



LUTHERLYN

70th Anniversary Edition

WWW.LUTHERLYN.COM

2018

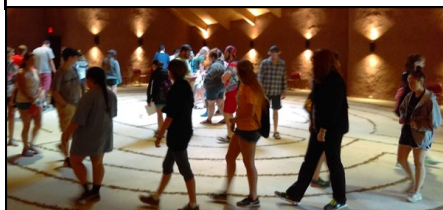
Welcome to the 70th Anniversary Edition of “Within Lutherlyn.” This issue is exciting and different because it was written by YOU! We asked some friends of camp to write the articles for this issue. So, here it is—what's going on at Lutherlyn from the perspective of some of Lutherlyn’s campers, guests, donors, staff, and long-time friends. Enjoy!

What’s New?

Deacon Deb Roberts was installed as the Executive Director of Lutherlyn on Dec. 2nd, 2017. See “The Director’s Notebook” on the back page of this newsletter for more details.



Deb, Mary & Frank Baker, Pastor Joel Benson



Prior to its completion, Baker Chapel housed a temporary Prayer Labyrinth created with sand.

CORE PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Lutherlyn Board of Directors met in March of 2017 and developed Lutherlyn’s Core Purpose Statement.

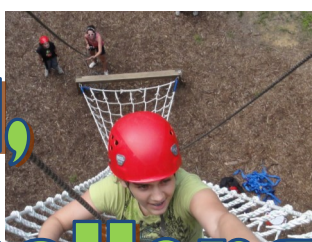
A God-given place to be

“Camp taught me patience and kindness.”



“I get to be myself at camp!”

“I learned that God loves me and is with me... no matter what!”



“The best thing about this week was how I connected with God.”



“Your program reached all 3 of my children at varying levels of living their faith.”



“My children came home so true to the people they are.”

accepted,
challenged,

and sent.

BAKER CHAPEL

The Baker Chapel (formerly known as the Worship and Music Center) is just about finished! The interior and the bathrooms are done and it was used for Deb’s installation as the Executive Director. This unique and beautiful space will be a great blessing to many for worship services, weddings, concerts, performances, and other spirituality-based retreats/events. Path lights, landscaping, and signage will be completed throughout 2018. Thank you to everyone that contributed towards this wonderful worship space.



A SCHOOL?? AT LUTHERLYN?? YES!!

Almost 2,000 years ago, there was no room in a crowded inn so our King was born in a manger. His followers today have found a room where they can share the story and ponder the mystery of the Creator in the best educational environment - the 660 acres of Lutherlyn!

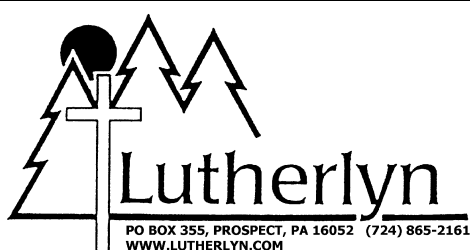
A small group of families led by Tawnya Dilling and Celine Mitchell have a dream to give their children the best education through the Montessori Method and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. They encountered one obstacle after another while trying to renovate a building in Mars to make their faith-based Montessori school not just a dream but a reality. When a door is closed, God often opens gates wider than one can imagine. Thanks to the kind welcome and hospitality of Deb and the Lutherlyn Board of Directors, Good Shepherd Montessori Center has found a home in the beautiful new building near the Shaulis Village originally intended to be an art gallery.

The elementary children in grades 1-5 look forward to days filled with Montessori math materials which often include colored beads or cubes, LEEP adventures with Holly, Equestrian activities for phys. ed., language works which could include writing and creating a puppet show, lots of nature walks, and gathering for communal prayer to give thanks and praise to God for all these abundant gifts they experience each and every day! Sometimes the children even spontaneously burst into a joyful song!

Our primary group (ages 3-6) meets with Miss Patti for nature discoveries on long walks, for learning about ponies, and discovering math beads and sand paper letters which will soon lead to reading, writing, and arithmetic. But in the meantime, we are building a community where families grow in faith as they grow in relationship with each other and with God. The Good Shepherd calls his sheep by name... He called us to this amazing nature center where the children see His beauty and peace all around. Montessori education stresses the importance of the environment. We never imagined that we could begin a Christian Montessori Center in such a wonderful setting with so many supportive staff!

Lutherlyn truly is a "God-given place!" Thank you Lutherlyn for opening your gate, your beautiful building, and your staff to our adventure for Christian Montessori education.

Tawnya & Celine
The Good Shepherd Montessori Center
goodshepherdmontessoricenter@gmail.com



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Lutherlyn extends the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ, by inviting all people to engage the Word of God, one another and themselves in an intentional, challenging, exciting, and fun outdoor Christian community centered in the grace of God and the goodness of earth and life.



Summer Camp

LIFE-CHANGING ADVENTURES IN FAITH!

This summer was the second time I attended a week of Classic Juniors. I like Classic Juniors the best because you get a bit of every adventure. It was the best week of my entire year. We drove all the way from Connecticut so I could go to camp. My counselor, John, was the greatest because he was always happy and ready for adventure. He made sure we all felt right at home. The best part of each day was when we went and did adventures as a cabin. And each night, we had a worship but it was not like church because it was a lot more fun and interactive. The best places at camp are the woods, the Craft Cabin, and the gaga pit. Also, I love the food at camp! On Friday night, we all put candles in a cross and learned to let our light shine when we left camp. I still let my light shine by being a leader and always trying to be kind and helpful. When I get older I want to be counselor at camp – I can't wait! But until then, I will keep coming back each summer.

Ian, age 10



Gaga ball

Lutherlyn is one of my favorite things to do in summer. I was recently a Night Owl. Being a Night Owl gave me a chance to see what is going on at night. Once I even got to stay up til 6:30! CJ, age 10



Night Owls POOL PARTY!



