

# LUTHERLYN 2024

WWW.LUTHERLYN.COM

## Amphitheater Renovations



Thank you to everyone who made a gift to the **Building for the Future** Campaign. The first campaign project started on August 7<sup>th</sup> and the progress is amazing! The renovation of the Steinger Memorial Amphitheater is moving along beautifully.

On Sunday, August 6<sup>th</sup>, we held the last worship service in the amphitheater. The family of Rev. Russell Steinger joined us for worship and a group of current campers, along with leaders from Lutherlyn, broke ground for the new amphitheater. The next morning, Gargiulo Landscaping came in and got to work.

The progress throughout the fall has been impressive. The new benches and stairs look beautiful, will not sink, and are comfortable. The pond and floor are very reminiscent of the original amphitheater. The altar, cross, and landscaping will be completed next.

It is exciting to see the progress, to remember the rich history of this sacred space, and to anticipate the many campers and guests who will worship in the new Steinger Memorial Amphitheater for many years to come. Construction is on track for a rededication service at CampBlast on May 11, 2024.

We hope you can join us!



## 2023 All Staff Reunion Recap

By Mark Steiner



1971

Having lived at Lutherlyn as our actual home in the 1970's as staff kids, we Steiner siblings (Signe, Leah, Mark, and Roger) had fun coming together as a family again from across the eastern part of the country for the reunion. It's always good to come home to Lutherlyn where our father, Pastor Bill Steiner, was the Program Director from 1970 - 1980, and where our mother, Joyce, helped raise us in the faith. We particularly enjoyed seeing staff whom we have not seen for years. It was great to visit and see many of the places special to each of us when we lived here such as Chapel Rock, the craft hut, Chapel Hill, and Rice Hall, as it was to hear sounds and songs again that were in our ears as we were growing up. We, like many, had to get used to the improvements that have been made over the years, but growth comes through change and that is good. Lutherlyn means a lot to us, and we are excited it is filling a need for current and future generations as it has for us over the years. We thank Lutherlyn for its warm welcome and hospitality throughout the reunion weekend.



2023



Non-Profit  
Organization  
U. S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PLATTEVILLE, WI  
53818  
Permit No.124

LUTHERLYN  
IS A  
GOD-GIVEN  
PLACE  
TO BE  
ACCEPTED,  
CHALLENGED,  
AND SENT.





# Summer Camp

## WORSHIP ART

Worship is an integral part of summer camp at Lutherlyn. We celebrate worship together daily during a week of summer camp with a focus on the summer Bible study theme/curriculum. One of the ways that campers can help with worship is by creating art that is displayed in our worship space. This includes prayer weavings (where campers write a prayer on a piece of ribbon and weave it into a frame), painted murals, drawings, and other artistic expressions that enhance the worship experience.



## WHAT DO OUR CAMPERS SAY?

"Staff was energetic and so much fun, cabin friends were so sweet, and CAMP LUTHERLYN IS AMAZING!" -Emma

"I love camp because it is fun and filled with many activities. My favorite part about camp is swimming in the pool and playing in the rec. room." -Christopher

"Meeting all these amazing people and becoming great friends with them was great!" -Anne

"The people were the best. I felt so loved and connected with my unit." -Elizabeth

"It was amazing. I felt so loved and cared for. I want the counselors again!" -Amelia

"I learned that everyone is a child of God." -Leia

"I learned to accept my mistakes and always be thoughtful and kind." -Kaleb

## CLIMBING CHAPEL ROCK A NEW WAY



Our Adventurers program moved on-site this summer. An essential part of Adventurers is rock climbing. We could easily do many of the other parts of the program at Lutherlyn (hiking, tenting, canoeing, adventuring) but rock climbing was a challenge. With the help of Geir Hundal, an American Mountain Guide Certified Rock Instructor, we now have 5 sets of anchors at the top of Chapel Rock.

The Adventurers campers were excited to be the first campers in the history of Lutherlyn to do rock climbing on Chapel Rock. They were especially excited to finish the most challenging climb, named "Steeple." Adventurer campers also had the opportunity to explore the area around Chapel Rock, which features some other prominent boulders.

Rock Climbing on Chapel Rock is a great new addition to the program and fits well in a climbing progression from high ropes course, Chapel Rock, to the chimney on the Dining Hall. Registration for all Summer programs opens on February 1 and Adventurers often fills fast!



Staff 2023

## CAMP SUMMER STAFF...THE BEST JOB EVER!

We need incredible leaders to serve on summer staff. If you know anyone who would make a great staff member at Lutherlyn, please ask them to check out:

[WWW.LUTHERLYN.COM/SUMMEREMPLOYMENT](http://WWW.LUTHERLYN.COM/SUMMEREMPLOYMENT)

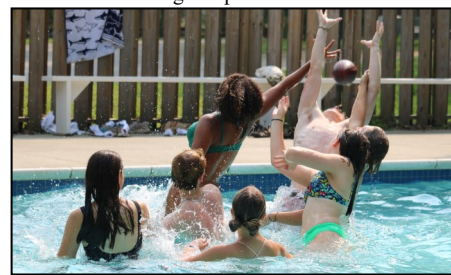
Applications are being accepted NOW for the 2024 Summer Staff.



