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ECHOES

From The Point

Vol. 27, No. 2

A Newsletter for Campers and Friends of Luther Park

Fall/Winter 2016-2017



Summer Camp Theme for 2017: "The Water of Life"

Our key summer verse for the week is: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you." (Isaiah 43:2)

The summer of 2017 will be full of new opportunities and experiences. Here's some brief insight into this summer:

Leadership Training Retreat: Before camp starts, we invite high schoolers interested in becoming leaders to come for a weekend training retreat. This gives leadership trainers, called LT's, the chance to get to know the staff they will be working with and become familiar with the programming before they meet the campers. This is a great opportunity for a high schooler's future resumes, volunteer experiences, and jobs!

Grandparent Camp: The relationship between grandparents and their grandchildren are special. Spend time together at Luther Park exploring God's creation, diving into the summer theme and sharing each other's stories.

Family Camp: Family Camp has claimed a new week! Spend Sunday-Friday with your family exploring God's creation, growing closer together and discovering more about each other and God. There will be plenty of opportunities to do fun activities together, but also time for parents to spend time talking about the joys and struggles of parenting while the kids connect with each other and summer staff. 🏕️

LOOK INSIDE FOR

- Meet the New Program Director p.2
- Gifting Stocks or from an IRA p.3
- Open House & Bikeathon . . . p.3
- 2017 Summer Camp Information p.6
- Summer Camp in January . . p.6
- Quilt Auction p.7
- Peer Ministry Retreat p.7
- Retreat Information p.8



Giving Back to Luther Park in a Stock Gift - A Lasting Legacy

by Mary Claire Olson Potter

I first remember being at Luther Park Camp in the Family Camp with my mom and sister while our dad and brother were in the Boy Scout Camp. I remember my dad, Glenn, coming over to check on us to be sure we were doing ok.

Over the years, I attended as a camper and in later years as a Staff in Training (SIT). I developed many wonderful relationships that continued long after my camping days.

Growing up at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church, the church was an active member of the camp as a Corporate Congregation. We had representatives that served on the Luther Park Board of Directors. One of the members serving on the Board invited me to join and I was excited about that opportunity. I joined the board, serving as secretary, and then as one of its youngest presidents. It was such a great opportunity for me with such a wonderful organization that I believed in – and still do.

As a Board member, I participated in clean-up weekends. Traveling to camp with my friend, Karon, we cleaned that kitchen so hard it was unrecognizable when we were done. One year we were replacing the roof on the lodge – that is the first and the last time that I have taken off shingles with a pitch fork. On a weekend when we did not have a retreat coordinator, I served as the retreat host. The lodge is a really big building when you are there by yourself!

My favorite memory is the annual phone-a-thon that we did every year for many years. I asked my dad to join me on calling night and, of course, he was quick to say yes. Dad and I would each start out making our own calls, having a bit of a contest between the two of us as to who could raise the most money. Listening to dad on the phone gave me many good skills. As the calls went on, I became his assistant, making notes of the gifts while he continued to 'make the ask.' Dad believed strongly in Luther Park and he thought all members of Diamond Lake should support it.

I have enjoyed watching Luther Park grow and expand its ministry over the years. As times change, so has Luther Park had to change how it meets the needs of campers and retreaters.

I was there for the ribbon cutting on the renovated log house – a new way of camping!

When my husband, John, and I got married six years ago, we decided to ask for donations to organizations that we support rather than wedding gifts. We each picked an organization, and mine was Luther Park Camp. I appreciated everyone's support of the camp, and I was able to have many conversations about Luther Park and why I supported it.

My dad always appreciated Joel's visits when he moved to downtown Minneapolis and his assisted living location. Dad would say to me, "Joel called me today. I really like him." Dad gave a very generous gift to Luther Park many years ago – anonymously, as he wanted to support Joel and the camp but did not want any recognition for it.

