

IN THIS ISSUE: Volunteers bring joy and sup Lyngblomsten Foundation co

Volunteers bring joy and support for those living at home with memory loss Lyngblomsten Foundation connects generosity with mission Construction on the Lino Lakes campus nearing the finish line Living Waters Lutheran becomes new member congregation

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

As I peruse the stories in this edition, two words come to mind: generosity and transformation. We begin with a story giving a glimpse of the essential role volunteers play in delivering an impactful program for those living at home with memory loss and their caregivers. Volunteers transform these individuals' days.

There are several short articles reflecting the impact of donors—transforming both entire spaces as well as elements of spaces and programs. We celebrate their contributions.

And we look forward to the complete transformation of the property in Lino Lakes where our new campus is on the verge of welcoming its first residents to the townhomes. Then this summer, construction of the main building will be complete, and we'll open the doors to our first residents at varying levels of independence and care needs. Lyngblomsten will transform from a vibrant organization with one campus to two, both bolstered by our community services, lifelong learning and the arts opportunities, dedicated volunteers, and much more.

From the very first resident on the Como Park campus in 1912 to the first resident on the Lino Lakes campus in 2023, those 111 years are woven together with transformations and the generosity of a community of supporters. Lyngblomsten is blessed!

With gratefulness,



Patricia A. Montgomery | Editor Vice President of Communications & Stewardship

Lyngblomsten Foundation.

Lyngblomsten Lifestyle is published by the Marketing
Communications Department in cooperation with the



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On the Cover: Lyngblomsten volunteers Linda Caillier (left) and Cyndee Weber (right) do an activity with Brenda, a participant in The Gathering.

From the Heart:

Volunteers give enriching moments to those with memory loss and lifegiving breaks to their caregivers

By Tricia Theurer

Wolunteers.

They are at the heart of many Lyngblomsten programs and services, generously sharing their time and talents to create memorable moments for hundreds of older adults every day.

One such offering is The Gathering, a weekly group respite program that provides four hours of brain-stimulating activities and social engagement for adults living at home experiencing early- to mid-stage memory loss, giving their primary family/friend caregivers a much-needed break (respite).

Volunteers at The Gathering work alongside staff and other volunteers in a group setting. As part of their Lyngblomsten orientation, volunteers receive special training to understand the distinctive needs of people experiencing memory loss. During the program, volunteers (each one paired with two participants) assist with activities, engage participants in conversation, and gently redirect them or provide reminders as needed.

Continued on page 4



Mike Wallace (right), a volunteer with The Gathering, loves connecting with participants, saying, "It's my favorite of all of the programs I volunteer with."



A volunteer and a participant create handmade cards—and a friendship—during a session of The Gathering at St. John in the Wilderness in White Bear Lake.

Meet Linda, Cyndee, and Mike—three of the many dedicated volunteers with The Gathering

Linda Caillier has volunteered since 2016, with a lapse during the pandemic. "I like seeing caregivers have a chance to take a breath and a break, because caregiving can be exhausting," she said. Linda recently told her friend Cyndee Weber about her positive experience volunteering, and soon, the pair was serving together on the Saint Paul campus. "I've worked with seniors most of my life," explained Cyndee. "This is my comfort area. It's where I feel most at home."

Mike Wallace began volunteering with The Gathering, primarily at the White Bear Lake site, in 2017. But unlike Cyndee, he was apprehensive about taking on the opportunity when he first heard about it. "I have to admit, it took a few times of my friend telling me, 'You'd be a natural,' before I committed," he shared. That trepidation didn't last long: "It was love at first sight!" Mike remarked, reflecting on his first day at The Gathering.

Volunteers look forward to the social interaction with other volunteers and the opportunity to connect with the participants. "The participants are excited to see us, and the four hours fly by!" Linda noted. "It's a fun environment," Cyndee chimed in. She continued, "The participants and their caregivers appreciate that we as volunteers are happy, and the participants feel that, too." Mike commented, "I'm happy when I come here. I come with a smile, and I leave with a smile!"

Linda, Cyndee, and Mike appreciate that The Gathering offers intentional activities, which include exercise, art, discussions, and games. Each activity ties to the day's theme, and the daily schedule explains the why behind each activity, as well as which part of the brain is being stimulated. "I love the activities," Cyndee stated. "They're very thorough. The participants get a lot out of them." Linda echoed this sentiment, noting the program's creativity. "There's lots of talking, sharing, and laughing," she added.