High Ropes Course



Craft Cabin



Always time to cool off in the pool!



Horse Camp

## INTERNATIONAL SUMMER STAFF

This summer, for the first time in several years, we had the opportunity to welcome international staff to our summer staff team. Hennesha joined us from England and Enrique came to Lutherlyn from Mexico. They provided new perspectives for our staff and campers, which were invaluable. Each of them quickly and easily became an important part of how impactful summer camp is for our campers.

"Working at camp this summer was definitely the highlight of my year. During those nine amazing weeks I learned, among other things, that I am a beloved Child of God! I got the chance to discover a whole new country and not once did I feel on my own thanks to the fact that everyone, from the smallest camper to the experienced grandparents, welcomed me just like any other member of this incredible family called Lutherlyn." -Enrique





# Environmental Education

## FIELD TRIP TO LUTHERLYN

“I always look forward to trips to Lutherlyn, as it always means a fun time, delicious food, and new discoveries. My favorite memories from Lutherlyn are on the high ropes course. It is such a fun way to get to know my classmates, as it definitely requires collaborative work. My biggest challenge was the climbing wall, but the staff and volunteers were so encouraging and supportive and I was very proud (and sweaty) when I got to the top. Fond memories my class has made at Lutherlyn come up frequently, and I even wrote a story about it in our writing workshop time! Can you tell I'm excited for the next trip in the spring?? Haha. See you soon, Lutherlyn!”

8th Grader - Sewickley Montessori Middle School

“In the spring of 2023, our class went to Lutherlyn. The thing we were most excited about was the high ropes course. In the fall, it had been closed for repair, and none of us had done it before. Everyone was also a little scared. When Ryan, who was helping us with the high ropes course, asked who wanted to go first, no one answered. Eventually, our teacher, stepped up to be the one to go first. After a while, it was my turn. Everyone else decided to do the zipline first and then go up a second time to do the elements, but I decided to do them in the opposite order and only go up once. My classmates and I talk about this experience a lot.”

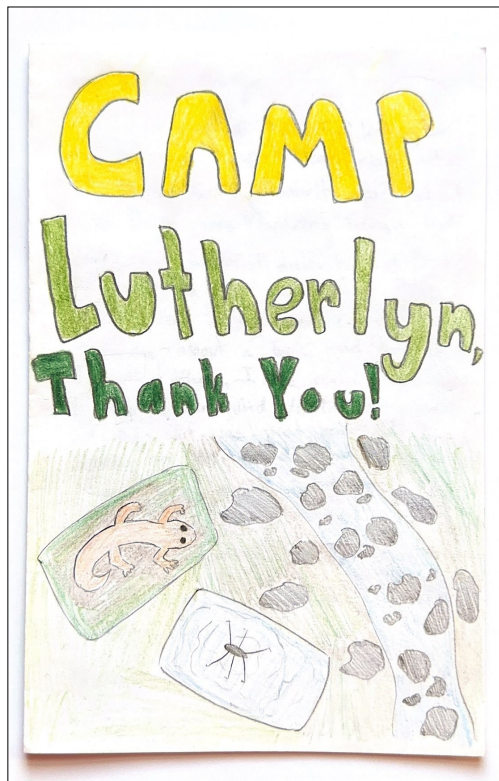
8th Grader - Sewickley Montessori Middle School

“Thank you for inviting us to come to your wonderful camp. I really enjoyed my time there and I hope to stay there this summer. My friends have been at your camp before and they make it sound like a wonderful place to stay. Your nature trails are very pretty. I liked how warm and inviting the staff was and made me feel at ease. Erica was very nice and upbeat, which is nice to see in someone. Sarah’s knowledge on the marsh is very cool and catching creatures in the creek was fun.”

8th Grader - Butler Catholic School

“I really liked going to the stream and looking for salamanders and bugs. It was great being able to actually see them and how they live. Thank you for teaching us so much!”

8th Grader - Butler Catholic School



## FRUIT OF THE LAND

Those who don’t spend time at camp throughout the year may not realize the extent to which our guests are enjoying the fruits of this land. Summer abounds with harvests on a daily basis, but these blessings continue throughout the rest of the year, too.



The organic garden at Terra Dei provides fresh produce during the summer. Campers help harvest lettuce, kale, Swiss chard, arugula, kohlrabi, peppers, cucumbers, zucchini, squash, onions, garlic, chives, tomatoes, potatoes, peas, beans, blueberries, and raspberries. Some of these make it to the salad bar in the dining hall, some are eaten with packouts at Terra Dei, and some are eaten before they make it out of the garden!