When dad died in June of 2014, my brother, sister, and I were discussing memorial gifts. My brother, David, said he would like them to go to the University of Minnesota lymphoma (continued on pg. 2)



Mary Claire Olson Potter and her father Glenn G. C. Olson made a great pair at the Spring Phonathon (Photo by Sharon F. Miller)

COMING EVENTS



- DEC 2 - Glad Tidings Advent Dinner
- FEB 9-12 or FEB 10-12
Scrapbooking & Stamping WKND I
- MARCH 19 - Annual Meeting at Diamond Lake Lutheran Church 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.
- APRIL 22 - Ole & Lena Dinner and Silent Auction at Richfield Lutheran Church
- APR 27-30 or APR 28-30
Scrapbooking & Stamping WKND II
- MAY 31-JUNE 11 - Summer Staff Training
- JUNE 3-4 - Bike-a-thon I
- JUNE 11 - Summer Camp Starts
- JULY 14-15 - Bike-a-thon II
- JULY 15 - Open House

Complete event information is available online at: www.lutherpark.com or call 715-656-7244

Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/LutherParkBibleCamp

A Message From the President

David P. Shirley



“Refreshing Our Future”

“So that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah appointed for you, that is, Jesus.” Acts 3:20 NRSV

Luther Park has been experiencing a continual refreshing of the camp’s spirit and facilities. As part of the *Fit for the Next 50* initiative; five of the eight cabins have been renovated and refreshed by volunteer efforts and \$75,000. We have only three cabins left to refresh at a cost of \$15,000 each and the hope is this work will be completed in the near future. If you, your church, and/or a group of ambitious volunteers would like to assist in this effort; please contact Joel to discuss the process and financial needs.

All the cabins have been *freshened-up* with exterior paint, most of which by the tireless service of Art Caple. Thank you Art! I just noticed that our donated garage near the Welcome Center has a new coat of paint, which certainly contributes to the overall appearance of Luther Park’s facilities. We have received about \$20,000 of the estimated \$30,000 needed to install a steel roof on the Lodge, which will be a good investment in refreshing that amenity. If you have a need to *refresh* some of those older *worn-out* dollars or stocks, this project may fit the bill!

Visitors to Luther Park will notice that land has been totally cleared for the construction of the Bethel Family and Adult Retreat Center project, which should have the foundation built in the spring of 2017. There were a couple logistical and permitting delays that prevented foundation work this fall however; we should be far along in the project by the end of 2017. When the shell is erected and closed-up, there will be many opportunities for finishing work on the interior. Please keep this project in your thoughts, prayers and budget, until its ultimate completion.

At the November 27, 2016 Board Meeting, the Board was excited to learn of a new staff addition, Leah McDougall in the role of Program Director. Leah’s knowledge of camp ministry and contagious enthusiasm is certainly a refreshing enhancement to the ministry of your Bible Camp! Welcome Leah!

Going forward, the Board is planning to receive and review feedback/comment sheets from Retreat guests, as part of continual improvement efforts to keep the Luther Park experience fresh. The Board really appreciates individuals sharing their vision for the future of your outdoor ministry and on Sunday, March 19, 2017, Luther Park will hold its Annual Meeting. Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting at Diamond Lake Lutheran, starting at 1:30 p.m., while bringing forth refreshing ideas for how Luther Park can support your Church’s youth and adult ministry programs.

Thank you for the continued support of Luther Park’s ministry, as we work to keep it fresh!

In Christ,

David Paul Shirley—Luther Park Board President

A Message From the Associate Director

Anna Treague



The Son’s Reflection

I’m guessing that a lot of us have built or helped build a house or a building? When doing so, one of the first things that is needed is to find a good place to build it and then it needs a strong foundation. I’m also betting that even more of us have at one point or another built or tried to build a sand castle. Most of the time they never last long.

In Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus says *“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”*

Some people may hear this story and think, oh that is a great architectural lesson – it really doesn’t have anything to do with me. Yet it does, and this story goes way beyond architecture. Jesus is talking about us, about our lives. Is Jesus your rock?

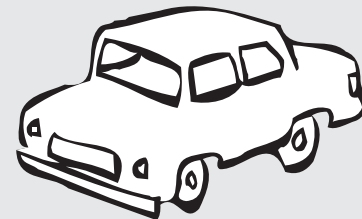
The difference between building our “house” on the rock or on the sand is how we use what we hear and learn. Going back to the building aspect of structures; what are some of the tools you may need? A hammer, nails, saws, levels, wrenches? Now think about the tools you need to build your life in Christ: faith, scripture, fellowship with other Christians, honesty, love, and perseverance, just to name a few. Those things and Jesus are that strong foundation for all of us. As we go through life it is our choice of where and how we want to use those tools to build our lives, “our houses.” Luther Park is one of those tools and we are so excited to use this tool to help build and form the lives of youth and adults year round.

Anna Treague
Associate Director

Do You Have A Car You Can Donate?

Donating a vehicle is easy to do, and you can receive a significant tax savings.

