

Danbury, WI • ON LAKE 26

LUTHER PARK ECHOES

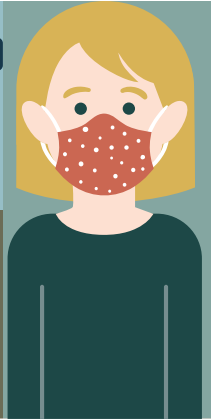
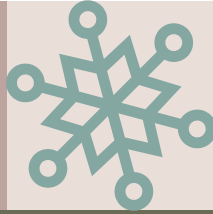
from the point

VOL. 31, NO. 2

A NEWSLETTER FOR CAMPERS AND FRIENDS OF LUTHER PARK

FALL/WINTER 2021

Wrapping up another great summer of camp



TAKE A PEEK INSIDE

2021 Bike-A-Thon Recap

Retreat Center Information

A look ahead at Summer 2022

Thank you volunteers!

CHANGE IS COMING!

JOEL LEGRED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, RETIRING



"It has been a privilege to walk alongside servants of Christ" said Joel, Luther Park's Executive Director of 34 years. Joel has decided to retire. After battling Covid-19, Joel realized life is short and he has a few more goals he'd like to accomplish. "It has been an amazing ride" Joel smiled. "I

remember visiting Luther Park for the first time, sitting at the point, and wondering if I had what it takes to run a camp. Now I know more than ever that what it takes is a community of people who love God and have a deep down passion to spread the Gospel. The reason? In this sacred space, God uses each of our offerings to sweeten faith, pour out grace, share love, and create an open and welcoming community of Christ."

The daily life of a camp director includes things like water leaks, propane tanks, insurances, compliances, safety regulations, personnel, food service, financials and taxes. But over the years, Joel has overseen significant improvements to the physical site with the building of a retreat center, new house, pole barn, treehouses, bath house, labyrinth, outdoor chapel, as well as the renovation of the log house, lodge, and new roofs on most buildings. Joel is quick to point to generous donors and tireless volunteers who make things happen.

Over the years Joel says what has mattered most is what God has been up to. What greater thrill could there be than watching the Spirit move among camp-goers, changing lives and bringing people together. The stories of faith are remarkable. Joel said that people in their 80's will remember a retreat when they were 40, at time when they understood God's grace for the first time. Middle schoolers will say it was at camp that they felt they could be themselves, that they belonged to God's family. Children will have learned to pray and know they are loved. Many of the summer staff have become pastors and leaders in the church.

Continued on page 2.

LEAH MCDUGALL TO BECOME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Luther Park's Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Leah McDougall has been selected as Luther Park's new Executive Director beginning January 1, 2022. Joel Legred said, "I am delighted about Leah in this leadership role and I'm excited about the future of Luther Park! Leah is visionary and filled with the Spirit.

Camp ministry is in her bones and once that happens, nothing else is as fulfilling. I know because it happened to me in my 20's."

Bible camp ministry has inspired Leah from the time she was a camp counselor. As Luther Park's Associate Director, she has already overseen staff and on-site operations, learning the ropes and using all her skills. She is in relationship with our corporate churches and has a love of Lutheran theology. As part of her drive to see camp ministry thrive, Leah has completed a Masters in Religion and thesis on Bible camp ministry from Wartburg Seminary. She has studied abroad, exploring peace, justice and community engagement. She is passionate about inclusion and speaks conversational Spanish. Apart from her credentials, she is wise, compassionate, and loved by staff members she has supervised.

"I so appreciate the opportunity to lead a Bible camp at this time in history. We are called to find ways for the church to be vital and relevant in 2022 and beyond. Bible camp will be key in furthering faith and passing on the love of Christ to this generation and the next" said Leah. "I hope to inspire young leaders to do that."

Leah shared her appreciation of Joel's willingness to stay on staff as an Emeritus Director during a year of transition. You can't pass on 34 years of experience in a day! One of the first tasks for Leah will be hiring a Program Director. Do you know any wonderful camp-experienced young people who would like to make camp ministry their passion? 🙏



STAY AT CAMP YEAR ROUND!