However, the joys of the garden harvest don’t end with summer camp. Fall retreat groups may see roasted parsley potatoes, squash soup, zucchini bread (muffins and cake, too), and homemade pickles. This year also saw the harvest of 10 bushels of apples from the trees at Terra Dei and the lower lake. The apples were made into cider, most of which was frozen and will be used throughout the fall, winter, and spring.

The five beehives at Lutherlyn also produced well this year, yielding honey that is used in the dining hall throughout the year. We thank Christian Shaffer and our friends at Honey So Good, LLC for monitoring and maintaining Lutherlyn’s hives.

Although this year was great for apples, it was not a great year for our most popular fruit of this land - maple syrup. The warm winter and spring produced a very brief maple sugaring season and only 6 gallons of syrup. It was only the schools that attended our maple sugaring program that got to partake in the sugary goodness this year, but we hope for a better season next year. If you would like to learn more about our maple sugaring programs, including school field trips and our March Saturday Safari, please contact the LEEP office or check out our website: [www.lutherlyn.com/EE](http://www.lutherlyn.com/EE).

*“Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer for all things living, you have made good: harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard, hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.” – Albert Bayley*



Lutherlyn Saturday Safaris are a great way for all ages to spend some time learning about nature in the woods!

- February 3** - Introduction to Birdwatching
- March 2** - Maple Sugaring
- September 7** - Gardening, Habitats, and Energy Efficient Living
- November 2** - Survival Skills

\$10/person for a 2 1/2 hour program.

Details and online registration can be found at:  
**[WWW.LUTHERLYN.COM/SAFARI](http://WWW.LUTHERLYN.COM/SAFARI)**

# Equestrian Center

Greetings from the Lutherlyn Equestrian Center!



It has been a beautiful year for our program. We experienced a lot of growth the last few years. During that time, we have been blessed with wonderful staff and volunteers that have continued to support what we do. They are an important piece to the program - they assist in providing the love and care to our most important assets - our land and animals.

We often think of 'barn time' or 'horse time' as 'riding time'. What happens at the Lutherlyn Equestrian Center is so much more than riding a horse. Of course, horseback riding is a proven form of therapy for both physical and emotional

needs in humans, but what about everything else that happens on the farm?

It has always been my belief that animals are one of God's gifts of healing. The places that provide the space for animals are just as healing. People of all ages come through our "doors." They comment on how quiet and peaceful it is back the lane and how beautiful it is. The many smells of hay, horse sweat, manure, and open air bring back memories of times past. It is neat to watch them interact with all of the animals that live at the barn. Chicken time and "cat-stracted" are REAL things. Watching someone learn how to interact with an animal is a beautiful thing. Everyone loves taking time to feed the horses. The sound of munching on hay is a sound everyone loves to hear. God gave us these amazing creatures to care for. My hope is that we can continue to share the animals and the space they live in at Lutherlyn Equestrian Center with as many people as possible so they too can experience the therapeutic value in "barn time."

Happy Trails,  
*Carla Murphy*  
Equestrian Center Director

## REMEMBERING CHARLIE

On Sunday, November 5, 2023, Lutherlyn was forced to make the hard decision to guide our horse Charlie to eternal rest. Charlie was the first pony Carla purchased for the program back in 2006 on a very cold night in February. Charlie was never sick a day in his life and never missed a day of work with our campers or students. He was our rock star; he participated in every single part of our programming. He had perfect ground manners, gave countless pony rides, jumped over 3 feet, trail rode for all levels, and even taught Carla's own kids how to ride - he just did it all.

Charlie had 17 years of summer campers and all of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Family Camp parades. He was a faithful friend to us and a true blessing to our program. We will surely miss Charlie's freckles.



## HORSE SHOW 2023

Since the addition of our indoor arena (8 years ago!) our student lesson program has grown tremendously. We hosted an Equitation themed show this fall. The students were judged on their ability to ride effectively and properly through a pattern. They then were asked to complete a judged rail class with several other students. Our volunteer judge is a 4-H horsemanship skills tester. It was a great learning opportunity for the students to receive feedback from someone outside our program.



# Building for the Future Campaign

## AN INVITATION...



Two years ago, Lutherlyn excitedly announced the **Building for the Future** capital campaign in a newsletter just like this one. Since then, more than four hundred fifty individuals and families have participated in the campaign, and dozens of congregations throughout the Northwestern and Southwestern Pennsylvania Synods have conducted their own **Building for the Future** campaigns as well. Additional congregations have

scheduled their campaigns for early 2024. As of December 1, 2023, Lutherlyn has \$1.65 million in pledges toward a goal of \$2 million! Thank you so much to each of you who have pledged your support!

Thanks to the funds which have already been received, the Amphitheater's renovation has been fully funded and is nearing completion. Ground was re-broken in the Steinger Memorial Amphitheater on August 6th with members of the Steinger Family, Lutherlyn's Board of Directors, and campers (young and old), before work started the following morning. Watching the construction over the previous months has been exciting and emotional for a lot of people with fond memories of the amphitheater. The space has retained the same layout and aesthetic so many of us remember.

