

The N.E.W. Koinonia News

Spring 2019

Core Committee

Spiritual Director

Deacon Craig Voldberg
715-322-5645

Chairperson

Bluette Puchner
715-866-4492

Vice-Chairperson

Jane Schiszik
715-748-5240

Treasurer

Michelle Socha
715-352-2506

Secretary

Maureen Knetter
716-316-3045

Registrar

Missy Wiener
715-274-3911

Inventory Coordinator

Victor Schiszik

Outreach Coordinators

Vicki Huber
715-274-8801
Rita & Deacon Jeff Austin
715-676-3186

A message from our Chair

Dear Koinonia Sisters and Brothers,

The above quote resonates with me as I sit on the deck rejoicing in the beauty of God's creation and reflect on the days of Koinonia #53 in Ladysmith. Once again, amazing members of our Koinonia community came together to pray, sing, complete the hundreds of tasks that make up Die, Rise, Go days – but most importantly to welcome lovingly though their service, six new family members.

I know that I am not the only one who would like to be blessed with a daily dose of a "Koinonia High," that deep joyfulness, yet peacefulness, that comes from spending a weekend in service with those who share our faith journey. The nitty-gritty issues/concerns of daily living too soon overtake us and can get in the way of living life as Christ's chosen. I keep the following prayer written by Sister Melannie Svoboda, SND, close at hand to help me remember that, while I don't always understand or acknowledge it, I do have a mission in life that includes service in all areas

but especially in Koinonia. Thus I can bring to life in myself a recurring "Koinonia High."

Let There Be Life!

Loving God, at the dawn of creation you said, "Let there be life!"

Let me hear you speak these words again to me; renew in me the sense that something is being asked of me

and that my life in self-surrender has meaning and a goal.

Help me to find creative ways to share my experience with others. Give me a deep concern for the next generation and the next and the next.

Help me, like Jesus, to beget life wherever I go, in whatever I do. Let me hear Jesus say to me today, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Remain in my love and you will bear much fruit. Amen.

With love and gratitude to each of you for the multitude of ways you have enriched my life.

Bluette

Meet the Core Committee

Standing: Vicki Huber, Rita Austin, Deacon Jeff Austin, Vic Schiszik, Michelle Socha, Maureen Knetter, Missy Wiener
Sitting: Bluette Puchner, Deacon Craig Voldberg, Jane Schiszik



Reflection from the Community Room Co-Lay Directors

Blessings, Koinonians from N.E.W. Koinonia #53 Ladysmith:

Before the weekend started, we focused on our Koinonia Prayer:

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation! Through your goodness we are privileged to share in the life, death, and new life of your Son, Jesus Christ....

As Team, we were certainly 'Rock Clingers' to that prayer. Die Day was a day of examining our sins, carrying our crosses, and dying to ourselves. Learning, that once we have that Metanoia, or change of heart, we can receive the grace of absolution for our sins. We left the evening with

our ashes washed clean and our shoulders feeling a little lighter.

By the morning of Rise Day, the community room members were like 'Blue Birds' singing in the chapel, singing to our meals, and singing with the Wheaties. It was a day of 'Growing in Love!' That Agape Love! We praise to God of the idea that we were chosen to be in Ladysmith for that particular weekend to meet a group of incredible and truly blessed people.

Go Day was a fast and emotional Get Up and Go Day! We were taught to be Disciples of God and spread the love and knowledge through our daily lives. By the end of the weekend and as we said our goodbyes, we looked

like 'Luminary Shepherds.' Ready to take on what Forth Day brings in. God has given us all a gift of love to share to others during our future days. Our Forth Days!

We were truly and humbly honored serving each and every one of you this weekend. And to you: Paula, Tim, June, Sue Ann, Sister Mary, and Maria; may you know how much you are loved with our Koinonian Family! To be part of a Community filled with God's love, is truly a Blessing!

May you keep in touch!
Sisters in Christ,
Michelle Socha & Blulette Puchner
Community Room Lay Directors

A note from Community Room Spiritual Directors

Dear Koinonia Community, Although Koinonia #53 was a relatively small group, it was a retreat of growth and spiritual awakening brought about by a spirit of accommodation and togetherness. We witnessed a diverse group of people work to accomplish what became a meaningful retreat. The candidates opened their hearts and their stories to one another and shared their personal journeys with God freely. On very short notice, the

pastor and staff of Our Lady of Sorrows in Ladysmith provided a welcoming atmosphere that led our candidates and team members to a better understanding of what Koinonia and our faith community are all about. Everyone was learning, growing, and sharing with Jesus as our Center. The Holy Spirit moved over all. Blessings on the Koinona Community.

