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ECHOES

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

From The Point

Vol. 19, No. 2

A Newsletter for Campers and Friends of Luther Park

Summer 2008

Bethel Lutheran Church, Mpls., pledges \$200,000 gift to help Retreat Center become a reality

By Sharon F. Miller
Communications & Marketing

Bethel Lutheran Church in north Minneapolis held its closing service at 3 p.m. April 13, 2008, after 96 years of faithfully serving God and the community. As they closed, the Bethel congregation made decisions that will continue to reach out with a legacy of love and compassion to others.

Bethel has pledged a gift of \$200,000 pending the sale of the church property to help build and name the new Retreat Center at Luther Park.

The congregation also announced that the altar and lectern would be donated to Luther Park (See Page 8 for a photo).

“We are overwhelmed with gratitude to you and to God,” said Executive Director

Joel Legred, upon hearing about the pledge. “Your generous gift will enable our camp to serve thousands more adults, youth and children each year. This will help us fulfill our mission in new ways, and will facilitate regular retreat income to support camp operations.”

Luther Park is just one of the ministries receiving a substantial gift from Bethel that reflects their history. Bethel, one of the founding congregations of Luther Park Camping and

Retreat Center, has remained an active member of the corporation for nearly 50 years.

Bethel parishioners recall that Jacob named the place where he discovered God, “Bethel,” which means “House of God,” and all people are welcome in God’s house. The Bethel theme song became “Love Grows Here,” and members note how very true this was. Even now as they close the doors, this legacy continues.



Pictured at the Luther Park Annual Meeting held at Bethel Lutheran Church are Bethel members (from left): Wendell Olson, LP Board President Paula Bergs, Lucille Olson, Dave Gilyard, Leslie Gilyard, Don Bodin, Marlene Bodin, Pastor Dave Johnson and Executive Director Joel Legred.

Lisa, a former intern at Bethel, who is now a pastor said: “I am amazed when I think about the history and ministry of this little Swedish Lutheran church. They followed God’s calling to reach out and faithfully did so even to the disbursement of the last pennies. If the congregation would meet Jesus on the last day, they would

most definitely hear, ‘Well done, good and faithful servants.’ ”

Legred hopes that Bethel’s gift will be a catalyst for other donors, both individuals and congregations. Although this gift is a huge step toward making the Retreat Center a reality, more gifts are still needed to reach our goal of breaking ground by July 18, 2009, at the 50th Anniversary Open House next summer. If you want to join Bethel in making the Retreat Center a reality, please send your gift to Joel Legred, marked “Retreat Center.”

Look INSIDE For

- * Camp Discount Coupon 2
- * Summer Camp Info. 8
- * Summer Staff photo 3
- * Picture Pages 4-5

Quilt Auction at Richfield Lutheran Saturday, October 4



Quilters from across the area and volunteers at Richfield Lutheran Church, 60th & Nicollet Av. S. in Minneapolis, and other corporate congregations are hard at work stitching together pieces of the Quilt Auction.

Scheduled for Sat., Oct. 4, 2008, at Richfield Lutheran, this fundraising event is a showcase of the creativity and dedication of individual quilters and groups from throughout Luther Park’s constituency.

Quilts, afghans and crafts at the event come in a variety of colors, sizes, patterns and prices. Dozens of Quilt Auction attendees have learned that this event is a great place to find a special gift for a loved one or for yourself.

Mark your calendar now and plan to join us at Richfield Lutheran. Viewing will start at 11 a.m., with lunch

(Cont. on P. 2)

Celebrate 49 fabulous years of Christian outdoor ministry at Open House July 19

By Sharon F. Miller
Communications & Marketing

Plan now to make this the year you visit Luther Park and celebrate the camp’s 49th year of Christian outdoor ministry. The date is set for Saturday, July 19. This is one day when there really is a FREE lunch, and it’s a spectacular buffet!

You’re invited!

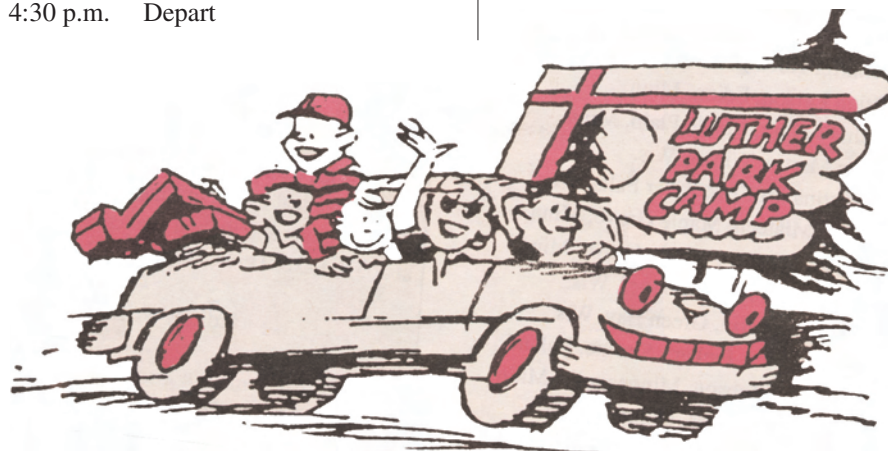
Everyone is welcome. Our summer staff will be there to welcome you along with our year-round staff. There will be fun for all ages at this free “THANK YOU!” day for all friends of Luther Park.