When I stand where the altar will soon be replaced, I can already see the finished space, memories from my own time as a camper fill in the stark tree branches before me with lush green leaves. I hear campers coming down the stairs and a guitar being tuned. Fond memories flood in, and I feel my heart ready me for worship. I feel I am walking into a space I have known for years. This updated and more accessible space will better welcome and serve Lutherlyn's campers and guests for decades to come, and we know a lot of great memories will be made in the "new" amphitheater. We are so excited for you to see the results of your generosity and invite you to join us for a rededication and worship on May 11, 2024. You are also welcome to view the project progress in our online album at [lutherlyn.smugmug.com](http://lutherlyn.smugmug.com) (password: adventure). Again, thank you so much for your support for this exciting and important campaign.

Lutherlyn's leadership is committed to retaining Lutherlyn's long-term financial health throughout this campaign and into the future. In November of 2019, Lutherlyn became debt-free, and remained free of debt throughout the subsequent and completely unexpected pandemic, all thanks to the support we received from this community. Thank you.

Lutherlyn intends to proceed with the remaining campaign projects only as the funding allows. Lutherlyn will not take on debt as a result of this campaign. The next **Building for the Future** project, 5 new cabins, will be contracted once 75% of the anticipated cost is in hand and 100% is pledged. Based upon pledge payment schedules, we anticipate choosing and hiring a contractor in the fall of 2024 and starting construction in August of 2025. This five-cabin village will be constructed between the A-Frame Village and the pool. We will continue to share campaign details and updates on the website. We hope you will consider making a pledge of your own to help the **Building for the Future** campaign reach the \$2 million goal. If you would like to learn more about the campaign's projects, progress, or to make your own pledge, we encourage you to visit [www.lutherlyn.com/future](http://www.lutherlyn.com/future).

*Andi Dunmyre*  
Development Director

STEINGER AMPHITHEATER  
REDEDICATION AND WORSHIP  
MAY 11, 2024  
11:00 AM



# Retreats & Events

## CAMPBLAST!

SATURDAY MAY 11, 2024

11AM-4:30 PM

[WWW.LUTHERLYN.COM/CAMPBLAST](http://WWW.LUTHERLYN.COM/CAMPBLAST)

NO REGISTRATION IS NEEDED. JUST SHOW UP WITH ALL YOUR FRIENDS, FAMILY, NEIGHBORS, AND ANYONE ELSE LOOKING FOR A FUN, FREE DAY AT LUTHERLYN.



### FATHERS AND SONS WEEKEND

Each February we gather fathers and sons together for a weekend of fun and shared adventures. The weekend includes worship, Bible study, gaga, junkyard wars, a tailgate party, and an affirmation service. It is a great weekend to get away with your son, dad, uncle, or someone who has been like a son/dad to you.

February 16-18

[www.lutherlyn.com/fathersandsons](http://www.lutherlyn.com/fathersandsons)



### JOIN US FOR A NEW RETREAT

This adult retreat will focus on environmental education and the total solar eclipse. Those age 18 and older are invited to this retreat for fun, relaxation, fellowship, the natural beauty of Lutherlyn, and a trip to Erie for the total solar eclipse. Visit [www.Lutherlyn.com/eclipse](http://www.Lutherlyn.com/eclipse) for more information.

SOLAR ECLIPSE  
RETREAT

APRIL 6-8, 2024

[WWW.LUTHERLYN.COM/ECLIPSE](http://WWW.LUTHERLYN.COM/ECLIPSE)

### BOOK YOUR GROUP'S RETREAT NOW!

During the "non-summer" months, Lutherlyn hosts groups for retreats and events. A variety of groups including churches, community organizations, teams/clubs, quilting guilds, scrapbooking groups, and health/wellness groups come to Lutherlyn for their retreats. Lutherlyn provides the lodging, meeting space, and meals for the retreat along with optional add-ons like hay rides, group building, nature hikes, campfires, and meeting room snacks. You can book now by calling the office at 724-865-2161.

## YOUTH WINTER RETREAT

JAN. 19-21, 2024

[WWW.LUTHERLYN.COM/WINTER](http://WWW.LUTHERLYN.COM/WINTER)  
REGISTRATION DEADLINE JAN 8

"Lutherlyn has been an amazing facility to host a retreat. I have been able to host a retreat annually for several years and each year the participants share how wonderful the space is to gather and to spend time outside in nature. Lutherlyn is so accommodating and wonderful to work with when creating the itinerary for the event. The staff care and go above and beyond, creating a truly unique space in our area to host a variety of events."

