

## Greetings From The Office

The three crosses are set up in front of Aspen entrance and Birch Manor backyard. It is a reminder that Lenten season has started and soon Easter is here. This reminds us of the meaning of Easter - Jesus Christ's victory over death. His resurrection symbolizes the eternal life that is granted to all who believe in Him.

It's March 31st and the end of fiscal year is soon. During this fiscal year 2016-17 we have done many renovations: new walkways and some air exchangers to Unit buildings, enhanced kitchen ventilation system in Aspen, Birch Manor room renovations, and new automatic door entrance system and the list goes on. New budget planning for 2018-19 is being developed. This year SKHA did not increase our Aspen funding so we had to



manage with the funds we received. Good Neighbour Store was again very generous donating \$9,000 each to Aspen and Birch Manor. We have earmarked the funds for replacement of some Aspen Manor resident room windows and Birch Manor walk-in freezer. Women's auxiliary also made a generous donation towards the Birch kitchen entrance stair replacement. We have also been blessed with all the donations from you, our faithful donors. Without your help we would not have been able to complete many of our projects. My sincere thanks!

The Birch Manor entrance/doctor's office project is almost completed. The doctor's office is ready for a move in and the entrance automatic door opener needs one replacement part to be operational. Our plan is to offer different services for our residents, and the community, in the new office. Our plans include to provide a dental service and pedicure to start with. We have also received the final drawings from the architect for our Community Room project. The transition to one single Provincial Health Authority is reality and the process will continue for many years. Every week the SKHA sends us a progress report to keep us up to date of the process.

Spring seems to be far away. The recent snow storm brought us piles of snow. Wintering birds are hungry and flying around the bird feeders. I have to fill my feeders every second day. The winter scenery is really beautiful. When I watch from my living room bay window and see the beautiful white snow-covered garden, my heart is so thankful to God for all His blessings to Bethany, and myself. God is faithful!

Once again, I would like to thank our excellent staff – you have been amazing! Thank you also to the Board for their support. My term at Bethany is getting closer to the end – but it is not quite yet time to say goodbye.

With Easter Blessing!

Sinikka Purmonen  
Administrator



## Message From Bethany's Chaplain Pastor John Rapp

**<sup>44</sup> It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, <sup>45</sup> while the sun's light failed. And the curtain of the temple was torn in two. <sup>46</sup> Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.**

Luke 23:44-46

The death of Jesus. Have you ever paused to think about some of the things recorded in the Gospels about it? Earthquakes, darkness in the middle of the day, rocks split in two, lots of incredible things. Each author seems to record things from a different point of view, but three of the four Gospel writers feel the need to point out one specific point: "***And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.***" What was this curtain used for? What is so important about the tearing of a curtain? What does this mean for us?

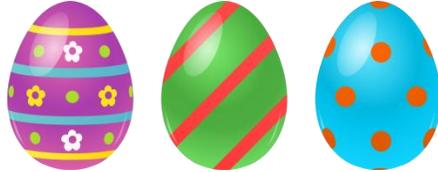
The curtain mentioned was the curtain of the Most Holy Place in the Temple at Jeruslaem, and it served to divide the sanctuary into two parts: the Holy of Holies and the Holy place. Originally, the Holy of Holies is the room in which the Ark of the Covenant was kept and was the dwelling place of God in the temple. It was there to show the people who worshiped that they were divided from God by their sin. Only the high priest would be able to enter that area, and even then, only once a year, on the Day of Atonement, to sprinkle the blood of the sacrifice upon the Ark, that is the blood of the animal that had been sacrificed in the place of the people of Israel that year for the forgiveness of their sins, and even then, there was a chance that the priest himself would be seen as unworthy and die. It is said that he went in with a rope around his waist and bells on his person. Should the bells stop sounding, they would pull his body out.

After the Ark was lost, the practice and structure remained. Only the High priest would enter, still only once a year, to offer up the sacrifice for the people because they were too sinful to come to God directly, and so had to use His chosen intermediary.

