A Prayer for Healing

Loving and faithful God,
Be with us in this place of healing ministry. Grant wisdom and understanding to those who use their gifts and skills to care for body, mind, and spirit. Grant patience and strength to those who pray and watch and wait. Grant to all your healing presence and your comforting peace. Amen.

Everyday, we who are called to serve at Advocate Lutheran General hospital and Children’s Hospital are privileged to both hear and participate in inspirational stories: patients overcoming challenges, families finding strength in being together, lives being changed and transformed.

Our focus on spiritual care is not about imposing a particular set of religious beliefs on those we serve. We understand spirituality as that which gives purpose and meaning to life. We respect each person’s spirituality, and seek to help each person access spiritual and religious resources, practices and relationships that support them through their health care journey. We are grateful for your partnership with us.

Kathie Bender Schwich

On October 28th the Department of Mission and Spiritual Care celebrated Pastoral Care Week by inviting Dr. Sakeela Hassan, a national leader in interfaith dialogue, to speak with us about pastoral care to Muslims in the hospital and community setting. Sixty chaplains, local clergy and medical professionals gathered in Johnson Auditorium for this event. Dr. Hassan spoke about Sound of Faith her ground-breaking interfaith learning and healing project very near and dear to her heart. This project is all about healing divisions between faith communities by encountering the beauty and power of the sonic dimensions of these traditions. Sound, rhythm and movement define the living state of all creatures. For a simple heartbeat or the ringing of a single bell to a chorus of harmonized voices or a symphony of instruments, sound lives at the core of human communication, transcending hearts and minds as it connects, unites, inspires and heals. Sound has the power to move mountains and people, for it seems to have the power to penetrate the human sound where other forces may fail. Throughout history, sound and faith have been closely intertwined, and the links are deep-seated. Sound is a component of worship across hundreds of faiths, and these “Sounds of Faith” seem to spring from a profound desire to search for order and truth, to serve as a manifestation of the human’s search for God. What is it about hearing a sound or a piece of music that affects us so profoundly? How do we find meaning in sacred sound experiences and how do they help us to understand the world? And how do sacred sounds serve to hold religious and ethnic communities together? Sounds of Faith is an attempt to explore, understand and celebrate the complex and powerful links between sound and humankind’s desire to connect with something greater than itself. For more information visit http://soundsoffaith.org

Kathie Bender Schwich
What is the Advent and Christmas season all about? To a great many of us it is about waiting, filled with preparation and busyness. In fact, it can be one of the most overbooked, time crunched seasons of the year. In reality, Advent is a true blessing in the Christian life. It gives us an opportunity to take a breath; to watch and wait, not only for Christmas celebrations, but also for the coming of the light of Christ into the dark corners of our own lives.

In preparing Advocate Lutheran General Hospital for the coming of Christmas, the department of Mission and Spiritual Care has written a Daily Advent/Christmas devotional is available to our patients, visitors, physicians and staff. Each of these daily devotions was written by one of our staff, resident, or volunteer chaplains, or clergy from our community. It is our wish that this devotional guide will be a source of support for those who find themselves in the hospital during this season of hope and renewal.

Please know that these devotionals are also available for your use. You may receive your copy in the Mission and Spiritual Care Office on 1 East across from the chapel beginning November 28.

Please note: A future devotional for the Lenten Season 2011 is also being planned. If you are interested in contributing to this daily devotional guide (and we hope you are!) please contact Chaplain Andy Travis at andy.travis@advocatehealth.com

On Monday, November 29, 2010 friends and staff gathered in the hospital’s main lobby for our annual tree lighting ceremony. Sponsored by the Service League of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, this year’s tree of lights fundraiser will benefit the Adult Day Service Program and the Advocate Addiction Treatment Program. In addition to purchasing lights for the tree, donors may purchase ornaments for the Memory Tree which is located in the Parkside Lobby. These ornaments will be engraved with the name of the person being honored or remembered and will be returned to the donor when the tree is dismantled. If you would like to purchase an ornament, please call 847-723-6105 for further information.

Last month hospital staff had the privilege of hosting Mr. Klaus Peter Fischer, Administrator of Diakonie Nuendettelsau, a faith based hospital and health system in Bavaria, Germany. He was especially interested in hospital organization, quality management, patient and employee satisfaction, and our connection with the faith community. During his three day visit with us, Klaus visited 18 departments and met with several leaders and staff who enjoyed discussing our common work with Mr. Fischer and learning from him about faith based healthcare in Germany.

Klaus Peter Fischer with Jim Del Guidice, Physician Marketing
Questions and Answers
With Older Adult Services

Gwynne Chovanec
Director of Older Adult Services

We’re fortunate at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital to provide some of the most comprehensive services for seniors in the Chicago area. We welcome every opportunity to educate our community on our services and programs. By sharing some of these questions that are often asked of us it will hopefully give more insight on what we do while offering additional support to our seniors and caregivers at the same time.

Q. My spouse requires some supervision and assistance during the day and I need help. What programs are available that will keep him/her safe yet still be stimulating and fun?

