

# The N.E.W. Koinonia News

## Core Committee

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### Inventory Coordinator

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## From our Chair:

Happy Easter! Yes, we are an Easter people and Alleluia is, indeed, our song.

Call me crazy, but as I sit here in front of a blazing fire with a cup of tea and my thoughts, neither the incredibly cold temps or the promise of another APRIL snowstorm in two days doesn't cause a ripple in my peaceful mood. This bonus quiet time has offered me the opportunity to reflect once again on the most important gifts I've received throughout my life: my husband and children, the privilege of sharing the joy of the birth of a dear friend's first grandchild, a day spent with my grandchildren shopping, lunch and a movie, the beautiful bouquet of flowers that was recently delivered to me, the significance of serving at a Koinonia retreat with those who share my faith journey, remembering those who have gone home to God and acknowledging the incredible impact each has had on my life.

All of these awaken in me a profound and deep sense of gratitude for God's precious gift of His Son and the Spirit. I know them to be real and true as I share so much of my life with my Koinonia brothers and sisters, each of whom is a visible reminder of God's grace and goodness. I want to acknowledge three members of the Koinonia Core Team who have completed their

terms of service. Each of them has touched and graced my life and the lives of our Koinonia family: Deb Schutte has served as Secretary, Margie Novak as Treasurer, and Mike Novak as Inventory Coordinator and Travel Trailer Organizer Extraordinaire since 2011. The countless hours they have dedicated to our Community and the depth of their commitment is impossible to measure. Please offer prayers of thanksgiving for the gifts they've shared and ask our Father to keep them safe in His hands.

As Koinonians, we respond to the call to share our love of Jesus Christ with all who touch our lives; in our parishes, our community and, yes, at work. As we move forward toward # 51 in Merrill in October and in River Falls in March of 2019, let us ask God to help us embrace the role of a servant, knowing that as servants of God we will share in the fruits and joys of the Kingdom that is and is to come.

Your sister in Christ,

Bluette



**Community Room**

**February 23 – 25, 2018 – Koinonia #50!** What an amazing weekend at St. Anthony’s in Park Falls. Many days have passed since we came together to celebrate the Pascal Mystery, but the power of the Holy Spirit, and the changes made in us during these three days, remain with us as we continue to deepen our commitment to follow Christ. Blessings were showered upon us as we sang “I Will Choose Christ” and throughout the weekend by: Fr. Shaji’s spiritual direction, Missy’s meaningful prayer services, music to lead us by Annamarie, Roni and Andrea, table leaders who shared their meditations and life experiences –

Deacon Jeff, Rita, Mary H., Lynn, Jean, Maureen; our hard working and faithful Gophers, Margie and Mike keep us on track and met our every need. We are honored to have shared this deeply spiritual weekend with all of you.

Our love and praise to Toots and Pat for leading “God’s Chosen Ones”, to Deb and Jane for the profoundly meaningful Koinonia history lesson, to Vicki and her kitchen staff, and to each of the Wheaties for your dedication and prayers. And hugs and smiles to our Local Coordinators for all their pre-retreat efforts. We are grateful and honored to call you our sisters and brothers in Christ.

At the beautiful and deeply meaningful Pinning Ceremony, nine individuals were welcomed into our Koinonia family: Pauline Fenzl, Mary Ann Gilray, Kathleen Hamel, Amy Hulbert, Bill Hulbert, Jennie Kleinhans, Yvonne Morman, Diane Nolan, Katy Rominske, and Jennifer Watson. Welcome! We are blessed by your presence and look forward to serving with you at an upcoming Koinonia. Until then, we hold you in our prayers asking God to grant you His peace and protection.

Pat Socha & Bluette Puchner  
Lay Directors



**A note from Community Room  
Spiritual Directors**

Dear Team & Candidates of Koinonia 50. Thank you to all of you who answered the call to choose Christ this weekend. It was a special Holy Spirit filled weekend, learning and growing ourselves and our relationships with each other and Christ. It's not always easy to step into the unknown with strangers and open ourselves up to build community. But that is exactly what we did! You each shared your special unique gifts and our Koinonia community has grown! Our hope and prayer for you is that you love Jesus more each day. Be Bold! Go out and be witness to how awesome our God is!