Here’s the schedule of events

- 9 -11 a.m. Arrive at your leisure to enjoy coffee/cold drinks and sweet rolls. Tour camp.
- 11 a.m. Outdoor worship/commissioning of board members.
- 12:15 p.m. Outstanding Christian Service Award/Volunteer Recognition, Welcome Bikeathon riders.

- 1 p.m. Buffet picnic lunch
- 2 p.m. Old-fashioned Ice-cream Social, pontoon boat rides, tours, waterfront open.
- 3:00 p.m. Luther Park Board Meeting
- 4:30 p.m. Depart

recognitions, presentation of the Outstanding Christian Service Award to John Stevens and volunteers from Shepherd of the Hills, Hopkins; and commissioning of new board members.



Highlights of the day

Head Cook Patti Schaaf’s great picnic buffet lunch is always a highlight of the day. You’ll also enjoy the ice-cream social, an inspiring outdoor worship service, volunteer and other special

Fun for all ages

Experience the wonder of a summer day at camp. Cruise the waters of Lake 26 on the camp’s pontoon boat, swim, canoe, hike, and try out the paddle boat. Or just relax in the shade, tour the campgrounds,

visit, and delight in the quiet beauty and spirituality that surrounds you at camp.

Overnight accommodations

Overnight accommodations may be available in the cabins or campground. But please call ahead since space is available on a first-come basis.

To make a full weekend of the event, contact Megan Sartwell, retreat host, at 715.656.7244 for rates and reservations.

Your participation will be a blessing for Luther Park!

We’ll celebrate this year’s theme: Just for Life! based on Amos 5:24. *Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like and ever-flowing stream.*

A map with directions to Luther Park appears on Page 8.

Come on along! We’d love to see you at this special celebration! 🌲

A Message
From the
President

Paula Bergs



The Luther Park Bible Camp Experience and the Left Brain/Right Brain Concept

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

—Psalm 139

When introducing myself in the past, I have noted that I work in the field of medical massage and education.

Lately I have been studying neurology as it relates to general well being and function. One of the interesting topics has been discussions about differences between the left and right sides of our brain.

The average healthy brain uses both sides, with the brain constantly switching back and forth depending on the situation. However, each side has its specialty and perceives and processes different information.

The left side processes familiar things. It attends to details, processes information that is logical, rational and sequential.

The right side sees new information and patterns. It attends to the "big picture" or context of our environment. It is holistic, creative, inventive, and feels emotions. It is where our sense of connectedness to each other and God resides.

Typically, the left brain directs our everyday living, navigates us through familiar surroundings our daily routines (familiar), and what we must do to get ready for school or work (self).

The right brain, on the other hand, directs: being in nature, sights, sounds and smells, meeting new people, seeing new faces, playing, music, being in new situations and learning new things.

It's interesting to think of a Luther Park Bible Camp experience in this left/right brain context, especially for urban dwellers. So many children and adults come away from the camp experience with a renewed feeling for being connected to something bigger than themselves and feeling very connected to God. When I think of how

much stimulation to the right brain there is at camp, no wonder we experience this sense of awe and refreshment.

All nature experiences away from the city—such as darkness and the many stars; living with others and being aware of each other's needs as we share sleeping quarters, bathrooms, and meals; experiencing new people, a new way of living, new songs and new stories— provide a great amount of activation for the right side of our brains.

Typically our society values left-brain abilities. But as our society is changing the next generations are going to need stronger right-brain processing power to adjust to new types of jobs, understanding the "big picture" and the complex patterns of a global society.

Computers may be able to take over a lot of our left-brain abilities, but I have yet to believe one can mimic the right-brain abilities and the incredible back-and-forth processing of the two sides of the human brain. Exposing our children to new experiences and getting them out of their comfort zones—not only at camp but with so many experiences available to them—continues to be of utmost importance.

I have always believed camp is a vital experience for my own children, as well as all children, but explaining the importance in this new context has been fun and insightful for me. I hope it is for you as well.

We are reminded of the amazing complexity of our bodies and join in the Psalmist's praise of God in Psalm 139: "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

In gratitude for our complex creation and Gods never ending wisdom,

Paula Bergs
President, Luther Park Board



**COMING EVENTS
AT LUTHER PARK
CAMP & RETREAT CENTER**

- JULY 2-6** Family Camp II
- JULY 18-19** Bikeathon II
- JULY 19** Summer Open House Celebration, Volunteer & Special Recognitions, Outstanding Christian Service Award, Induction of new board members. Board of Directors' Mtg., 3 p.m.
- JULY 25-27** Grandparent/Grandchild Camp Weekend
- AUGUST 12-17** Music Camp
- AUGUST 17** Summer Camp Ends
- SEPTEMBER** Fall Work Day TBA
- OCTOBER 4** Annual Quilt Auction, Richfield Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, Minn.
- DECEMBER 5** Glad Tidings Advent Dinner
- DECEMBER 13** Breakfast with Santa, Sat. morn., Everyone welcome! Hayrides, Get your Christmas photo here!

