

Lutherlyn History Information & Dates

Executive Directors:

1946-1949:	Director of Camping:	Dr. Russell F. Steininger
1949-1962:	Executive Director:	Rev. Samuel S. Shaulis
1963-1966:	Director of Camping:	The Rev. Donald D. Anderson
1967-1985:	Executive Director:	Edward R. Miller
1985-present:	Executive Director:	The Rev. Randal K. Gullickson

Relevant Dates: 1943-present

- 1943: The Executive Board approved and the synod voted favorably on a petition signed by 30 pastors of the Pittsburgh Synod (United Lutheran Church in America), asking for the appointment of a committee to establish a leadership camp.
- 1944: A preliminary study was made by the Synodical Summer Camp Committee of the possibility of establishing and maintaining a camp within the territory of the Synod. The findings were "exceedingly encouraging." A centrally located site had been found and the need appeared to be urgent.
- 1945: The original land purchase included 147 acres at a cost of \$8,300
- On September 5, 1945 the camp was officially named Lutherlyn
- On October 1, 1945 the Department of State for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania registered Lutherlyn as a nonprofit corporation
- 1946: Construction of the main road (Lutherlyn Lane)
- Grounds prepared for construction
- 1947: An appeal for funds from the congregations of the Pittsburgh Synod began. Rev. Paul E. Daugherty served as director of the appeal. Total raised: \$53,036.29
- 1948: A well was drilled; power lines constructed; sewage system laid; Chapel Hill was graded
- Ten cabins, Hunker Hall (dining hall and kitchen), and Brotherhood (known today as Lower) Lake, and gas line constructed
- Lutherlyn operated as a Day Camp conducting programs with a Vespers service conducted on Sunday's at 4:30 (June 15-August). "Fall Institute" August 9-13 program conducted from 11:30am-8pm.

- 1949: Lutherlyn's formal dedication service was held, officiated by Rev. Shepfer. More than 4,000 people attend the dedication (June 10)
- Rev. Samuel S. Shaulis becomes executive director of Lutherlyn (July 1)
- Hunker Hall completed and dedicated
- The first official summer program was offered at Lutherlyn. The program was geared to leadership education. Attendance: 426 One week of camp cost \$16.00
- Ten additional camper cabins, six faculty cabins, craft cabin, and administration building constructed
- 1950: Young Adult and Family Camp was offered for the first time
- Rice Hall constructed
- The Aquatic School of the Red Cross was first held June 12-22. This school was held each year at Lutherlyn well into the 1960's
- 1951: Rice Hall named and dedicated
- Storage rooms added onto Hunker Hall
- 1952: Chapel Hill completed and dedicated (June 7)
- Lutherlyn hosts its first wedding - Dorothy Shaulis, daughter of the Executive Director, married Robert Sernet.
- Second Craft Cabin constructed
- One more faculty cabin, four more camper cabins, health cabin (present day Miller Center) and director's cabin (present day Ark) constructed
- 1953: Upper Lake Constructed
- 1954: Chapel Hill benches installed
- Derr Hall (also known as Education Building) constructed
- Addition to Administration Building (store, and Counsel Room, known today as Stewart Retreat Center) completed
- Boat House at Brotherhood Lake constructed
- 1955: 1,621 campers attended
- Basketball, Volleyball, Badminton, and Tennis courts constructed

- Restrooms at Rice Hall and picnic grounds completed
- 1956: 1,916 summer campers
- 1957: 38 acres were purchased between 1956-57 from the Carnahan Farm
- 1958: The 12 cabins comprising the Junior Camp (later named Camp Shaulis) were built.
First Junior Camp faculty cabin built
2,609 Summer Campers
- 1959: Ed Miller becomes Lutherlyn camp business manager
Second Junior Camp faculty cabin built
Administration Building received addition (extending the rear of the building)
- 1960: Business Manager Cabin constructed (known today as Shively Health Hut)
- 1961: Workshop and Maintenance Building built
- 1962: Wallace Hall constructed (known originally as Mary Wallace Nixon Hall) in Junior Camp
Rev. Samuel Shaulis retires; Dr. Don Anderson takes leadership as Director of Camping
- 1963: Hunker Hall addition groundbreaking
- 1964: Hunker Hall small dining hall addition completed
Trinity Pines outpost camping established
- 1965: Conestoga wagons built for camping programs at upper lake
- 1966: Barn property purchased
Junior Camp officially named Camp Shaulis
- 1967: Ed Miller becomes executive director
- 1968: Lutherlyn had grown to 543 acres. A week of camp cost \$30.00 and still operated with volunteer staff
- 1969: First backpacking trail camp conducted in Cooks Forest
Sail boating becomes a new activity using three molded Styrofoam boats
Off-site trip camping initiated
- 1970: The transition to paid summer staff was being made

Transition from large group conference style programming to small group style of camping

Year-round camping introduced

Lutherlyn had grown to 640 acres

Fall Environmental Education Program begins hosting school students for a week in September and October

Wallace Hall winterized to allow for winter retreats and rental groups

1971: Model Rocketry Program begins under the leadership of Unit Leader, Dick Freed

New shower and toilet facility completed for family campground (later Rustic Retreat Area). The campground boasted 21 sites with electricity. The campground became available for open rental of sites.

