



# PARTICIPANT MANUAL

# Welcome Ambassadors!

Thank you for choosing to be Lutherlyn's official representative at your home congregation. You serve as a vital link between our ministry and the ministry of your congregation.

As Lutherlyn Ambassadors, you are called to speak on behalf of Lutherlyn in inviting people to come to this place where we speak on behalf of Christ in the language of camp and in the language of children.

Lutherlyn is a Christian Camp – it's ...who we are.

Lutherlyn offers summer camp, retreats, events, environmental education programs, horseback programs, adventure programs, etc. – that's...what we do.

Let us explore more about Lutherlyn ...

## Lutherlyn's 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.**

## Going Deeper

Lutherlyn is a year around ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America which provides unique opportunities for Christian living experiences.

Lutherlyn offers a natural setting for an intentional Christian community committed to experiencing and affirming our interrelationship with all of God's creation.

Lutherlyn encourages spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical growth and renewal for the whole person through encounter with scripture, experiences of the environment, educational programs, the witness of staff, opportunities for creative worship, the nurture of personal relationships, re-creational activities, and fun.

In support of and in partnership with the community at large, Lutherlyn offers programs and the use of its facilities for the benefit of individuals, service organizations and agencies that work for the improvement of the quality of life and for the fulfillment of human potential in ways that are consistent with basic Christian values.

In support of and in partnership with parish ministries, Lutherlyn encourages continuing growth in Christian faith and enables people of all ages and needs to live lives of prayer, praise, thanksgiving, witness, and service.

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## Goals

- To provide unique opportunities for Christian living experiences.
- To offer a natural setting for an intentional Christian community committed to experiencing and affirming our interrelationship with all of God's creation.
- To encourage spiritual, mental, emotional, and physical growth and renewal for the whole person.
- To encourage continuing growth in Christian faith.
- To offer programs and the use of its facilities for the benefit of individuals, service organizations and agencies that work for the improvement of the quality of life and for the fulfillment of human potential in ways that are consistent with basic Christian values.
- To serve people of all ages and needs.

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## Objectives

- To create a 24 hour a day intentional Christian community in an outdoor setting in which the Word can be lived as well as taught.
- To help the individual to develop a sense of personal identity and worth as a child of God.
- To provide formal and informal Christian learning as an extension of the life and ministry of the congregation.
- To promote the expression and sharing of the joy of Christian living.
- To provide year around facilities and programs for all Lutheran bodies and for the community at large.
- To provide opportunities for the creation of and participation in a variety of worship experiences, both personal and corporate.
- To help develop and encourage Christian leadership qualities and skills.
- To foster Christian appreciation of the world of nature and to gain skills for living in it.
- To provide fun experiences.
- To provide programs for all ages and social/cultural situations.
- To provide for the development of specific individual skills, talents, and interests.
- To create an awareness of the needs of the world in which we live.
- To help strengthen the individual's sense of identity and responsibility to the Church and its mission at all levels.
- To provide opportunities for wholesome leisure time activities and to advocate a creative leisure time philosophy.

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## All Are Welcome

Lutherlyn welcomes guests regardless of race, religion, color, national origin, age, gender, disability, or income. Any person who believes that she or he has been discriminated against by any ASDA related activity should write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250

### LUTHERLYN...

#### Through:

- An unfaltering commitment to Gospel-centered living;
- A commitment to experiential education;
- The witness and role-modeling of an intensively trained staff of mature Christian men and women;
- Small group, family living;
- A diverse offering of both familiar and unusual program activities;
- A commitment to respect all life and care for the earth;
- And a creative and practical approach to Bible study and worship;

**Within** a carefully nurtured, intentional, Christian community where the Gospel is lived as well as taught,

#### Provides children and youth an opportunity to grow:

- In a sense of the joy and goodness of life;
- In living a Christ and faith-centered life;
- In stewardship of self, others, and the earth;
- And in a sense of his or her own worth and ability to make a difference.

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## WHO IS AN AMBASSADOR?

1. An active, communing member or members of your congregation
2. Has participated as a camper, staffer, or is interested in promoting the camping ministry
3. Can communicate enthusiastically with persons of all ages
4. Is willing to learn and share about the goals and programs of Lutherlyn's camping ministry

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## WHAT DO AMBASSADORS DO?

1. Help promote Lutherlyn's camping programs in your congregation.
2. Seek out and encourage kids to become summer campers.
3. Help recruit persons to serve as camp staff, nurses, grandparents, and volunteers.
4. Interpret the goals and objectives of Lutherlyn to your congregation.
5. Encourage your congregation to conduct retreats and other outings at Lutherlyn.
6. Keep your congregation informed of the maintenance and financial needs of the camp.
7. Represent Lutherlyn in the congregation by answering questions, providing feedback, sharing visions, and identifying concerns that might help Lutherlyn more fully meet the needs of your congregation.
8. Keep in consistent contact with members of Lutherlyn staff to maintain awareness of news and upcoming events worth sharing.
9. Attend the free Ambassador's weekend retreat each spring to keep up-to-date on programs and developments at camp.

## THE UNIQUE ROLE OF OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

When it comes to ministry, the local congregation is where most of the action takes place. It begins with Baptism, continues with instruction in Sunday Church School, and preparation for Holy Communion, followed by catechetical instruction. Educational ministry in the church is a life long process centered in the Word of God and the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

**Partners** - Lutherlyn exists for no other reason than to support the ministry of congregations. Our goals and objectives are the same. Lutherlyn is an extension of the life and ministry of the parish in a unique, natural setting.

### **SUMMER CAMP:**

**An experiment in Christian living** - Lutherlyn nurtures an Intentional Christian Community into which the children and youth of the congregations of our synods are welcomed. A week-long session of peer group living gives our children the chance to see if the lessons of Christian living they learned in church really work. Under the guidance of highly trained counselors, campers have the opportunity to be "Christians away from home" and to explore in real life the nature of living together in love.

**A place to learn about God** – Through devotions, Bible study, worship, and dialogue, children are made aware of the reconciling love of God in Christ. They hear again the call to discipleship and to stewardship of the earth and of one another. The example of faith in life modeled by staff and chaplains through their conduct and shared grace moments

encourages learning.

**A place to learn about God's creation** - Lutherlyn's setting and emphasis on environmental education provides a unique opportunity to begin to understand their role as caretakers of the earth. We teach children to live in harmony with the earth, not as careless consumers.

**A leadership training school for the church** - Each summer over 65 high school and college students are hired to serve as staff. After two weeks of the most intensive and comprehensive training offered to any camp staff, these young adults assume the responsibility for conducting the program for the summer. Most of our staff go on to active leadership in congregations and some enter full time church work as pastors, youth directors, or camp professionals.

**A view of the church beyond the congregation** - It is important for children to see the church beyond their congregation, to meet Christians from other places, to hear the Word proclaimed in new ways by other pastors. Children meeting and worshiping with new friends discover that their God is the Lord and Savior of the universe and not just their hometown.

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## WHAT MAKES LUTHERLYN UNIQUE?