If you are interested in learning more call Joel Legred at 612-987-6628 or email: jlegred@lutherpark.com



Giving Back to Luther Park (cont. from pg.1)

research, as my brother had been battling lymphoma. Then he said, “Mary, I am sure you want donations to go to Luther Park, so we will list both.”

This past summer, I was ready to give a memorial gift to Luther Park in memory of my dad to match the amount he gave. I decided to make the gift as a stock transfer. It was so easy – I called my broker and said I would like to make a gift, gave them the address, and the gift was sent. I was most excited to call Joel to let him know about the transfer and to watch for it. I know Luther Park has many needs and exciting plans and I am very happy to honor my dad in this way.

Luther Park Camp has been a part of my life for many years. It has helped me to grow in my faith, develop long-lasting friendships, learn new skills, and create wonderful memories with family and friends. I invite you to be a part of Luther Park Camp today – it will change your life!

Luther Park ECHOES From the Point

is published by the Luther Park Corporation, a non-profit organization affiliated with congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), and other Lutheran congregations, to share the news and ministry of Luther Park Camping and Retreat Center with campers and friends of Luther Park. The camp is located at 30376 Lakes Drive, Danbury, WI 54830.

Editor/Writer/Designer/Photographer: Janet Nelson/Tom Nelson (tomdesign@comcast.net)

Pictures, information and opinions are welcomed and encouraged. Call or send to:
Luther Park 30376 Lakes Dr., Danbury, WI 54830, Phone: 612-987-6628.

YEAR-ROUND STAFF MEMBERS

Joleen Clendening, Kitchen Staff
Rhonda DeMars, Kitchen Staff
Craig Larson, Site Director

Joel Legred, Executive Director
Leah McDougall, Program Director
Anna Treague, Associate Director

YEAR-ROUND VOLUNTEERS

Pete and Marcia Brace
Eric and Marlene Zaraza

Meet New Program Director Leah McDougall

I am a senior at Augsburg College studying Youth & Family Ministry with minors in Spanish & Mathematics. My experience at Augsburg has given me incredible opportunities to build impactful networks, travel abroad and broaden my perspective on life and the world. I value spending time with my family and friends, travelling, learning about other cultures and engaging in meaningful conversations. I enjoy watching the latest Netflix TV series, trying new local restaurants and cafés, crafting with my friends or exploring a new place to walk/hike.

My history with Luther Park goes back 14 years when I first attended as a camper as a snooper. My camp experience has deep meaning in my life. It’s the place where I began to learn what it means to be independent outside of my parents, where I first began to understand how God relates to my life, and where I was allowed to ask, wonder and question many aspects about faith and what it means to be a Christian. Little did I know as the young camper that one day I would be on staff for three summers and then accept the position of the Program Director. I look forward to continuing my journey with Luther Park by creating and maintaining space where children, youth and adults can experience God’s creation, discover more about their faith and ponder the many questions of life. 🏕️



Groundbreaking for Retreat Center Is Highlight of the 2016 Open House!

The annual Luther Park Open House was held on July 16 with sunny skies and great temperatures. Coffee and rolls were served and early arrivals chatted with friends while waiting for the outdoor worship service to begin.

The counselors led an inspiring worship service of praise, skits, songs and communion at the beautiful new Outdoor Chapel, designed and built by Roger King, a dedicated Luther Park volunteer.



At the conclusion of this uplifting worship service, the Outstanding Christian Award was presented to Tom and Janet Nelson, thanking them for their continued support of Luther Park, including transporting the international counselors to camp when they arrive.



Outstanding Christian Service Award recipients, Tom and Janet Nelson



The Bikeathon riders were welcomed as they pedaled into camp around noon. Thank you to all Bikeathon riders for their continued support of Luther Park and camp scholarships.

A delicious buffet lunch was enjoyed by all, thanks to our awesome cooks and kitchen staff!

The highlight of the day was the groundbreaking for the Bethel Family and Adult Retreat Center! Several members from Bethel Lutheran were on hand for this, since they were the first to donate \$200,000 to the Retreat Center when they closed the doors of their church several years ago. Everyone is looking forward to this wonderful addition to Luther Park!

After lunch, guests of Luther Park were treated to camp tours, pontoon rides, and ice cream! It was a wonderful day spent in God's creation!

Mark your calendars now for the 2017 Open House on July 15! 🏠

The naming and memorial opportunities for the Retreat Center

Individuals and families are invited to name other spaces in memory or honor of loved ones or faith mentors. Perhaps a gift could be made through an IRA, appreciated stock, or a gift of cash.