All events take place at Luther Park unless otherwise noted. For more information contact Joel Legred at 612.987.6628, e-mail: Jlegred@lutherpark.com; or camp at 715.656.7244, e-mail: camp@lutherpark.com.

Quilt Auction (Cont. from P. 1)

available beginning at 11:30; and bidding at 1:00 p.m.

Luther Park has already received a commitment of \$1,600 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to match \$3,200 in proceeds from the Quilt Auction. To meet this match we need great auction items and a crowd of generous bidders.

If you have an item you would like to donate to either the Silent Auction or the Quilt auction, or if you would be willing to help prepare the event, please call Sharon Miller at 612.869.4997 or e-mail: smiler6712@msn.com. ✪



Stunning handmade quilts of all sizes, shapes and colors will be waiting for you, along with afghans, wall hangings and other items, at Richfield Lutheran Church in Minneapolis on October 4, during the annual Luther Park Quilt Auction.



www.lutherpark.com

or

Write: 30376 Lakes Drive,
Danbury, WI 54830

Phone: 715.656.7244

Fax: 715.656.3013

E-mail: camp@lutherpark.com

Luther Park ECHOES From the Point

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Editor/Writer/Designer/Photographer: Sharon F. Miller

Pictures, information and opinions are welcomed and encouraged. Call or send to: Sharon F. Miller, Editor, Luther Park ECHOES From the Point, 6712 Pleasant Av. S., Richfield MN 55423, 612.869.4997.

YEAR-ROUND STAFF MEMBERS:

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Retreat Host | Ryan Beggs | Maintenance Manager | Vic Nelson |
| Kitchen/Housekeeper | Joleen Clendening | Office Manager | Carolyn Pittman |
| Executive Director | Joel Legred | Retreat Host | Megan Sartwell |
| Communications/Mktg. | Sharon Miller | Head Cook/Housekeeper | Patti Schaaf |
| | Program Director | Anna Treague | |

**Luther Park 2008 Camper
SPECIAL OFFER Discount Coupon**

Is your child coming to camp
this summer?

Sign up for a 2nd week (of
equal or lesser value) for 1/2
price.



Let her/him come and have
another fun week at Luther Park
this summer for just half-price.

**JUST SEND IN THEIR REGISTRATION FORM,
FOR THE SECOND WEEK OF CAMP AND
ENCLOSE THIS DISCOUNT COUPON.**

Thanks to all our board members!



Shown above at the most recent Annual Meeting, held at Bethel Lutheran Church, are both currently serving and outgoing members of the Luther Park board of directors. From left are: (back row) David Shirley, Messiah; Tom Gustafson, Messiah; Chuck Hughes, Richfield; Paula Bergs, Calvary; Norm Okerstrom, Peace Lutheran; Wade Wacholz, Shepherd of the Hills; (front row) Janet Nelson, Elim; Scott Wright, House of Prayer; Dave Osteraas, Nativity; Wally Hannes, Richfield Lutheran; and Ann Harless, St. Barnabas. Not pictured are: Jill Barrett Vardsveen, Elim; Art Caple, Bethany; Pastor Evelyn Dahlke, Northeast Community Lutheran; Bob Kresse, Diamond Lake and Merle Waldron, Lord of Life.

Extreme Makeover of existing facilities to begin this summer

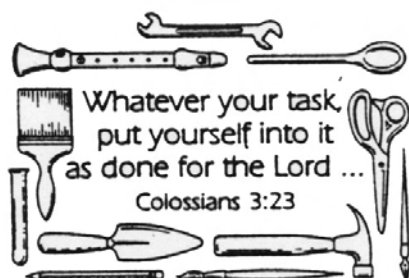
Another exciting planned undertaking to begin this summer is the Luther Park Extreme Makeover. Although projects will begin this summer, our goal is to celebrate completion of the

Extreme Makeover at next summer's 50th Anniversary Open House. This program will encompass an impressive spruce up of all existing facilities.

A wide variety of projects are available. They include renovation of cabins and bathrooms, painting or staining of buildings, landscaping, removal of some old buildings, possible picnic shelter between the Log House and the Lodge, and more.

Churches and other groups will be invited to take on a project and provide the funds and volunteers to make it happen. But don't wait for an invitation. Get your group together now, and contact Executive Director Joel Legred at 612.987.6628 or e-mail Jlegred@lutherpark.com to set up a project and a time to come up and begin.

The plan will kickoff with information provided at the July 19 Open House and through this newsletter as well on our web site, letters and news releases.



years. Plan now to be part of it. We are excited about the prospects of completing the "Extreme Makeover" to coincide with the Retreat Center groundbreaking next year, and about the possibilities of partnering with our corporate congregations and other volunteer groups to complete many of these projects. ✦

If you won't be able to make the Open House, please watch for information through regular mail, e-mail, and the internet.