1. A total commitment to excellence has led Lutherlyn to earn and maintain American Camping Association Accreditation. Our Executive director is certified through the ACA. This represents an uncommon commitment to health, safety, quality, and professional standards of ethics and operation.
3. A commitment to individual campers rather than to attendance figures and the bottom line. We make sure campers get the individual attention they need. Our staff is trained to "seek out the one" and attend to those things that help campers build self-esteem, a sense of being accepted, and a sense of being beloved children of God.
4. A commitment to making sure that every child can be a camper at Lutherlyn regardless of financial resources. Our campership program has meant that NO ONE has ever been turned away because they were unable to pay.
5. Our staff training program is unequalled in intensity and thoroughness of skills taught and areas addressed.
6. A commitment to offering the widest possible selection of quality program choices for campers and a willingness to experiment. In the ongoing effort to address the evolving needs of the people we serve, Lutherlyn is constantly generating new programs.
7. A commitment to developing and using cutting edge "experiential" curriculum. We know that people learn best by doing and that the best "teaching" is done by creating a positive environment in which people desire to learn.
8. Our approach to quality music, the intentional sharing of Mission, sharing of "Grace Moments" at campfires, and our closing "Affirmation Service" with its emphasis on personal blessing, are unique.
9. Among the other Lutheran sites doing environmental education, Lutherlyn has the most complete and teacher responsive program of all.

# What Happens at Lutherlyn?

## Summer Programs

**Residential Camp:** About 1,200 campers participate in the wide variety of programs offered on site each summer. Everyone participates in daily devotions, worship, Bible study, crafts, recreation, nature study, making new friends, and experiencing the Gospel in daily living. Our program is based on a small group model in which staff can take time to give campers individual attention. We offer a wide variety of special focus camps that offer skills development in such things as photography, music, horseback riding, building models rockets and trains, and environmental studies. There are also special weeks for first through fourth graders, senior high students, people who are night owls, and a week for families.

**Off-Site:** Some summer programs are conducted on the road or at sites away from Lutherlyn. The Adventurer program offers campers a different adventure each day and returns to camp in the evening. Activities include, rock climbing, canoeing, hiking, biking, etc.

**Day Camp:** Between 200 and 300 first through fifth graders participate annually in Day Camp programs conducted at about 15 parishes throughout our synods. Our Lutherlyn staff "brings camp" to congregations.

**Hosted Camps:** Not all programs conducted at Lutherlyn are led by Lutherlyn staff. The camp is "Accredited" by the American Camp Association for use by contract groups who lead most or all of their own program. Each summer about 100 campers attend Confirmation Camp weeks in which pastors and lay teachers bring their confirmation classes for a week of group building and study. Community non-profit groups also conduct camps at Lutherlyn. The Camp Cadet-PA State Police, Muscular Dystrophy Association, school bands, and others have used Lutherlyn and some Lutherlyn staff for their camp programs.

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## Year-Round Programs (Retreats and Events)

Lutherlyn hosts over 5,000 people through retreats and rental groups. Slightly over half of our retreaters are adults. Over 4,500 people a year come to Lutherlyn for one day events.

**Programmed Retreats:** Lutherlyn holds specific Lutherlyn program retreats each year. Some of these include Wild Women Weekend, Fathers and Sons Retreat, Advent Retreat, and Winter Youth Retreats. Crafting and Quilting retreats have been a popular option in the last few years. Mystery Quilt Retreat, Santa's Workshop Retreat, Crafty Lady Retreat, and Unfinished Objects Retreat are held throughout the year.

**Rental Retreats:** These multiple day retreats involve just about every kind of group imaginable: youth groups, church councils, women's groups, men's groups, confirmation classes, family groups, couples, individuals, committees, classes, schools and so on. Winterized cabins and meeting spaces make rental opportunities available year-round.

**Open Invitational Events:** Others attend events such as Camp Blast (Open House), Spring and Fall Work Days, Environmental Education Saturday Safaris, Woodland Quilters Quilt Show, and Halloween Family Fun Day.

**Self-Conducted:** Many attend events utilizing the facilities available such as: weddings, family reunions, congregational picnics, and meetings.

### Program-Offered Scheduled Events:

Some also avail themselves of opportunities offered including horseback riding, hay rides, high and low ropes course, and swimming.

# Environmental Education

**Field Trips:** Parochial, private, and public school students are coming by busloads to participate in our excellent Lutherlyn Environmental Education Program (LEEP). This past year LEEP has also conducted training with Seminary students and other Environmental Education programs. Each year LEEP hosts around 100 schools and 6000 students. It is the only such program in which teachers can design their field trips to supplement what is actually being studied in the classroom. The LEEP program offers over 100 topic modules that can be mixed and matched to suit the teacher's goals. Out *sweetest* program is maple sugaring. In 1996, Lutherlyn welcomed the Terra Dei Homestead to the Environmental curriculum – featuring Pennsylvania's first straw bale home, an organic garden, and a glimpse into practical “green” lifestyles.

**Group Outings:** Programs may be scheduled for church groups, youth groups, adult groups, garden clubs, and business organizations. These programs may involve nature hikes and activities or tours of Terra Dei Homestead. Often, these programs are scheduled during a retreat or conference, but can be done independently.

**Saturday Safaris:** Days designed for individuals and families are made available each year. Activities have included Birdhouse making, Wolves, Survival Skills of the Woodland Tribes, archaeology, Maple Sugaring, and Dog Sledding. These events are provided at minimal cost and are a great activity to do on a Saturday.

**LEEP into School:** Lutherlyn's renowned Environmental Education Program comes to your school! The LEEP staff has developed in-school activity modules for children in pre-school through fifth grade. All of the modules include hands-on experiences with real (but not live) animal specimens from Lutherlyn's Eberly Environmental Education Center, games, stories, and the knowledge of the LEEP staff members. The activities are based on state standards for primary and early childhood education. The LEEP staff offer these traveling programs for the months of November through March.

**Terra Dei Homestead:** The Terra Dei Homestead was designed to be an example of what people can do to conserve energy and resources. Conserving energy not only allows us to use less fossil fuels, it also reduces the amount of acid rain produced, decreases air pollution, and decreases water pollution. Many of the materials that went into the construction of the house were reused, and several products made of recycled materials are highlighted inside.

Programs at Terra Dei Homestead encourage students to consider the environmental implications of their lifestyles and explore every day solutions to ecological problems. Customized, hands-on programs may include alternative energy sources, energy efficiency, integrated pest management, and organic gardening. Many activities focus on the demonstration house at Terra Dei Homestead. It is the first straw bale house built in Pennsylvania and features a myriad of conservation technologies.

**Teacher Workshops/Naturalist Training:** Teacher Workshops are available for educators who wish to expand their knowledge of the environment and obtain useful classroom resources. Each workshop participant receives an activity guide and experiences sample activities. Act 48 credit is available through Intermediate Unit 4. Lunch is provided as part of the program.

**Scout Projects:** Eagle Scout Projects are available at Lutherlyn and are administered through L.E.E.P. Past projects have included trail maintenance, garden path construction, bridge building, and picnic table construction.

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## Food Service/Receptions

The dining hall is a central and very important place at camp. It is equipped to meet the needs of groups and events of varying sizes and specifications. Meals are typically served in an all-you-can-eat buffet style. During the summer, campers sit with their fellow cabin groups and eat meals prepared by our experienced Food Service Director and Staff.

Meals are well-balanced and nutritious. Each meal is prepared with a vegetarian option in addition to a salad bar for lunches and dinners. We strive to meet the needs of all dietary restrictions. If a member of your group has specific needs, our Food Service Director would be happy to accommodate them.

Wedding receptions and banquets are also available and can be customized to the needs of the renting party. Lutherlyn has an exclusive catering agreement with Medure's Catering in New Castle for receptions.

