## ALC planning major expansion for assisted living unit

by Beth Kraft

Since opening its Hillview Senior Living assisted living facility in 2012, Mondovi's American Lutheran Communities has seen demand for rooms in the community-based residential setting increase even after a 2015 expannumber of rooms.

sion for the facility could be coming soon, ALC reps say, in order to utilize existing open space and capitalize on spring of 2018. a rising trend in elder care.

"The belief is there's some need for some additional assisted living units in Mondovi," commented Michael Christensen, CEO of ALC.

project won't add to the building's square footage as the last one did. Christensen says the facility's rehabilitation unit demand for assisted livwas moved into available space on the second floor a few months ago, and ALC leaders have since considered options for the open wing-conveniently located down the hallway from the existing Hillview Senior Living facility.

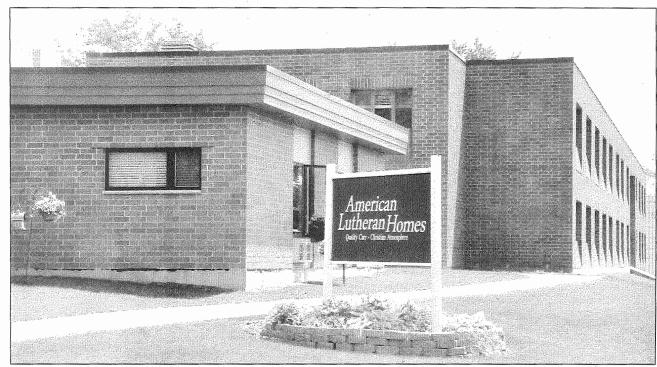
Preliminary plans for the expansion-recently approved by ALC's Board of Directors-include a renovation project for the former rehab rooms to create 12 new assisted living rooms with private bathrooms, bringing the facility's total up to 36.

As long as ALC obtains sion project doubled the state approval for the project and the bid process goes Now a second expan- smoothly, Christensen said renovation work could begin this winter with the goal of opening the new wing in

Christensen says Hillview's initial 12 rooms "immediately filled up," and the expansion project two years ago also drew a packed house. The assisted living facility as a whole Yet this expansion continues to maintain high occupancy, he said, kicking off conversations on another expansion.

> Yet the trend of rising ing space isn't exclusive to Mondovi, says Christensen, who holds 40 years of experience in the healthcare industry, including 18 years of involvement with the Mondovi facility.

"There has been a shiftand a very fast shift—from



American Lutheran Communities recently announced preliminary plans to expand Hillview Senior Living in Mondovi. The possible expansion project, which will seek bids and state approvals in order to move forward, calls for turning rehabilitation rooms into 12 additional assisted living rooms with private bathrooms.

the skilled nursing to assist- explained preference of the seniors."

traditionally cared for in skilled nursing facilities. nursing homes can now have nursing homes.

shift" in senior care options, nursing facility."

Christensen, ed living," he said. "It's the which has also resulted in ALC's rehab rooms to open don't close." more elderly people opting Elderly people who were for home health care over was a "financial decision"

their needs met via assisted more prevalent now than nursing home beds. living, and some traditional it was years ago," he said. hospital patients now live in "Now the family has options. There's not that au-It's all part of a "societal tomatic jump to the skilled

space in the nursing home aimed at adjusting to de-"Home care is much creased demand for those should they require a stay in

> come to pass at ALC of late, igniting rumors that touted by ALC leaders. the facility is struggling,

Christensen said moving making changes so we

Skilled nursing care just steps away is also a key asset for Hillview residents ALC's nursing home for a Many changes have short time, part of an overarching "campus approach"

"That continual care rebut Christensen stressed the ally benefits the operation in