Volunteers enjoy knowing their service makes a real difference in the lives of the participants and their caregivers. Mike shared, "It gives me a great feeling knowing I'm helping others." Cyndee said, "Caregivers can rest assured their loved ones are in a safe place and that they're being cared for." Linda added that the caregivers are truly grateful for everything staff and volunteers do.



Brittany Harris, Respite Coordinator for Lyngblomsten Community Services, and a participant play a St. Patrick's Day version of tic-tac-toe.



Volunteers assist participants with activities such as word finds, games, exercise, and discussions. Each activity is intentional and uses a different part of the brain.

The magic is in the team, and the team needs you!

"The Gathering is a team setting through and through," remarked Brittany Harris, Respite Coordinator for Lyngblomsten Community Services. "The participants spend their day in the group, and volunteers work as a team with the staff facilitator to deliver an engaging, meaningful day."

Currently, The Gathering is offered as three cohorts: Tuesdays and Wednesdays at Lyngblomsten's Saint Paul campus and Thursdays in White Bear Lake at St. John in the Wilderness Church. To operate at full capacity, 21 volunteers are needed each week!

"Lyngblomsten wouldn't be able to offer such a variety of programs without our great volunteers who make a difference in the lives of older adults every day," said Melanie Jagolino, Volunteer Coordinator. She continued, "Right now, one of our most pressing program needs is additional volunteers for The Gathering. This is a fun, rewarding experience that benefits everyone: the volunteers, the participants, and their caregivers."

"The need for respite care is huge and growing," stated Brittany. "With more volunteers, we could serve more participants."

Explore Volunteering with The Tathering!

If you're looking for a great volunteer experience like Linda, Cyndee, and Mike have found at The Gathering, consider giving it a try! From volunteering weekly to serving occasionally as a substitute, you'll enjoy a flexible commitment that accommodates a variety of schedules.

Here are two ways to learn more about this enriching opportunity:

- 1. Attend a Volunteer Info
 Session for The Gathering
 on Thursday, March 23, at
 3 PM. Held online via Zoom,
 this info session will include
 a short presentation from
 Melanie Jagolino (Volunteer
 Coordinator) and Brittany
 Harris (Respite Coordinator)
 about The Gathering and
 plenty of time for you to ask
 questions. See the Events
 Calendar on page 15 for the
 Zoom login instructions.
- 2. Contact Melanie to learn more at (651) 632-5499 or mjagolino@lyngblomsten. org. Opportunities to shadow a volunteer with The Gathering are available.

Welcome, Living Waters Lutheran Church!

By Patricia Montgomery

In October 2022, the Lyngblomsten Board of Directors voted to extend a membership invitation to Living Waters Lutheran Church in Lino Lakes, and the congregation has accepted.

In 2022, Lyngblomsten lifted a nearly 15-year moratorium on adding new congregations. "With the new campus opening in Lino Lakes, it is important to increase the representation of churches in that area," said Jeff Heinecke, President and CEO of Lyngblomsten.

Lyngblomsten has had a collaborative relationship with Living Waters for a few years, and last year two congregants—Pastor Ivy Huston and Dr. Mark Knudson—were elected to the Lyngblomsten Board of Directors.

"We do better when we do it together," shared Pastor Ivy, "and partnering with Lyngblomsten will help us tend to the elder generation more intentionally and thoughtfully." She is in the process of identifying delegates to represent the congregation.

With the addition of Living Waters, Lyngblomsten's members now number 26 Christian congregations in the Saint Paul area, including a handful in the NE Metro. Lyngblomsten has had member congregations since 1960.







Pastor Ivy Huston

Thank you!

Thank you to the following member congregations for participating in our annual Spirit of Giving Christmas gift collection for Lyngblomsten residents:

Augustana Lutheran

Bethlehem Lutheran in the Midway

Centennial United Methodist

Falcon Heights United Church of Christ

Prince of Peace Lutheran - Roseville

Saint Anthony Park Lutheran

The generosity of these congregations, along with gifts from individuals and a substantial grant from the Auxiliary Legacy Fund through the Lyngblomsten Foundation, made it possible for each Lyngblomsten resident and tenant to receive a gift at Christmas. Thank you for providing this wonderful Christmas tradition!



