

LUTHERAN SUNSET MINISTRIES
Report to the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod Assembly

Lutheran Sunset Ministries (LSM) continues to provide services to more than 200 people on a daily basis within our seven comprehensive programs: Sunset Home, a 96-bed skilled nursing facility; Hope Center, a secure 32-bed skilled nursing secured neighborhood for memory loss/dementia residents; Heckmann Residence, a 24-apartment licensed assisted living facility; Rainbow Retirement Community, 54 independent living apartment; and Hospice Sunset; Sunset Companion Services serving Bosque County and a 25-mile radius of Clifton and Windmill Café, a community outreach program.

LSM's website (www.lutheransunset.org) has been attracting users to pages such as the Sunset Senior Guide Blog, Sunset Lifelong Learning and information on our various programs. The Sunset Senior Guide Blog has more than 150 blog articles covering senior living, lifestyle, helpful tips and decisions that individuals and families face as their loved ones grow older. It has been our third most viewed page on the website, behind "Our Residences" and "Contact Us." We encourage you to check it out at www.lutheransunset.org/news.

Social media has been a fantastic way for us to give people a glimpse into our culture here at LSM. On a daily basis, we are posting and sharing engaging photos, articles, links and videos to capture the attention of our target audience. Through Facebook and YouTube, we've been able to connect with people on a personal level, showing all that LSM has to offer in real time. Links to both are located at the bottom of the homepage of our website.

As a Masterpiece Living community embracing the tenets of successful aging, LSM strives to be a leader in health and wellness services, social engagement activities, opportunities for spiritual growth, and last but not least, education programming. With this in mind, LSM has launched a community-wide education series — *Lunch & Learn Speaker Series*. Throughout the year, residents, staff and members of the community can gather for a noon meal and a short educational presentation by various expert speakers throughout the year. These events will be listed at <http://lutheransunset.org/sunset-lifelong-learning/> as they are scheduled.

This Masterpiece Living philosophy spills over into everything we do at LSM. From more engaging and diverse activities to empowering our residents to take on projects that fill them with meaning and purpose, we are constantly looking for ways to maintain and improve our successes.

The Sunset Home provides *It's Never 2 Late (IN2L)*, a computer system that empowers residents to connect, engage and enjoy life. IN2L integrates the hardware, software, media and various components necessary to allow virtually any person with any interest in using a computer — regardless of background, physical or intellectual abilities — to do so pleasurable, engagingly, and without frustration. The system is built on a picture-based, touch-screen interface that allows users to simply "touch" their way to find engaging, educational, spiritual and personalized content that is appropriate to their own level of ability. From using e-mail and web cams to connect with family and friends, to enjoying mind-stimulating activities, to improving hand-eye coordination as part of a rehabilitation program, elders with a wide range of physical and cognitive abilities, most of whom have never used a computer, are now enjoying technology using systems adapted especially for them.

In partnership with the Bosque Arts Center, our Resident Art Show has been a huge success. Resident art is displayed and an artist reception takes place, honoring our residents for their creativity.

In 2017, LSM was also voted “Best Retirement Living” and “Best Assisted Living” for the third year in a row in Waco Tribune-Herald’s 2016 Readers’ Choice Awards.

LSM is in the process of adding a new rehab wing. It will triple the size of our current space and allow us to add additional equipment to our rehab facility. There will also be dedicated resident rooms for rooms for our short-term rehab patients as well as a living area complete with a small kitchen and satellite TV service. This project should be completed by the end of 2019.

Plans are underway to add more independent living apartments to Rainbow Retirement Community. A brainstorming session with current and future residents was held in January to determine likes and dislikes to guide our planning. Site plans have been drawn and we are in the process of getting initial estimates of cost to determine rents and financing needed.

Clifton is a great place to retire. LSM has all the services needed with the continuum of care available on our campus, which is particularly beneficial to couples who may require different services in the future as they age, plus the local clinic and hospital across the street. Clifton has been designated by the State of Texas to be a Certified Retirement Community and a Texas Cultural Arts District. To learn more about Clifton, visit www.cityofclifton.org. To learn more about LSM, visit www.lutheransunset.org or our Facebook page, Lutheran Sunset Ministries. To set up a visit for your church group call Andrea Hikel at 254.675.8637 ext. 2224. Come and visit!