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CONFIRMATION CAMP

My first introduction to confirmation camp took place in 9th grade. I had just moved to Warren and attended First Lutheran Church, who took all of their 8th-10th grade youth to Lutherlyn for confirmation camp. Back then, I never really thought about the purpose of going to camp but I did know I was grateful for the experience.

While working on Lutherlyn's staff, I had the opportunity to view confirmation camp from a counselor's point of view. The dedication of the pastoral and teaching staff impressed me. It was neat to see the interaction between pastors and teens in a setting outside of the church building. I remember talking to some of my campers and they told me they enjoyed coming to camp because they got to see their pastor as a "regular person."

Now that I'm on the planning/teaching side of confirmation camp, I realize the purpose of why we come to Lutherlyn for confirmation camp: *to create an intentional Christian community where everyone feels safe and where the love of God is shown and grown.* Confircamp is an opportunity for youth to get out of their comfort zone, meet new people, grow in their faith by experiencing God's love, learn about the Lutheran tradition, and be part of something bigger than themselves – God's kingdom.

Although confircamp has changed its format over the years (we now offer a leadership training component for students already confirmed), we still study Luther's Small Catechism, his life, and the church. Sure, we could do this in our home congregations, but having a setting like Lutherlyn to learn and play and create that intentional Christian community makes the confirmation process much more personal and life-changing.

Pastor Jeff Ewing, First Lutheran Church, Warren

Family Camp at Lutherlyn 2017 with my mother, Merab Drennen, and the rest of my family was a wonderful nostalgic experience. It was a chance to recall many amazing life-changing experiences when I was a camper in the 1980s. It was an opportunity to learn about my grandparents' vision for the camp (Russell & Ruth Steininger). It was an occasion to discover from many longtime family campers how Lutherlyn has been a treasured part of their lives. It was an uplifting time to learn from experienced pastors and young counselors. It was a time to rejoice at the growth of the camp and see many great new changes, and a time to relish the many things that remain constant at Lutherlyn including the smell of the woods, the song of the birds, the beauty of the trails, the nourishment found in worship, the contentment found in a campfire, and the Christian fellowship found all around the camp from the dining hall, to the craft cabin, to the camp store.

Many thanks to all that have loved and nurtured Lutherlyn through the years so that it may continue to enlighten and enrich the lives of many in the future.

Kristin Drennen Brant



The Drennen Family at Family Camp



LUTHERLYN DAY CAMP

It would be impossible to justly evaluate our week of Day Camp on a short evaluation form. This week of Lutherlyn Day Camp was transformational in so many ways.

Starting with the staff. They were upbeat, courteous, and deeply kind. Upon meeting them on Sunday night, I was excited to be a part of this program right away. As I had the honor of getting to know Sarah, Sam, and Angela during the week, I was gifted with seeing their deep faith and their unstoppable love for our children. The staff treated each kid with kindness, patience, dignity, and grace. They were relentlessly positive and able to incorporate all of the children into a close-knit community of faith by the end of the week. Proof of this came on the evening of the program for the parents when the youngest child played a lead part in one of the skits. She was sensational! Sam, Angela, and Sarah took the time to nurture even the youngest of kids and never lost track of the larger group. We could not have asked for better staff!

The best part of the week was how infectious the spirit of Christ became in the kids, the volunteers, and the parents that picked up and dropped off their kids every day. As the children talked more and more about the fun they were having, I saw a transformation in the parents as well. More than half of the children were from outside of our congregation; they either attended other churches or do not currently attend church. By the end of the program for parents on Thursday night, everyone had made new friends and the parents were surprised and thankful for such a positive week. Day Camp gave us an opportunity to connect with neighbors and build relationships that we would not have been able to do otherwise. We even have some parents already asking about Lutherlyn Summer Camp for next summer, which we will continue to "talk up" and support with as much energy as we can! The absolute best part was how visibly the children grew in their faith in such a short time.

The worst part of the week, and I am being honest, is that it came to an end. I cannot find any critique of the staff, the program, the way that the Gospel was presented, or the way we spent our time every day. Having been deeply involved for many years in community VBS programs, that is saying a lot! Three Lutherlyn counselors and a trunk full of stuff easily trumps the most extravagant VBS program, with all of its bells and whistles. I was only scheduled to be a helper all day on Wednesday but, except for a few brief times that I was called to the office, I ended up spending all of my time every day with the staff and the campers. The love of Jesus this program reveals sucked me in and I was not able to tear myself away. Now, I may never get "River of Life" or "Crazy Moose" out of my head after this week, so maybe that is the worst thing that happened? I can surely live with that! We have already begun plans for next year!

Lutherlyn Day Camp is an amazing program and we are very glad that we decided to participate. I wish you all blessings and peace from our Lord Jesus, to strengthen you all through this next year.

With great gratitude,
Pastor Brian Riddle
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cambridge Springs

Young Folks is great! You get to swim in a lake and play gaga ball. Gaga ball is fun and so is Lutherlyn!
Haaken, age 8

Every summer I look forward to going to Camp Lutherlyn. As a camper you get to have fun, make new friends, learn, and grow a relationship with God. Every day you get to worship God and have some fun in the end with a campfire! There are many fun games to play like gaga, foursquare, wall climbing, kick ball, and so much more. Make sure you bring your swim trunks for the lake and pool to have some fun! You also get to sit with your cabin and talk about how God is in your life. The most meaningful part of camp is the last day when we all head to the amphitheater. We have worship and your counselors tell you personally what they saw in you that week. Whether they say you're brave, kind, honest, or funny, they'll always tell you the truth. It's something that will be in your heart forever. I wish that all kids could come to Lutherlyn and have the same experience that I had.

Gavin, age 11



SUMMER STAFF SEARCH

If you or someone you know is interested in serving God, making a difference in the lives of campers, being part of a Christian community, and having a great time with lots of kids, please check out the "employment" section of lutherlyn.com or contact the camp office!