In Him,
Deacon Jeff Austin, Spiritual Director
Community Room
Rita Austin, Assistant Spiritual
Director Community Room

Community Room

Front: Blulette Puchner, Michelle Socha, Doris Mitchell, Paula Bromley, Curt Mitchell

Second Row: Deacon Jeff Austin, Rita Austin, Sister Mary McDermott, Sue Ann Kwasniewski, June Kalinowski, Maureen Knetter

Third row: Victor Schiszik, Timothy Cegler, Maria Schroeder, Sherri Hoogland, Juie Szarke, Jim Mitchell



Wheat Team

Front: Adele Archambeault, Missy Wiener, Vicki Huber, Sharon Voldberg, Michele Stewart

Second Row: Diane Freund, Pat Stine, Marie A. Korinek Henscik, Kathy Adler, Mary Morgan, Diane Weber, Pam Verdegan, Debbie Osborn, Deacon Tom Fuhrmann

Third Row: Jane Schiszik, Neil Adler, Rita Tesch, Ron Stine, Patti Jenson, Mary Rivard

- The Wheat Team –summarizes Koinonia #53

As the Wheaties were “Growing in Love,” they were also saying YES to serving the Lord and the community room and welcoming the new candidates.

The weekend started with unloading the trailer, making sure that each tote was placed where it belonged.

We took on the next task which was to make the name tags, and hopefully not miss anyone. Well...sometimes everything doesn't go as planned! Sorry, Blulette, but that was a very easy fix!

We were blessed to have two first time Wheaties, Mary Morgan and Marie Hencsik, who quickly pitched in to help with all the projects for the weekend. Heidi Lynch was in charge of our banner and with her guidance and the many talented Wheaties, it was assembled with great care and plenty of love. Placemats were made and we even had time for some

crosses. As we worked together as a family, we listened and practiced our Wheat Team theme song, “*And All The People Said Amen.*” Gift bags were assembled, and the take home packets were carefully put together! We practiced our skit with joy and childlike hearts, under the guidance of Kathy and Jane. Finally, it was time for details for the Agape meal with Sharon sharing her vision and the kitchen staff providing serving logistics.

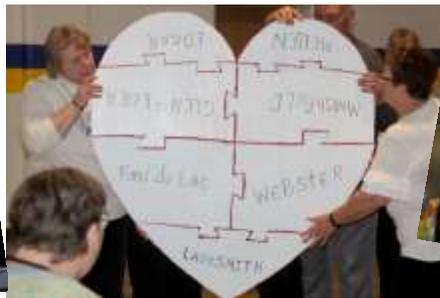
Our chapel was directed by Adele Archambeault and Sharon Voldberg. Gopher and photographer, Michele Stewart, was an amazing lifeline between the Wheat and Community room teams. Our head cook was Jane Schiszik, with kitchen helpers Diane Freund, Debbie Osborn, Patti Jenson, Len Verdegan (head dishwasher & heckler), and Deacon Tom Fuhrman. The rest of the Wheaties were Neal and Kathy Adler,

Heidi Lynch, Pat Stine, Ron Stine, Rita Tesch Stine, Mary Rivard, Pam Verdegan, and Diane Weber. Deacon Doug and Shirley Sorenson were available to us throughout the weekend and we were so thankful for their support and presence. Every Benediction is a new face to face encounter with our Lord and we thank you, Deacon, for allowing us to be in the intimate presence of Christ with you!

THANK YOU all for your love and effort to make this weekend a beautiful celebration of community!

As we continue to grow in Love through our prayers for each other, we wish you God's Blessings and hope to see you in October 11-12-13 in Dobie.

Peace and Hugs,
Missy and Vicki



Greetings from the Wheat Team Spiritual Directors.

Koinonia #53 is in the books!! Though it was dreary outside, it was oh, so warm inside as we shared our love for the Lord and “grew in Love” for Jesus and each other! Flowers became a theme giving us hope that spring would soon arrive! Each of us brought our favorite flowers to decorate our Chapel and made the atmosphere for the Agape meal something special. The flower theme continued on the banner....growing and sprinkled with love. The Wheat Chapel is a place of prayer and renewal, a grounding place for our working retreat. In our

Chapel we gather to begin each day of the retreat placing our Lord at the center of our work; It is there that we come together to pray for the Candidates and the Community Room team; We bless our speakers with words of comfort and encouragement as they ready to share their meditations; In the presence of the Blessed Sacrament our personal prayers are offered, heart prayers are shared and the intentions placed in the “prayer bowl” are prayed over. Music and laughter also have their place in the midst of all there is to be

done as we share our joy and love of our Lord. As we come together from all parts of our Diocese and beyond our hearts are united and continue to grow in love for our Lord and each other. It was a blessing to be a part of this special retreat.....and “All the People said AMEN”!

Blessings,

Adele Archambeault
Sharon Voldberg



Mark Your Calendar!

Koinonia #54

Dobie, WI *October 11th -13th 2019*
Planning meeting Sept 28th Prayer Gathering October 27th

Stay tuned for more dates

The Team application is attached – Don't delay send yours in today!!!

Please mail application and payment to:

KOINONIA RETREAT WEEKEND P. O. Box 433, Mellen, WI 54546



N.E.W. Koinonia

28141 S. Johnson Lake Rd
Webster, WI 54893