Retreat Center Wing	\$200,000
Worship/Gathering Space	\$40,000
Guest Rooms/Private Baths	\$25,000
Two Welcome Lounges/Fireplace	\$15,000
Reception Area	\$15,000

Gifts of all sizes are welcomed! If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Executive Director Joel Legred at 612-987-6628 or at jlegred@lutherpark.com

It's Easy to Share a Stock Gift!

Luther Park is so thankful for the many gifts the camp receives, including gifts of stock and cash, gifts from life insurance, gifts from IRA's, gifts of time and talents, and gifts such as used vehicles, golf carts and canoes. These are all a huge blessing to the camp!

Donations can be made online at www.lutherpark.com or be mailed to Luther Park, 30376 Lakes Drive, Danbury, WI 54830. To provide a gift of stock, call 1-800-847-4836. Our account number is TY961-7814 and our DTC number is 0226.

Your gifts go a long way to helping people grow in their faith and relationships. Luther Park has a policy that no one will be turned away from a bible camp experience because of limited resources. Scholarship money raised through the Quilt Auction, the Ole and Lena dinner, Bikeathons, and gifts from individuals and churches enable Luther to keep fees as low as possible.

You can also provide Legacy gifts through your will and estate plans. A codicil can be added to your will at a nominal charge.

If you need additional information, please contact Joel Legred at 612-987-6628 or email him at jlegred@lutherpark.com. 🏠



Bikeathons Raise Money for Camperships Via Pedal Power!

Strong legs and determination propelled the participants of the first and second Bikeathons from Minneapolis to Luther Park. Fundraisers such as these make camp scholarships possible.

Bikeathon 1 participants included:

- Messiah Lutheran members David Shirley, Tom Gustafson, Rod Nerdahl, and Peggy Nerdahl and Pat Shirley (sag drivers);
- House of Prayer members Scott Wright, Steve Pierson and Peter Dorow;
- Nativity members Gerald Gallati and Phil Hoversten;
- Family of Christ member Donny Bergquist, and
- Linda Sandell.

Bikeathon 2 participants were:

- Elim Lutheran members Tom Nelson, Ann Tranvik, and Riley Unzicker, Stafford Gutknecht, and sag wagon driver Miles Gutknecht. Linda Sandell joined this group as well! They had beautiful weather and even got to experience "Lucky Days" when they stayed overnight in Luck, Wisconsin! They pedaled into camp in time for the Open House On July 16.

Bikeathon 3 and 4 participants were:

- Bob and Cyndi Kresse from Diamond Lake Lutheran and Pastor Rich Dahle-Koch and Gregg Ohman from Christ Memorial Lutheran. Art Caple was the sag wagon driver for the Christ Memorial Bikeathon.

These Bikeathons raised \$16,672 for the camp scholarship fund!

Thank you to all those that make these Bikeathons possible including the riders, the drivers, and the donors!

Bikeathon's 1 & 2 are scheduled next year for June 3-4 and July 14-15. Contact Joel Legred if you are interested in participating. **The more the merrier!** 🏠





YOUR LEGACY TODAY

Ideas for leaving a lasting legacy at Luther Park

Now Make A Gift From Your IRA!

Are you 70 ½ years old or older? Do you have an IRA?

If you answered "yes" to both of these questions, you are eligible to provide up to \$100,000 in charitable gifts directly from your IRA. Under this law, gifts distributed directly to a charity from your IRA are excluded from your taxable income, but may be used to satisfy a portion of your required annual minimum IRA distribution.

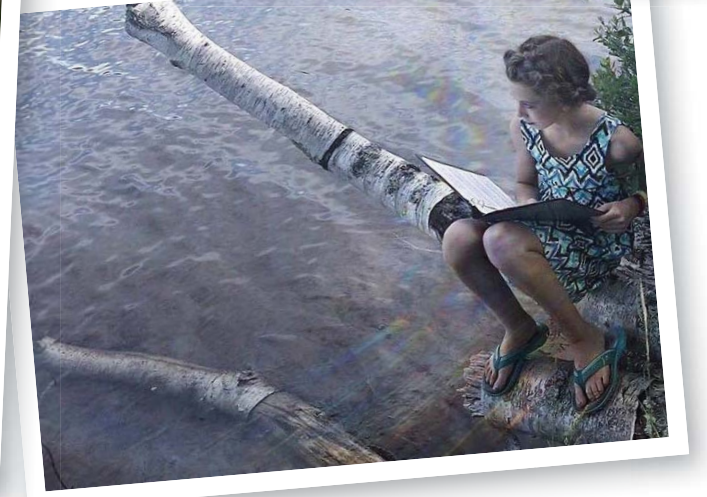
Think about consulting your financial advisor for individual advice on this opportunity.

