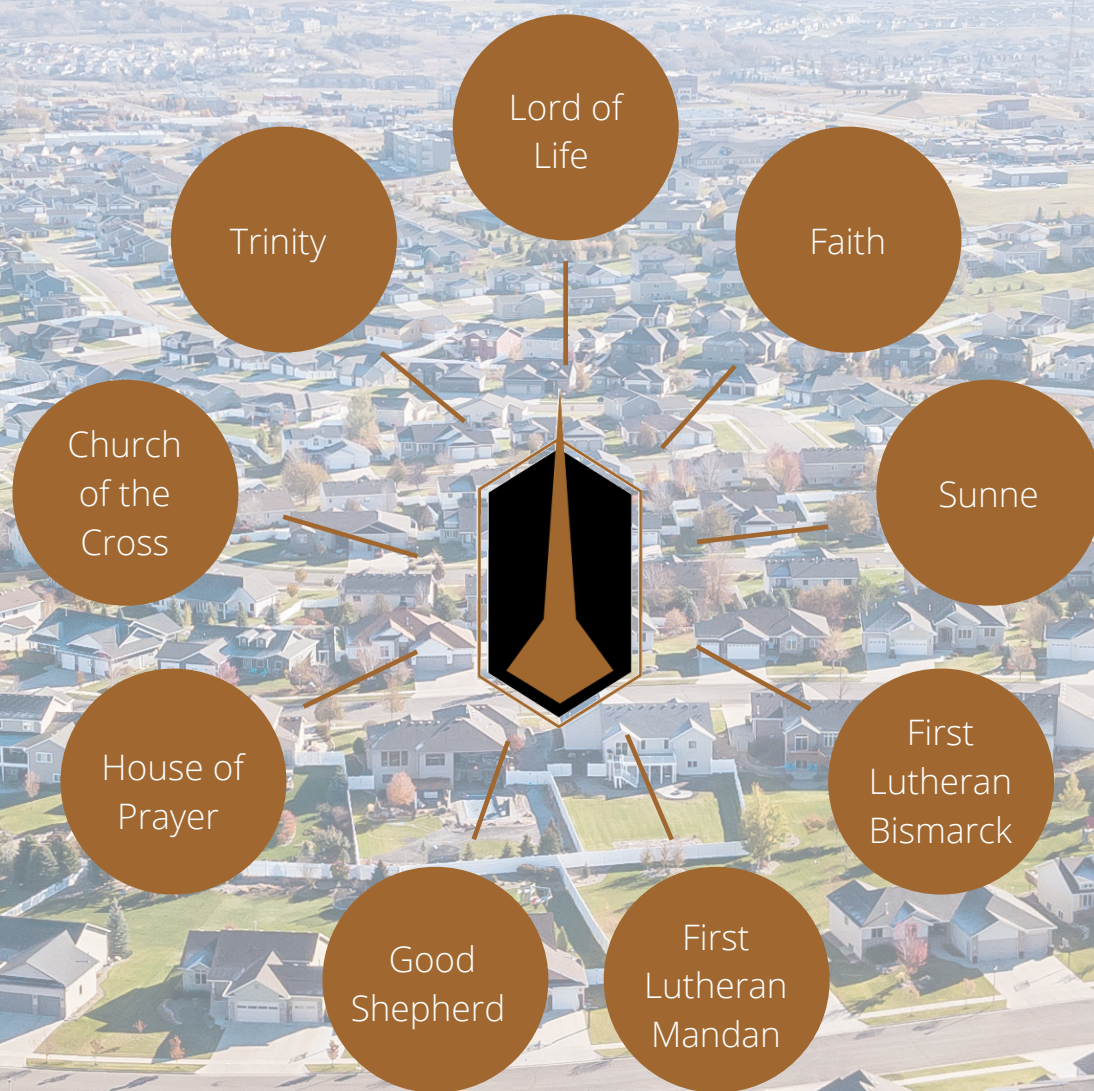
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