Our goal to complete the "Extreme Makeover" is set for the July 2009 Open House, which is also Luther Park's 50th Anniversary and the proposed goal for groundbreaking of the Retreat Center.

Camp is going to be an even busier place to be than usual during the next few

Board Officers elected at May Board meeting

President	Paula Bergs
Vice-Pres.	Wade Wacholz
Secretary	David Shirley
Treasurer	Scott Wright

Thanks to Outgoing Board Members:

Jill Barrett, Elim
Art Caple, Bethany
Tom Gustafson, Messiah
Wally Hannes, Richfield
for their dedicated service!

Annual Meeting highlights

The Luther Park Corporation held its Annual Meeting Sunday, March 16, 2008, at Bethel Lutheran Church in north Minneapolis. Board President Paula Bergs called the meeting to order and welcomed every one. Devotions were given by David Johnson, Bethel's Interim Pastor. Each person attending gave a self introduction and told which church they were representing.

Bethel Church Council President Dave Gilyard announced that Bethel would hold its final service April 13, 2008, when the church would close after 96 years of ministry. He explained that Bethel, one of 17 Charter Member congregations of Luther Park, Inc, voted to dedicate \$200,000 of proceeds from the sale of the church property to Luther Park's Retreat Center fund. They are also donating an altar and lectern to the camp. The group expressed its gratitude to Bethel for the wonderful legacy donation (See Page 1 for more

about this gift).

The March 18, 2007, Annual Meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as presented by David Shirley, secretary.

Joel Legred, executive director, presented a DVD showing what a weekly camp experience is like. Treasurer Scott Wright presented the 2007 financial report and the 2008 budget, which were approved.

Shirley presented the slate of board members. New this year are Chuck Hughes, Richfield, and Janet Nelson, Elim. Board members now in the second year of a two-year term are: Paula Bergs, Calvary; Pastor Evelyn Dahlke, Northeast Community Lutheran; Ann Harless, St. Barnabas; Bob Kresse, Diamond Lake; David Shirley, Messiah; Merle Waldron, Lord of Life; and Scott Wright, House of Prayer. Candidates for another two-year term include: Norm Okerstrom, Peace;

Dave Osteraas, Nativity; and Wade Wacholz, Shepherd of the Hills. Two positions remain open (See top of this page for a photo of board members).

Going off the board was Jill Barrett, Elim; Art Caple, Bethany; Tom Gustafson, Messiah; and Wally Hannes, Richfield. The full slate of candidates was approved followed by reports from staff members.

Legred discussed the highlights of his written annual report, including the new Music Camp ministry, and the potential sale of one lakeshore lot to help with the expenses of building the new Retreat Center.

Sharon Miller, marketing and communications, shared her written report and highlighted the upcoming Ole & Lena Dinner Show & Silent Auction and the Point and Cross Dinner, as well as the two Bikeathon fund raisers and the Annual

Quilt Auction. Those attending were asked to take Ole & Lena information back to their churches.

Master Plan progress and a summary of the activities, conclusions and suggestions of the Strategic Planning Task Force was discussed by President Paula Bergs. She also outlined plans for the "Extreme Makeover," the camp's upcoming 50th Anniversary and the combining of the Welcome Center and future Retreat Center to comprise a Retreat Village.

Legred thanked the staff for all their hard work and invited everyone to attend the Summer Open House on July 19. Following the Lord's Prayer the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes were submitted by Secretary David Shirley. For a copy of the 2007 Annual Report, please call Anna Treague at 715.656.7244, or e-mail: anna@lutherpark.com ✦

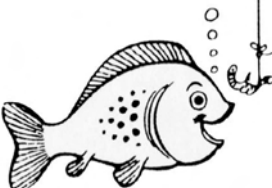
LUTHER PARK CAMP SCRAPBOOK



All dressed up for "Boofers" are staff member Tomaz from Slovenia (center), Leadership Mentors Jennifer West (left) and Courtney Hinz (right).



Snooper camper Luke Smith writes on counselor Zach's forehead while playing the game "Boofers."



June Bikeathon riders crossed the finish line at camp to a rousing welcome from staff and others. (See Page 7 for more information and another photo).



MEET THE 2008 LUTHER PARK SUMMER STAFF. Names appear in alphabetical order: Kelli Albrecht, St. Paul, Minn.; Amanda Amey, Oakdale, Minn.; Ryan Beggs, Dayton, Minn.; Abby Braun, Coon Rapids, Minn.; Brenda Carstedt, Hudson, Wis.; Riley Christensen, Webster, Wis.; Jennifer Dunham, Bloomington, Minn.; Daniel Durbin, Gladstone, Mich.; Anna Essendrup, Edina, Minn.; Emily Heidkamp, Coon Rapids, Minn.; Zachary Hoskins, Dayton, Minn.; Rachel Jacob, Two Harbors, Minn.; Caleb Jeffers, Minneapolis, Minn.; Jung Jung, Gwangju, South Korea; Zachary Kroll, Grand Forks, Minn.; Robbica Lemmons, New Auburn, Wis.; Heather McCarthy, Hopkins, Minn.; Tomaz Pahovec, Ljubljana, Slovenia; Olwen Petersen, Cape Town, South Africa; Ben Peterson, Chanhassen, Minn.; Anna Revesz, Soltvadkert, Hungary; Jahnai Scarlett-Brown, Nottingham, United Kingdom; Ingrid Silva, Bogota, Colombia; Anna Wacholz, Eden Prairie, Minn.; Andy Winn, Marshall, Minn., and Marlene Zaraza, Sarona, Wis.