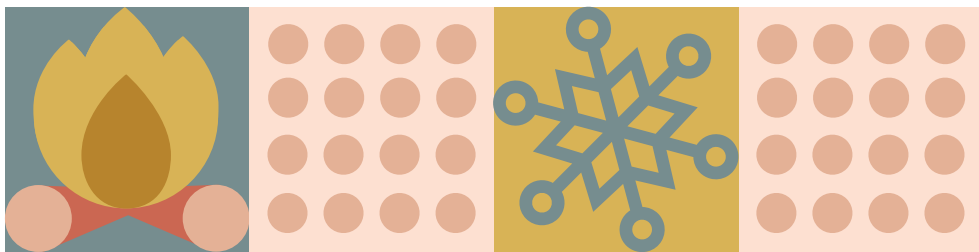
Come with your family, bring the relatives, invite your neighbors, gather your friends or meet your small group in the Northwoods for rejuvenating getaway!

Celebrate the Holidays, gather for a weekend escape, host a reunion or come just because.

Rent the Retreat Center! It includes 4 private, hotel style rooms, a coffee nook area with a fridge and small appliances, a cozy fireplace area, a gathering room with tables/chairs, a small game room, and a great deck with a view!

Rent the Log House! It includes space to sleep 22-25 people, 3 bathrooms, a full kitchen (to do all your own cooking OR you can hire the cooks to do that for you!) and a comfy living space with a wood burning fireplace.

Other buildings are available as well for rental, The Welcome Center, Cabins and Treehouses. Visit www.lutherparkdanbury.com for more information.



Joel Legred Executive Director, Retiring Continued from front page.

Even Joel's wife who has become a pastor says Luther Park was huge part of her faith journey.

Joel said that every now and then God gives him a glimpse of how his work has mattered. This past summer his niece and her young family were looking for a new church in South Dakota. They took a chance on Ascension Lutheran Church in Brookings. On that particular day, Pastor Steve Palo who had been on Luther Park's summer staff was showing photos of people who had been instrumental in his faith journey. Up flashed a picture of Joel Legred as Steve shared about Luther Park. Erin, Joel's niece, knew it was a sign that this particular church would become their church home. She texted Joel the photo Steve had shown in worship.

Joel is so grateful to those who have served as staff members and others who have kept the lights on, written checks, and invested hard work in making this a place of worship and spiritual renewal for 63 years. They are the reason that families, campers, youth groups, and retreaters have enjoyed feeling closer to God. People have heard God's grace pertains to them and that they are beloved children of God, marked with the cross of Christ forever. Joel says, "If you want to be reminded of this truth, come and sit for a spell in the woods by the lake where thousands of people have found refreshment."

Lastly, Joel just wants to say, "Thank you. I am so grateful to each of you for the privilege of walking alongside you."

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!



This spring, summer and fall our volunteers have been a consistent force that is keeping the site and spirit of Luther Park alive and beautiful.



An amazing team from **Joann Fabrics** came to Luther Park to reorganize, paint and set up Arts & Crafts before campers arrived on site. It was a huge blessing and gift to have this team take charge and get Arts & Crafts back into order. They painted the walls a fun, bright green, set up shelves, and organized all of the supplies. They also donated many arts and craft supplies and furniture to help keep the space organized and camper friendly! Thank you to the Joann Fabrics Team!



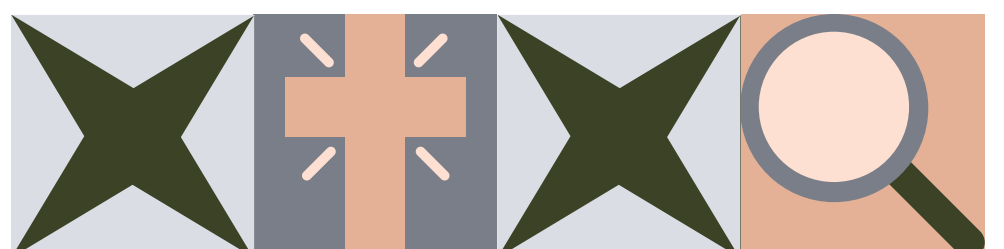
Nativity Lutheran Church in St. Anthony, MN brought a group of Middle School students to camp for a service and learning experience. These strong and dedicated individuals worked all week in the hot heat to dismantle some challenge course initiatives. They weeded gardens, the volleyball court, gaga ball pit and the labyrinth. And they finished painting the lodge basement ceiling, stairwell and doors. Thank you Nativity!



Trinity Lutheran Church in North Branch, MN brought a group of High School students to camp for a service trip. A lot got done in a few short days by these compassionate individuals. They painted the pumphouse, did lots more organizing and painted the chalkboard wall in Arts & Crafts. Thank you Trinity!