LUTHER PARK 2016 MEMORIES

Thank you to the many volunteers and donors for making these memories happen!
- Luther Park Board of Directors and Staff



Luther Park
A Place for All Ages...
A Place for All Seasons
Mission Statement
Luther Park is a cooperative ministry of ELCA and other Lutheran congregations serving people of all ages through a variety of programs in an outdoor setting. Our Mission is to provide an environment in which the Christian faith may be strengthened and people may grow in their personal relationship to God.



2017 Summer Camp – “The Water of Life”

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.” (Isaiah 43:2)

Register by December 31, 2016 and **SAVE \$50!!** Register by March 1, 2017 and **SAVE \$25!** • Register online now!

Date	Cabin Camp	Treehouse Village	Canoe Trips	Sr. High Leadership
May 31-June 11	Staff Training			
WEEK 1 June 11-16	“New” Intergenerational Camps (To Be Determined)			
WEEK 1 June 15-18				Leadership Training Intensive Grade 9-12 (Thursday – Sunday)
WEEK 2 June 18-21	Grade 1-4 Snoopers (3 night Camp)			
WEEK 2 June 18-23	Grade 3-6	Grade 7-9 Night Owl Camp*	Group Registration Required	
WEEK 3 June 25-30	Reserved for Good Shepherd – Inver Grove Heights			
WEEK 4 July 5-7	Grandparent Camp			
WEEK 5 July 9-14	Grade 7-12	Grade 3-6 All God's Critters	Group Registration Required	
July 15	Annual Open House – All Ages, All Day!			
WEEK 6 July 16-21	Family Camp	Grade 3-6 All God's Critters		
WEEK 7 July 23-26	Grade 1-4 Snoopers (3 night Camp)			Register Early! Some weeks fill quickly. Register by: December 31, 2016 and Save \$50!! March 1, 2017 and Save \$25!
WEEK 7 July 23-28	Grade 3-6	Grade 7-12 Night Owl Camp*	Group Registration Required	
WEEK 8 July 30-Aug 4	Reserved for Mount Calvary Confirmation Camp – Contact Mount Calvary.			

*During Night Owl Camp, campers will experience all the fun of a traditional camping session in a whole new way. By staying up late and sleeping in each morning campers will be able to explore wonders of the natural world, its sights, creatures and sounds that often go unnoticed during the day. Night Owl campers sleep late, have breakfast around lunch-time, enjoy lunch at dinner-time, and cook out a delicious meal late in the evening. Games, night hikes, campfires, stargazing, canoeing on the river and crafts will be part of this incredible experience. Christian Education will have a fresh feeling as campers learn more about themselves, God and each other through storytelling and discussion around campfires under the stars.

Fee Schedule:	Member	*Non-member
3-Night/Snooper Camp	\$305	\$325
Full Week	\$440	\$460
Sr. High Leadership Intensive (Includes one free additional week)	\$370	\$395
Great Lakes Mission	Negotiable	

NOTE: Camper fees shown are subsidized by gift allocations. The actual cost per week is about \$600.
* Non-member churches are those that are not members of Luther Park Corporation.

Fees cover meals, lodging and all program materials, except in campground

Fees do NOT include transportation to and from the camp.	Round Trip: \$80 (Non refundable)
If you need transportation, please contact Luther Park at 715-656-7244	One-way: \$60 (Non refundable)

Campground	\$18 per site/ per night	\$20 with electricity
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How to Register:

Go paperless & register online at www.lutherpark.com or printout, complete, sign the registration & health form and return to; Luther Park Camping and Retreat Center
30376 Lakes Drive
Danbury, WI 54830

Select a program based on the grade your camper will complete in June 2017.

\$200 deposit due upon registration.

Upon receipt of your registration, directions & other camp info will be emailed to you.

Final payment is due two weeks prior to arrival at camp.

Take advantage of early registration discounts

SPECIAL OFFER! Sign up for a second week (of equal or lesser value) for half price.

Check with your church about camp scholarships.