~ Michael Watterson  
Wellness Retreat Leader

### GROWN-UP CAMP

Who says camp is just for kids? Grown-Up Camp includes all of the fun and excitement of camp with some relaxation, fellowship, and extras for adults! This grown-ups only retreat is the perfect opportunity to enjoy all the fun of camp but with some changes and additions specifically for grown-ups. Anyone age 21 or older is invited to join in the fun! See what our grown-up campers have to say:



"When I came to Grown-Up Camp in its very first year, I'd never been a camper before - not at Lutherlyn, not anywhere. I didn't know what to expect, but I knew I needed a break from routine and a chance to be with other active adults. By the end of the weekend, I'd made life-long friends and nudged the trajectory of my life toward a happier, healthier direction. Lutherlyn truly is a place where campers of all ages are Accepted, Challenged, and Sent. The lessons learned, confidence gained, and friendships formed at camp stay with you when the weekend ends. Whether you're looking for mild adventure, quiet time in nature, deep conversation, loud belly-laughs, total relaxation, physical activity, group singing and silly skits, or just a lot of delicious meals that you don't need to cook yourself (unless it's mountain pies!), Grown-Up Camp has it all and more."  
~ Ashlee Erny

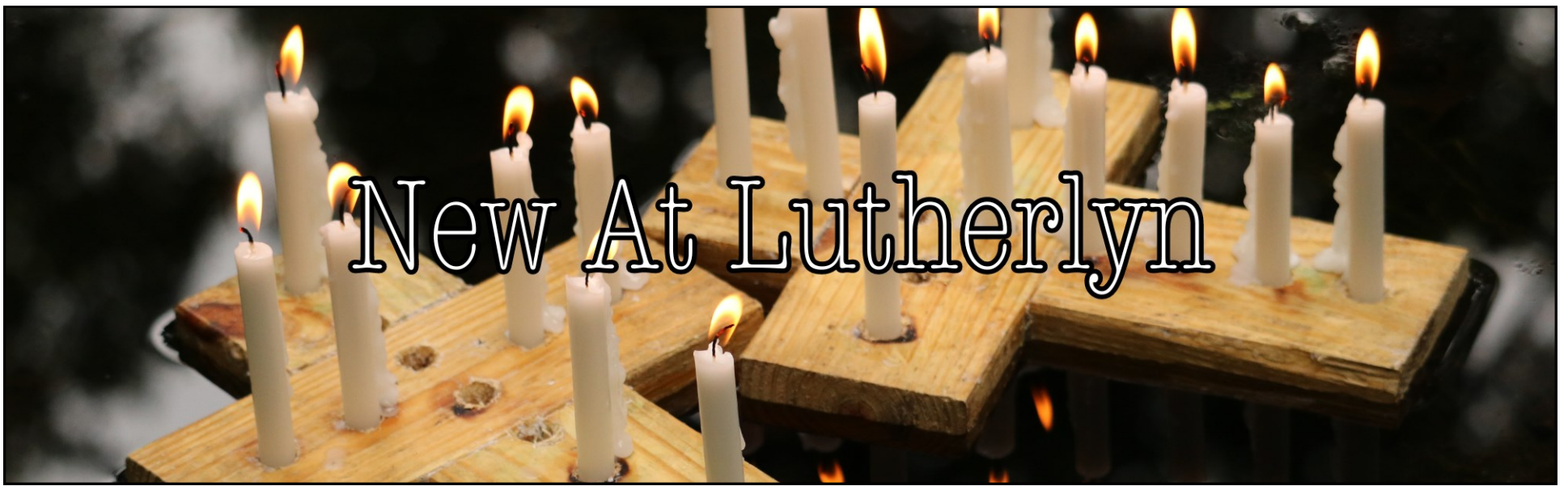
"Grown-Up Camp is the perfect opportunity to enjoy all the best parts of summer camp without the stress of planning or the chaos of kiddos! We love to attend both the winter and summer grown-up sessions - the weekend getaways are always full of faith, friendship, and delicious food! Micah grew up camping at Lutherlyn and gets excited to relive his favorite parts of camp while I, on the other hand, had never been to Lutherlyn until my first grown-up weekend and instantly felt at home. These weekends are great for both new and experienced campers. From hikes and crafts to Bible studies and game nights, everyone will find something they love - we can tell you from experience, it only takes one weekend of Grown-Up Camp to get you hooked and keep you coming back for more!"  
~Keleigh & Micah Sopher



## GROWN-UP WINTER RETREAT

FEB. 23-25, 2024

[WWW.LUTHERLYN.COM/WINTERGROWNUPS](http://WWW.LUTHERLYN.COM/WINTERGROWNUPS)



## SUMMER 2024 CURRICULUM PREVIEW - CREATED TO BE

The theme verse for Created to Be is from Psalm 139. *“I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.”*

We are loved and accepted by God! The fact that God knows our innermost selves is mind-boggling, at the very least. Even when we feel alone and unseen, God sees us and knows us, never leaving our side. Maybe even more brain-bending is that we need not do anything or prove one single thing to receive God’s gift of grace.

Each of our five days gives us an opportunity to explore more deeply the authentic selves God has created us to be. We will learn what it means to be siblings in Christ—humans who are brave enough to encourage and stand up for each other, sharing burdens as well as joys. We will grow and learn more about ourselves while listening to and sharing with each other.

