

SunsetNews

May - September 2024



Sunset residents enjoying the fresh air through the years.

The year was 1954 — Eisenhower was president, Elvis Presley released his first single, “That’s All Right”, New York Giants centerfielder Willie Mays made “The Catch” against the Cleveland Indians in the World Series, *White Christmas* topped the box office and a group of Lutherans decided to turn the recently deserted buildings of Clifton College into a “home for the aged”.

The very first residents moved into Clifton Lutheran Sunset Home on August 1, 1954. In the 70 years since, more than 6,000 residents (a conservative estimate) have called Lutheran Sunset Ministries Home - that’s roughly 3.5 times Clifton’s population in 1954!

“LSM in all of its forms has been an integral part of Clifton and Bosque County,” said President/CEO Rodney Rueter. “Generations of Central Texans have worked here.”

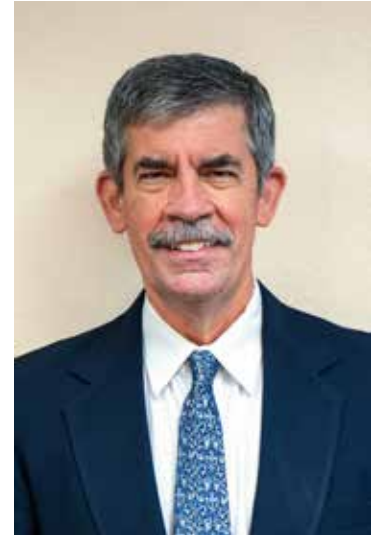
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Sunset Home
College Hill Assisted Living
Rainbow Retirement Community
Hospice Sunset
Sunset Companion Services

Message from the President

70 years — What can you do in 70 years? What can happen in 70 years? Back in 1954, when interested parties from local Lutheran churches got together to decide what to do with the vacated Clifton Lutheran College campus, I'm not sure they had any idea of what they were about to create. They recognized the need for a "home for the aged" (as they were known back then) and decided that was the best use of the old college buildings. Clifton Lutheran Sunset Home was organized in March of 1954, and in August the first residents moved in.



Those pioneers of LSM took a chance. There was no Medicare or Medicaid funding back then — all expenses were paid for by private pay and donations. But God had a plan, and I believe if those founders of our ministry could see what grew from the kernel they planted they would be amazed!

From the humble beginnings of the old college campus buildings, to a new nursing home better suited to serve residents needs throughout its life span, to the current nursing home, assisted living, independent living and other programs that have been added, LSM has expanded to better serve seniors as needs have arisen over the last 70 years.

Every person who has been a part of our ministry since our inception has played a role in LSM being what it is today. The sterling reputation of our ministry didn't just happen, but was the intentional effort of boards and employees working together for a common cause, based on the Biblical call to take care of those who need help.

That cause continues today. Each person on our board and every employee of our ministry is dedicated to that cause and calling. In our morning meeting today, someone mentioned that everyone is called to work here, and it's true. The compassion necessary to provide care and services to senior adults can only be provided by someone called to do it. It's hard and it can be grinding, but it's worth it.

Thank you for your unwavering support for LSM and for continuing to be by our side as we move into our next 70 years. Only God knows what that will look like, but while each of us is here, we will continue to carry on the mission to which God has called us.

Rodney Rueter, CEO/President

A Timeline of LSM

1954

Local Evangelical Lutheran Churches decide to turn the old Clifton College into Clifton Lutheran Sunset Home, a “home for the aged” licensed for custodial care. In August, CLSH welcomes its first residents.



1970

The addition of the new main building cements CLSH as the premier nursing home in Bosque County. There has been a waiting list since the home opened, and CLSH is one of three nursing homes in the Waco/Bosque County area.



1983

Rainbow Village Independent Living opens, expanding the ways CLSH can serve seniors.



1988

Luckenbach Hall Personal Care Unit opens, adding beds for 48 more residents.



2001

The Sunset Auxillary opens the Pot O' Gold Thrift Store, whose proceeds benefit the residents and pay for things like new vans, gazebos and TVs.