HARRY W. BOST ARENA

Equestrian Center & Adventure

Shout Out to You – to You Scooping the Poo

Running a horse farm is hard work. It takes dedication and time. It is not just a job, but rather a lifestyle. The horse's needs cannot be paused or put off for a nicer day. If the fence needs to be fixed – you do it; it doesn't matter if it is zero degrees out, dark, raining, or 25 minutes after you already told your spouse you would be leaving to come home (my husband really is a saint when it comes to this). I don't need a pat on the back because I love every wet, cold, rainy moment of it!

When speaking with guests I often hear "I don't know how you do it," which always leads me to think about all of the folks who have given up their time and money to help make the Lutherlyn Equestrian Center work, and I realize it isn't me who "does it all" – it is them. Those people make it happen. It is the volunteers who spend hours in the cold shoveling, stacking hay, clearing trails, mowing, sweeping – the list is endless. And then there are the folks who I can call and ask for help, and they say yes without even thinking about it. They make it happen, or call their friends who make it happen. Those people help make more connections in our community. Then there are our donors who support us with financial and in-kind gifts. The folks who come to me and say "What do you need?" You have no idea how blessed the Lutherlyn Equestrian Center is to have these amazing people supporting it. This program relies on your kindness and generosity. If you think your bag of cat food isn't important – we have five little friends who say otherwise. So thank you all for supporting the Lutherlyn Equestrian Center.

Once again, the Lutherlyn Equestrian Center is exceptionally blessed. As if the indoor arena and the amazing lighting that were added last year were not enough of a recent gift – this year feels special. We have long needed a tractor. We had a donor come forward and bless our program with this much needed equipment. Our lovely Farmall joined the team late summer and with it came many useful attachments. We received a donation of a horse trailer this year that gives us the ability to haul our elder pony ride horses to main camp, provides a vehicle in case of a medical emergency, and allows us to take members of our 4-H club to local shows. Cashel donated enough fly masks for our entire herd. Our barn dance was a great success and a lot of fun! We raised almost enough money to get electricity and lights in the box stall barn that was built 7 years ago. Recently a donor has come forward and offered to cover the remaining amount needed AND purchase the much needed heated water buckets for the animals.

I feel like the list of blessings could just keep going. Each and every person that has given their time or money to the Lutherlyn Equestrian Center has given us the ability to impact other people's lives. The gift of horses is nothing short of a miracle for some – thank you for lifting this program up so it can make a difference in the lives of our riders.

Reach out to me if you wish to be involved; there is literally NO SKILL that will be turned away. We have many needs here, and our volunteers are the most important part of our success!

Carla Babcock—Equestrian Program Director



Thoughts from a Volunteer

Through many winters and summers my favorite place to be has always been the Lutherlyn Equestrian Center. I've had so many memorable moments at this place and it has become my home away from home. I started taking lessons when I was eleven from Carla in a homeschool gym class. After that first gym class I was hooked and started taking private lessons. Being homeschooled I was able to spend extra time at the barn and was able to learn so much from Carla in caring for the horses and volunteering at the barn. It has enriched my life in teaching me responsibility, compassion, perseverance, and patience. I've volunteered helping with Girl Scouts, summer camps, CampBlast, pony rides, homeschool gym class, work days, fundraisers, and working at the barn caring for the horses. I truly enjoy working for these wonderful people who dedicate so much of their time to helping kids to learn and help them grow in their riding careers. I'm so glad to be a part of Lutherlyn and the many wonderful events and experiences that this place has to offer.

By Sarah, Age 16



WISH LIST

Every item that is donated to Lutherlyn saves camp from needing to purchase it, which directs more money towards getting kids to camp. Thank you for your support!

Site and Facility:

Golf Cart for Nurses (prefer electric)
6-foot white plastic tables – Lifetime brand (need 16)
50-foot outdoor extension cords (need 10)
Multi-plug power strips (need 10)
Flatware (knives, forks, spoons) – no real silver
New or gently used vacuum cleaner for Fireside Room
Reliable mini vans or SUVs with current inspection
Reliable 4 wheel drive pick-up truck with inspection
Truckloads of 2A limestone (for roads and paths)
Home Depot, Lowes, and Walmart Gift Cards
New work gloves (men's, women's, and children's sizes)
New or like-new washers and dryers
Painter's Tape (blue) – 1 inch and 2 inch wide

Office:

Forever stamps
Pens & pencils
Dry erase markers and erasers
Copy paper
White cardstock
Paperclips
Masking tape
Scissors
Permanent markers
New easels and paper pads

Summer Program:

Pony beads
Seed beads
Embroidery floss / Friendship bracelet string
New washable markers
New colored pencils
Paint brushes
Construction paper
Colored tissue paper
Glue sticks
New fishing rods – kid friendly (need 10)
Desktop printer/copier for the Health Hut
New or gently used laptop for the Health Hut
New jar candles

Equestrian Center:

Shop Vac (around 15 gallons)
Electric Air Compressor
Rubber mats for stalls
Water proof sheets of all sizes
Water proof blankets of all sizes
Size 13, 14, 15 mens boots
Size 10 & 11 girls boots
Fly spray & fly masks
Dressage saddle
Horse Joint supplements
Horse Multivitamin supplements
Cat Food
Cat flea & tick treatment

Environmental Education Program:

Kids & Adult rain coats
Riding mower or small tractor (for hauling compost)
NEW 8x10 tarps
Kids and adult winter gloves
8 oz. "cool whip" containers
Vis-à-vis wet erase markers

Special Events that Benefit Camperships:

Handmade bed-size quilts for Quilt Auctions
Gift Baskets (contact the office for more specifics)
Monetary Sponsors

Volunteers:

Skilled volunteers to hang drywall in cabins
Skilled volunteers for demolition of old cabins
Someone with video/editing skills to make promo video(s)
Help maintain flower beds and Amphitheater
Assistants to help during therapeutic riding lessons
Clearing hiking and riding trails
Event volunteers
General maintenance help
General cleaning help
General office help
Nurses to help for a week in the summer or on Sundays in the summer during check-in

LUTHERLYN ADVENTURE PROGRAM

First and foremost, I want to thank all the donors, participants, volunteers, and campers that took advantage of adventure programming at Lutherlyn over the past year. 2017 was an excellent year for the Adventure Program at Lutherlyn.