Engage-Discover-Thrive

Programs and services for older adults in the St. Paul area and beyond include:

- Memory Loss Enrichment
- Caregiver Support
- Wellness Opportunities
- **Resources to Churches**

(651) 632-5330 | 2ndHalf@lyngblomsten.org | www.lyngblomsten.org/2ndHalf

Jean Larson honored for her advocacy to Parkinson's community

By Tricia Theurer

Jean Larson, a longtime friend of Lyngblomsten, recently received a 2022 Paul M. Silverstein Community Service Award from the Park Nicollet Struthers Parkinson's Center for her advocacy and outreach to the Parkinson's community.

Jean learned about Parkinson's disease firsthand, as her husband Milt lived with it for more than two decades. For much of that time, he was a resident of the Lyngblomsten Care Center.

She has been an integral member of a support group at Lyngblomsten for both those with a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease and their loved ones. After Milt's death in 2014, Jean became co-facilitator of the group and continues to share Milt's story, their story and her story. "Many have stated how the group and Jean are essential to them for making the journey with a debilitating disease just a little easier," said Jay Haukom, Social Service Coordinator at Lyngblomsten Care Center and co-facilitator of the support group.

Jean's passion for helping, educating, and supporting others culminated in her writing a book, *Hope on* the Journey, where she chronicled both the losses and challenges and the joy and connections that reflected her experience with the disease.

Congratulations, Jean, on this well-deserved honor!



Jean Larson, longtime supporter and ambassador of Lyngblomsten, receives the Paul M. Silverstein Community Service Award from Dr. Martha Nance, Medical Director at Park Nicollet Struthers Parkinson's Center.

Lyngblomsten Foundation connects generosity with mission

By Tricia Theurer and Patricia Montgomery

Did you know that nearly all who are connected to Lyngblomsten—residents and their families, staff, volunteers, community participants, and even congregations—are beneficiaries of the generosity of its donors? The Lyngblomsten Foundation raises funds to support the mission of Lyngblomsten, and fundraising has been essential since the day the idea of Lyngblomsten was born. It began at a book club meeting in October 1903 where 14 avid readers each contributed dues of 10 cents, resulting in \$1.40 toward the dream of building a Christian home for the elderly.

Much has changed since that first fundraiser almost 120 years ago. What has been constant, though, is the need for financial donations to provide the best quality of life possible for older adults through Lyngblomsten's programs and services. Today the Foundation's primary focus is on raising funds to support community services and lifelong learning and the arts. However, nearly every area of the continuum of care receives some level of support from the Foundation. This includes amenities such as the Newman-Benson Chapel and Anna's café and gifts; building improvements such as the recent care center renovations; and programming including spiritual care, home health, lifelong learning and the arts, and community services (which includes resources to churches).

"The focus of the Foundation's fundraising efforts is to support older adults on their journey—from living independently in their own homes to supporting them when their care needs change," said Tim Overweg, Executive Director of the Foundation. "This is important work, and it sets us apart."

In his role, Overweg makes connections and deepens relationships with all kinds of donors. "My aim is to make sure we're connecting people's philanthropic hopes and desires with opportunities at Lyngblomsten," he said.

Donors contribute through periodic appeals, the annual gala, memorial gifts, and legacy gifts (e.g., through their will). Some give cash or stock, while others direct gifts through their donor-advised funds, IRAs, Thrivent, or employer match. Beyond gifts from individuals, the Foundation also applies for grants and offers corporate sponsorships.



For more information about the Lyngblomsten Foundation and how you can make a difference, contact Tim Overweg at toverweg@lyngblomsten.org or (651) 632-5319.



The Lyngblomsten Foundation provides opportunities for generous people to support the mission of Lyngblomsten:

Influenced by Christ, Lyngblomsten provides a ministry of compassionate care and innovative services to older adults in order to preserve and enhance their quality of life.