The daily themes are: Created to be Free, Created to be Authentic, Created to be Brave, Created to be Disciples, Created to be a Change-Bringer.



### CABIN DEMOLITION!

“Cabin Row” still evokes many memories for former campers and staff members. Stories about cabin inspection (which always seem to include part of a song and the accompanying motions) regularly come up in conversation at reunions and other Lutherlyn events. There is a lot of sentiment stuffed into every nook and cranny of Cabin Row, which has made us all reluctant to say goodbye to these well-loved and certainly well-used cinder block buildings. After gathering quotes and crunching the numbers of what it would cost to repair cracked foundations and walls, install suitable insulation, and upgrade the plumbing and electrical wiring to the necessary capacity, we quickly realized it would cost more to retrofit the buildings to make them useful than to construct new cabins.

This spring, Lutherlyn removed one of the old cinder block cabins from “Cabin Row”. Cabin 30 (formerly nearest to the Heath Hut) was demolished after its reusable fixtures were removed. After noticing this improvement to Lutherlyn’s campus, a kind donor made a designated gift so additional disused cabins could be removed. In September, Cabin 12 (nearest to Cabin Cherry) was removed and since then, Cabin 21 (nearest to Cabin Red Pine) has also been removed. By the time this newsletter reaches you, it is likely that Cabin 17 (next to the roadway to the A-Frame village) and Cabin 5 (near the Blacksmithing Forge) will also be removed and the rubble trucked away. We are so grateful for the generosity of the individual who contributed the funds necessary to make this improvement to Lutherlyn.



### WELCOME TO THE TEAM!



**Erica Miller** joined the full-time staff as the Assistant Director of Environmental Education. While Erica is new to the year-round staff, Erica is certainly not new to Lutherlyn! Erica was a camper, was on summer staff in 1998-2002, served as a volunteer camp nurse, and has been a regular camper for retreats and events at Lutherlyn. Welcome, Erica!

### 2024 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE

<b>Week 1</b> June 16-21	Classic (Jr & SH) Confirmation Camp (NWPAsynod) Life in the Wild (JH) Staff In Training (SH) Horse Camp (Jr) Adventurers (JH & SH)
<b>Week 2</b> June 23-28	Classic (Jr & JH) Confirmation Camp (SWPA Synod) Horse Camp (Jr) Adventurers (JH & SH) Young Folks (Sun-Wed) Grown Up & Me (Th & Fri) Small Fry Days (Th & Fri)
<b>Week 3</b> June 30-July 5	Family Camp On-Site Day Camp (1st-5th grade)
<b>Week 4</b> July 7-12	Arts & Musical (Jr & JH) Classic (Jr, JH & SH) Horse Camp (Jr) Adventurers (JH & SH) Life in the Wild (Jr)
<b>Week 5</b> July 14-19	Classic (Jr JH & SH) Adventurers PLUS (SH) Horse Camp (JH & SH) Young Folks (Sun-Wed) Grown Up & Me (Th & Fri) Small Fry Days (Th & Fri)
<b>Week 6</b> July 21-26	Classic (Jr & JH) Horse Camp (Jr) Rocketry (JH & SH) Venture (SH) Junior Adventurers (Jr)
<b>Week 7</b> July 28-Aug. 2	Classic (Jr & JH) Night Owls (JH & SH) Rocketry (Jr) Adventurers (JH & SH) Horse Camp (JH & SH)

Young Folks - campers enter grades 2-3  
Junior (Jr) - campers enter grades 4-6  
Junior High (JH) - campers enter grades 7-9

### 2024 Lutherlyn Calendar

Subject to change

<u>January</u>	9-14	Quilting/Crafting Retreat
	19-21	Winter Youth Retreat
<u>February</u>	3	Saturday Safari
	16-18	Fathers & Sons Retreat
	23-25	Winter Grown Up Camp
<u>March</u>	2	Saturday Safari
	19-24	Quilting/Crafting Retreat
	23	Blacksmithing Class
<u>April</u>	6-8	Solar Eclipse Retreat
	27	Blacksmithing Class
	27	Work Day
<u>May</u>	11	CAMPBLAST!!! & Steinger Amphitheater Rededication
<u>June</u>	2-14	Summer Staff Training
	9	Trinity Pines Club Reception
	16	SUMMER CAMP BEGINS
<u>July</u>	1-31	SUMMER CAMP
<u>August</u>	3	Last Day of Summer Camp
	23-25	Grown Up Camp
<u>September</u>	3-8	Quilting/Crafting Retreat
	7	Blacksmithing Class
	7	Saturday Safari
<u>October</u>	19-20	Woodland Quilt Show
	19	Blacksmithing Class
	27	Halloween Fun & Trick-or-Treating
<u>November</u>	2	Saturday Safari
	19-24	Quilting/Crafting Retreat
	23	Blacksmithing Class
<u>December</u>	6-8	Family Advent Retreat
	7	Plunge!
	7	Advent Dinner & Worship