# Equestrian Programs

Lutherlyn Equestrian Program strives to provide children/people with a safe and positive learning experience. We want them to leave our facility feeling confident about the experience they had here. Many of our horses have spent their lives teaching children the joy of riding. Our facilities include a bank barn and a 20 shed row style barn with 10x10 box stalls, a heated tack room, 85'x150' indoor riding sand arena, a stadium jumping field, a cross country course of Intro-Novice, and miles and miles of beautiful trails.

**Summer Programs:** Enjoy a fantastic week of learning about horses, improving your skills, and riding in a beautiful setting! Instruction is offered for riders of all abilities by instructors that are certified through the American Association of Horsemanship Safety. All horse camp programs spend their “non-horse” time doing lots of great Classic Camp activities! Horse camp is designed to allow campers to progress in their riding skills. Each camper can progress through the levels of horse camp by demonstrating competency in their riding skills. After returning home, each camper will receive a certificate informing them of the level that they will be able to attend the next summer. First time junior campers (grades 4-6) will start at level 1. First time Jr. High and Sr. High campers (grades 7-12) will start at level 2.

**Horse-Owner/Experienced Programs:** Lutherlyn Equestrian has a variety of special programming designed for those who are more experienced in horsemanship and those who own their own horses. We have been working hard to expand the programming at the Lutherlyn Stables. Programs offered include: Hunter Paces, AAHS Riding Certification, Cross Country Schooling, Eventing Camp, Mini Trials, Judged Pleasure Trail Ride, Private and Group Lessons, and Guided Trail Rides.

**Non-Horse Owner Programs:** You don't have to own a horse to love horses or to gain experience working with them! Lutherlyn Stables have many great horses that are used to programs for those who do not own their own horse. Programs include Mini Horse Camps, Equestrian Gym Classes for Homeschoolers, aTherapeutic Riding Program, and Group Trail Rides.

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## Woodland Center for Arts & Crafts

The Woodland Center for Arts & Crafts is a program of Lutherlyn designed to bring opportunities for creative expression, arts education and spiritual formation. This program currently has two specific specialties:

### Woodland Pottery & Studio

The Woodland Studio for Pottery inhabits the building once known as “Craft Cabin 2.” The studio is complete with 10 wheels, 3 kilns, a slab roller, and everything needed to create handmade pottery from start to finish – including resident potter and instructor, Bob Isenberg. The studio is used for classes, events, lessons, and “open studio time” for up to 10 potters at a time.

**Pottery Classes:** Our studio has space, tools, and equipment for up to 10 participants. Individuals may register for one of our scheduled beginner pottery classes, schedule private lessons with the artist, or purchase session passes to use open studio time to practice, create, fire, glaze, and complete projects. Groups may also reserve full class sessions or a private party.

**Pottery for Sale:** There are beautiful pieces of pottery in the Woodland Studio available for purchase during studio hours or by appointment. Pottery makes great gifts! Bob also takes commissions for custom work.

### Woodland Blacksmithing and Forge

The Woodland Forge is a complete blacksmith shop currently with four student stations and a teaching station. The blacksmith shop has coal forges, leg vises, hand tools, and multiple styles of anvils – everything to start and complete a project.

**Blacksmithing Classes:** No prior experience necessary. All materials and supplies are included. These classes are designed as an introduction to using the forge, hand tools, vise, and anvils. It will start you on the path to developing the core skills of smithing: drawing, tapering, hot cutting, hot punching, forge welding, bending, twisting, scrolls, and leaves.

### Woodland Fiber Arts – Beginner Quilting, Weaving, Drop-Spindle Spinning Classes

Students are advised in purchasing fabric before the class. All other supplies are included – even a sewing machine. These classes are designed as an introduction in the basics of each discipline. Our intention is that even the least experienced person will leave with a completed project.

## What is Coming Up In the WCFAC?

**The Gallery:** We are currently constructing a gallery building in the Camp Shaulis area to serve as a place to display and sell works of artists directly involved with the Woodland Center as well as guest artist materials. We are looking to complete the building and host an opening event this year.

**Class Offering Expansion:** Under development are cooking classes , painting, and more!

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## Camp Blast!

Camp Blast is a day full of FUN that highlights all that Lutherlyn has to offer. There will be a sampling of ALL of the FUN things to do at camp in the summer (horseback riding, campfire, crafts, gaga, archery, high ropes course, zipline, bouldering room, hikes, nature activities, canoeing, hay rides, games, sports, archaeology, water rockets, disk golf, kayaking, biking, and LOTS more).

There will also be tours, displays and activities that highlight the “second season” (non-summer) things going on at Lutherlyn, great food, worship, and presentations.

Camp Blast is intended to be an opportunity for friends of camp to bring NEW faces to Lutherlyn! Please save the date and invite friends who are not familiar with camp. This is going to be a HUGE day for LUTHERLYN and we hope that YOU will be a part of it and bring others! Not yet convinced that this is THE DAY to be at camp??? How about this.... EVERYTHING IS FREE!!!

No Registration Required.

Last Year this event has seen upwards of 1,200 people and over 100 summer camp registrations. This is an important event for the Ambassadors to promote. We could also use your help in volunteering during this day if you are not caravanning hordes of people.

**Camp Blast will be happening on Saturday, May 7.**

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## Adventure Programs

A day in the Lutherlyn Adventure Program holds challenges that draw people closer together, help individuals stretch their talents and abilities, and teach youth and adults skills valuable for a lifetime. Participants of all ages who have comes to a Lutherlyn Adventure programs experience the opportunity to learn new skills, expand their horizons, make new friends, and hopefully discover a new passion.

Adventure Programs at Lutherlyn are highly customizable for each group. Programs can vary from short one hour workshops all the way up to weekend or longer retreats/events. Throughout the year, over 1,000 people participate in the Lutherlyn Adventure Program. This program includes Ropes Course and Rock Climbing programs within which participants learn to push their boundaries and encourage others as they do the same. All activities are supervised by Lutherlyn’s trained and experienced staff.

**Low Ropes Course / Group Building:** Lutherlyn’s low ropes course is used a part of summer programming as well as any interested second season group. Programming can be designed to accomplish many different goals including but not limited too: group bonding/formation, improving communication skills, goal setting, taking risks, faith formation, building trust and confidence, and creativity. Every program is custom tailored based on group leader’s observations and desires for the group.

**High Ropes Course and Zipline:** Lutherlyn’s high ropes course and zipline offers a great experience and challenge to participants. Entry to the course can be obtained by several different methods: a 48 foot tall climbing wall, Cargo Net, and a Giant’s Ladder. Once on the course, participants have the option of traversing 5 elements high above the ground, or simply enjoying the 860 foot zipline ride! The more adventurous may want to try their hand at the pamper pole, which is sure to get anyone’s heart racing!

**On-Site Adventures:** Many of our off site adventures can also be offered at Lutherlyn as an addition to any retreat or group. These programs utilize Lutherlyn's beautiful grounds as well as our climbing tower and chimney, and our indoor bouldering room. All programs on or off-site are lead by highly trained staff!

**Off-Site Adventures:** Off- site adventures at Lutherlyn are offered as both public programming where anyone can call in and sign up, or private programming for individuals and groups from all backgrounds. Many of our excursions are held close to Lutherlyn, but trips to state parks and destinations further away occur on a frequent basis. Lutherlyn currently offers programming in: Mountain Biking, Kayaking/Canoeing, Backpacking, and Rock Climbing and Rappelling. All programs on or off-site are lead by highly trained staff!

**Adult Break-Out Adventures:** Many of the programs run at Lutherlyn are geared towards youth. This program is geared specifically to adults! Different adventures are offered throughout the year and include activities such as: High ropes course/zipline, mountain biking, rock climbing, hiking, horseback riding, canoeing, and more! All adventures include training, equipment, and a lunch. Days are typically started with a safety briefing or learning basic skills, and then the remainder of the day is spent having fun and making new friends!