Programs benefit from Lyngblomsten Auxiliary Legacy Fund

The Lyngblomsten Auxiliary Legacy Grants Committee met October 27, 2022, to review applications from Lyngblomsten staff on behalf of their programs. The committee was pleased with the variety of needs they could address through the requests. Funding totaling \$24,320 was approved for:

- Lockers for volunteers and a summer gardening project for participants in The Gathering at the St. Paul site
- Furniture for a counseling room to support three programs within Lyngblomsten Community Services



The new coaching room

- Two new features for the courtyard on the Como Park campus (vagueness is intentional so we can surprise you later!)
- Seasonal planters for the front entry of The Heritage at Lyngblomsten
- A matching challenge grant for a special Christmas meal for the tenants at the Lyngblomsten Apartments
- Christmas gifts for Lyngblomsten residents



Tenants enjoying the special Christmas meal

Though the Lyngblomsten Auxiliary dissolved in 2011, its legacy lives on through the endowment its members established with their fundraising proceeds that remained at that time. On behalf of all those who will benefit from these most recent grants: Thank you!

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 CORPORATE SPONSORS!

The generosity of our corporate sponsors helps the Lyngblomsten Foundation fund programs and services for older adults, including Lyngblomsten's community programs and arts and lifelong learning opportunities.

www.lyngblomsten.org/sponsor

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Curt Thorpe honored with Fergstad Distinguished Service Award

Given periodically, the Fergstad Award recognizes outstanding individuals who have made a substantial impact on Lyngblomsten through giving generously of both their time and treasure.

At the Lyngblomsten Foundation President's Dinner held October 13, 2022, Curt Thorpe received the Anna Quale Fergstad Award for Distinguished Service for his longstanding philanthropy and volunteer service to Lyngblomsten. The award is named after Lyngblomsten's founder, Anna Quale Fergstad, who was a leader, influencer, philanthropist, and mobilizer of volunteers.

Curt served four years as chair of the Lyngblomsten Board of Directors (1995–1999), three years as chair for the Lyngblomsten Foundation (1999–2002), and co-chaired the Focused on the Future capital campaign that raised \$4.3 million to convert the Lyngblomsten Care Center into neighborhoods (2000–2003). Curt has been a member of the Lyngblomsten President's Club since 2001.

Curt honed his business skills at 3M and at the same time offered those skills to many local organizations. He was the Roseville Area Seniors 1999 Volunteer of the Year, built homes with Habitat for Humanity for almost 15 years, served on the board and volunteered for the Saint Paul Area Council of Churches, was congregation president at St. Timothy Lutheran Church (a member congregation), and mentored small business leaders with SCORE for five years.

Curt's generosity and servant leadership have made a substantial impact on Lyngblomsten and many other organizations in the Saint Paul area. L



Curt Thorpe (left) stands with President & CEO Jeff Heinecke after receiving the Anna Quale Fergstad Award for Distinguished Service.

Curt Thorpe joins the ranks of Lyngblomsten's previous Anna **Quale Fergstad Award recipients:**

2001: Wallace R. Hauge[†] 2002: Rev. Elder Bentley[†] 2003: Marvin Merrick[†]

2004: June Husom & Rachel Husom[†]

2005: Jack Boss[†] **2006:** Bill Lund

2007: Jeanette Severson[†]

2008: Mary Blanchard

2009: Mary Dennis

2013: Paul Mikelson

2015: Michael A. Santoro

2017: Dr. Leslie Grant

2018: James (Jim) Nash[†]

2019: Don & Lu Zibell

2020: Dr. Maynard & Elaine Jacobson

2021: Sherwin Singsaas

2022: Curt Thorpe

Husom sisters and volunteers honored at park dedication

By Patricia Montgomery

The recent renovation of the Lyngblomsten Care Center included a transformation of the "island" in the visitor parking lot. Completely redesigned, the space features extra wide concrete paths, sitting areas, trees, shrubs, and pollinator-friendly perennials. Residents and butterflies love spending time in this outdoor oasis.

The park was made possible in part by gifts given to the Lyngblomsten Foundation's Our Turn in History capital campaign, including a special 150 Challenge to Lyngblomsten volunteers.

Though the pandemic delayed the dedication, time did not lessen the gratitude expressed at a park dedication ceremony held October 14, 2022, to reveal the park's name and dedicate the space. The ceremony took place at the main entrance of the Lyngblomsten Care Center, adjacent to the new park. Festivities began with Tim Overweg, Executive Director of the Lyngblomsten Foundation, welcoming a small group of supporters who braved a brisk, drizzly afternoon to celebrate the contributions of a special family and thousands of volunteers.