So, what changed? Jesus. That's what. Jesus came and lived a sinless life, the life we were meant to live but couldn't due to our ingrained sin. He offered Himself up as the perfect sacrifice, the very Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. His blood shed for us replaced the need to regularly offer up other, lesser, sacrifices year after year, effectively washing us clean of our sin with His blood, once for all. Now, while still sinners, we are covered over by His righteousness, through the faith He has planted in us by His Holy Spirit, and can come before the Father having been made right by the Son. He tore the curtain that separated us from God to show that He was bringing us back into a right relationship with Him.

Because of Jesus, the old system of sacrifice, priesthood and temple worship ended; Jesus' sacrifice opened the way for every repentant sinner to enter into God's presence to freely receive the forgiveness He won for them... for us.

So, what does this mean for us? It means that now we are free to come before God, not because we are any holier than the Israelites of old, but because we have been made right with God by our Saviour Jesus Christ. We can, and are invited to, come before God regularly to receive the gift of forgiveness that Christ won for us that fateful day. Christ's blood has paid the price once charged to us for our sins, and the division between God and man has been removed. *And the curtain of the temple was torn in two.* Amen.



## Birch Manor

Well we all survived another round of holiday weight gain. Christmas seems to always be the busiest time and I was delighted to see all the guests that visited and stayed with us throughout the season. I am thankful to everyone who went the extra mile to add a little extra magic and sparkle to the holiday.

*Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with thy free spirit. Psalm 51:10-12*

This has been heavy on my heart for the last few months and I believe that it is to be our resolution for 2018. We have been truly blessed this year so far in fellowship with friends and loved ones.

Many braved the snowstorm to join us for our annual Valentine's tea and bake sale hosted by the Ladies Auxiliary, there was lots of donations made for which we are very grateful. Due to the weather we did not have a huge crowd, but that just means we got to enjoy all the leftover baking.

A few of us broke out for the afternoon and were able to go on a joyride to get ice cream and donuts in Humboldt with the Bethany bus. It was a great first trip of the year with many more to come.

BAX Empire Mobile Clothing helped us get our closets summer ready with their spring clothing sale in March. Many thanks to them for coming in and keeping us fashionable.

We all got a little Irish on March 16<sup>th</sup> during our St. Patrick's Day celebration. "Salt Water Joy" entertained us with their Celtic styled music and the night was danced away... with the help of a little green beer.

The halls do get a little quiet around here during curling season, but it is nice to see everyone making time together to play cards, doing puzzles, meeting up for coffee, and filling our building with joyous laughter.

## ***THE PIONEER***

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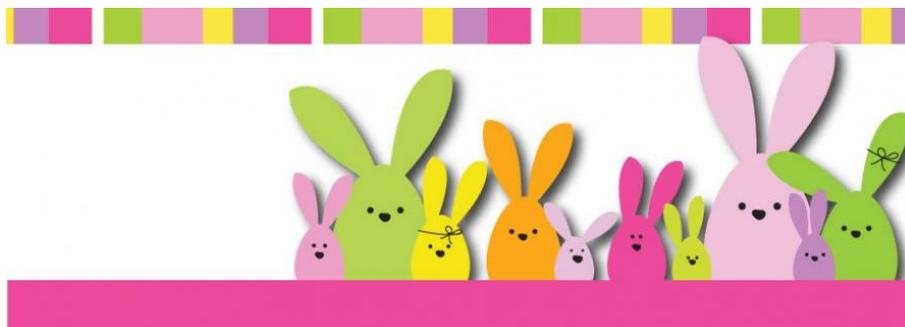
It's hard to picture it now after all the snow that blessed our snowmobilers, but Spring is here! Green grass, sunshine, flowers, and enjoying the outdoors is just around the corner.

If you notice an extra bounce in my step, or perhaps a bit of extra cheer, and maybe a change of name, it is because my fiancé and I decided to elope over St. Patrick's Day weekend. Nothing fancy, just love.

I pray that we all get to spend Easter with loved ones and that we get to spend extra quality time together and focus on all the good things that are happening, as it is truly a precious time of year.

Wishing you many Easter blessings,  
God Bless,

Jessica Pashko  
Coordinator



## Activities

It's hard to believe it is 2018 already! Winter is over, although I think the beginning of spring may bring just a little more snow our way yet! This Winter seemed to be a little mixed up with what seemed to be "Spring" like weather at times, but then in true Saskatchewan fashion it quickly cooled to at time some very chilly temperatures.