# Special Highlights

## LUTHERLYN WISH LIST

### Site and Facility:

- 6' white plastic tables - Lifetime brand (16) \*
- 50' outdoor extension cords (10) \*
- Multi-plug power strips (10) \*
- Reliable minivans or SUVs with current inspection
- Reliable 4 wheel drive pickup truck with inspection
- Truckloads of 2A limestone (for roads and paths)
- New or like-new washers and dryers
- Painter's tape (blue) – 1" and 2" wide \*
- Tarps (all sizes, no holes) \*

### Summer Program:

- New washable markers \*
- New colored pencils
- Paint brushes \*
- Glue sticks \*
- New unscented jar candles

### Equestrian Center:

- Electric air compressor
- Waterproof sheets (68", 70", 78")
- Waterproof blankets (68", 70", 78")
- MSM joint supplement
- Horse multivitamin supplements
- Wet cat food
- Cat flea & tick treatment

### Food Service:

- 70 qt. Cooler \*

### Environmental Education:

- Kid and adult-sized rain coats

### Volunteers:

- Willing to help cut and split firewood
- Help regularly maintain plant beds around the dining hall porch
- Help to maintain flower beds around camp and the Amphitheater
- Help 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

### Office:

- Forever stamps
- Dry erase erasers \*
- Copy paper
- White cardstock \*
- Masking tape \*
- Blue painter's tape
- Scissors \*
- Permanent markers
- New easels and paper pads

### Gift Cards:

- Lowe's, Home Depot, Amazon, Wal-Mart, Tractor Supply, Agway

Items marked with \* can be found on our Amazon Wish List.

## BIRTHDAY BLESSING BAGS

As part of our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, campers gave their time to assemble Birthday Blessing Bags, which were distributed in August. Many campers also supported the project by making donations from their camp store accounts. The contents of the bags were purchased thanks to a grant from the SWPA Synod's Ethel L. Verney Fund. In total, 700 Birthday Blessing Bags and \$4,000 were given away. 350 kits were delivered to The Lighthouse Foundation in Butler and 350 were given to the Butler Weekend Backpack Program. These bags were shared with those in need so that they have everything for a birthday celebration. Each bag contained party plates, napkins, a banner, candles, cake mix, frosting, cake pans, tablecloth, and a birthday card. Please join us in thanking the Ethel L. Verney Fund and 2023's summer campers for making a difference for our neighbors in need!



## EASY REFRIGERATOR PICKLES

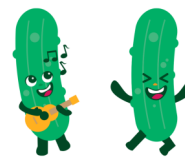
This year was a very productive one for the garden at Terra Dei! Our cucumbers had an especially good season, and we found ourselves with the pleasant task of having to find some way of dealing with their incredible abundance. One way we were able to process a large number of them was by making pickles for the salad bar, which ended up being both delicious and surprisingly easy. Here is our recipe for easy refrigerator pickles:

### Ingredients

- 20 - 25 small to medium pickling cucumbers
- 2 quarts cold water
- 1 cup white vinegar
- 1/3 cup canning/pickling salt or coarse Kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon coriander seed
- 1/2 teaspoon mustard seed
- 1/4 teaspoon red pepper flakes (to taste)
- 1 tablespoon black peppercorns
- 1 tablespoon dill seed
- 2 fresh garlic cloves, smashed (1 per jar)
- 2 fresh dill umbels/flower heads (1 per jar, can omit if not available)

### Supplies

- Large pitcher x 2
- Fine mesh colander
- Quart - sized jars x 2



### Instructions

To create the brine: Combine vinegar, water, salt, and dry spices in a large container or pitcher. Stir well until all the salt is dissolved and set aside.

Cucumber preparation: Wash cucumbers well and cut off at least ¼ of an inch from the blossom end of each one. (This step is very important and will help prevent soggy pickles!) Slice each small pickling cucumber in half lengthwise. If larger cucumbers are being used, cut each one into quarters (or smaller) and trim to a length that will fit in the jar leaving about ¼" of space below the neck of the jar. Feel free to get creative! Slices, crinkle cuts, and sandwich slider style cuts can also be used if you prefer.

Jar preparation: Place one smashed garlic clove and one dill umbel into each jar. Fill jars with cucumber slices, snugly fitting in as many as possible.

Stir brine again to mix well. Place a fine mesh colander over a second large pitcher and pour your brine through the colander, catching all the solids. Distribute these solids evenly between your two jars. Next, pour the strained brine into the jars until all the cucumbers are covered, filling them up to the bottom of the jar neck.

NOTE: Do not overfill the jars! It is normal to have leftover brine which can be discarded.

Cover jars lightly with a lid perched on top but DO NOT close and seal. Leave the jars on the counter out of direct sunlight for 24 hours. The jars can then be moved to the refrigerator for 2-3 more days, with the lids perched loosely until the cucumbers taste like pickles throughout. Secure the lids on the jars and refrigerate for up to six months – but we doubt they will last that long!