2009

The new Sunset Home, Sales Family Hope Center and Heckmann Assisted Living open, and the ministry becomes Lutheran Sunset Ministries.



2011

WhiteStone Apartments open, providing cottage-style homes for independent living.



2022

The Overlook Rehabilitation Center opens, offering state-of-the-art equipment for inpatient and outpatient therapy.



2024

LSM celebrates 70 years of service to our community!



Sunset Spotlight

Remembering Pastor Dave

We are devastated by the sudden and unexpected loss of our chaplain, Dave Anfenson. His wise guidance and counsel has served many residents, family and staff over the 8 years he was at LSM, so we thought we'd let them share what Dave meant to them.

"Your music was refreshing to our souls." - Susan B.

"Thank you for believing in me before I even believed in myself."
-Mildred Martinez

"Dave was a wonderful man and helped me and my Mom through her last days. He will be greatly missed." - Sherry Duke

"It was just an honor to attend committee meetings and board meetings and hear Dave's reports. He was a one in a million pastors. I loved hearing him speak of his activities and the love he had for his flock." - Deborah Pollei

"He meant so much to many and made everyone feel at home with his singing and his smile." - Hannah Tunaiti

**We're collecting money for Dave's family at Sunset Home. If you'd like to contribute, you can drop a gift off at the front desk or mail it to:
Lutheran Sunset Ministries, P.O. Box 71, Clifton, TX 76634.**



Congratulations to the winners of the LSM Residents scholarship, future Tarleton University students Carly J Howard (Nursing) and Rylee Moran (Social Work) - pictured here with Resident Council President Jayson Laumeister.





LSM's first resident, Anna Grimland.



LSM residents enjoy a dance in the new nursing home (circa 1970s).



Residents enjoy a Christmas program from local children in 2008.



Members of the Sunset Auxiliary working at the Quilt Auction in 2009.

“Kids grow up coming to sing Christmas carols to our residents, or stopping by to trick-or-treat on Halloween. It’s the support of our community that has allowed LSM to flourish over the last 70 years!”

Generous donors make it possible to grow our campus and add much-needed facilities. Volunteers raise money through hosting events like the Quilt Auction and running the Pot O’ Gold. They also are huge assets in keeping our residents busy and entertained with things like painting classes and concerts. Our board of directors helps us navigate challenges and plan for the future.

And most of all, throughout the years our incredible staff has gone above and beyond to care for our residents, from showing up to work on a tractor in 14-inch deep snow (a fond memory many had of one of LSM’s original RNs, Hattie Tyssen) to coming to work during scary and unprecedented events like the COVID-19 pandemic. It really does take a village, and we have the very best one.

“I think it’s a testament to the work we do that people who have donated to us for a long time, who have volunteered with us and who have worked here choose to make LSM their home when the time comes,” said Sunset Home Administrator Lance Allen. “It truly is neighbors taking care of neighbors in so many different ways and I think that’s what makes LSM so special.”



Readers Choice 2024

#1

**Retirement Community
Independent Living
Assisted Living
Skilled Nursing Care**

Thanks for voting!

Friends of LSM

Thanks to generous donors, Lutheran Sunset Ministries is able to provide person-centered services based on Christian values. The following gifts were given between May 1, 2024 and September 30, 2024.

Memorial Gifts

All memorials, whether directed or not, go to the care and services provided. The residents served going forward are blessed by your thoughtfulness.

CHAPLAIN DAVE ANFENSON

Judith Baker, Clifton; Aubrey & Virginia Richards, Clifton; Rev. Paul & Joann Krupicka, Waco

JOYCE BERGMAN

Vic & Donna Barranco, Liberty; Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton; Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson, Clifton.

ALICE BRANDENBERGER

Mary Ann Brandenberger & Dacey Dietiker, Clifton.

KATHLEEN CHALLGREN

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton; Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson, Clifton.

DOROTHY CONRAD

Mary Ann Brandenberger & Dacey Dietiker, Clifton.