Our trained staff will leads groups through a sequence of energizing, icebreaking activities all the way through complex initiatives that will challenge all members of the organization/group. Program lengths and sizes can vary from short 60 minute icebreaker workshops with 10 individuals all the way up to full day programs hosting 50 participants.

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## Our Facility

A variety of outdoor recreation opportunities and program spaces are available at Lutherlyn, including:

- Ball and recreation fields
- 20 horse stable
- Environmental Education Center
- Group building initiatives course
- 17 miles of hiking trails
- 14.5 miles of horseback trails
- Volleyball and Basketball courts
- Meeting buildings to seat: 100, 250, and 400 people.
- Swimming and boating lake
- Snack and Gift Shop
- Fishing lake
- Hay Rides
- Amphitheater (outdoor worship area)
- Chapel Hill (outdoor worship area)
- Lakeside Chapel (outdoor worship area)
- Picnic Pavilions
- Fire Circles
- Gaga Pit



# Advertising and Promotion

## **Our Website**

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

Our website is tediously kept up to date with as much information as possible regarding all programs available throughout the year. Other features of the website include: maps & location, contact information, online registration, photos of facilities and past events, an online store, download center for all brochures, forms and publications, calendar of all upcoming events.

## **Our Facebook Page**

*[www.facebook.com/camplutherlyn](http://www.facebook.com/camplutherlyn)*

Our Facebook page is updated practically every day with photos, information, and links to important things on our website. The Past Photo of the Day is a very popular feature which includes photos taken from the beginning of camp in the 1940's to present.

## **Summer Camp Photos and Videos**

*[www.lutherlyn.shutterfly.com](http://www.lutherlyn.shutterfly.com)*

Each summer Lutherlyn hires a media director who takes photos and creates videos of each week of summer camp. The password is "adventure"

## **Online E-Mail Newsletter (Monthly)**

The monthly online newsletter is always timely and informative keeping people up to speed with what has been happening and what is coming up at camp. This newsletter may be signed up for through our homepage of our website or on Facebook.

## **Pine Shavings – Development Office Online E-Mail Newsletter (Quarterly)**

There are a lot of things happening at camp in the Development Office. This newsletter is an important piece in keeping donors and potential donors connected with Lutherlyn.

## **Printed Newsletter (Annually)**

This newsletter is sent to everyone on our mailing list. Delivered in December, this newsletter gives an in-depth look into the state of camp and the upcoming events, programs, and retreats for the new year.

## **Bulk Mailers**

Programs at Lutherlyn are usually accompanied with a printed brochure to accommodate those who rarely use computers or like the "tried and true" method of communication. These brochures along with periodic appeals are sent to homes and churches through the postal service.

# General Suggestions for Promotion

1. **Keep informed** by reading newsletters and other information pieces.
2. **Attend** the Ambassador's training.
3. **Promote Summer Camp** attendance by:
  - Having a camp Sunday each spring
  - Inviting a camp staff or board member to make a Sunday School Presentation
  - Having a camper give a temple talk in Sunday School or worship
  - Having a camp bulletin board in a prominent place
  - Visiting Lutherlyn for a congregational picnic or tour
  - Encouraging campers to attend the Winter Retreats
  - Personally visiting with potential campers and their parents
  - Giving a temple talk at worship
  - Seeking campership funds
  - Having a brief dedication service during worship for the children and families who will be attending camp
  - Distributing brochures to all Sunday School students
  - Interview returning campers and inform the Camp Director of any problems or concerns
4. **Promote summer camping employment opportunities**
  - Make application materials available to interested students in your congregation.
  - Talk with potential staff and volunteers about opportunities to serve on the summer staff.
  - Encourage potential nurses, grandparents, chaplains, maintenance personnel, and others with special skills or interests to contact Lutherlyn about volunteering.

## 5. **Promote retreats**

A retreat is a powerful tool for Christian education and building congregational fellowship. It can also provide an environment for getting work done without distraction. By providing time apart from daily distractions, a retreat offers large blocks of time for study, discussion, decision-making, planning, getting to know one another, and having fun. Common retreats are church council planning, workshops for church volunteers, youth groups, WELCA meetings, committee meetings, confirmation weekends, and family or couples retreats. Although congregations are responsible for their own program, help is available for planning retreats.

Some suggestions for planning retreats:

- Visit the facilities during daylight hours.
- Make reservations well in advance of your event.
- Arrange for food service.
- Develop clearly stated goals for your event.
- Select materials, a process, and a style that will help you reach your goals.
- Develop your schedule to allow some time for hiking and recreation that takes advantage of the camp setting.
- Check with the camp office regarding the availability of any special resources you may require.

# The Development Office

## Lutherlyn Campership Fund

Lutherlyn has a promise. This promise is that no child shall be unable to attend summer camp due to financial circumstances. This promise is huge! Each year Lutherlyn grants over \$35,000 in campership funds (mostly in the form of half-camperships).

The Campership Fund is maintained by the consistent, faithful giving of our Trinity Pines Club members, Campership Endowments, and special fundraising events throughout the year (Golf Outing, Pie Auction, Quilt Show and Auctions, Winter Tea, and other events).

## SUGGESTIONS FOR PAYING FOR THE CAMPING EXPERIENCE

- Many congregations include an amount for camperships in their budget. Some congregations pay:
  1. The registration fee
  2. Half the camper's fee
  3. The total fee for all campers
  4. Part or all of the fee for campers who cannot afford a week at camp.
- Camperships in some congregations are promoted by the WELCA, LMM, or Sunday Church Schools.
- Camperships for those who need more help than the congregation can offer, may be requested from Lutherlyn. Any Lutheran pastor may request these.
- Christmas Gift Certificates for all or part of a week at camp may be obtained from Lutherlyn.
- Encourage individuals in your congregation to "send a child to camp."
- Encourage individuals and your congregation to make special gifts to Lutherlyn's ministry. Gifts may be designated for one of several funds.
  1. Camperships
  2. Campership Endowment
  3. Annual Fund to support the overall ministry of the camp.
  4. Toward established special projects

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## The Trinity Pines Club

The Trinity Pines Club was initiated in the spring of 1986. The club was established from a desire and interest to remain involved in the dreams and hopes of Lutherlyn and its campers. This club serves as a strong and continuing base of financial and prayer support for our ministry.

Since 1948 Lutherlyn has been providing a Christian camp experience for children, youth, church groups, adults, and seniors. As a ministry, Lutherlyn has sought to provide a place where people of all ages might grow in faith.

Over the years, many generations of our people have grown to love Lutherlyn for what it has meant to them, to their children, and to their congregations. The story of Lutherlyn is one of many people who have given their time, talent, and treasure to make this ministry possible.

The Trinity Pines Club has grown from a handful of charter members to an annual membership of nearly **500** individuals, families, and organizations.

Membership is granted simply to those who give \$100 or more to Lutherlyn in a calendar year and is renewable annually.

## Trinity Pines Club Donor Levels

*calculated annually*

Members of the Trinity Pines Club are recognized for their level of giving throughout a year. The following are the current levels within the Trinity Pines Club:

**Shaulis Society:** *Total lifetime giving of \$10,000 or more*

**Director's Circle:** *\$2,500 or more*

**Diamond Circle:** *\$1,000 to \$2499*

**Gold Circle:** *\$500 to \$999*

**Level III:** *\$300 to \$499*

**Level II:** *\$200 to \$299*

**Level I:** *\$100 to \$199*

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## Monthly Recurring Donations

Lutherlyn takes advantage of the Simply Giving program offered through Thrivent Financial Services. Through this program we are able to establish monthly recurring donation accounts for our donors.