## SPRING WORK DAY

Please consider joining us on April 27th for the Spring Work Day. There are projects for all ages and skill levels to help get camp ready for CampBlast and summer. We need your help to get camp ready!



## VOLUNTEER NURSES

Each summer we rely on the help of many volunteer camp nurses. We have 2 nurses on-site for each week of summer camp, plus an additional 2-3 nurses each Sunday to help with check-in.

If you or someone you know might be willing to volunteer as a camp nurse, please contact Lutherlyn. Nurses receive a free week of camp for their children/grandchildren.

## SAVE THE DATE:

The 2024 Trinity Pines Club Program is on June 9, 2024.

(Anyone who donated \$200 or more in 2023 will be invited to attend the Trinity Pines Club event.)

# Director's Notebook

## The Director's Notebook.....

Lutherlyn's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary was a great year! It was so exciting to celebrate 75 years of Life-Changing Adventures in Faith at Lutherlyn with campers, staff alumni, generous donors, and generations of Lutherlyn friends. This really is such a special community to be a part of and this year was a great reminder of how many wonderful people have been a part of Lutherlyn's ministry over the past 75 years.



The All-Staff Reunion in June was such a special day for me. There were staff that I remember from when I was a camper, friends that I served on summer staff with, staff that I had the pleasure of hiring, staff who served long before I was around who shared their wonderful memories, along with my own sister and son. Talk about a day full of JOY! I wish I could have captured every beautiful memory that was shared that day, and I am so thankful for everyone who attended. Let's do it again in 5 years!

As if the All-Staff Reunion wasn't enough, we ended the summer with the groundbreaking worship service for the renovation of the Steinger Memorial Amphitheater. Worshiping with the Steinger family and friends of Lutherlyn in a space that is personally so meaningful to me was AWESOME. I found it especially touching to watch a group of campers (including my own children) break ground for the construction so the Amphitheater can remain a place of meaningful worship for many generations to come. It is so exciting to visit the Amphitheater daily throughout the construction to see the progress and think about all the campers who will worship in that space well into the future. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the **Building for the Future** Campaign. This renovation is the first project of the campaign and will be completed in the spring. I hope you will join us at CampBlast on May 11<sup>th</sup> for

the rededication of the Steinger Memorial Amphitheater.

We had an amazing summer staff and an awesome summer at Lutherlyn! It is so clear throughout a week of summer camp just how much each camper needs this time away. The time away from their phones and screens, in nature, with their peers and loving role models, in an intentional Christian community, is priceless. Your help would be greatly appreciated in helping to recruit summer staff ([www.lutherlyn.com/summeremployment](http://www.lutherlyn.com/summeremployment)) and encouraging kids to come to camp for a week ([www.lutherlyn.com/summer](http://www.lutherlyn.com/summer)). Please remember that camperships are available and finances should never be the reason that a child doesn't come to camp.

For those who know me well, I am sure it comes as no surprise that I cry when I write this letter every year. It is such an incredible honor to serve as Lutherlyn's Executive Director and to be a part of this ministry. I am so thankful for each of you and your involvement at Lutherlyn. Please remember that Lutherlyn is yours and you are always a part of this community. If you haven't been around for a while, please come and see us! If you have memories to share, I would love to hear them. Thank you for your support as we start year 76 of Life-Changing Adventures in Faith at Lutherlyn!



Your Partner in Ministry,

Deb Roberts  
Executive Director

## SOLAR FARM UPDATE

We should know sometime in 2024 if Lutherlyn will have a solar farm on a portion of our land. In 2021, Lutherlyn's Board of Directors partnered with Luminous Keystone to explore the possibility of a solar farm on some of Lutherlyn's land that is currently leased to a farmer. After research, legal reviews, and much discernment, Lutherlyn entered into an agreement with Luminous Keystone to proceed with the permitting and grid connectivity process. Luminous Keystone continues to plan for this solar farm while waiting for the necessary permits. This is an exciting opportunity for Lutherlyn to continue to live out our environmental impact statement while generating income that will help to sustain this ministry into the future. We will provide updates as progress continues.



## VOLUNTEER AWARDS

It was an honor to present the President's Volunteer Service Award to 11 volunteers in 2023. These 11 individuals volunteered over 1,400 hours at Lutherlyn in 2023. We are so appreciative of all our volunteers.



## TOTAL INCLUSION GRANT

Lutherlyn was the recipient of a Total Inclusion Grant through the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) that will be used to continue to make Lutherlyn more accessible for those with limited mobility. The grant will be used to complete the Universal Access Trail at Miller Lake and to make cabin Yellow Pine fully accessible.



## 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.

## MISSION STATEMENT

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.



Lutherlyn has a social media presence on Facebook and Instagram. Check out "Camp Lutherlyn" for regular updates from Lutherlyn.



Lutherlyn sends out a monthly e-newsletter. If you would like to receive a monthly update from camp, please visit [www.lutherlyn.com/newsletter](http://www.lutherlyn.com/newsletter) to sign up!