SHARON CREWS

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton; Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson, Clifton.

KELLY DAVIS

Gerald & Nancy Brown, Arlington; AK & Stacia Powell, Arlington; Kim & Alex Cathro, Arlington.

CONNIE DAVISON

Bobby & Rhonda Evans, Clifton; Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton; Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson, Clifton.

LOIS DEGGES

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton; Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson, Clifton.

PANSY DIXON

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton; Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson, Clifton.

RITA FISHER

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton; Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson, Clifton.

WELDON FOSS

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton; Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson, Clifton.

ROGER GRANTHAM

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton; Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson, Clifton.

ELIZABETH ERICKSON

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton; Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson, Clifton.

DOROTHY HEDRICK

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton; Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson, Clifton.

KENT HOLDER

Christabel Jorgenson, San Marcos.

CAROLYN HOMERSTAD

Aubrey & Virginia Richards, Clifton; Donna & David Burden, Clifton; Petol Gearench Employees, Clifton; Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton; Lance

Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson.

DON HUMPHRIES

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton; Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson, Clifton; John & Jessica Erickson, Clifton.

BILLY HUSE

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CAROLYN KAGY

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton; Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson, Clifton.

BARBARA LEE

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SYLVIA KAY MALISH

Evelyn Humphreys, Clifton; James & Judy Prescher, Clifton

JUDY MARCH

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DAVID MEGARITY

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton; Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson, Clifton.

WAYNE MONTGOMERY

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton; Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson, Clifton.

ROY OGLE

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton; Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson, Clifton.

STEVE OLSON

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;
Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson,
Clifton.

VICTORIA PAULSON

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;
Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson,
Clifton; Mike & Sara Irvin, Clifton.

JOE PETZOLD

Mary Ann Brandenberger & Dacey
Dietiker, Clifton.

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Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;
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CAROL RIDDLE

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;
Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson,
Clifton; Karen Baldwin, China
Spring.

PERRY ROBINSON

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;
Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson,
Clifton.

NADINE RUETER

Zion United Church, Clifton.

CONNIE O. SMITH

Gerry & Cindy Thies, Clifton.

BETTY SWINDOLL

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Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson,
Clifton.

JOYCE THIELE

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;
Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson,
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**WILLIAM & ORIET
THOMPSON**

Miriam Hussey, Georgetown.

J.M. & TIRA WALLACE

Diana & Clarence Hodde, Brenham.

LINTON WATKINS

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;
Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson,
Clifton; Judith Baker, Clifton.

VERA WILLIAMS

Rodney & Melanie Rueter, Clifton;
Lance Allen, Clifton; Dave Anfenson,
Clifton.

Honor Gifts

These gifts are given to honor
and appreciate special people,
events, celebrations and/or
achievements. All gifts help
provide care to those served
by LSM.

DAVE DAVIS

By: James M. Davis, Burleson.

MS. MIRIAM HUSSEY

By: Daniel Henderson, Hewitt.

General Gifts

All gifts help LSM in its work
and mission.

Ms. Denise Afflerbach, Victoria

Mr. Brett Anderson, Dallas

Dr. & Mrs. James Bowden,
Cranfills Gap

Calvary Lutheran Church,
Richland Hills

Central Lutheran Church, Dallas

Christ Lutheran Church, Dallas

Gethsemane Lutheran Church,
Austin

Mrs. Laverne Haschke, Dallas

Pastor & Mrs. Paul Krupicka, Waco

Lutheran Women's Missionary
League, Victoria

Oslo Lutheran Church, Gruver

Our Savior's Lutheran Church,
Clifton

St. John Lutheran Church,
Coryell, Gatesville

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Waco

VFW Robert E. Binford Post
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Mr. & Mrs. Tom Webster, McGregor

Zion United Church, Clifton

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continue to provide
the highest standard of
care, based on
Christian values, for
those who need us
most.**

**Make a donation
online by visiting
lutheransunset.org/give**

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Clifton, Texas 76634**

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Sunset provides services to qualified individuals without regard to race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, national origin or other protected statuses according to applicable federal and state law.

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