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 with God.



The St. Barnabas kitchen crew, including several youths, appeared for a round of applause for their outstanding food, service and hospitality while hosting the Point and Cross Thank You Banquet in May.

Campers (from left) Isaac Legred and Andrew Radke looked pretty happy about their experience as first-time Snoopers.



Exuberant Week One campers join in to sing a song in the Lodge.



Youth from Richfield Lutheran test the Spaghetti at the Ole & Lena Dinner before beginning their duties as hosts and servers to help earn their way to camp. Diners gave them two thumbs up for their good work and sunny dispositions.



Staff members train on one of the stations (The Spiderweb) of the Ropes Challenge Course.



Retreat Village Update- Anna: 'We're ecstatic!'

By Sharon F. Miller
Communications & Marketing

Lots of exciting things are happening at Luther Park! The Retreat Village concept is already taking place with the completion of the new Welcome Center and the projected groundbreaking for the Retreat Center next summer.

Earlier this year, the Luther Park board of directors approved merging funds received for both the Retreat Center and Welcome Center projects. Funds donated for either building can now be used for both projects, creating the Retreat Village and making it possible to complete the projects more quickly.

The best part about all of this is how our goal and vision to enhance Luther Park's capacity for serving retreat and camping groups is coming true.

With the large gift that Bethel Lutheran Church has pledged (See story on Page 1) toward the Retreat Center, this much anticipated project suddenly seems more than just a vision.

The ultimate goal of expanding the capacity of Luther Park's family ministry will be well served by these two buildings.

Although some of the finishing

touches are still being put on the Welcome Center, the building is now occupied and is serving several functions originally included in the Retreat Center plans.

Staff have already moved into their areas and are delighted with their freshly new and spacious quarters which make their job of serving everyone

Retreat Center plans—a significant portion of the initial projected cost of the Retreat Center will be reduced. This, along with continued fundraising efforts, should make a down-sized Retreat Center project, with a new and streamlined design, a reality.

The Luther Park board of directors and staff are working on landmark efforts



Leadership Mentors Jen and Courtney along with staff member Dan Durbin are shown in the new conference room in the Welcome Center.

not only more efficient, but certainly more pleasant.

When asked about the new space, Program Director Anna Treague quickly responded: "This is a long-awaited dream-come-true. We're ecstatic!"

In addition to office space, the Welcome Center houses a reception and welcome area, two large meeting rooms, summer staff housing, laundry facilities, retreat host housing, restrooms, and more.

Because the Welcome Center is now serving the functions noted above—many of which were in the original

to break ground on the Retreat Center. The goal is to make good progress in preparation for Luther Park's 50th

Anniversary Celebration at the Summer Open House in 2009.

You'll be hearing more about all of these plans as they develop.

Thanks to all of our donors, volunteers and friends, the future looks bright for Luther Park.

We still have a ways to go to fund the Retreat Center, but we're optimistic that with God's help, your help and your prayers, it won't be long.

If you can help out in any way, please call Joel Legred at 612.987.6628 or e-mail: Jlegred@lutherpark.com.

We're excited about how the Retreat Village project will fulfill the goal and vision to enhance Luther Park's capacity to serve retreat and camper groups in the best way possible. ✚

LUTHER PARK WISH LIST

Listed below are some of the camp's current needs. Perhaps you don't have any of them on hand, but would like to 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, note your wishes, and mail to: Luther Park, 30376 Lakes Drive, Danbury WI 54830-9508

URGENT NEEDS

3/4 ton 4-wheel-drive pickup
15 passenger van, heavy duty
Digital Light Projector

SPECIAL NEEDS

Maintenance:

Autos, Van/ 7-12 passengers
Canoe trailer
Cement mixer, elec. or gas
Gas power washer (portable)
Lawn mowers
Paint spray gun
Pontoon boat lift (covered)
Radial arm saw, 10"
Snowmobile trailer

Kitchen:

Electric soup pot (3-4 gallon)
Hobart mixer
Soup bowls

Program:

Biblical concordance book
Copy paper-white & colors
DVD burner, multiple
Piano tuning (periodic)

Office:

Computer, laptop (Mac or other PC)
Copy paper (white and colors)
Office supplies

Thanks for These Gifts!