Our **monthly volunteer crew** spends one Saturday a month getting things done around camp. Just a few of the things they have accomplished: sheetrocking arts & crafts, spring cleaning of the cabins, staining trim, putting trim in the basement of lodge, replacing all lightbulbs with LEDs, moving extra furniture into it's proper storage space, splitting and stacking wood, cleaning out and reorganizing storage spaces, putting the docks and boats in the water in the Spring, and removing in the Fall, and much more! Thank you monthly volunteers!



**A Message from
The President**

Scott Housman

Oh my! Autumn is beautiful at Luther Park. As with autumn, change is inevitable! Change is hard for some of us and welcomed by others. I myself love to see changes if they don't require a password. :)

God seems to be doing new things at Luther Park. It reminds me of the passage from the book of Isaiah. God said, "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not

perceive it?" Isaiah 43:19

Luther Park is on the move and the future is bright. The Luther Park board and staff have worked tenaciously in forward planning to expand the mission and ministry at Luther Park. The Retreat Center and other new opportunities open us to enhanced adult ministry and overnight handicap accessible spaces. This is an exciting change in our mission!

The staff showed their adaptability to change when COVID-19 hit us. The staff showed courage navigating all the uncertainty, developing leadership camp for the college-age, summer staff folks, and creating the engaging "Camp-in-a-Box" for families. Smaller, more intimate camps/retreats were offered in 2021 and offered a great, meaningful escape for many of our constituents. This was very challenging to say the least. Our fearless leaders conquered COVID safe environments and protocol very well.

We count on so many to grow our ministry. I am personally grateful for the gifts Luther Park has received, including gifts that keep our camp financially sound and help maintain the 29 buildings on the property. Gifts come in all forms including arts and crafts donations and new lawn equipment. We're also gifted by volunteers who spring-clean, winterize our spaces, clean up junk metal, and fix ailing engines. Each and every one of YOU are a blessing and I ask that you keep Luther Park in your continued gifting, estate planning, prayers and volunteer plans for 2022. 🙏



Luther Park Benefit Concert featuring
MORPHEUS BAND

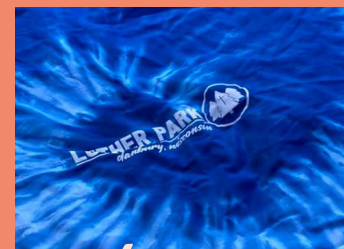
November 12th, 2021 @ 6:00 PM
Eagles 34, 2507 East 25th Street Minneapolis, MN 55406

Tickets sold at the door - suggested donation of \$20. Food and drink will be available to purchase during the night.

LP Spread the word, share this event, invite your friends to help raise funds for Luther Park!

ORDER A LUTHER PARK SOUVENIR ALL YEAR ROUND!

Go to lutherparkdanbury.square.site/ and pick from your favorite items at camp! From T-Shirts to water bottles and even blankets, this site will allow you to get some of the best souvenirs camp has to offer shipped to your home.



Limited time only!

Order this limited-time, campfire shirt before the deadline of Nov. 19 (and get it in time for Christmas)! A portion of the proceeds from this shirt support Luther Park. You can pick from multiple colors and styles including a T-shirt, crewneck sweatshirt or long sleeve shirt. Visit www.bonfire.com/luther-parks-campfire-shirt/ to purchase.



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: Loren Seel (hello@lorenseel.com)

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 LP STAFF MEMBERS

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| Joanne Anderson, Food Service/ Housekeeping | Pete Brace, Maintenance |
| Marcia Brace, Office | Joel Legred, Executive Director |
| | Leah McDougall, Associate Director |

Thrivent Choice, Employee Matching Program and Thrivent Action Teams Benefit Luther Park



THRIVENT FINANCIAL®

(A TOTAL OF OVER \$4,000 RECEIVED IN 2021)

Thrivent Choice

If you have a Thrivent Financial policy, you may be able to help Luther Park through their Thrivent Choice program. Through this, you can help direct the company's charitable dollars to Luther Park. Call 1-800-847-4836 or visit www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice to direct your Thrivent Choice dollars to Luther Park.

Action Teams

Thrivent Action Teams are another way policy holders can help Luther Park. Visit the Thrivent website to apply for a Thrivent Action Grant. When approved, you will receive a \$250 gift card to be used toward a specific project.

Employee Matching Program

Thrivent also has an Employer Matching Program that matches contributions their employees make to non-profit organizations. Luther Park has benefited through this also.

LUTHER PARK SAYS THANK YOU TO THRIVENT AND ITS MEMBERS FOR THESE OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL GIFTS TO THE CAMP!