This Christmas season was filled with many activities, music, laughter and cheer, and of course most importantly visits with dear friends and loved ones. Thank you to all for your support in our Christmas Raffle. The winners of this were: Sylvia Laforme, Marlene Slater, Kyra Nelson, Ruth Pudrycki, and Doreen Burkart. A big Thank You goes out to our Bethany Ladies Auxiliary for buying Christmas gifts for each of our Residents! Thank you also to all our visitors, staff and students of Three Lakes School, the vendors at our craft sale, entertainers, and everyone who helped make the Christmas season such a beautiful season here at Bethany! We truly are so blessed to have such an amazing Village here to be able to call "Home"!

So far this year we've kicked it off with a few dinner clubs and even had our first BBQ of the year on January 18<sup>th</sup>! A few of us enjoyed some burgers cooked outside on the grill as was requested by the dinner club group. We've still also been enjoying many different foods to try from different countries as we continue to finish up our Winter Vacation. In January we enjoyed a complete homemade Ukrainian meal as well as a full Chinese New Year celebration in February! Big Thank You to our amazing cooks for doing such a wonderful job!

We spent part of this last month enjoying watching some Olympic Curling, figure skating etc. It's always so amazing watching all those talented athletes! We've had many visits too in this New Year. Some of which were from the Cudworth Cowboys, the Bruno Carmel Crew helped us bring in the first day of Spring! As well as a lunch and bingo with the Pilger Seniors too! We enjoyed going for our first outing with Birch to Humboldt for some delicious ice cream and doughnuts! To help bring in Spring we travelled along with some Residents from Birch Manor uptown to the Faith Lutheran Church for their annual Spring Tea & Luncheon. The food was wonderful with so many homemade desserts it was almost impossible to choose!

This past week we also got to all be Irish for a day as we celebrated at Birch Manor on March 16<sup>th</sup> with great food dancing company and of course even a green beer to enjoy! The K-5 students and teachers will be coming up for a visit to help us celebrate and get ready for this upcoming Easter season on March 22! This is truly a visit we here at Aspen always look forward to.

A couple dates to keep in mind:

On March 30<sup>th</sup> -The Gospel Church will be holding a Good Friday Service at 2:30 following Sweet treats at 2 pm  
April 1 – There will be Easter Sunday Service at 3pm with Pastor Rapp

The next few months we are planning on enjoying the outdoors once again! Now that the roads are clearing up and the sun is shining a little brighter we are looking forward to getting out and about! We hope to see you around here at home or even possibly out on the road!

Wishing everyone all the best during this Easter Season!

Angie Reiter  
Activity Worker



WIKI: How to Draw the Easter Bunny

## Auxiliary

Today is the first day of Spring. Easter is not even 2 weeks away. The snow is melting very slowly and there will be more snow this weekend.

Since our last report in December we had one meeting in January. We had election of officers. Gloria Schlitz was elected as treasurer, taking over from Moni Fischl and Bev Lee was elected secretary. This volunteer position was held by Vivian Griffin for over 30 years. On behalf of our auxiliary I would like to say a big Thank You to Vivian and Moni for all their dedicated work. Great job Ladies! Gloria and Bev we wish you all the best in your new “jobs”.

At the January meeting we also organized one of our fundraisers; Valentine’s Tea and Bake Sale, which took place at Birch on February 14<sup>th</sup>. The crowd was smaller this year due to stormy weather and residents in Aspen getting over flu. Rose Pongracz won the Candy Guess and the three door prizes were won by.

1. Merna Krentz
2. Marlene Slater
3. Kurt Demmert

Thank-you to all that donated baking attended the tea and helped in anyway. It was all very much appreciated.

The Fall Rally will be this year in Middle Lake. We have to start planning for it in earnest.

This year the ASCHA convention takes place on Thursday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at Manitou Springs Spa.  
The theme: Our Saskatchewan – Community Strong The Role of Volunteers in a Changing Health System.

Our next meeting will be Monday March 26, at 1:30pm at Aspen. Visitors are always welcome.

We wish you all a very Blessed Easter.

Ingrid Lechler

# The Lighter Side

Why did the Easter egg hide?



*He was a little chicken!*



"What a lucky break!  
Not only do we FIND the Easter bunny...  
BUT we catch him right when he's  
making chocolate mini-eggs!"