(Received since Winter/Spring 2008)

12 swim fins and masks
1998 Polaris snowmobile
Log splitter
5 gallons primer
6 gallons paint
Misc. office supplies
Nature field guides

ATTENTION! GRANDPARENTS AND GRANDCHILDREN WHO LIKE TO HAVE FUN TOGETHER

The 2nd Annual
Grandparent/Grandchild
Weekend is set for July
25-27, 2008.

Plan now to join us
for this fun-filled
weekend. This programmed
retreat provides a perfect
opportunity for grand-
parents and grandchildren
to spend time together in
an outdoor atmosphere...
fishing, playing, and
enjoying God's great
Earth!

For more information,
please call Megan at
715.656.7244, e-mail:
camp@lutherpark.com or
visit our Web site:
www.lutherpark.com.

A Message
From the
Program
Director

Anna Treague



than I had ever experienced.

All the guys I roomed with in the cabins had a lot of fun with our adult leader at night. Some of the kids I have remained in contact with through e-mail and phone calls.

It really ended up being one of the best experiences of my life! If you are a kid who is considering going and aren't sure, just do it! You won't regret it.

If more youth shared their experiences like Collin has, just think of the ministry that would happen here at Luther Park, along with the rest of the world. Think of the lives that would be changed by the encouragement of friends and the evangelism of our youth by our youth.

There is so much talk about peer pressure and how horrible it is. Let's help kids to experience positive peer pressure and help them to experience God in that way.

In Christ,

Anna Treague

The Son's Reflection

Now those who were scattered went from place to place, proclaiming the word.

—Acts 8:4

At the beginning of May I had the pleasure of once again attending the Point & Cross Club banquet.

Each year at the banquet we try to have a camper or former camper speak regarding their experiences at camp, and this year was no different.

Even though our speaker, Collin, was unable to be there, his words were read

just the same, and they struck a chord in my heart.

Collin wrote: *I was at first a little skeptical about going to camp because I didn't know very much about it and didn't know anyone else who was going.*

I then talked to my friend Eric Klingbeil who had gone four times when he was in high school, and he said he loved it and that I should go.

I originally had only signed up for one week, but after arriving at camp and finding out how much fun it was I asked my parents if I could stay for two weeks.

Some of the fun things I did were: riding on a pontoon boat, playing games, going to get ice cream, campfires, and learning more about God in a different way

Cub bear - mom + other wildlife + invigorating spring weather = another great Bikeathon

By David Shirley
Secretary, Luther Park Board

Ten riders from three churches (Messiah, NE Community Lutheran and House of Prayer) made the 120-mile trip from Minneapolis to Luther Park to raise scholarship funds to help send youth to camp.

This year's focus was to experience a "Spiritual Stimulus" with the concentrated dual effort of raising funds and—more importantly—getting additional youth to camp.

Riders left Messiah at 7:30 a.m. May 31, for their first-day trek to Luck, Wis., having excellent weather. Arriving in Luck around 4 p.m., they had sustained several flat tires. There were no flattened spirits, however.

There was a bit of excitement as one of the faster riders encountered a bear cub crossing the Gandy Dancer Trail with no immediate sign of mama bear.

As with prior years, wildlife

sightings and wonderful spring weather presented riders with a beautiful blend of God's gift of nature during the invigorating, yet delightful, ride.

The riders and support crew left Luck on Sunday at 7:30 a.m. and arrived at camp around noon to a jubilant welcome by an exuberant staff, providing a sampling of

spiritual camp songs. After sharing lunch with staff, participants presented Program Director Anna Treague with donations totaling over \$10,000, including a \$1,600 match from the NW Hennepin Chapter of Thrivent and individual Thrivent member GivingPlus matches.

Please consider involving bike enthusiasts from your church in one of the two current Bikeathons, or perhaps even start your own event. Logistical planning is already well in place and can be easily duplicated for other groups.

This year's second Bikeathon, led by riders from Elim Lutheran Church, will make the trek to Luther Park July 18-19, 2008, arriving during the Summer Open House on Saturday.

For information on joining the adventure of a Bikeathon, contact Executive Director Joel Legred at 612.987.6628 or email Jlegred@lutherpark.com. 🌲



June Bikeathon participants are shown above at the entrance to Luther Park. From left are: Pat Shirley, Messiah; Scott Wright, House of Prayer; Linda Sandell, NE Community Lutheran; Matt Xiong, Messiah; Zach Kroll, LP staff; Michelle Russell, Messiah; Riley Christiansen, LP staff; Steve Neuman, Messiah; Rod Nerdahl, Messiah; Pastor Ernest Tate, Messiah; David Shirley, Messiah; Peggy Nerdahl, Messiah; and Frank Newman, Northeast Community Lutheran.

Thanks to Heartwood Conference Center

Sharon F. Miller
Communications/Marketing

If you've visited Luther Park recently, you may have seen some very nice furnishings and equipment. For instance, if you attended the Glad Tidings Dinner last Christmas—or any other recent special dinner at camp—you probably were served on some elegant china. No, it's not your usual camp kitchen equipment.