The event continued with Jeff Heinecke, President & CEO, unveiling the name of the park. Heinecke announced the name is Husom Park, and he invited longtime supporter June Husom to come forward as he recounted highlights from the contributions June and her recently deceased sisters Ruth Husom and Rachel Husom made to Lyngblomsten over several decades. "From volunteering in the gift shop to baking cookies for our cookie fairs to engaging fellow members of Immanuel and Augustana Lutheran churches, the list of ways these three sisters have impacted Lyngblomsten is lengthy," Heinecke emphasized. June served on the Lyngblomsten Foundation Board as well as capital campaign leadership teams and the Spring Gala committee. "June has been so generous to



Representing the Husom sisters, June Husom poses for a photo with Jeff Heinecke and the park plaque at the dedication ceremony held October 14.

Lyngblomsten," Heinecke noted, "and naming this park for June and her sisters is our way of saying thank you."

Heinecke concluded his remarks by reading the naming inscription from the plaque:

This park is named for June Husom, Rachel Husom, and Ruth Husom—three sisters whose generous contributions of time, talent, and treasure have made Lyngblomsten and the Saint Paul/East Metro community a better place to grow old.

The dedication of the park was next. "This park is dedicated in honor and appreciation of the thousands of volunteers who have faithfully served the mission of Lyngblomsten for 11 decades, including those who contributed to the Our Turn in History capital campaign," said Patricia Montgomery, Vice President of Communications and Stewardship. "The park is front and center—just like our volunteers have been for over a century," she concluded.

The dedication on the plaque reads:

This park is dedicated to the thousands of volunteers who have generously served Lyngblomsten's mission since our beginning in 1906.

The plaque is displayed near the entrance to the park. **L**

Excitement builds as construction nears the finish line

Roofing, siding, insulation, windows, and drywall...oh, my!

Those are just some of the materials that workers are using each day to transform the land at the intersection of Hodgson Road and County Road J into a vibrant senior living campus. The excitement is building as the community of Lyngblomsten at Lino Lakes is taking shape. The townhomes are almost complete, and the main building with independent living, assisted living, and memory care along with a plethora of amenities is anticipated for completion this summer.



When the two-story lobby of the main building is complete, it will be filled with light, warmth, and energyready to welcome residents, visitors, and staff to the campus community. Photo taken in January 2023.



By August 2022, progress had been made on what will likely become one of the most sought-after amenities on campus: a warm water pool.





By January 2023, stainless steel appliances and classic dark cabinets had been installed in this apartment kitchen.



Workers used a crane to install siding on the main building last September.



Taken in December 2022, this photo shows five of the 20 detached rental townhomes that are being constructed on the north end of campus.



A glimpse of the detached rental townhomes in progress reveals a spacious kitchen and dining area for entertaining friends and family. Photo taken in November 2022.



To reserve your unit, contact Stacy Herink, Director of Resident Relations for Lyngblomsten at Lino Lakes. Reach her at sherink@lyngblomsten.org or (651) 341-0483.

Gifts to the Remembrance Fund

In Memory or Honor of a Loved One

In Memory of

July 1, 2022*, through December 31, 2022

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In Honor of

Josie Barnes Rod Davies Lyngblomsten Staff Joanne Mick Lois Monfils Elizabeth Murray *In the Summer 2022 edition of *Lyngblomsten Lifestyle*, we incorrectly noted that the Remembrance Fund gifts listed were made between November 1, 2021, and May 31, 2022. The gifts listed were made between November 1, 2022, and June 30, 2022. Thus, gifts listed in this edition begin on July 1, 2022. This list does <u>not</u> contain Lights of Lyngblomsten tributes.

For information about making a gift in honor or in memory of your loved one, please contact Tim Overweg at (651) 632-5319 or toverweg@lyngblomsten.org.

A Great Place to Live is also a Great Place to Work!

Join our team to make a difference in the lives of older adults. We offer a family-like atmosphere, competitive wages, and excellent benefits.

Lyngblomsten has openings for full- and part-time positions on our campus in St. Paul, and we soon will be hiring for our community in Lino Lakes at the corner of Hodgson Road and County Road J.