Luther Park is proudly accredited through the American Camp Association.

OVER THE 63 YEARS YOUR GIFTS HAVE MADE SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS ON SO MANY LIVES!



"Whipped Cream" challenge! Slip 'n' Slide!



CAMP IS FOR FAMILIES!



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.



Tie Dye! Olympic Week!



"Face the Cookie" challenge! Holiday Week!



THANKS FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE!



Ways To Give



DONATE ITEMS

Urgent Needs

- Reliable Passenger Car/Van
- Dehumidifiers
- Gas Cards (Prefer Speedway or Holiday)
- Wilson Amplifier
- Pillow Protectors
- Kayak Paddles

Maintenance

- Screen for windows (regular and "dog" screen)

Arts & Crafts

- All good here!

Program

- Projector with HDMI input
- Spark Story Bibles
- Boxes of firestarters for campfires
- Solar Powered Lanterns

Housekeeping

- Plastic and Cloth Shower Curtains
- Waterproof mattress covers - twin and queen
- Pillow Protectors
- Box Fans

Special Needs for the Retreat Center

- Bath Towel Sets -- dark colors

Special Needs for the Log House

- All good here!

Kitchen

- 8 Cup Food Processor
- Commercial Electric Steam Table

Sports Equipment

- Soft Dodgeballs
- Soccer Nets (2 - 12x6)
- Disk Golf Goal Basket
- Ball pump

Office

- Laminating sheets for GBC Laminating machine
- Copy paper (white and colored)
- Card Stock (white and colored)
- Poster Board
- Bulletin boards for cabins
- White boards
- Batteries (D, AA, AAA, 9V, CR2032)

Waterfront

- Kayak Paddles
- New or Gently Used Canoes

DONATE MONEY

Our donors are very generous and have been for 60+ years. This past year is no different! Despite all the challenges, hardships and changes we have all experienced, God is still good and provides. Luther Park's donors have truly made a difference for 2021. Thank you for helping shape and change lives!

As we are planning for summer 2022, we assume that there are many families who have experienced or may experience financial hardship and may need assistance paying for summer camp. Contributions to Luther Park help us keep the promise that no camper or family will be turned away because of financial difficulties. Thank you for your generous donations that ensure the ministry of Luther Park will continue sharing God's love and Grace to all ages all year long!

Ways you can donate funds:

- Paypal ([paypal.me/lutherparkdanbury](https://www.paypal.com/merchot/?url=https://www.lutherparkdanbury.com/))
- Venmo (Friend "Luther Park Danbury, WI" if the last 4 digits of a phone # needed use 6628)
- Mail in a Check (Luther Park - 30376 Lakes Dr. - Danbury, WI - 54830)
- Give us a call and donate over the phone (Joel, 612-987-6628)
- Employer match giving or other employer contributions for non-profits (Check with your employer and ask if they match giving or provide financial contributions to your favorite non-profit, Luther Park!)



DONATE TIME

Luther Park is a beautifully maintained site because of our dedicated volunteers! When a team comes together with a common goal, a lot gets done and a lot of fun is had.

Our next Work Day is Saturday, December 4th. Volunteers gather around 9am. Lunch is provided. All age groups are welcome. Lodging is available for volunteers who want to stay overnight and attend the Glad Tidings Event the next day (information about this event can be found on pg. #).

Visit <http://www.lutherpark.com/volunteer.html> for the most updated information on volunteer projects around camp.

If you are interested in being a part of this team of monthly volunteers, contact Joel Legred, Executive Director, 612-987-6628 or jlegred@lutherpark.com.

We are taking COVID-19 precautions to help keep out volunteers safe. We ask that you wear a mask while in buildings in close proximity of others and social distance while at Luther Park. We want all to feel safe as we work together on behalf of Luther Park.



Luther Park is looking for Thrivent members who want to help accomplish project goals. Would you like to be one of these Thrivent members? Connect with Leah McDougall, 651-472-4868 or camp@lutherpark.com, and she will help you through the process.

Future Project Goals:

- Woodshed for the Campground
- New Fire Rings for the Campground
- New Sheds for the Outpost Pavilion
- Watercraft Storage Unit for the Waterfront
- New Benches for the Point/Campfire Area
- Fixing up initiatives at the Challenge Course
- Arts & Crafts supplies, storage units and shelves
- First Aid Supplies for Summer Programming
- Yard Games for Luther Park Community use

Have an idea of your own? That's great! Let us know.