The fine china was donated by Thrivent's Heartwood Conference Center & Resort near Trego, Wisconsin. Since acquiring Heartwood from Bethany Lutheran College, Thrivent has been renovating their facilities and have graciously donated Luther Park over \$38,000 worth of furnishings and equipment which is in excellent condition.

Items donated include several almost new queen-size box springs and mattresses, desks, round tables with chairs, desk and floor lamps, mirrors, blankets, bedspreads, and



Maintenance Manager Vic Nelson is shown with some of the furniture donated to Luther Park by Heartwood Conference Center.

curtains, to name a few. Some of these items have already been put to use in the Welcome Center, the Log House and cabins. Several others will be stored for use in the Retreat Center when it is completed.

Our heartfelt thanks and gratitude go out to Thrivent and Heartwood for all of these wonderful gifts! They provide a great beginning as we kick off our 50th Anniversary Extreme Makeover, begin to furnish the Welcome Center, and plan ahead for the potential Retreat Center.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is a Fortune 500 financial services membership organization helping nearly 3 million members. Thrivent and its subsidiaries offer a broad range of financial products and services. As a not-for-profit organization, Thrivent brings its members together for social, educational and volunteer activities that support congregations, schools, charitable organizations and individuals in need. Luther Park has benefited greatly from their generosity for many years. 🌲

Ya, sure, you betcha! Ole & Lena raise campership funds for the 12th year

Oh ya! At the Ya, Sure, You Betcha Party at Richfield Lutheran Church, everyone's an Ole or a Lena for the night, everyone ya know.

They sing, they dance, they laugh and they eat. They tell yokes, they socialize, they listen to some great music. And besides all that, enthusiastically raise lots of money to send kids to camp at Luther Park!



Ole (Ken) & Lena (Helen) Ask from Richfield Lutheran staffed the Scandinavian Deli at the Ole & Lena Dinner Show.

supplemental funds of \$3,100 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Care Abounds in Communities, via the Central Mpls. Chapter, and the Southwest Hennepin County Chapter. All funds go directly to camping scholarships for kids, many of whom would otherwise never be able to attend Bible camp.

Many thanks to Thrivent, Richfield Lutheran, who hosts this event each year, and to all of you who support Luther Park through this unique FUNdraiser. 🌲

Point & Cross Banquet of Blessings hosted by St. Barnabas

The annual thank-you banquet for Point and Cross Club members was hosted by St. Barnabas Lutheran Church in Plymouth for the second year in a row.

Under the leadership of Pastor Wayne Peterson and a crew of hospitable volunteers, including many youth, an elegant dinner was served which kicked off a relaxing and informative gathering of faithful donors. The meal, the setting and the friendly welcome matched any fine dining experience.

After a welcome by Pastor Wayne

Peterson, Paula Bergs, president of the board of directors, greeted the crowd with a special message. Music, a camp video, *Let Your Love Open the Door*, and a camp experience written by camper Collin Jacobson rounded out the evening which concluded with remarks from Executive Director Joel Legred.



Enjoying punch at the Point & Cross Social Hour are Susan Mattson, center, and Gayle Mattson, right, while one of the St. Barnabas youth volunteers serves.

The Point & Cross Club recognizes donors who

share \$100 or more each year for Luther Park's Annual Fund. For more information about the club, contact Joel Legred at 612.987.6628 or e-mail Jlegred@lutherpark.com. 🌲

Summer Camp Information

Openings still available for some weeks! Call Anna at 715.656.7244 for information. Registration forms are available on our Web site, from Anna, or at your church.

TO REGISTER: (Try our online registration)

- ✓ Select a program based on the grade your camper completes in June 2008.
- ✓ Completely fill out the *Registration and Health History Form* for each camper. Parent or guardian and camper signatures must be on the form. The state of Wisconsin requires a physical exam be completed less than 36 months prior to arrival at camp. However, proof of a physical exam is required only if the camper is under the care of a physician for a medical concern, and it must then be signed by the examining physician and received at camp two weeks prior to the camper's arrival.
- ✓ Send the *Registration and Health Form* with a \$150 deposit to Luther Park. The deposit is non-refundable and non-transferable after May 1.
- ✓ Final payment is due at the camp office two weeks prior to arrival at camp.
- ✓ Upon receipt of registration materials, we will mail you a letter of confirmation, directions to camp, balance due, and other information including arrival and departure times.
- ✓ Registration is on a first-come basis.

ONLINE REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE!