## Campership Endowments

The Endowed Campership Fund is an attractive way to provide camperships to kids who would otherwise be unable to attend camp. Several named and endowed camperships have been established at Lutherlyn over the years -- benefitting deserving campers annually.

When a gift is "endowed", the initial principal is preserved in perpetuity and awards are made from the annual earnings. This, simply stated provides a level of current support, while providing a reliable source of funds for the future. *An endowed gift is a gift that keeps on giving.* Endowed gifts may be restricted for specific purposes, such as camperships, program support, staff development, etc. They may also be given unrestricted, allowing Lutherlyn to use the annual earnings where the need is greatest. Endowed gifts make up a significant part of Lutherlyn's Endowment Fund and hold the key to the future strength and vitality of Lutherlyn and its ministry.

## The Circle of Life

The Circle of Life is an organization of caring people who are committed to helping assure the financial stability of Lutherlyn for generations to come. They express their concern and give concrete help by including Lutherlyn in their thoughtful estate planning.

The donor may direct the estate gifts to be used for providing children the opportunity to attend Lutherlyn; or for capital improvements at Lutherlyn; or for other programs and services offered by Lutherlyn. Undesignated funds which the Board of Trustees can use where needed are always greatly appreciated. It is up to the donor to decide where the money goes.

Circle of Life Members, by including Lutherlyn in their estate plans are assuring this ministry will continue long into the future. Members are also benefiting themselves as they make gifts from their estates.

## Annual Benefit Golf Outing

This Golf Outing began in 1989 by the late Rev. Pat Maier. The outing took a few years off in the early 2000's but has been going strong once again since 2009. The golf outing takes place at Oakview Golf Course in Slippery Rock, PA on the Friday before Memorial Day in late May. The event includes 18 holes of golf with cart (two carts per foursome), a hot dog lunch during registration, and an awards dinner. The golf outing brings in around \$12,000 in registrations and sponsorships each year.

## **Woodland Quilters/Quilt Show and Auctions & Sales**

The Woodland Quilters guild was established in the Fall of 2004 in response to the need to cover the interior walls of the dining hall. Quilting has since become a way of life for many of the Woodland Quilters. Four retreats dedicated to quilting, scrapbooking, and crafts are now hosted each year, filling the large dining hall with up to 70 people. The Woodland Quilters have themselves transitioned from decorating the walls of Lutherlyn to also raising funds for camp through their quilts. Each fall a quilt show is hosted at Lutherlyn and each spring two quilt auctions are hosted by churches within western Pennsylvania. Both the quilt show and auctions raise money for the Campership Fund. In 2012, the Woodland Quilters were honored with the Cornerstone Award.

## **Winter Tea**

Winter Tea is a fundraiser held in March. Tables are reserved by a host/hostess who fills their table with guests (friends/family) and decorates their table. The day includes tea (hosts provide tea sets), desserts, music, raffle prizes, and a reward for the best decorated table.

## **Annual “Under the Radar” Campaign**

Each summer an “Under the Radar” project is chosen, designed to help a community in need somewhere in the world. Past projects have included Pigs for Haiti, Wells for Madagascar, and the Anti-Malaria Campaign for Africa.

## **Buy a Brick/Friendship Way**

Installed is a pathway off the porch of the Dining Hall known as Friendship Way. Individuals may purchase a customized brick for themselves or someone else as a permanent part of Lutherlyn. Bricks are ordered twice yearly.

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# **Volunteering at Lutherlyn**

### **Typical summer volunteer opportunities include**

- Camp Nurse (one week commitment/must be RN, LPN, Paramedic, EMT, MD)
- Camp Grandparents
- Chaplains
- Maintenance Helpers
- Office/Store Assistants (very limited opportunities)

### **Typical Second Season Volunteer Opportunities**

- Office Assistants
- Mailing Prep Helpers
- Special Event Volunteers
- Maintenance Helpers

## **Work Days**

Each year there are two scheduled two work days (spring and fall). This is a day where individuals and groups come and work on projects on camp grounds. Projects range from picking up sticks and raking leaves to a roofing project (tasks are given based on level of skill/ability). Groups are welcome to arrange their own work days as well by contacting the office.

## **Specialty Trade Volunteers**

Available and always welcome are opportunities for people with a professional/industrial skill or certification. We welcome electricians, carpenters, plumbers, auto mechanics, contractors, professional advertisers, equine specialists, and more.

# Building for the Future of Lutherlyn

For 68 years Lutherlyn has been ministering and keeping its promise to train leaders and to provide "growing in faith" experiences for Lutherans in western Pennsylvania. In that time dozens of people have been inspired to enter church vocations while at Lutherlyn. Thousands more have been empowered to be leaders in their congregations. Tens of thousands have been nurtured in their faith.

In that time, over 2 million meals have been prepared in our kitchen; hundreds of thousands of people have spent nights to remember in those concrete block cabins built in the 40's, 50's and early 60's; tens of millions of gallons of water have come from the ground and returned, and our facilities have served 4 generations of campers. Time, weather, and hard use have worn away at the cabins and the activity and service buildings that support the program but with the support of many people who love and value Lutherlyn, we have been working hard to keep our facilities fit and ready to welcome generations to come.

The continuation and growth of the ministry necessitates retooling and expanding our facility. Much has been done and much still needs to be done to assure that Lutherlyn can continue to keep the old promises in this new century.

- **Dining Hall:** We have a modern dining hall. This beautiful building features three dining/meeting rooms, beautiful cedar siding, central air conditioning, and central gas heating. The largest room serves 200 people for meetings or dining. A second room serves 125 individuals, and the smaller fireside room serves 25.
- **Cabins:** Since 1987, we have replaced ALL 20 of our old block cabins in main camp with a four new cabin villages of five cabins each. The villages' names: A-Frame/Forest Village, Log Cabin Village, Ridge Village, and Arbor Village. Each cabin is equipped with 2 full baths, carpeting, paneling and central heat. The last village in main camp was completed in 2006.
- **Camp Shaulis:** A plan is being established to convert this older part of camp into the home of the Woodland Center for Arts and Crafts. A gallery building is currently nearing completion and plans are being made to build studios, living spaces, and a community building.
- **Worship and Music Center:** Building is nearing completion and will serve as a functional worship space.
- **Water System:** We have an aerated pond system capable of handling 20,000 gallons of sewage per day. We also have a drinking water treatment plant on line that many folks say provides better water than they have at home. Major repairs were made to both facilities in late 2012.
- **Office Space:** Inadequate for today's staff and particularly for storage of records required by law.
- **Rice Hall and Derr Hall:** Our large meeting buildings that serve us as recreation centers on rainy days, meeting space for large retreats, overflow program space for environmental education, and as summer camp program space are in need of repair to preserve them. Rice Hall got the main section of a new pitched roof in 2000 and Derr Hall (the Education Building) got a new core roof in 2002 with extension over the classrooms in 2003. A bouldering room was installed and an indoor Gaga Pit was built in 2012. The building is slowly being transformed into an activity center for summer camp and retreat programs/groups.
- **Wallace Hall:** The large building adjacent to the swimming pool has been remodeled into a meeting hall with new bathrooms and changing areas for swimmers.
- **Pool:** A pool replacement, named "Fill the Pool" project was initiated in 2013. The campaign has surpassed its goal of \$150,000 and construction on the new pool will be completed by summer 2016.
- **Indoor Riding Arena:** Constructed in the end of 2015. This addition allows for year-round equestrian programming.