Last year for the traditional Lutherlyn Yearbook

1972: Shively Health Hut and Staff Lounge and remodeled and winterized

1973: Lutherlyn turns 25!

1974: Specialty programs during the summer continue to gain popularity.

1974 summer camp options included Outpost, Canoeing, Horseback Riding, Sports-a-Field, Bicycle Camp, White Water Rafting, Trail Camp, Baton Twirling, Model Rocketry, Confirmation Camp, Family Camp, Canadian and Upper Delaware Canoe Trip.

1975: First programmed bus trip to the West began. 13 days, \$250.00, Grand Canyon, Rocky Mountains, Black Hills, Mt. Rushmore, and the Bad Lands.

1976:

1977: Fourteen buildings were winterized enabling programming to be conducted year-round

Amphitheater construction begins

1978: Lutherlyn serves 7652 people (year-round)

1979:

1980: Amphitheater dedicated to Rev. Steininger

1981: Three family cabins were built in the family campgrounds

1982: Lutherlyn's first ever capital fund campaign (named A Continued Vision) began. This campaign resulted in nearly every building was reroofed , 8,000 feet of new gas line was

laid, new shower houses were built, the debt to the synod was retired, and a large addition was built on to the maintenance building

“Half-Week” Program (Later named Young Folks Short Weeks) Begins

1983: Horse-drawn wagon train fundraiser travels 50 miles to Thiel College in hopes to help raise the needed \$700,000 for their capital campaign.

First Adult and Family Work Weekend with 18 families on April 9 & 10

1984: Upper Shower House completed

1985: Lower Shower House (now known as Redwood Lodge) completed

Lutherlyn Horsebacker organization helped to add a new tack room to the red barn

As a result of the “A Continued Vision” campaign, 60 buildings saw new roofs installed

August 1, Rev. Randal K. Gullickson begins tenure as executive director

1986: Randy (R.J.) and Mir Youngquist-Thurrow joined the staff as Assistant Director and summer registrar /later Nature Program Director, respectively. They both helped grow Lutherlyn’s programs for the next 10 years.

Entrance road resurfaced

The swimming pool constructed and dedicated to Rev. Pat Maier three years later

New “village plan” cabins projected

New Programs “Go For It!” adventure weeks and “Venture” special senior high program

Ropes Course built with seven different group building events

Stacking chairs donated for use in the Education Building in honor of Rev. Paul Daughtery

Trinity Pines Club (donors club) initiated

“Life Changing Adventures in Faith” adopted as slogan

1987: First Log Cabin Built as prototype for others (Now Yellow Pine)

Stewart Retreat Center gets facelift

Lutherlyn Ambassador Program hosts its first official training weekend

Moon Walk (bungee element) installed

Trinity Pines Club started with 47 charter members

Brick pathway installed connecting the office and Camp Shaulis

Amphitheater expanded

1988: 40th Anniversary celebrated with day-long celebration

The old director's cabin was remodeled and became the Ark Guest House to be used for personal retreats

1989: Nature Center – Eberly Environmental Education Center built in memory of Orville and Ruth (Oct.)

Lutherlyn Environmental Education Program (LEEP) was developed as a program especially designed for Lutherlyn as part of Mir Youngquist-Thurrow's Master of Education degree.

Swimming pool area remodeled and dedicated to Rev. P.A.L. Maier

Shively Health Hut Remodeled (funded by Lehaw family)

Ed Miller retires from Lutherlyn serving 30 years (business manager, camp director, executive director, and development director)

Five A-frame village cabins were built

The Lutherlyn Environmental Education Program (LEEP) began serving schools all over southwestern PA (200 students)

Camp goes "on the road" for the first time with a traveling summer day camp program.

First Benefit Golf Outing

1990: First Gathering of Lutheran Men retreat

New bunk beds constructed to replace old cots in cinder block cabins

1991: The second log cabin was built (funded by Dorothy McKee)

1992: Lutherlyn's first Summerfest

The third log cabin was built (funded by Leola Keck) constructed by members of Prince of Peace in Erie

The horse barn was remodeled with new box stalls and a new floor

Lutherlyn's family campground was renamed "Rustic Retreat Area" and becomes a specific organized "retreat" only facility.