Our yearly programming was extended to many different groups. Throughout the course of the school year, we hosted numerous team building field trips that helped students focus on the importance of cooperation, effective communication, trust, and respect. We also worked with many other groups to challenge themselves on our high ropes course, low challenge course, and group challenge activities. We look forward to extending our programming to more groups in 2018.

Our summer camp season was a great success with hundreds of campers participating in low challenge courses, high ropes activities, canoeing and kayaking, mountain biking, and archery. Among the highlights of this summer was the expansion of our Adventurers program into a second level. This camp is designed for those who have participated in the Level 1 Adventurers program and are interested in spending more time off-site engaging in outdoor recreation. This summer we spent time biking on the Great Allegheny Passage, caving at Laurel Caverns, hiking around Ohiopyle State Park, and learning how to rappel at McConnell's Mill. In 2018, we will be offering two weeks of "Adventurers Level 2" as well as a special version of Level 1 called "Adventurers Outpost" that will camp out in tents at the Rustic Retreat Campground at Lutherlyn for the entire week.

During the fall, I had the opportunity to travel to Project Adventure in Beverly, MA to attend an Advanced Skills and Standards training, which taught best practices for challenge course facilitation. While there, I also took the Association for Challenge Course Technology's Practitioner exam, which I passed and am now certified as a Level 2 Challenge Course Practitioner. I look forward to applying the skills and knowledge I gained to better serve all campers and visitors.

We have also been working on adding to the Adventure Program through physical construction and programming options. By the end of summer 2017 we had completed some new features in the Recreation Building's Boulder Room and built a new low challenge course element entitled "Muse."

Looking forward to 2018, we are hoping to update some of our old low challenge course elements and construct a new high ropes element. Be sure to come to camp to check it out!

Looking forward to an awesome upcoming season,

Timothy Bock
Adventure Program Director



Trinity Pines Club

Gifts made between 1-1-2016 and 12-31-2016

2016 Trinity Pines Club

Shaulis Society (\$10,000 Lifetime)

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Bill Sweeney
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Wallace Utley
Janet Vandyke
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Jeffrey Ward
David Williams
James & Marsha Williams
J & Ann Wineman
Robert & Nancy Wright
Darlene Wyland
Allen M Zabkar
Randall Zeigler

Honorarium Gifts

from 11/01/2016 – 10/31/2017

Sam & Lusky Armstrong
by Mark & Kathy Armstrong
Jean & Elmer Bentz
by Mark & Kathy Armstrong
Rev. Bernhard A. Bischoff
by Rev. Bill Cox
Rebecca Botts
by Marvin Vaughn
Jim, Ro, and Matt Clarke
by Curtis & Sally Frank
Ryan Fairley & Rebecca Williams
by Ted & Donna Fairley
Scott Hunter-Best Family
by Curtis & Sally Frank
Melanie Best & Robert Wilson Family
by Curtis & Sally Frank
Goncz Family
by Dorothy Goncz
Charles & Patti Flach
by Anonymous
Curt & Sally Frank
by Wylda Cole
Angela Galbraith
by Rev. Susan Irons
Beck Galbraith
by Rev. Susan Irons
Heath Gamache
by Eric & Kathryn Kofmehl
Todd Garcia-Bish
by Timothy Bish Esq
Sarah & Josh Gold
by Glen & Donna Gold
Sara Goncz
by Rev. Susan Irons
Ben Held
by Danette & Dan Hunter
The Helper Family
by Megan & Eric Orient
David E Horlan
by Eric & Kathryn Kofmehl
Susan & Mario Lanna
by Martha & Michael Jurczak
Marilyn Ludwig's 75th Birthday
by Thomas Ludwig
by Susan West
William Luft
by John & Susan Frantz
Pam Mildren
by The Woodland Quilters
Deacon Deb Roberts
by Robert & Mary Thompson
Suzanne Schmidt
by Deborah Ross
The Shaulis & Lehe Family
by John & Betty Lehe
Jean P. Spickerman
by Merle & William Spickerman
Sarah, Erin & Lauren Swartz
by Swartz Girard Family Fund
Elsie Taylor
by Sandra Mangini
by Curtis & Sally Frank
Sharon Wach
by John & Susan Frantz
Rob Young
by David & Katherine Young
Our Grandchildren
by Bishop & Mrs. Donald McCoid
The People & Ministry of St. John's
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Erie PA
by St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Future Adventurer Campers!
by John & Kurt Jackline

Memoriam Gifts

from 11/01/2016 – 10/31/2017

Ray Allen
by Evelyn Booth
by the friends of Ray Allen
by Concordia Lutheran Health & Human
Care
by Thomas & Julie Myers
by Rodger Allen & Laurie Williams
by Linda Frayer
Steve Alogna
by George & Janice Rasmussen
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by Kathy & Mark Armstrong
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by Joan Ferraro
Dorothy & Homer Bollen
by Joyce & Gary Kottner
Jane Brown Clarke
by Curtis & Sally Frank
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by Rev. Andrew Carlsson
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by David & Kathleen Cashdollar
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by David & Kathleen Cashdollar
John Charters
by Rev. Bill Cox
by Elizabeth Charters