Peace & hugs to you all  
Fr Shaji, Spiritual Director  
Missy Wiener, Assistant Spiritual Director



**Bluette Shares a Candidates poem**

I've kept this poem, written by Joe Cirkl, a candidate at #33, in my bible for a long time. He wrote it the night of his Die Day experience and brought it to the team the following morning, desperately wanting to share it with all. It touches my heart each time I read it. May you find something in it that resonates in you.

*The weekend goes by so quickly  
It's hard to realize  
The time belongs to the Trinity  
With closed or open eyes  
New ways have opened to Heaven  
The friends I met these days  
Help me to determine  
Each seem like the sun's own ray  
Shine to show a better way  
Ideas to quickly abound  
Each and every greeting  
New friends I have really found*



**Community Room**



**Wheat Team braves the elements**

### - The Wheat Team - "God's Chosen Ones"

We truly felt like "God's Chosen Ones" as we scurried about doing what the Holy Spirit lead us to do. Our Spirit filled leaders in the chapel lead us in prayer, praise and thanksgiving, which inspired our team.

The cooks seemed to have a great time as they bustled around the kitchen. The banner and all the other tasks were miraculously completed with everybody working so hard.

The chapel visit on Sunday morning from the Community Room is always quite touching and tearful. After that we shared

stories and much laughter as one of our team told us of her flying experiences; with one wing falling off the airplane and the other one on fire. On another flight, the police escorted her off the plane thinking her large statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary was a bomb. She told the stories as only Pat can.

So from tears to laughter we embraced our God and each other. We grew closer to God as a community.

We wish you Joy and Peace..."Rejoice in the Lord always. I shall say it again; rejoice! Your kindness should be known to all. The Lord is near. Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with

thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me. Then the God of peace will be with you." Philippians 4:4-9

Co-Lay Directors - Pat Stine and Toots Runnheim



### Greetings from the Wheat Team Spiritual Directors

Eighteen members of the Wheat Team gathered in our Wheat Chapel for group and/or individual prayer time during the #50 Koinonia Retreat held at Park Falls.

Throughout the busy-ness of serving the Community Room, "God's Chosen Ones" found time to meditate and pray both in our Wheat Chapel and while

doing the work we had to do. Our chapel services were enriched with special letters, personal reflections, and prayer cards. We shared laughter and tears. We experienced the power of prayer in big and small ways and the great love our Lord has for all of us.

We are thankful for those in the N.E.W. Koinonia Community that have gone before us. Our hearts were joined with theirs as the smoke

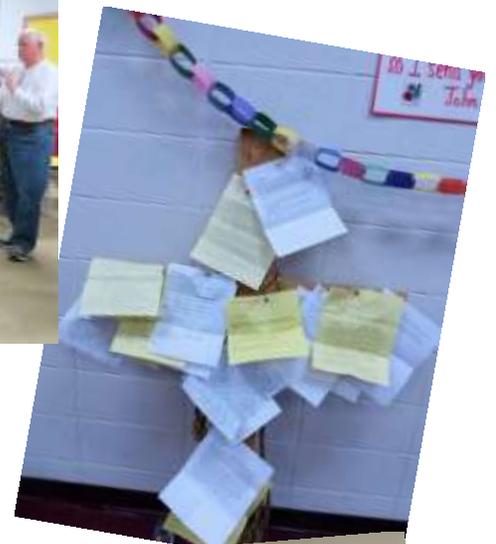
from the fires of our past and present rose heavenward.

As we go forth, let us remember to turn to the three greatest living persons in our world today for hope, comfort, and in thanksgiving.

May the Living God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you.

Debbie Schutte and Jane Schiszik

Wheat Team Spiritual Directors



**Save These Dates!**

**Koinonia #51**

*Merrill, WI*                      *October 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> 2018*

Planning meeting October 6<sup>th</sup>      Prayer Gathering November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**Koinonia #52**

Day Retreat for all Koinonians  
Location to be determined

**Koinonia #53**

*River Falls, WI*              *March 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2019*

Planning meeting March 2<sup>nd</sup>      Prayer Gathering March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019

Find team applications at: [www.newkoinonia.org/team.html](http://www.newkoinonia.org/team.html)

Mail to: Missy Wiener at: P.O. Box 433, Mellon WI 54546



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**N.E.W. Koinonia**

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