OR Mail to:

Anna Treague, Program Director Phone: 715.656.7244 E-mail: camp@lutherpark.com
Luther Park Fax: 715.656.3013 Web site: www.lutherpark.com
30376 Lakes Drive, Danbury, WI 54830-9508

2008 Remaining Summer Schedule

Date	Cabins	Treehouses	Canoe Trips	Sr. High Leadership
July 6-11	Gr. 7-9	Gr. 3-6		
July 13-18	Gr. 7-9	Gr. 7-9		
July 13-25	Gr. 7-12 Double Week			
July 19	SUMMER OPEN HOUSE-ALL WELCOME			
July 20-25	Gr. 7-9	Gr. 3-6		Gr. 9-12 Leadership Mentoring*
July 25-27	Grandparent/Grandchild Weekend Camp			
July 27-Aug.1	Gr. 3-6	Gr. 7-9		Gr. 9-12 Leadership Training*
Aug. 3-8	Gr. 3-6	Gr. 7-9	Gr. 9-12**	
Aug. 3-15		Gr. 7-12 (Double Week)		
Aug. 10-15		Gr. 7-12		
Aug. 12-17	Gr. 6-8	MUSIC CAMP		



NOTE

*Prereq.: Attend Leadership Training or TIM Team Training & completion of Gr. 10.
**Weeks where individual youth may sign up for these programs. Group regis. for Canoe & P&P trips booked anytime.

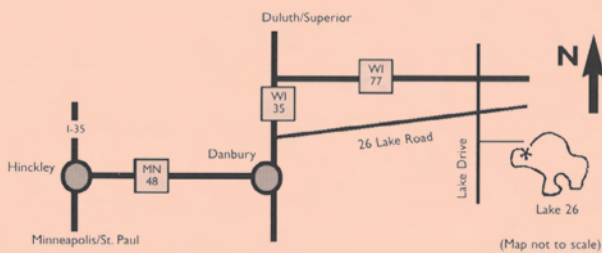
Special Programs not listed above

Canoe Trips: Most weeks (June, July, August), on Namekagon and St. Croix rivers of N. Wisconsin.
Teens in Mission, Great Lakes Mission Trips: Each week (June, July, August). Group registration required.
Cornerstone Mission Trip: Up to 10-day intergenerational program, weekends through week. Group Regis.

How to Get to Luther Park

From Twin Cities: Take I-35 to Hinckley, MN. Go E. from Hinckley on Hwy. 48 (about 30 mi.) to Danbury, WI. Then N. on WI Hwy. 35 for 2 mi., and E. on Hwy. 77 for about 5 mi. (Watch for white arrow sign on right side of road.) Turn right on Lakes Drive, go about 2 mi. to stop sign. Go straight ahead at stop sign & up driveway to Lodge — a large brown building on left side.

From Duluth: Go to Superior, WI. Take WI Hwy. 35 S., then E. on WI Hwy. 77 (about 5 mi.-watch for white arrow sign on S. side of road). Turn S. on Lakes Dr. Go about 2 mi. to stop sign & up driveway to the Lodge. **WELCOME!**



FEE SCHEDULE

SPECIAL OFFER FOR SUMMER 2008!
SIGN UP FOR A SECOND WEEK OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE FOR HALF PRICE (See bottom of page 2)

	Member/Non-member*
Partial Week (July 4-6).....	\$245/265
One Full Week	\$380/400
Double Week	\$650/710
Sr. Hi. Leadership	\$395/415
— Includes 1 free week & recharge weekend in Fall—	
(Leadership Training, Leadership Mentoring and TIM (Teens in Mission) Music Camp	\$400/\$400
Cornerstone	Cost Varies
Campground	\$10 per site/per night: \$12 with electricity

Fees Cover: Meals, lodging and program materials. **Fees do NOT include transportation.** Round-trip transportation: \$60; one-way transportation: \$40 (Transportation available only for weeks of July 13-18 July 20-25 & Aug. 3-8.)

Pick ups at: House of Prayer in Richfield and Elim in Robbinsdale.

NOTE: Camper fees shown are subsidized by gift allocations. The actual cost per camper, per week is \$500.

* Non-member churches are those that are not members of any ELCA Bible Camp corporation.

QUOTABLE QUOTE

Faith is to believe what we do not see; and the reward of this faith is to see what we believe.

—St. Augustine



Don and Marlene Bodin are shown with the altar and lectern they and Bethel Lutheran donated to Luther Park. (Full story on Page 1.)

A Message From the Executive Director

Joel Legred



Serving as Summer Staff: 'A Mission Trip That Lasts the Entire Summer'

Let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.
— Hebrews 12:1-2

Luther Park is pleased to be able to offer summer mission trips. Mission trips are a marvelous way to experience meeting Jesus in the faces of the people you serve.

Did you know that some people go on a mission trip that lasts the entire summer? I'm talking about our summer staff. College-age young people from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and around the world who decide that instead of doing something for themselves this summer, they are going to share their faith 24/7 with kids from all walks of life.

While they are doing this for God and for others, they will also benefit. They will learn skills in leading worship, music and Bible studies. They'll add public speaking to their list of talents. They'll know how to lead games, mediate conflict, and learn CPR and lifesaving skills. Most importantly, they'll grow in their own faith in Jesus Christ.

Some of our summer staff members will become pastors and lay leaders in our congregations. Some will spend their lifetime on other kinds of mission trips —ministering to people in corporations where they work or in social service agencies.

Thank you to all of our donors and volunteers who make our summer-long mission trip possible. Please cover our counselors, support staff, and year-long staff in your prayers as they run the race that is set before them, looking to Jesus for everything they will need.

God bless you.

Joel Legred