- 1993: Participation in the LEEP program and other environmental education programs neared 3,000
- A new sewer system was finally completed after 15 years of engineering planning and setbacks
- 1994: The Keeping the Promise Appeal was launched (to fund the new dining hall)
- The Sugar Shack is constructed and the Maple Syrup Program was launched
- Terra Dei garden began on the future Terra Dei homestead site
- Octagon Picnic Pavilion was constructed
- 1995: Terra Dei home construction started. Terra Dei was Pennsylvania's first straw-bale insulated house.
- Log Cabin Village is Complete
- 1996: Terra Dei Homestead completed
- 1997: New Dining Hall groundbreaking (October)
- The lower shower house was converted into Redwood Lodge, a beautiful new meeting space – funded by Gordie and Polly Bachman
- First Ridge Village Cabin constructed, a gift of Dale and Jean Smart
- 1998: Lutherlyn turns 50! Ed Miller presents the History of Lutherlyn at the 50th Anniversary Celebration
- 2,300 Summer campers
- Cabin Locust (the first Ridge Village) was completed and dedicated during the 50th Anniversary celebration
- Dogwood shelter was built and Wallace Hall was converted into a temporary kitchen to be used to serve food during the summer.
- www.lutherlyn.com is launched (February)
- Dining hall contractor fired and completion was set back for a year later
- Water treatment and waste water disposal system completed
- 1999: Lee Lindeman assumes position of Assistant Director
- New Dining Hall completed and dedicated

- Trinity Pines Club reaches 500 members
- 2000: Terra Dei dedicated celebrating the realization of the original dream for the Terra Dei Homestead
- Friendship Way installed
- 2001: Lutherlyn serves 19,500 people
- Ridge Village Cabins nearing completion. Four of these cabins funded by a generous gift of Dale and Jeane Smart
- 2002: New lighting system installed at Steinger Memorial Amphitheater
- 2003: Beginning of construction for the last village on main camp (Arbor Village)
- New roof constructed on Education Building and Rice Hall
- Dining Hall quilting the walls project started
- Abandoned Mine Mitigation Project and Wind Energy Project began
- 2004: New path lighting from parking lot to dining hall
- 2005: With the State Energy Harvest Grant a new wind turbine on Chapel Hill to provide power to Terra Dei was constructed
- Full sand beach provided to lower lake swimming area
- 2006: Trinity Pines Club 20th Anniversary
- Main Camp cabin replacement project completed
- Deb (Brut) Roberts assumes the position of Assistant Director
- 2007: Gaga pit built and introduced to campers
- 2008: Solar Panels installed at Terra Dei allowing the homestead to produce all its own power through wind and solar
- Worship and Music Center construction begins
- 2009: Woodland Quilters hold first quilt auction to benefit Campership Fund
- The Indian Cave becomes an official archeological dig site
- 2010: Model Rocketry program celebrates its 40th summer
- 18 new box stalls were built with three old cabin roofs at the Stables

- Abandoned Mine Mitigation Project a success, Semiconon run declared healthy
- 2011: Education Building classroom converted into an indoor heated Bouldering Room
Over 300 new mattresses installed into 30 cabins
New High Ropes Course and 860-foot zipline constructed and completed before summer's end
Lutherlyn purchased Hilliard property off Dick road near Chapel Rock
- 2012: Camp Blast! – a highly advertised free Open House, held May 6, hosted over 1,300 people and encouraged over 120 kids to sign up for summer camp
New indoor Gaga Pit constructed in an Education Building classroom
- 2013: More solar panels constructed at Terra Dei to replace windmill
Low ropes course elements added in the areas around Rice Hall
Primary construction for the Worship and Music Center is completed - its first official function was held in the fall
Pool replacement fundraising project begins
The Worship and Music Center wall construction is completed by the work of Todd Garcia-Bish, Environmental Education Director, and his staff.
5k FoamFest , a run with mud, foam, and obstacles, brings over 5,000 people to Lutherlyn in one day
- 2014: Bob Isenberg joins Lutherlyn as the resident potter to help launch the Woodland Center for Arts and Crafts; Craft Cabin No. 2 is converted into the Woodland Pottery Studio
Staff Cabin No. 4 is converted into the blacksmith shop - Flavius Brinsfield is brought in to launch the Woodland Forge
Construction on an art gallery building begins in Camp Shaulis behind the J cabins
Construction on bathrooms outside of the Worship and Music Center begins
- 2015: Bullfrog Fire Circle and Lakeside Chapel receive a facelift
New pool is constructed
Funds are raised for an Indoor Riding Arena; the building is constructed in November
Woodland Center for Arts & Crafts offers various Fiber Arts classes

Cabin Tamarack is moved and placed on a new pre-cast foundation

Two chef's tasting fundraising events are held featuring 7-course meals. The fall event, Harvest Feast, also included a Quilt & Pie Auction which raised over \$6,700 for camperships.