If you have questions, please contact us by phone at 715-656-7244 or email at camp@lutherpark.com

Luther Park Wish List

Listed below are some of the camps current needs. Perhaps you don't have any of these items on hand, but could give a special gift or a gift in honor or memory of someone.

To contribute toward any of these items, just make a check out to Luther Park and note your wishes and mail to: Luther Park, 30376 Lakes Drive, Danbury WI 54830-9508

URGENT NEEDS

- 3/4 ton pickup truck & Plow
- 1/2 ton snow plow
- Reliable passenger car/van
- New or gently used life jackets
- Dehumidifiers(2)
- A-Frame cooker for use over an open fire to boil water at Outpost

SPECIAL NEEDS

- Bag-less Vacuums
- New or gently used deck chairs and tables
- Small refrigerator (dorm style) for the First Aid station
- Ceiling Fans (new or gently used) for the Welcome Center bedrooms
- Portable screen

MAINTENANCE

- Rakes
- Shovels
- Nuts, bolts, screws and nails of assorted sizes

LED lightbulbs

Chain Saws

Four-wheeler

Wire-Feed welder

Solar lights for along paths

Work gloves

Weed Whips

Screen for windows

Chains for chain saws

PROGRAM

Seed beads & pony beads

White boards & markers

Craft supplies

Coloring Utensils (markers, colored pencil, etc.)

Boxes of “durafume firestart” for starting campfires

Candle Wicks

\$20.00 Gas Cards (Prefer Super America but can use all cards)

OFFICE

Laminating sheets for GBC Laminating machine

Copy paper (white and colored)

Poster Board

Bulletin boards for cabins

KITCHEN & HOUSEKEEPING

Big frying pans

New pillows

New Sleeping Bags

Twin and Queen Size sheets

Portable fans for cabins

Shower curtains

Thanks for gifts given in 2016!

Summer Camp in January at Luther Park!

Attention All Campers!

This January is the perfect opportunity to reunite with your favorite summer staff and camp friends. Come join us for a 24-hour Winter Camp experience at Luther Park. Enjoy the company of other campers and some of the summer staff. Experience God's great north woods with snow!

Activities include: ice skating (bring your own skates), snow hikes, worships, campfire, boot hockey, sledding, drinking hot cocoa and more!

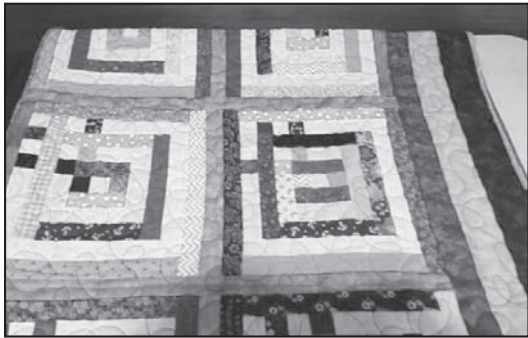
The dates of this Winter Camp experience are January 7th-8th (noon to noon) and the fee is \$80. You can find this on the Luther Park website: www.lutherpark.com. Space is limited so register soon!

Hope to see you there! If you have any questions feel free to call; **715-656-7244** or email; camp@lutherpark.com

To register or for more information please visit www.lutherpark.com.

Invite your friends to come along too!



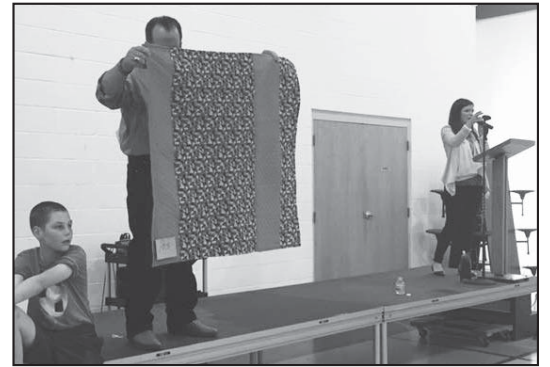


Delicious Lunch and Beautiful Quilts at the 26th Annual Quilt Auction at Mount Calvary

On Saturday, October 1, supporters of Luther Park gathered for the annual quilt auction held at Mount Calvary Lutheran in Excelsior. As usual, Mount Calvary served a delicious lunch! At 1:00 the bidding began on the beautiful varieties of quilts and wall hangings contributed by the wonderful quilters from Luther Park's corporate congregations and their friends and families. Auctioneer Sarah Jean Knox led the bidding and as usual did a fantastic job! Over \$7,000 was raised to provide camp scholarships to youngsters that need financial assistance to go to Luther Park. No child is ever turned away from the camp because of an inability to pay.