# LUTHERLYN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Rev. Joel Benson (SWPA)	Gibsonia, PA (President)
Amanda Best (NWPA)	Oil City, PA (Vice-President)
Susan Lanna (SWPA)	Pittsburgh, PA (Treasurer)
André Francois (SWPA)	Mars, PA (Secretary)

## MEMBERS

### *Southwestern Synod*

Rev. Kari Smail	Pittsburgh, PA
Rev. Jocelyn Johnston	Freeport, PA
Rev. Tony Schneck	Glenshaw, PA
Rev. Margarethe Galbraith-Cordes	Zelienople, PA
Rev. James Higgins	Sarver, PA
Carrie Nurnburger-Lane	Pittsburgh, PA
Jim Nealon	Pittsburgh, PA

### *Northwestern Synod*

Julie Kosker	Seneca, PA
Rev. Bill Cox	Waterford, PA

### *At Large*

Rev. Jim Engel	Union Town, PA
Dick Albright	Greensburg, PA
Theresa Schroeder	Pittsburgh, PA

## EX OFFICIO

Bishop Kurt Kusserow	Southwestern PA Synod
Rev. Sarah Lee-Faulkner	Southwestern PA Synod
Bishop Ralph E. Jones	Northwestern PA Synod

# DEPARTMENT STAFF

Carla Babcock	Equestrian Program Director
Tim Bock	Adventure Program Coordinator
Erica Ritenour	Registrar/Office Manager
Todd Garcia-Bish	Environmental Ed. Director
Rev. Randy Gullickson	Executive Director
Bob Isenberg	Potter, Woodland Pottery Studio
Nick Claus	Food Service Manager/Head Chef
Debra Roberts	Associate Director
Eric Roehling	Site Manager
Andrea Dunmyre	Development Director

## Important Contact Information

<b>Main Office</b>	<b>724-865-2161</b>
<b>Fax Number</b>	<b>724-865-9794</b>
<b>EE Center</b>	<b>724-865-9079</b>
<b>Kitchen</b>	<b>724-865-0025</b>
<b>Retreat Host Cell Phone</b>	<b>724-822-3715</b>

Main Office Contact	email@lutherlyn.com
Retreat Booking	registrar@lutherlyn.com
Summer Registrations	registrar@lutherlyn.com
Randy Gullickson	randy@lutherlyn.com
Deb Roberts	deb@lutherlyn.com
Development Office	development@lutherlyn.com
Todd Garcia-Bish/LEEP	leep@lutherlyn.com
Tim Bock/Adventure	adventure@lutherlyn.com
Nick Claus/Food Service	foodservice@lutherlyn.com
Carla Babcock/Stables	stables@lutherlyn.com
Eric Roehling/Maintenance	eric@lutherlyn.com
Bob Isenberg/Pottery Studio	woodlandstudio@lutherlyn.com

## Website Quick Links

[www.lutherlyn.com/ee](http://www.lutherlyn.com/ee)  
[www.lutherlyn.com/summer](http://www.lutherlyn.com/summer)  
[www.lutherlyn.com/stables](http://www.lutherlyn.com/stables)  
[www.lutherlyn.com/adventure](http://www.lutherlyn.com/adventure)  
[www.lutherlyn.com/donate](http://www.lutherlyn.com/donate)  
[www.lutherlyn.com/campblast](http://www.lutherlyn.com/campblast)  
[www.lutherlyn.com/summeremployment](http://www.lutherlyn.com/summeremployment)  
[www.lutherlyn.com/funpatch](http://www.lutherlyn.com/funpatch)  
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[www.lutherlyn.com/quilts](http://www.lutherlyn.com/quilts)  
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[www.lutherlyn.com/pool](http://www.lutherlyn.com/pool)  
[www.lutherlyn.com/bricks](http://www.lutherlyn.com/bricks)  
[www.lutherlyn.com/monthly](http://www.lutherlyn.com/monthly)  
[www.lutherlyn.com/pottery](http://www.lutherlyn.com/pottery)  
[www.lutherlyn.com/message](http://www.lutherlyn.com/message)

Environmental Education Program  
Summer Camp Homepage  
Stables Homepage  
Adventure Homepage  
Donations Page  
Camp Blast Web  
Summer Employment Page  
Fun Patch Programs Page  
Golf Outing Page  
Woodland Quilters Page  
Downloads and Publications Page  
Trinity Pines Club Page  
Pool Replacement Project Page  
Memorial Bricks Page  
Monthly Recurring Donations Page  
Woodland Pottery Studio Page  
Summer Camper Message Form

## VITAL SUMMER STATS – LUTHERLYN 2016

<b>Summer Staff Training:</b>	Begins June 5, runs 14 days
<b>Summer Camp:</b>	June 19-August 5, 2016
<b>Style:</b>	Small group camping, between 6 and 10 kids per counselor
<b>Total Summer Staff:</b>	55
<b>Year-round Staff:</b>	12
<b>Age group breakdown:</b>	Juniors - entering grades 4-6 Junior Highs - entering grades 7-9 Senior Highs - entering grades 10-12 Day Camp - entering 1-5 Family Camp - everyone Young Folks - entering 2-3 Small Fry Days – entering 1-3
<b>Activities:</b>	Nature Hikes, Horse Rides, Swimming, Boating, Fishing, Crafts, Sports (Basketball, Volleyball, Soccer, etc.), New Games, Ropes Course Challenges, Zip-line, Archery, Tie Dye, and whatever other wild activities staff comes up with.
<b>Bible Studies:</b>	are done experientially, they are fun and we teach our staff how to lead them effectively.

### CAMP SCHEDULE

Campers arrive:	Between 2:00 and 4:00 p.m. Sunday
Campers depart:	9am. Saturday or 9pm Friday

#### Basic Monday to Friday Daily Schedule

7:00	Rise
7:45	Cabin clean-up
8:00	Morning Watch (devotions)
8:20	Breakfast
9:00	Unit Games/Unit staff meeting
10:00	Cabin group sign-up time for any activity, or Bible Study time
11:00	Cabin group sign-up time for any activity, or Bible Study time
12:15	Lunch
1:00	Horizontal Time
1:30	Cabin group building time
2:30	Activity time for campers to choose activities individually
2:30	Camp Store Opens
4:15	Skill craft time: Each staffer teaches a skill that the campers sign up for earlier in the day
5:30	Dinner
6:30	Camp Game done by age group
7:30	Snack
8:00	Worship
8:45	Campfire
9:30	Get ready for bed, Candle Power

The above schedule is rough and does not include the schedule for special programs, nor does it include our special all camp events.

#### Footnotes:

- 1:00 Monday: Camp Pictures
- 5:30 Wednesday: Theme Night
- Friday night: All Camp Worship & possibly campfire

## EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

Staff Training- The first two weeks of a summer contract (June 5-17) will be spent in staff training. Staff training will include: CPR and First Aid Training, Ropes course facilitator training, group building skills, and position specific skills, e.g. counseling, kitchen procedures, Day Camp curriculum, etc.