Leave a legacy of God's Love

Would you like to leave a legacy for future generations that reflects your faith and values?

The Luther Park Legacy Society has been created to help friends of Luther Park leave a legacy.

Legacy gifts to Luther Park will be a seed planted in good soil, because it will help people of all ages deepen their faith in Jesus. You can provide a legacy gift through a life insurance policy or a will bequest. If you have already completed your will, a codicil can be added at a nominal charge.

For additional information, please contact Joel Legred at 612-987-6628 or email jlegred@lutherpark.com.



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

When you shop on Amazon Smile, Luther Park benefits! Through eligible purchases, Luther Park receives a 0.5% donation from Amazon. Visit smile.amazon.com, sign into your Amazon account, choose "Luther Park Inc." as your charitable organization, start making purchases and Amazon will do the rest.

The Bike-a-Thon Adventures!



This year Bikers could choose how they wanted to participate in our annual Bike-a-Thon fundraiser event. Some Bikers (or even walkers, runners or rollerbladers) chose to raise money and accomplish miles in their local community over the span of a couple weeks. While, other Bikers participated in the group biking experience from Messiah in Minneapolis to Luther Park over the course of two days. To date, Luther Park has received over \$5,500, with more to come! Thanks, bicyclists and donors for your support of Luther Park's ministry!

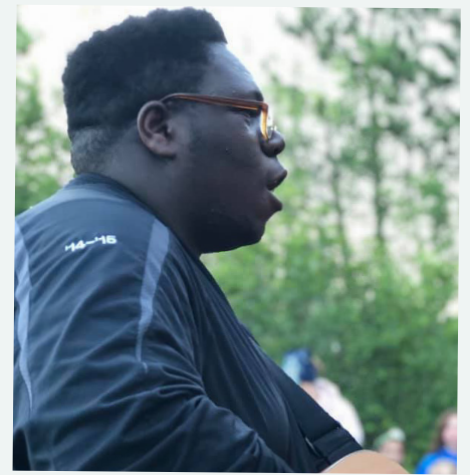


Next year's Bike-A-Thon event will happen June 4th-5th, 2022. Stay tuned for more details! If you would like to be contacted in the Spring about participating in this opportunity, please reach out to Leah McDougall, camp@lutherpark.com or 651-472-4868. Our Annual Bike-A-Thon is our largest and longest running fundraiser. Thank you for being a part of it!

Thoughts from a Counselor... JAMIE PASSEWE



Growing up I went to many different churches in ranging beliefs, but it wasn't until my uncle Joel introduced me to Luther Park that I started to understand myself, God and my faith more. And for those reasons I will forever love Luther Park. I first went to Luther Park with my brother, Joel, in 2009. Though it is hard to remember everything, I know I had so much fun. Otherwise, why would I continue to go almost every summer since then? Throughout those next summers I made great friends, fond memories and enjoyed the yearly tradition of going to camp with my cousin, Gabe. We did a lot of growing up in the Luther Park community and even had the opportunity to become High School Leadership Trainers (junior counselors) for a couple summers. I enjoyed that opportunity so much that I became a counselor in 2019 and again this year in 2021.



I have learned a lot of lessons being at Luther Park, both as a camper, high school leader and counselor. One lesson I will remember is to always make sure the friends around you are okay. As simple as it sounds, I know some people need people to check in with them and be given space to talk. Not everyone will just open up and talk about what they need to. Now, whenever I see someone that I care about

having a tough time I try my best to comfort them and see if I can relate to them. I learned that listening is important in being there for others and helping comfort them.

A memory from camp I'll never forget is when I performed one of my favorite original songs, which I wrote in 2018 for the variety show, called "Dream Girl". I wrote this, thinking about someone special, but also to prove that creative writing can turn into anything (and something beautiful) if you put your heart into it. The Variety Show gave me opportunities to perform in front of people, which I discovered I liked very much and wanted to do more.



I always see God at camp whenever I need help or when good things happen. As a counselor, I would pray at night asking God to help make sure my co-workers and my campers have a good experience throughout the summer. My faith grew whenever I had these alone moments where I feel like I should do more, but I don't know what to. I would speak with God and take my time to figure out what that next step was. I am still having these alone moments with God even outside camp.



So, please make sure you give all kids a chance to go to Luther Park so that they can have these experiences that impact their lives, just as my Luther Park experience impacted my life. You don't have to be a certain type of Christian to have a fun time there. But also too, you get a chance to reflect on yourself and that's a feeling I think all kids need as a part of their life. 🏕️



You can make a difference! Join the Summer Staff 2022 Ministry Team!