One gentleman came to the auction this year to purchase quilts in honor of his mother who had recently passed away. She had been a quilter for many years and he wanted to honor her and all quilters. He left with an armload of quilts!

Thank you so much to everyone involved in these annual quilt auctions. Quilters, crafters, kitchen workers, set up and take down workers, organizers, attendees, and purchasers are some of the many people that make this happen! Their dedication throughout the years has raised thousands of dollars for camp scholarships! 🙏



New Lodge Roof Getting Closer to a Reality!

We are hoping to put a steel roof on the Lodge soon! Fundraising efforts have been underway and we are getting closer. Thanks to Mary Claire Olson Potter's stock donation of which a portion will go to the Lodge roof, we now have \$20,000 of the \$30,000 for the steel roof. Years ago, Mary Claire had been up on that roof using a pitchfork to remove shingles. She is glad she won't have to go up there again! Please consider donating to the roof through stocks, memorials, or honorary gifts. Just specify that your donation is to be used for the Lodge Roof. 🙏

Awesome day celebrating old friends, cherishing memories and the friendships we all made so long ago!



Lots of future Luther Park campers and summer staff in this group!

Some of the Luther Park staff from summers of 1997-2005 (and they still look so young!!).

PEER MINISTRY LEADERSHIP RETREAT!

by Tom Gustafson

A group of us from Messiah Lutheran Church were very grateful to be invited to participate in a Peer Ministry Leadership Retreat! It was great to be at Luther Park for this exciting event! Of course, being at Luther Park is always about fun and friends and making new friends – it's always about great food and singing cool table graces – it's always about both inside and outside activity time. Most importantly it's always about opening Bibles and discovering more about God's Love for all people and all creation – it's about living in Jesus and Jesus living in us – it's about growing in the Grace and Knowledge of Jesus.

On this particular weekend, it was even about something additional! It was about growing as a peer ministry leader! Joel Legred and Craig Larson hosted us, and Lyle Griner, National Director of Peer Ministry, led us in a training

that helped us all to be "peer-to-peer" ministers. It's all about being there for one another, encouraging one another, lifting one another up, noticing signs of crisis—and being equipped to do something about it. We're not expert peer ministers yet – no way! Maybe we'll never be experts at it. But because of this Luther Park Peer Ministry



Leadership Retreat, we've been introduced to this critical skill, and we're growing step-by-step into effective peer ministers – because our homes, our schools, our neighborhoods, our whole world needs them!

We learned as people of Jesus how to be better leaders in our communities – whether they are rural, urban, or suburban. We learned how to recognize and take action with people who are experiencing trouble or trauma in their lives – and also how to help people so that difficulties may be prevented.

It was a great and very worthwhile retreat, and we all grew in our faith and in peer ministry skills. Thank you all for this opportunity! 🙏



New Positions at Luther Park!

This summer you will notice two new positions at Luther Park: a Spiritual Director and an Activities Director. The Spiritual Director will guide, assist and encourage staff and campers to explore their faith and spirituality, as well as lead daily vespers. The Activities Director will organize Arts & Crafts, all camp games, and cabin time activities. Counselors will be able to focus on their campers and spend less time on the logistics and preparations for activities. We look forward to expanding our ministry team!

Applications for the 2017 Summer Staff Ministry Team are now available! Camp provides a meaningful space for young adults to explore their faith, work with children and youth, gain experience for life and future jobs, as well as make long-lasting friendships! If you or someone you know is interested in joining the summer staff, please visit www.lutherpark.com and click on the Staff tab. You can also call 715-656-7244 or e-mail programdirector@lutherpark.com 🙏



Announcing 2017 Programmed Retreats

Luther Park is a great place for a variety of retreats. All types of groups are invited - youth, men, women, quilters, confirmands and families to name a few-to head up to the North Woods for a relaxing/exciting weekend. Mid-week retreats are also welcome for a reduced rate and retreat planning assistance is available.

"Camp is a gathering of friends with a common bond of fun, adventure, memories and excitement. Luther Park is a place like no other!"