A. We have a ‘Medical Model’ adult day service which is located one mile from our hospital. This Medical Model means that our program is staffed by registered nurses, social workers, activity therapists and specifically trained nursing care aides. Our focus is on abilities, not disabilities. There are simultaneous activities happening throughout the day including art, music, reminiscing and intergenerational programs. We’re open from 7:00 AM to 5:30 PM. Monday through Friday. In addition, we have three handicapped accessible vehicles that may be able to provide transportation depending on locations.

Q. Is there one number that I can call for resources and help? I just don’t know what’s available.

A. Our Senior Information and Referral staff provides resources, guidance and information about community services for adults, older adults, families and caregivers. Some seniors and caregivers just call us because they need someone to talk to, as well as finding out about what support we offer…..we can do that too! Our number is 847.723.7770.

Q. Hospital and doctor bills are so confusing what should I do?

A. We have three Senior Advocate billing counselors. Become a Senior Advocate member and help is immediately available. Bring all your bills to one of our counselors and they’ll do the rest. We have thousands of members that receive help each year. And, with membership comes our monthly Senior Advocate Breakfast Club where a continental breakfast is served and presentations by our doctors and medical staff are given on various health and wellness topics. This entire program, including membership, is a free service.

Q. I can’t cook anymore can you bring food to me?

A. Our Home Delivered Meals program allows homebound elderly or disabled individuals to remain in their home and receive a nutritious meal prepared by the Lutheran General Hospital dietary department. We bring it to you! If you’re not in our service area, we will find a home delivered meals program that is close to you.

Q. I have heard that there is a service that provides help in your home if you fall and are alone.

A. Yes…we have 700 Philips Lifeline® personal emergency response systems throughout Chicagoland. The latest technology can detect falls even when someone is unable to push a button. This is a great program that provides safety and security. Our social workers do all the installations in our service areas.

Advocate Cares

The 2010 Advocate Cares: Community Giving Campaign, “Give $1 for the Community,” kicked off November 8 and ran through November 30. On Tuesday, November 16, Advocate Lutheran General Hospital “flipped for the community” by offering a pancake breakfast in the 10th floor Top Deck Cafeteria. Proceeds from the event will go to the Community Giving Campaign.

In addition, all Advocate associates are being asked to pledge $1 per week to community giving. This year, associates chose to contribute from among three system-wide beneficiaries: American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, and United Way; and three site-selected beneficiaries: Journeys from PADS To HOPE, the Park Ridge Foundation, and Lutheran General Older Adult Services.
Menorah Lighting  
December 2nd, 12 Noon  
Hospital Main Information Desk

Roman Catholic Mass  
The Immaculate Conception  
December 8th, 3:30 pm Chapel

Men’s and Women’s Association  
Glove Sale, December 10th  
9am to 4pm at the Nesset Pavilion, 1775 Ballard Rd.

Protestant Christmas Service  
December 23rd, 12 Noon Chapel

Roman Catholic Mass  
Christmas Eve  
December 24th at 5:30 pm and 11:30 pm  
Olson Auditorium

Roman Catholic Mass  
New Years Day, January 1st 5:30 pm  
Johnson Auditorium

Roman Catholic Mass  
January 2nd, 3:30 p.m.  
Johnson Auditorium

“Oh My Aching Back”  
Arthritis in the elderly.  
January 21 at Old Country Buffet  
8780 W. Dempster St. Niles  
To register call 1.800.ADVOCATE  
(1.800.323.8622)

Cultural Initiative-Korean Program

Through a recent cultural/linguistics survey initiated by Lutheran General’s Mission, Values, and Philosophy (MVP) Integration Committee we learned that we have an opportunity for outreach and relationship building with four cultures in our own community—Korean, Polish, Russian, and Hispanic. In response, the MVP Integration Committee helped to launch Advocate Lutheran General’s cultural initiative.

The mission of the Lutheran General cultural initiative is to: incorporate cultural competency best practices; provide patients the most culturally sensitive environment in delivering the highest quality of care; and evaluate and respond to the ongoing needs of a culturally-diverse community.

The Korean Program kicked off our cultural initiative effort—with physicians, associates and members of the Korean American Community Services organization in attendance for an October 27th dinner at the hospital. The event highlighted some of our key initiatives, which include key signage in Korean, Korean translation services and select Korean food choices on our Room Service and Cafeteria menus. Lutheran General will also be rolling out similar programs for the Polish, Russian and Hispanic cultures, and will continue to evaluate changing demographics and new opportunities.

On November 11th, Veteran’s Day, our nation joined together to remember all of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces to protect and serve all of us throughout our history into the present. We at Advocate Lutheran General did our part by saying thank you and showing our gratitude by visiting each patient, associate, and volunteer during the day. We presented each veteran with a bouquet of red white, and blue flowers saying “thank you for your service”.

Dr. Ira DuBrow, veteran, receives his gift from Mission and Spiritual Care

Dr. John Park enjoys a sampling of some delicious Korean food, provided by our Catering department.