A. Dale Clarke
by Curtis & Sally Frank
Barbara Lynn Claypoole
by Roger H Claypoole
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by Wylda Cole
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by Judy Rauch
Sara C. Donnell
by Rev. James Donnell
Mary & Ed Eller
by Their Family
Shaulis Family
by John & Betty Sue Lehe
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Rev. Dr. James N. Frank
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by Merab Drennen
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by Jack & Judy Freed
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by Deborah Ross
Earl Geyer
by Jonathan Gannon
by Jamie Ulrich
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Marie & Marion Good
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by Jerry & Lori Wilson
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Arthur & Martha Klein
by William & Karen Newson
William & Phyllis Klingensmith
by Ray & Lucille Allen
June Charlotte Lobins
by Jake & Emily Lobins
Martha Luppold
by Pastor Herb & Andrea Dubler
by Kathy & Brian Bacik
Pat Maier
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Egon Marrett
by Donald & Barbara Baker
Mary B. May
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by Ronald & LaDonna Braun
by Lorraine McDevitt
by Lynn Schraf & David Gilbreath
Joe Ugen
by Jaakko & Sandra Suni
Charles Vasey, Jr.
by Ruth Vasey
Robert Vaughn
by Marvin Vaughn
Tom & Augusta Vezzetti
by Delwin & Alicia Brockett
Pastor Reinhold & Mrs. Lois Weber
by Lynn Schrimper & Family

Barbara E. Wilson
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James H. Wilson
by Dorothy McWilliams
by Cheri Manzinger
by Cavalier Swim Club
by Stan & Nancy Cieslak
by Kenneth & Patricia McCune
by Ronald & Susan Smith
by Dean & Sue Matanin
by Mark Kijowski & Kristen Anderson
by Frederick & Julie Schamber
by Jaakko & Sandra Suni

Edith Wilt Frank
by Curtis & Sally Frank

David Worthy
by Don & June Kudas
by Donald & June Kudas

Ed Wygonik
by Jaakko & Sandra Suni

Loved Ones
by Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Stacy, Jr.

My Parents
by Deborah Ross

Our sincerest apologies if we omitted your name.

FROM A LONG TIME SUPPORTER

In 1970 as a member of Trinity Lutheran in Meadville, I was first inspired to support Lutherlyn when a young member returned from camp and reported to the congregation about her "life-changing experience" as a counselor. I was so impressed with her report that I convinced the church council to have a fund to pay the camp fee for "21 in 71." Pastor Steiner and Ed Miller helped plan the program by providing literature and a slide presentation to encourage members of the congregation to participate. The program was so well received that we had more camperships than we had camp-age campers. We filled the gap with kids from Meadville's Head Start program.

In 1974 my company transferred me to Butler, which gave me the opportunity to join the Lutherlyn Board of Directors. Between my children and board activities, I was able to see first-hand many life-changing experiences that were taking place at 500 Lutherlyn Lane.

It has been a fulfilling experience for me to be a part of such a great organization for nearly 50 years and to see many young people develop into leaders in the church and community. It has been an honor to serve Lutherlyn over the years and most recently to be a supporter of the "Preserving the Future" campaign. Supporting Lutherlyn has ALWAYS been time and money well spent.

By Tom Rossman

Save the Date:
The 2018
Trinity Pines
Club Banquet
is on
June 10, 2018.
(The Trinity Pines Banquet is for everyone who gave \$200 or more in 2017.)

Retreats & Events

GROWN-UP CAMP

Attending camp as a child was something I always looked forward to. I knew it took exactly 58 minutes to make it there from home; unless dad was driving then it was 1 hour and 20 minutes. The longest part of the drive seemed to be once we got to Lutherlyn Lane. I can say those feelings still exist, now that I am an adult.

Some of my greatest memories as a child were campfires, hiking, meeting new friends, and sleeping on the top bunk. I can't forget about singing Pharaoh, Pharaoh either. When I heard about "Grown-Up Camp" I was beyond excited to attend. I knew how much I loved camp and couldn't wait to experience it again. The highlights were similar to those I had when I was younger (with the exception of the top bunk). I signed up knowing very few people and left with 20+ new friends. The part that I often overlooked as a child was the faith formation that occurred. From playing, hiking, and swimming, to closing worship in the Amphitheater, there are so many opportunities to reflect and grow. I know that many past campers have your favorite memories or experiences from camp and I hope to see you at Grown-Up Camp next August!

By Virginia Kreisel



** In 2018 Grown-Up Campers will have the option to stay Friday - Sunday, Monday - Wednesday, or stay Friday - Wednesday!!!

Fathers and Sons Retreat – From a Dad

I have been taking my boys to the Fathers and Sons Retreat for fifteen years now. The experience of taking a 5 year old and a 3 year old to camp for the weekend is much different than an 18 year old and a 20 year old. I have seen them grow from throwing leaves at each other to trying to sink the canoe on a sunrise trip to Moraine State Park.

We laugh a lot and start sentences with "Remember when..." I remember years of spending most of the day at the gaga court when somebody was absolutely OBSESSED. I also remember a certain boy who was all too pleased to be sold into a blacksmith apprenticeship. We often took home a contraption that did not work but we left with a stronger faith and a better relationship with each other. We would love to have you come along and join the fun!



Fathers and Sons Retreat – From a Son

I've been going to the Fathers and Sons Retreat for as long as I can remember. Ever since I was a kid I have looked forward to Labor Day weekend because of this retreat. It is a fantastic opportunity to bond with my dad and my older brother. The time that we cherish the most is during the "Junkyard Wars." This is an activity where we have a few hours to build some sort of a contraption, for example a catapult or a chair. Even though we are terrible at these competitions, we always have a blast in the process. We still talk about the time 10 years ago where we made a catapult that launched a rock that went the opposite of the desired direction. The Fathers and Sons Retreat always results in great memories and closer relationships with your family. One day I plan on taking my kids to this same great event!

By Jim & Luke Robertson



2018 Calendar

January

9-14—Quilting/Crafting Retreat
27—Blacksmithing Class
26-28—Winter Retreat (4-12 grade)

February

3—Saturday Safari—Orienteering

March

3—Maple Sugaring Saturday Safari
20-25—Quilting/Crafting Retreat
24—Blacksmithing Class

April

20-22—YouthFest (Jr. High & Sr. High)
21—Blacksmithing Class
28—Work Day

May

11-13—Family Getaway Weekend
12—CAMP BLAST!!!
19—Blacksmithing Class

June

3-15—Summer Staff Training
9—Fun Run & 70 Year Staff Reunion
10—Trinity Pines Club Banquet
17—SUMMER CAMP BEGINS!