Check out our current openings and apply online. **Visit: www.lyngblomsten.org/employment.**



Join us for Holy Week services!

Family and friends welcome. All events will be held in the Newman-Benson Chapel at Lyngblomsten on the Como Park campus.

Schedule

- Palm Sunday, April 2: Fellowship, followed by Worship - 10:30 AM
- Service for Healing and Wholeness:
 April 4 10:30 AM
- Maundy Thursday, April 6: Worship and service project - time TBA
- Good Friday, April 7: Worship 10:30 AM
- Easter Sunday, April 9: Worship 10:30 AM

More information available at www.lyngblomsten.org/HolyWeek2023

Events Calendar

Thursday, March 23

Online Info Session: Learn about Volunteering with The Gathering

3-4 PM via Zoom.

The Gathering is expanding its volunteer pool, and we'd love for you to consider joining us in making a difference! Learn more about The Gathering and what happens during a program session, hear about the types of activities you'll be doing as a volunteer, and have your questions answered.

No RSVP needed; just log into the meeting! Visit www.zoom.us, click on "Join" in the upper navigation, and then complete the Meeting ID and Passcode information (Meeting ID: 875 5394 4250; Passcode: 976692).

Questions? Contact Melanie Jagolino, Volunteer Coordinator, at (651) 632-5499 or mjagolino@lyngblomsten.org.

Mondays, April 10-May 15

Living Well with Chronic Conditions

1–3:30 PM. Held at the Lyngblomsten Community Room.

This FREE wellness class is for those age 60+ living with any chronic condition. Topics include nutrition, exercise, medication use, pain and emotions management, and more.

Registration required by April 6. Learn more at www.lyngblomsten.org/WellnessEducation.

Tuesdays, April 18-May 9

Minnesota Opera Connections

3-4 PM. Held at the Lyngblomsten Apartments Dining Room.

Join us to look behind the curtain of the Minnesota Opera's upcoming production, Don Giovanni. Study it through theatrical, musical, and historical lenses. FREE; open to Lyngblomsten residents and the community.

Registration required by April 14. For more information or to register, community members should contact 2nd Half with Lyngblomsten at (651) 632-5330 or 2ndHalf@lyngblomsten.org. Tenants who live at the Lyngblomsten Apartments should contact Jill Hult.

Tuesday, May 2

Lyngblomsten Corporate Annual Meeting

6 PM Dinner. 7 PM Meeting. Held in the Newman-Benson Chapel at Lyngblomsten.

For member congregation delegates, board directors, and committee members. Invitations will be mailed.



OUR MISSION:

Influenced by Christ, Lyngblomsten provides a ministry of compassionate care and innovative services to older adults in order to preserve and enhance their quality of life.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

For our **participants**, Lyngblomsten promotes dignity through informed choices for living options, respecting individuality, and orchestrating the best life possible.

For our participants' **families**, Lyngblomsten supports their needs through careful listening, traveling alongside them as they walk the journey with their loved ones.

For our **employees**, Lyngblomsten strives to foster an environment that encourages compassionate caregiving, innovative thinking, problem-solving, and opportunity seeking.

Through our **community** of donors, volunteers, member congregations, and socially responsible corporations, Lyngblomsten encourages the individual to live one's personal ministry by enhancing the lives of older adults.

OUR PROMISE

Lyngblomsten strives to provide unmatched person-centered experiences, valuing: who you are, where you are, and your rights to make choices and decisions.

OUR PILLARS:

Influenced by Christ Innovation & Leadership Resources & Support Person-Centered & Dignity-Enhancing Experiences **Engaged Lifestyle**

www.lyngblomsten.org



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



The Lyngblomsten Foundation annual gala will be held in the fall instead of spring 2023. Date TBD.

MAKE LYNGBLOMSTEN AT LINO LAKES YOUR NEXT HOME!

Lyngblomsten's senior living campus in Lino Lakes will include:

- One-story detached rental townhomes
- · Independent living
- · Assisted living
- · Memory care
- Plus a variety of campus amenities!

Amenities include:

- Fitness Center with Warm Water Pool
- Chapel/Multipurpose Room
- · Restaurant, Pub, and Café
- Theater
- Pickleball Court
- · And more!