<b>Staff Position</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>2016 Salary Range</b>	<b>2016 Contract Dates</b>
<b>Unit Leader</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>\$249-259</b>	<b>May 30 – Aug 6</b>
<b>Counselor</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>\$214-224</b>	<b>June 5 – Aug 6</b>
<b>Day Camp Director</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>\$221-231</b>	<b>June 5 – Aug 6***</b>
<b>Day Camp Counselor</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>\$214-224</b>	<b>June 5 – Aug 6***</b>
<b>Adventure Guide/Counselor</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>\$214-224</b>	<b>June 5 – Aug 6*</b>
<b>Adventure Program Coordinator</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>\$214-224</b>	<b>June 5 – Aug 6*</b>
<b>Riding Instructor</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>\$214-224</b>	<b>June 5 – Aug 6</b>
<b>Waterfront Director</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>\$228-238</b>	<b>June 5 – Aug 6**</b>
<b>Lifeguard</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>\$206-216</b>	<b>June 5 – Aug 6**</b>
<b>Crafts Director</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>\$216-226</b>	<b>June 5 – Aug 6</b>
<b>Crafts Assistant</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>\$206-216</b>	<b>June 5 – Aug 6</b>
<b>Media Director/Photographer</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>\$206-216</b>	<b>June 5 – Aug 6</b>
<b>Kitchen Staff</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>\$206-216</b>	<b>June 5 – Aug 6**</b>
<b>Residential Grounds Crew</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>\$206-216</b>	<b>May 30 – Aug 12</b>

\*Plus 3 days of additional training in May

\*\*Some contracted through August 14th

\*\*\*Plus one day of Day Camp training on May 30

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If a student has been given minimum summer earning figures to receive financial aid in the following school year, please carefully consider the fact that you are also compensated by receiving room and board from Lutherlyn during your contract period. Lutherlyn is a Pennsylvania State approved Work-Study site. Those who qualify may be eligible for \$400-\$600 in matching funds through this program.

All staff are required to participate in a clear Act 34 background checks. Staff who may drive camp vehicles will be required in advance of actual employment dates to provide Lutherlyn with their Drivers License information.

Some colleges & universities offer scholarships to students who serve on summer camp staffs. Check with your campus pastor and/or financial aid office to see if your school will provide any additional assistance.

## 2016 LUTHERLYN TEMPLE TALK OUTLINE

**GREETINGS:** From our camp. Lutherlyn is OUR camp. We, along with the other 280 western Pennsylvania ELCA congregations, own it and have a lot to say about the ministry done at Lutherlyn through our board members whom we elect at Synod Assembly.

**A TESTIMONIAL STORY** (*Theme - A week at Lutherlyn makes a difference*)

### THROUGH:

- **An unfaltering commitment to Gospel-centered living**
- **A commitment to experiential education** - Experience rather than talk is the best teacher.
- **The witness and role-modeling of an intensively trained staff of mature Christian men and women**
- **Small group, family living** - 6 to 10 campers and their counselor in a cabin living unit
- **A diverse offering of both familiar and unique program activities** -

Classic	Rocketry	Night Owl Club	Horse Camp	Small Fry Days
Sports Camp	Family Camp	Young Folks Short Week		
Arts Camp	Venture	Life in the Wild (Nature)		
- **A commitment to respect all life and care for the earth;**
- **A creative and practical approach to Bible study and worship** -Our unique approach to Bible study and worship is experiential and inductive. Kids actually love it...*Can we do another one today?*

**A week at Lutherlyn makes a difference.**

SEARCH INSTITUTE DID A STUDY: They asked over 2,000 young people what shaped their faith.

As a faith shaping influence in the lives of young people the results came in with camp as the second most mentioned.

1 <sup>st</sup> : Mom - 75%	2 <sup>nd</sup> : Camp - <b>56%</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> : Dad – 54%	4 <sup>th</sup> : Pastor – 43%
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**A week at Lutherlyn makes a difference.**

*What do campers experience at camp?* Campers mature in personal independence and group living skills, grow in relational ability, feel faith come alive, know the goodness and joy of life, and learn that they can make a difference.

**A week at Lutherlyn makes a difference.**

At Lutherlyn children have **fun**. They learn and develop skills – crafts, water sports, horseback riding, the arts, social skills, decision making, living well with peers, an understanding and appreciation of the natural world, independence, and so on. They eat wholesome meals sitting down with friends, tableware and manners. They get LOTS of exercise from sports, creek walks, hiking, climbing. They find their thoughts, ideas, and feelings respected. They are listened to and cared about. *They hear the story of God's saving love* and participate in an **intentional Christian community**. They participate in “under the radar” giving to global missions and living with open hands. Daily, they experience Morning Watch, Bible Study, worship, campfire, the faith stories of their counselors, and Candle power.

**Lutherlyn has made a promise!** We promise to never turn away a kid from attending camp due to financial limitations. Would you help us continue to maintain a strong campership fund? Thank you!

**THANK YOU!** Volunteers, Camperships, Prayers, Gifts

### **2016 INVITATIONS:**

**CAMP BLAST!** May 7, 2016 11am - 4:30pm...Completely FREE (food and activities) day. A day of fun that highlights all that Lutherlyn has to offer. Special discounts for those who register for camp for the first time and those who bring someone who registers for the first time! Begins with Worship in the Amphitheater at 11am and concludes with campfire @ 4pm.

**Summer Theme coming up:** Hear and Live

**Work Days** on April 23 and October 1...Skilled and unskilled labor...we need the help!

**TO STAY INFORMED:** **Lutherlyn.com**, Newsletter (printed yearly), E-mail Newsletter (Monthly, Sign-Up on website) Brochures, The Bulletin Board, ME

## Some Quick Comments/Praises:

- ◆ I went to Lutherlyn with my church for a confirmation thing. Before I went I was suffering from emotional problems such as depression. Bad things had recently been happening to me and sadly I was losing my faith in God because of it all. Then there was my trip to Lutherlyn. Going there was the best thing that ever happened to me. I made new friends and began to lose my state of depression. When I first got there I had to act happy all the time. But then gradually over time I simply became happy. I smiled and had the time of my life. My faith was restored more and more every night at campfire when we sang songs about God and our faith. Thanks to Lutherlyn I haven't been depressed once since that summer. Being there is like being in heaven for me. I plan on going back every year and once I'm old enough I'll try to become a staff person. I wanna keep Lutherlyn a part of my life for as long as possible.  
*--From a 15 year old camper*
- ◆ Every minute that I've spent at camp was a life changing experience for me. It's just the whole atmosphere there. It makes you forget the world and just focus on you and God, and that's what makes it soo relaxing.  
*--A long-time camper*
- ◆ I think the biggest thing Lutherlyn has taught me this year is to learn how to trust. With my Venture discovery group, it took a lot of trust to hold us together. I think after we finally got all of us over the wheel at Stargate (one of the group challenge activities) though, it finally clicked for me what trust is (which in my mind is knowing that once you make it over with wheel without touching it, people will catch you on the other end.) That was by far my life changing experience this year; It was wonderful to bond with and trust the people that I grew to love so dearly that week.  
*--16 year old Venture Camper*
- ◆ All the friends I made at camp...wow. They are simply lovely! I find it amazing that on Sunday, you can't even remember everyone's name, by Monday, you all get along, Tuesday some just "click" with you more than others, but everyone has a blast, then by Wednesday you always feel like you've met your new best friend. Friday, or Saturday-you cry your eyes out after exchanging e-mail addresses because the best week of your life just ended. Then, six months later, there are still people from camp that you talk to...some like every day. Just one week with someone, and you can be friends for LIFE...pretty sweet if you ask me! And the best part is this, virtually everyone accepts you for who you are...I don't find clicks as much at camp, and even when there are they aren't malicious groups trying to make people feel bad, its more of a few tight pals who have camped since they were like 5 together, and have too much fun and too many insiders to every be able to explain! Ya...Lutherlyn is the best...its like a constant variable...always different people, different activities, and different times, but always something you know will change your life...for the better...and offer the best time ever. I think I have had about twenty million best weeks of my life...  
*-- Long-time camper and now a summer staff member*
- ◆ Every time I'm at Lutherlyn it changes my life for the better in a way nobody but those who go to Lutherlyn could ever know. Gotta love it.  
*-- A long-time camper*

# The Starfish Story

adapted from The Star Thrower  
by Loren Eiseley - 1907 - 1977

Once upon a time, there was a wise man who used to go to the ocean to do his writing. He had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work.

