

Hi Elaine,

5/16/20

More than a few months ago you asked me to write about my experience at Linden Ridge, our home since late August 2019. No matter where you ~~live~~ live the pandemic has resulted in two different dimensions. Presently, our facility, as all similar programs, does not allow any visitors including family and we are not allowed to leave except for medical appointments. The mandates are in place to prevent the virus from invading our home which could have devastating consequences as the majority of the residents are over 80.

Personally, the most difficult change is we are confined to our units and our meals are delivered to our rooms. Everyone looked forward to our dining experience ~~where~~^{where} excellent (in my opinion) meals were delivered to our tables of 3 or 4 people. The first move was 2 per table spaced 10 to 12 feet apart. The meals were served by mostly young people who seemed to enjoy what they were doing. Refreshing! Missing seeing these friends and the isolation resulting is a challenge.

Unfortunately just as I was getting to know these fellow senior citizens we became isolated. It was rewarding to enjoy the company of folks in their 80s and 90s who were positive and enjoyed conversation. Despite walkers and wheelchairs they enjoy the comforts and employees of Linden Ridge, having survived the valleys of life. As one would expect, most of the residents are female. It was good to see how alert a handful of guys in their 90's were.

My mother, Betty Enright, lived 2 months prior to her 99th birthday. She avoided her much feared ~~residence~~ residence in a "nursing home" until the last few months of her life.

For 15 yrs. I was on a worship/music team that visited six

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different nursing/assisted living homes in Mukwonago, Pewaukee and Waukesha. For me, I was very comfortable coming to Linda Ridge. Not having to shop for food and frequently looking for my wife, Darla, who seemed to be in hiding is a plus. We appreciate not having to prepare our meals and washing the dishes, a welcome change. Each week the staff cleans our suite, changes the bed and does our wash. What is there not to like?

My experience has taught me it is not so much where one lives but how you live determines the quality of life. I could have not started my life in a better place as the first 34 years were in the village of Eagle, the greatest little town in the world, the oldest child of two loving parents. The next 43 years were on Piper Road in the town of Eagle, the perfect place to raise a family. A condo at Hawks Ridge in Mukwonago was ideal for the next six years. I say this because where we chose to live or are forced to live are factors into our choices and the quality of one's life.

My observation is the primary variable in the quality of life is what chooses as their focus: "what do I have" versus "what I think I deserve". For me I have concluded the level of peace I experience is directly related to the degree of trust I place into the God of the Bible: for too long I put my trust into a God that does not exist.

Yours truly

Don Ewright

P.S. I appreciate all you and Don have done and continue to do for our wonderful community.