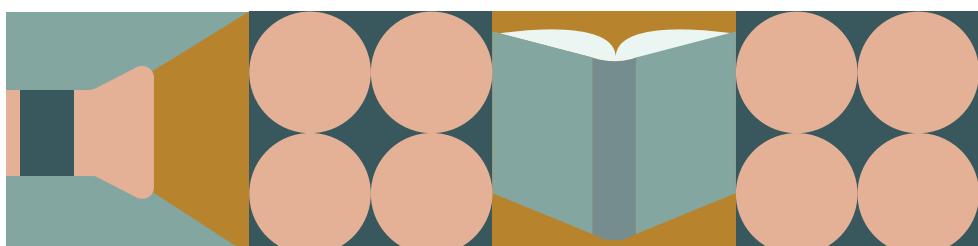
Being on summer staff at Luther Park not only gives you the opportunity to make a difference in another's life but will also change your life. You get to work closely with many children, youth, peers and other adults in a fun, Christ-filled environment. Expect to discover new things about yourself, God and the world around you all while having the best summer of your life! Camp work is hard work but very rewarding, so applicants must be willing to be challenged, open-minded and adaptable to many unexpected situations. We are hiring for all summer staff positions.

Find out more information and apply at www.lutherparkdanbury.com. Contact Leah McDougall with questions at camp@lutherpark.com or 651-472-4868. Applications open November 1st!

Sing camp songs & pray the camp graces all year long!

The Summer Staff from 2020 recorded all our camp songs (and mealtime graces) for you to sing-a-long to at home. Check out our Youtube Channel and find all of your favorites.

Search for "Luther Park Danbury, WI" on Youtube to find our Channel.



Looking ahead... **SUMMER 2022**

Camp Getaway for Families

Registration opens December 1st - Hurry, reserve your spot, housing fills fast!

Introduction

Camp isn't just for kids, it's for the whole family! These Getaway weekends are the perfect, summer opportunity to spend time in God's great outdoors with other families of faith. Swim the beautiful Lake 26, play silly, camp games with the staff, create beautiful crafts, be served delicious, home cooked food and enjoy creating new memories with your family.



Schedule

All dates are Friday-Sunday.

- Session 1: June 24-26**
- Session 2: July 1-3**
- Session 3: July 8-10**
- Session 4: July 15-17**
- Session 5: July 22-24**
- Session 6: July 29-31**

These dates don't work for you?
Contact camp! We may be able to host you at another time.



What's Included?

- All meals and snacks prepared for you (6 meals starting with Friday dinner and ending with Sunday lunch)
- Access to game/sport spaces like the Volleyball Courts, Basketball Court, Gaga Ball Pit and Game Room
- Use of the Waterfront (swimming, kayaking, canoeing and paddle boarding)
- Prepared crafts, Bible devotions and other family spiritual practices
- Staff led worship campfires, silly games and other camp activities

Fees

Fees are below. All children 4 and under are free. Scholarships are available for families who are in need of assistance. Please don't hesitate to reach out and ask about scholarships! We don't want finances to be the reason that families don't experience camp. We work hard to raise funds for all to have the life changing experience of camp!

Cabins

- \$116 per adult/child over 12
- \$59 per child age 5-12

Log House

- \$134 per adult/child over 12
- \$67 per child age 5-12

Retreat Center

- \$161 per adult/child over 12
- \$81 per child age 5-12

Treehouses

- \$107 per adult/child over 12
- \$54 per child age 5-12

Campground

- \$98 per adult/child over 12
- \$50 per child ages 5-12

Registration

Registration opens December 1st! Register online at: www.lutherparkdanbury.com, click on register. **Register by mail:** print the registration form at the bottom of the homepage under "quick links". **Register over the phone:** contact Leah McDougall, 651-472-4868. Email camp with questions: camp@lutherpark.com.



Summer Camp

Registration opens December 1st - Schedule coming soon!

SAVE THE DATE



Bike-A-Thon: June 4-5, 2022

Save the date for Next Year's in-person, ride with others to camp Bike-A-Thon: June 4-5, 2022. **Registration for this event will open late winter.**

Look for advertisements on Facebook and the Website.

If you would like to be put on the email reminder list contact camp@lutherpark.com.

Dates and details about how you can participate in the Bike-A-Thon in your own community will be published late winter.