One day, as he was walking along the shore, he looked down the beach and saw a human figure moving like a dancer. He smiled to himself at the thought of someone who would dance to the day, and so, he walked faster to catch up.

As he got closer, he noticed that the figure was that of a young man, and that what he was doing was not dancing at all. The young man was reaching down to the shore, picking up small objects, and throwing them into the ocean.

He came closer still and called out "Good morning! May I ask what it is that you are doing?"

The young man paused, looked up, and replied "Throwing starfish into the ocean."

"I must ask, then, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?" asked the somewhat startled wise man.

To this, the young man replied, "The sun is up and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in, they'll die."

Upon hearing this, the wise man commented, "But, young man, do you not realize that there are miles and miles of beach and there are starfish all along every mile? You can't possibly make a difference!"

At this, the young man bent down, picked up yet another starfish, and threw it into the ocean. As it met the water, he said, "**It made a difference for that one.**"

## Starfish Story

As an old man walked the beach at dawn, he noticed a young woman ahead of him picking up starfish and flinging them into the sea. Finally, catching up with the youth, he asked her why she was doing this. The answer was that the stranded starfish would die if left until the morning sun. "But the beach goes on for miles and there are millions of starfish," said the old man. "How can your efforts make a difference?" The young woman looked at the starfish in her hand, threw it safely into the waves, and said, "**It makes a difference to this one.**"

Dear Parents,

A week at Lutherlyn is an important investment in your child's future. As parents we are responsible for the holistic well-being of our children: physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. We need to be sure that our kids get an education, that they eat well and get plenty of exercise, that they learn to deal with and constructively express their feelings, and that they develop and mature spiritually.

Lutherlyn addresses all these aspects of personhood and more. Here your child will learn and develop skills – crafts, water sports, horseback riding, aviation, the arts, social skills, decision making, living well with peers, and so on. Here they will eat wholesome meals from our dietician approved menus (sitting down with friends, tableware and manners). They will get LOTS of exercise from sports, creek walks, hiking, climbing, and “getting from here to there.” Here they will find their feelings respected and they will know that they are listened to and cared about. They will grow spiritually.

Today, “spirituality” is a popular notion. It often is connected with the power of the ocean, the beauty of a sunset, the quiet of meditation, the solitude of the forest, and other such experiences in which people come near to that “intangible something greater than themselves” that fills them with a sense of meaning and wonder. That intangible something is the One who made the forests and sunsets and oceans and who fills silence with profound meaning. It is God. To connect a child with God – to show a child that they can do more than capture fleeting moments of meaning and go on to experience a relationship with God in Christ, is to give a child a sense of place in the universe, a sense of meaning and value. It is to ground a person in a faith that provides the basis for character, personal conduct, positive relationships, and that may one day “get them through” a health crisis, disaster, tragedy, loss, and grief. It is a rock upon which to build a life.

As a parent you have many things to consider when it comes to spending your hard-earned dollars on your children. As a parent I have always felt that the dollars best spent were spent on things that matter for a lifetime.

An often heard comment from parents goes something like this: At Lutherlyn, my kids “get it.”

At Lutherlyn we are committed to excellence. We are committed to doing our very best work for your very best child. And we are committed to a 65 year old promise that no child will be excluded from the benefits and blessings of a week at Lutherlyn for financial reasons.

Let Lutherlyn help you build a solid foundation of faith under your child's life.

*Pastor Randy Shullickson*

## IMPORTANT NOTES FOR PARENTS:

Dear Parent(s),

Thank you so much for registering your child for a wonderful week at Lutherlyn! We are going to have a great week full of life-changing adventures in faith! We know that you are putting a lot of trust in us by leaving your child with us for a week. Our staff are well trained and prepared to act “in loco parentis” (in place of a reasonable parent) while your child is in our care. Some of the precautions that we take to assure that your child is safe at Lutherlyn are:

- All of the staff go through a thorough application and interview process. Only the best are chosen... only staff that we would trust with our own children.
- We do a criminal background check, a check of the national registry of sex offenders, and check 3 references for every potential employee.
- Each staff person signs Lutherlyn’s staff policies and violation means termination.
- Our two week staff training program includes Red Cross First Aid & CPR, emergency procedures, homesickness, all the elements prescribed by the American Camp Association (ACA) – and more!
- There is at least one nurse living on the site each week. All medications and health forms are kept locked in the health hut to prohibit unauthorized access to camper’s personal information and medications.
- Lutherlyn’s Directors live only minutes away and are available to the Summer Staff 24/7 for any sort of incident or emergency throughout the summer.

There are many more but these are some of the measures that we take to ensure your child’s safety.

There are things that you can do to help ensure that your child’s week at camp is successful. Please share with them how excited you are for the AWESOME experience they are going to have! Tell them that you will miss them, but please do not dwell on how hard it will be for you to send them to camp. (Believe it or not, we have had several homesick campers who really wanted to have fun but were worried that mom was missing them too much!) It is generally not helpful to share stories about cabin raids, hazing, or scary experiences you may have had or heard about... none of that happens at Lutherlyn! Reassure your child that Lutherlyn is a safe place where they will HAVE FUN, be cared for, experience new things, and grow in their faith!

We also know that some parents find it difficult to go a whole week without talking with their child. Lutherlyn adheres to a strict “no cell phone” policy. Here’s why:

- The safety of your child is our first concern. When campers are able to make phone calls from camp, it creates a potential for “unexpected visitors.” The ACA reports that they can also create alarm among parents and in the media in the event of an emergency at camp by spreading partial or inaccurate information.
- Camp is an opportunity for campers to “live in the moment” in an “intentional Christian community” in a “place apart.” The distraction of phone contact dilutes the experience rather than enhancing it.
- Along with growth in faith, the camp experience is intended to help kids become independent, to build social skills, emotional resilience, and, in a place committed to their success and well-being, to stand on their own. They simply do better and grow more, when they are allowed to do that on their own.

**Please help us enforce this policy. Please DO NOT allow your child to bring a cell phone to camp!**

You can send an online message by visiting [www.lutherlyn.com/message](http://www.lutherlyn.com/message). Campers will not be able to reply but your message will be printed and distributed with the mail at lunch. You can write letters and mail them to: PO Box 355, Prospect, PA 16052. Campers have the opportunity to write letters after lunch each day. Stamps are available from the camp store. Photos will be added to our password protected photo site daily so you can see how much fun we are having at camp! Photo Site: [www.lutherlyn.shutterfly.com](http://www.lutherlyn.shutterfly.com) Password: adventure We assure you that if anything comes up during the week concerning your child, we will call you. Please contact us if you have questions or concerns that we can address prior to your camper’s arrival. Thank you for trusting us with your child and for providing them with, what many have described as, the BEST week EVER!

Sincerely,

Rev. Randal Gullickson, C.C.D.  
Executive Director

Debra Roberts, A.I.M.  
Associate Director