July

1-31—SUMMER CAMP CONTINUES!

August

3—Last day of Summer Camp
17-19—Fri.-Sun. Grown-Up Camp
20-22—Mon.—Wed. Grown-Up Camp
17-22—Full Week Grown-Up Camp
31-9/1—Fathers & Sons Retreat

September

4-9—Quilting/Crafting Retreat
22—Blacksmithing

October

5-7—Wild Women Weekend
20, 21—Woodland Quilters Quilt Show
20—Blacksmithing Class
26-28—Family Getaway Weekend
27—Family Halloween Fun

November

3—Saturday Safari
13-18—Quilting/Crafting Retreat
30-12/2—Family Getaway Weekend

December

1—Family Advent Festival
1—Advent Dinner & Worship (for all)
1—The PLUNGE!

Visit www.lutherlyn.com for complete schedules, details and registration information.

Want to bring your own group to camp?

Lutherlyn hosts retreat groups of all types throughout the year (with the exception of during summer camp). Please give us a call to talk about all of the ways that you and your group can use camp's facilities.

You Are Invited:

CampBlast

at



Saturday, May 12th, 2018, 11am-4:30pm

Join us for a day of FUN that highlights all that Lutherlyn has to offer. Horseback riding, campfire, crafts, gaga ball, archery, high ropes course, zipline, bouldering room, hikes, nature activities, canoeing, hay rides, games, sports, archaeology, rockets, kayaking, biking, tours, great food, and MORE! The best part.... EVERYTHING IS FREE!

Visit www.lutherlyn.com/campblast for more details.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA RETREAT AT LUTHERLYN

To the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synodical women's group, Lutherlyn has been a special place in the lives of our women. We have been having retreats at Lutherlyn since back when we were the LCW and continuing today as W/ELCA.

The first retreats were truly a camping experience with the old cement cabins, iron cots with flat mattresses, cold water, cement floors, and old Hunker Hall with the picnic table seating. Women brought a few comforts from home to make it through the weekend - small rugs for the floor, coffee pots for the cabins, fans, etc. Now as many of us are aging, we appreciate the comfortable changes that have happened. We love the new cabins with heat, thick mattresses, hot water, and the new dining hall.

Some things haven't changed. The one constant in all the years has been what the women experience in that weekend retreat year after year. They come from their busy lives to retreat - refresh - renew before going back to their everyday lives. They are inspired by morning watch, bible studies, voices praising and singing, prayer walks to Chapel Rock, Sunday morning worship on Chapel Hill, prayer partners, workshops, and campfires. They come for the friendship, fellowship, and love found there.

Each retreat is special. Some might stand out more than others. One special year was 2001 when the retreat came only four days after that horrible day of 9/11. It was difficult to go through with the retreat but it was a good place to gather, to mourn, to cry, and to pray together. In 2004, Hurricane Irene hit but that didn't stop the SWPA women. They slowly made their way through rainstorms and flooded roads to gather as always. The NWPA women joined the retreat in 2008 and have continued since. Celebrating our 25th anniversary in 2012 was a special retreat.

Lutherlyn hosting our weekend retreats will always be special. Lutherlyn gives us a place of peace, comfort, and closeness to God that keeps us going until the next year.

By Betty Albright

QUILTING/ CRAFTING

I've been attending the Lutherlyn quilt retreats for several years now. I come to all of the retreats for as many days as they'll have me. It's not because I am able to sew all day without the daily interruptions of home life, or Nick's amazing food (maybe the food has a lot to do with it). Seriously, it's the fellowship. From the moment I walk in and am welcomed by Deb's warm smile, I feel a sense of peace and acceptance. I simply love the people I've met at Lutherlyn. I have made lifelong friends who where there for me emotionally this past year while at a retreat I had a dear friend pass away and I had a serious family crisis. Thank you dear friends. It's a great time for quilters and crafters to finish (or start) those wonderful, hand-made gifts cherished by friends and family!

By Robin Musher



Lutherly Environmental Education Program

FIELD TRIP FUN!

Hi my name is Eli and when I was in third grade I came to Lutherlyn for a field trip. Coming to camp for a field trip was a great thing to do. I loved building a survival shelter; it was my favorite part of the field trip. It is fun to show kids that have never been here before what a cool place camp is because it is one of my favorite places. Even though I live here (my mom is the director) it was still fun to come to Lutherlyn for a field trip and I learned a lot. When I came home I decided to build my own survival shelter and I slept in it that night. Coming to camp for a field trip was one of my favorite things that I did in third grade.



Eli, age 9

LEEP – MORE STUDENTS THAN EVER!

2017 has been an extraordinary year for the Lutherly Environmental Education Program. School field trip numbers have continued to grow. The number of students attending maple sugaring field trips in February and March was the largest number in at least 10 years. In the month of May alone, 2,900 students visited Lutherlyn to learn about the natural world – more than ever before. In fact, over 6,500 students have been part of environmental education experiences this year, making it our largest year ever.

Improvements to the mine treatment wetland are also a highlight of 2017. Through a Consent Order and Agreement between XTO Energy and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, iron hydroxide was removed from the settling pond and wetland, freshwater was diverted around the wetland system, breaches in parts of the wetland were repaired, and access to the site was improved. These improvements and repairs should enable the system to function well into the future and continue to keep pollution out of Semiconon Run.

Having a Montessori school at Lutherlyn has also been an exciting endeavor (see article on the front page of this newsletter). The LEEP staff has had the pleasure of working with these students on a weekly basis since August. We have enjoyed sharing the wonder of God’s creation with such inquisitive students.

As you can imagine, it takes quite a bit of planning to provide programs for 6,500 students. The LEEP staff is currently scheduling schools, repairing equipment, clearing trails, and otherwise preparing for 2018. We don’t have much time to reflect on the success of 2017; we have reason to believe that 2018 will be just as extraordinary and even bigger!



Students on a field trip working their way across the “Raging River” during group building as their teacher looks on.