Luther Park Summer Camper

Here are some upcoming programmed retreats at Luther Park:

RETREAT WEEKENDS

- Winter Camp (Camper Retreat), January 7-8, 2017
- Scrapbooking and Stamping Weekend I, February 9-12 or February 10-12, 2017
- Scrapbooking and Stamping Weekend II, April 27-April 30 or April 28-April 30, 2017

RETREAT COSTS

Winter Camp (Camper Retreat)

- Saturday-Sunday \$80.00

To register, please visit www.lutherpark.com. If you are interested in transportation, please indicate that on the registration form. Space is limited, so register early!

Scrapbooking and Stamping

- Thursday-Sunday Option \$125.00
- Friday-Sunday Option \$95.00

To register, please complete the attached form and return it with your \$50.00 deposit to: Scrapbooking & Stamping Weekend, Anna Treague, 30376 Lakes Drive, Danbury, WI 54830

Watch for more retreats that may be added this Winter and Spring. And remember-you can choose your own times and program your own retreats. Luther Park will be happy to assist you in anyway! Just ask!

LUTHER PARK SCRAPBOOK & STAMPING CAMP WEEKEND REGISTRATION FORM

Retreater(s) Name(s): _____ Age: _____ Gender: _____
 Spouse (If applicable): _____ (optional for adults)
 Registering for:
 Scrapbooking & Stamping Weekend I; Feb 9-12 or Feb 10-12, 2017 (Circle length option)
 Scrapbooking & Stamping Weekend II; Apr 27-30 or Apr 28-30, 2017 (Circle length option)
 Congregation: _____ Names of preferred roommates(s): _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Emergency Contact: _____ Emergency Phone: _____
Weekend Fees: Thursday option is \$125 and Friday option is \$95 per person
 Total Price: _____ Please send a deposit of half the total amount when registering.
 Deposit Amount: _____
Method of Payment:
 Check/Money Order: Make Payable to *Luther Park Camping & Retreat Center*
 Visa Master Card AMEX
 Acct. # _____ Exp _____
 CSC #(3 or 4 digit number on card) _____ Signature _____
THIS AUTHORIZATION MUST BE COMPLETED AND SIGNED BY PARTICIPANT.
 I understand that unless I provide separate written notice, photos taken of myself at camp may be used for camp-approved publications such as the Luther Park Echoes. Please list ALL allergies & dietary restrictions so we are better able to provide you with the best service possible.

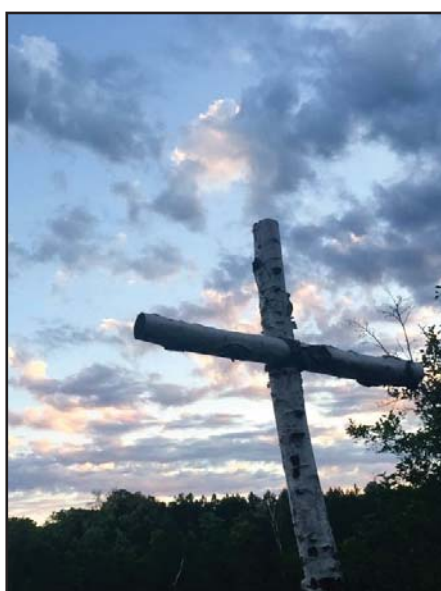
 Signed: _____ Date _____

Questions? Please call; Luther Park at 715-656-7244 or e-mail; retreats@lutherpark.com to book a retreat or to see what opportunities Luther Park can provide for your next retreat.

Remember, Luther Park is not just for summer activities! We are open year round. Join us for some fun, fresh ideas to jazz up those winter blues. Bring a friend, church group, or come alone. Don't miss out on a great winter weekend!

A Message From the Executive Director

Joel Legred



Jesus said, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

Luther Park has long been a witness for Christ. Back in 1959, the camp was purchased and organized by a small group of metro churches who believed in passing on faith to young people and spreading the Gospel to all ages. They believed Bible camp could significantly impact the life of their congregations.

Years went by and soon more churches joined the fun and the camp's ministry began to grow. The camp was reaching out to more inner city and rural churches. Congregations in Duluth, Hinckley,

and Webb Lake became members. Ecumenical partners began to call Luther Park their camp. It seemed the camp was moving beyond Jerusalem to Judea and Samaria.

Today you could say that our witness and the witness of those who come here reaches to the ends of the earth. You see over the years we've had summer staff from all over the world who return home to a variety of contexts to preach the Good News.

Whether you are a volunteer, donor, camper, retreator, or staff member, you join the long line of witnesses who have passed on faith to future generations. **Thank you for being a part of this wonderful legacy!**

In Christ's service,

Joel Legred
Executive Director