Todd Garcia-Bish
Director of Environmental Education

THANK YOU GORDIE!



Since 1997, Dr. Gordon Bachman has been a key part of Lutherlyn’s maple sugaring program. For the last 20 years, Gordie has been our Sugar Maker and has cooked thousands of gallons of sap into maple syrup. He has also taught the students who come to Lutherlyn on maple sugaring field trips about the syrup-making process. Gordie has spent countless hours keeping the fire burning in the sugar shack. As 2018 approaches, he has decided that it is time to pass the sugary torch on to someone else. We

thank him for all of his time and energy in teaching over 7,000 children and making hundreds of gallons of Lutherlyn’s delicious maple syrup.



The 2017-2018
Lutherly
Environmental
Education
Educators

WHY LEEP?

In these days of extremely tight school district budgets and focus on test preparation, why does a school choose to send their students to the Lutherly Environmental Education Program (LEEP) at Camp Lutherlyn? For one school district in Mercer County, the answer has been the same for 20 years now: “LEEP is a unique and valuable learning experience that makes a lasting impact on our students.”

Grove City Middle School principal, Larry Connelly, summarizes it like this: “Our 7th grade LEEP trip involves hands-on learning, exploration of the environment, team & relationship building, confidence building, and self reflection.” Teachers who organize the trip focus on the integration of classroom learning with hands-on experiences, thus helping students see that concepts from the classroom relate to complex environmental issues, all the while stimulating their engagement in science.

Teachers want to ensure that students, many of whom don’t spend a lot of time outdoors, have a sensitivity and awareness of the natural world and an attitude of stewardship. Increasing student’s understanding that they can make an impact is one reason, 20 years ago that GCMS teachers Jim Poole and Jamie Scott, began the LEEP trip for the seventh grade students. In fact, Jim felt so strongly about the importance of environmental education for students, that after he retired from GC, he came to work at LEEP as an instructor – and regularly enriches the learning experiences of all students who come to LEEP. Over twenty years, more than 3500 Grove City students have made great memories and expanded their knowledge of our natural world through the LEEP experience.

Grove City’s LEEP program is one that was custom designed by Todd Garcia-Bish, Director of Environmental Education at Lutherlyn. One half of the 7th grade class (approximately 80 students) arrives on day one and follows a schedule that breaks them into four groups which rotate through: stream investigation, ecosystem study, teambuilding and “ground school,” and predator/prey games. Then, in the evening after dinner, students enjoy a campfire with environmentally themed songs and stories from the LEEP staff featuring Todd’s guitar playing and singing. Following the campfire, the Grove City staff takes over for movie time and overnight supervision in the cabins. After breakfast the next morning, students tour Terra Dei with Lutherlyn staff, and do a scavenger hunt. On day two, concurrent with these activities, the other half of Grove City’s seventh grade (80 students) arrives and begins their day one activities with more Lutherlyn staff pitching in to make it work. Todd, Holly, and the LEEP staff’s willingness to work as much into a day as possible, and keeping costs as low as possible (GC teachers run the scavenger hunt activity) is one of the things that made GC select Lutherlyn. The beautiful facilities (cabins, dining hall, etc.) were another factor; and the completely customizable schedule cinched their choice.

The LEEP trip is always a highlight of their middle school years for Grove City students. Students write an essay after the visit. Some comments from the 2017 essays include: “The instructors were great. They made science interesting and fun for me. We have learned so many different life lessons and things about the environment. It is the right mix of fun and education!”

By Jamie Scott
Grove City Middle School Librarian

Visit Lutherlyn’s Facebook page every Wednesday for “What is it Wednesday”. Each week Holly posts a photo from nature at Lutherlyn and then writes an informative article about that photo at the end of the day.



FROM AN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR

When I was a kid I spent my days outside. Many days were spent playing in the woods or looking for crayfish in the creeks we had in town. I used to catch crayfish and put them in our aquarium. My mom put a stop to that when she found “the big one” crawling across the kitchen floor one morning.

Playing outside was always an adventure. I never imagined that I would grow up and have a job where I got to work outside, play in the woods, and find crayfish in the stream!

Working with Lutherlyn’s Environmental Education Program has been such a source of joy in my adult life. I love watching kids explore and discover things in nature that they didn’t know were there. I enjoy their excited questions when they see something like a crane fly larva for the first time and their amazement as they watch an adult dragonfly emerge from its nymph form.

One of my favorite memories of work is when a boy who was in seventh grade told me he was taking his first hike ever. He lived in the Pittsburgh area and was really excited to be in the woods. It was an honor to be able to share that moment with him. It was also a reminder to never take the nature we have access to for granted.

I hope I am able to continue as an environmental instructor at Lutherlyn, helping kids explore nature and learn to care for it, for many more years.

By Laura Wick

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

As stewards of God’s creation we realize that we are commanded to care for and sustain the earth. We also realize that at times we fail to understand our impact upon the created world around us. For this reason Lutherlyn places a high priority on the careful management and restoration of the land with which we have been blessed. Education of campers and staff is seen as an important part of sharing God’s vision for the world.



News and Notes

The Director's Notebook.....

When I was a camper, I would get so excited when the Lutherlyn Newsletter arrived in the mail. Before the days of Facebook and Social Media, I actually had not seen or heard anything in "real time" from camp since the summer and I NEEDED my camp fix. I soaked in every word and every picture. I read it numerous times to make sure I caught every detail. I had to wait until everyone in the family had a chance to read it before I was allowed to cut out the staff photo from the previous summer to add to my photo album. I am a total camp geek!

Can you imagine how exciting it is to sit here right now and write my first "Director's Notebook" article? I am so honored to serve as Lutherlyn's Executive Director! It is an exciting time at Lutherlyn, there is so much going on and so many people involved in making it all happen.

While in transition between Directors, the Lutherlyn Board adopted a strategic direction (see below) that guides us going forward. Our time, energy, and resources are devoted to the 5 core areas of ministry. Each area of ministry is in a time of growth and each area depends on the generosity of volunteers and donors to support it. Thank you to the thousands of people who have contributed to these program areas and the part that they play in fulfilling Lutherlyn's Mission.

Between the Montessori school that is here daily, the completion of the Baker Chapel, the growth of the Lutherlyn Environmental Education Program, the Indoor Riding Arena making the



Lutherlyn Equestrian Program year-round, and an increase in retreat groups, there is a constant excitement and energy at camp that

serves as a continuous reminder of God at work in this place and through the people that come here.

Lutherlyn is a God-given place to be accepted, challenged, and sent. I have experienced that in my own life. I have watched my children experience that as campers. I am blessed to witness this daily in my calling to serve as Lutherlyn's Executive Director. But... Without YOU Lutherlyn is just 660 acres of land in Butler County. We are in this together. It is through ALL of the people involved in this ministry, that Lutherlyn can live out this core purpose. Without campers, volunteers, retreat participants, congregational support, school groups, Day Camp sites, horseback riding students, adventure groups, donors, parents, summer staff, and all of the 17,000+ people that visit camp each year; what we know as LUTHERLYN could not happen. Thank you for the part that you play in making Lutherlyn a God-given place to be accepted, challenged, and sent. I am honored to work with you to make it happen for more and more people each year!

God's Blessing to you and I look forward to seeing you at camp soon!

Delt



2017 campers awaiting the results of the "Survivor" themed Wednesday night all-camp games.

"Because of Lutherlyn..."

Lutherlyn has been a part of my life for more than 25 years. I was a camper, a summer staff member, and I served as Lutherlyn's Development Director from 2012-2015. During my first year as the Development Director, I asked friends of camp to complete a sentence that began with "Because of Lutherlyn..." Responses were inspiring. We saw people refer to lifelong friendships, becoming a better person, finding God, and having their lives forever changed.



I, too, can attribute the influence of Lutherlyn to many of the most important areas of my life. Because of Lutherlyn...I met my wife. Because of Lutherlyn...I understand generosity. Because of Lutherlyn...I discovered my career path. Because of the experience I gained at Lutherlyn, I was given the opportunity to become a Gift Planner with the ELCA Foundation. Now, working in partnership with Lutherlyn and other ELCA congregations and ministries, I assist families as they develop Legacy Gift Plans benefiting the ministries of our church.

As Lutherlyn's Development Director, I was able to see, first-hand, the impact legacy and planned giving made. Gifts received helped propel and shape the camp we know today. Future legacy gifts will serve as a vital component as Lutherlyn continues to be a "God-Given place to be accepted, challenged, and sent." Now, as a Gift Planner, I am able to assist those wishing to leave behind a Legacy Gift sustaining Lutherlyn's mission for future generations.

As a friend of Lutherlyn, how can you play a role in the continuation and growth of this important ministry? In addition to being an annual donor to Lutherlyn, you can also plan to leave your legacy gift to Lutherlyn. What plans do you have for your legacy? Will Lutherlyn be a part of your plan? As you consider and begin to make these important decisions, contact Lutherlyn with any questions or schedule a meeting to develop your own Legacy Gift Plan.



ELCA Foundation
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

By Ryan Ebner
ELCA Gift Planner

As a ministry of the ELCA & through our partnership with Lutherlyn, gift planning services are available to you at no cost. Gift Planning services are available nationwide through a network of Foundation Gift Planners.

It's Lutherlyn's 70th Birthday..... Let's CELEBRATE!

On Saturday, June 9th there will be a

CAMP FUN RUN

and a

70-year staff reunion!

More details will be coming soon BUT here is what you can do NOW:

- ◆ **SAVE THE DATE!** The FUN RUN is in the morning and is open to EVERYONE! It will benefit Lutherlyn Camperships. The reunion is in the afternoon and evening with limited lodging available.
- ◆ **If you are past staff and have not already done so, please go to Lutherlyn.com/staffinvite or call the camp office to update your information. Our database does not reliably have past staff marked as such and we want to make sure that all past staff get an invitation.**
- ◆ **Spread the word!** If you have kept in touch with friends from camp, please have them get on our mailing list also.
- ◆ **We are looking for a FUN RUN committee. Please contact the camp office to help with this event.**

Lutherlyn Strategic Direction - Adopted August, 2017

The strategic direction is shaped by:

- Our core purpose statement that "Lutherlyn is a God-given place to be accepted, challenged, and sent."
- The financial realities.
- A pledge to be good stewards of all the resources that we are given.
- Property assessment.

The strategic direction focuses on the five core areas of ministry: summer camp, retreats/events, the Lutherlyn Equestrian Program, the Lutherlyn Adventure Program, and the Lutherlyn Environmental Education Program.

The strategic direction acknowledges that for there to be growth within the 5 core ministry areas there needs to be a plan developed in cooperation with the Executive Director. This plan addresses the current core ministry areas in order to establish costs, maximum capabilities, usage, efficiency, maintenance, and integration of programs.

Therefore:

- We will build, expand, and diversify our relationships.
- We will develop a board that has the skills, abilities, and relationships to support and encourage the strategic plan.
- We will build pathways to capital.
- We will partner with congregations and the whole church to do God's work.
- We will empower the Exec. Director to fulfill this plan and her job description.

This strategic direction will be renewed and reviewed in 3 years and will be informed by input from our constituency.

The strategic direction will be reviewed by the board semi-annually.

Lutherlyn sends out a monthly e-newsletter through Constant Contact. If you are not on our e-mail list and would like to receive a monthly update from camp, please visit www.lutherlyn.com. There is a box on the front page of the web site that says "Join our Mailing List". Please submit your e-mail address there and you will be added to our e-mail list. Each monthly newsletter includes upcoming events, photos, and news from camp!



Lutherlyn has over 3,500 "likes" on Facebook! Check out Lutherlyn on Facebook for "Throwback Thursday" (#TBT), news, photos from events, and the most current happenings at camp!

