

AN AMPHITHEATER FULL OF MEMORIES

The amphitheater at Camp Lutherlyn, dedicated to Rev. Dr. Russell Steininger, holds a special place in the hearts of those who visit. In 1980, Russell's vision transformed a natural spot within the camp into a beautiful amphitheater for gathering and worship. His foresight created a sacred space where campers and the community could come together to celebrate milestones and experience the peace and quiet of nature. Over the years, thousands of individuals have gathered at this serene location for weddings, camp ceremonies, and moments of worship, all surrounded by the beauty of God's creation.

Russell's dedication to this space has become a lasting legacy, as all of his children, grandchildren, and great-granchildren have attended the camp, each getting to experience the amphitheater firsthand. For them and countless others, the amphitheater is a place where people of all ages can pause and reflect, away from the distractions of the world, appreciating the tranquility and spiritual significance of the surroundings. Russell Steininger's vision continues to impact lives, offering a peaceful retreat to worship and appreciate the beauty of Camp Lutherlyn.

By Maggie Drennen (Great-Granddaughter of Rev. Dr. Steininger)





As each week of camp draws to a close, gathering in the amphitheater for worship brings a very impactful moment – giving affirmations to my campers. A week at camp brings many opportunities to see campers' gifts from God, which include creativity, bravery, and kindness, among countless others. As a Cabin Leader, I find great joy in seeing how God works through each camper. As the week progresses, more gifts come to light, and it becomes very apparent just how unique each camper is. The act of giving an affirmation allows me to articulate to a camper the ways in which I see God's light shining through them. It is a moment that celebrates their abilities and contributions to our camp community throughout the week. My hope is that affirmations resonate in the heart of each camper and that they are encouraged to continue carrying that light and sharing each gift long after our time at camp has ended. I can still remember affirmations I received as a camper years ago, and it is truly a blessing to be on the other side of things, affirming my campers now as a staff member.

By Sydney Shifko (Cabin Leader)

My experience in the amphitheater is always good! I like that everybody comes together at the end of the week for Friday closing worship. I enjoy seeing the creek and all the nature around the amphitheater. I think that the end of the week is important because you can say goodbye to all the friends you made. I also like how special my cabin leaders make me feel and I take that feeling with me the rest of the year.

By Caiden (age 12 Adventure Camper)





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

INTERNATIONAL STAFF HIGHLIGHT

What are the chances that a German finds their way into Butler County, PA to work at a Christian summer camp?! Hi, I'm Jannik, 21 years old, from eastern Germany and I was an adventure cabin leader this summer.

I thank God so much for my experience this summer! Since day one, I felt like I'm where I should be because people came to Lutherlyn 10+ years in a row! Whenever I arrived at camp, until the end, there was always somebody that had an open ear for me. It's fun to look in the rear-view mirror and see how shy we were in the beginning. "Get to know you" games changed our whole summer. We became one big family. Even though it is one of the hardest jobs, it is also one of the most giving experiences and I loved it. Lutherlyn enriched my life in so many ways. I brought home a change within myself, and so much love in my heart from all the staff and campers. I hope I see Lutherlyn again soon.

By Jannik (Adventure Cabin Leader)

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OUR MISSION

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.



LETTER TO OUR CAMPERS

Dear church, is how so many letters that Paul and other leaders of this messy bunch of Christ followers, started. You, yes you, dear camper are part of the church. We still are a messy bunch at times, and so is the world, but we know that we are still loved so deeply by God.

We try to do our very best to care for others, ourselves, our planet, and our relationship with God. We often slip up on most of these. AND YET, God continually reaches out, searches out for each of us to remind us of how wonderful we are. Maybe the glow of your week of summer camp has worn off? Maybe your friends have gotten tired of hearing about your week at Lutherlyn? Maybe you are just feeling down?

During a busy schedule or a stressful time of the year, we hope you remember a few things. Remember the moment you overcame something tough at camp. Remember the songs. Remember the laughter. Remember who you are created to be. Remember the words your cabin leader spoke to you in the amphitheater. Remember that you have been given the light of Christ, and that light goes with you wherever you may go.

Sharing that light, and remembering that you've got it can be difficult things, but dear camper, be of good courage for you are making this world a brighter and better place.

-Pastor Ryan Fitch, Associate Director

CALLING ALL MUSICAL THEATER CAMPERS

The summer of 2025 is the 40th anniversary of Pastor Bill Brewer writing original musicals for Lutherlyn. That is 40 years of Musical Theater campers who performed at Lutherlyn! In honor of Pastor Brewer, we are inviting all former Musical Theater campers, summer staff, and friends to join us on Friday, June 27th for the camper's performance of the 40th musical. The show is at 5:45pm in Baker Chapel (plan to arrive at Lutherlyn by 5:30 to park and walk to Baker Chapel). After the performance, we will have a reception/reunion with Pastor Brewer in Baker Chapel. Please visit www.Lutherlyn.com/musical40 to RSVP and/or send a message to Pastor Brewer.

$100 Off For First-Time Campers

Use coupon code FIRST when registering to receive $100 off the registration fee for Summer Camp. This applies to Lutherlyn's residential week-long programs. Young Folks half-week program is $50 off for FIRST-TIME campers with the same code. Does not apply to Family Camp, Confirmation Camp, Day Camps, Small Frys, or Grown Up and Me Days. Must be a FIRST-TIME summer camper. No additional discounts may be combined with this offer.

THEME NIGHT

Olympics and the Summer of Soccer were on TV this summer, but our campers were enjoying all the ballgames for Wednesday Theme Night 2024. Everyone at camp was invited to bring a shirt that was sports related for the evening. Our meal on Wednesday was stadium food staples of nachos, corndogs, watermelon, vegetables, and funnel cake. Evening activities included: world cup soccer, basketball, batting practice, 7th inning stretch, football toss, archery, a flick football craft, and gaga. Campfire closed the evening with a touchdown of excitement. Campers celebrated the best "coach" (staff member that campers voted for during the games) with a championship-win-style dumping of water. We sang Take Me Out to the Ballgame in varied styles like pirate (Take me out to the ocean…), horse, space, or LUTHERLYN STYLE. And, finally, the last play of the evening was singing sanctuary together.

We are excited to announce that the theme night for 2025 will be Farmyard Fun!





SUMMER STAFF 2025

We are looking for the next incredible team of leaders to serve Lutherlyn's 2025 campers! If you know anyone who would make a great staff member at Lutherlyn, please encourage them to check out: www.lutherlyn.com/summeremployment Applications are being accepted NOW for the 2025 Summer Staff!



2025 SUMMER CURRICULUM: GOD'S WORD COMES NEAR

Think about the last time you heard a great story. Did it make you laugh? Bring a tear to your eye? Evoke joy or anger, love or sadness? Each story, and every part of our lives, is shaped by words - spoken, heard, and read. The greatest story, though, is that of God's love for all of creation. In the beginning God spoke words to create light and life. God's Word came alive in Jesus Christ, the Savior. God's Word sustains us today. We read God's Word in scripture. The many ways we understand "Word" are at the heart of the theme for each week this summer. The theme is based on Romans 10:8 "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart."



GOD'S WORD COMES NEAR

SUMMER OFFERING PROJECT

Each summer, Lutherlyn's campers have the opportunity at Wednesday all-camp worship to give an offering from their store account towards a special project for the summer. Over the past 20 years, Lutherlyn's campers have given over $150,000 to projects all over the world. 2024's Summer Campers raised $3,600 which purchased 120 ceramic water filters through the ELCA Good Gift Program (www.goodgifts.elca.org). These water filters will serve as a blessing to communities throughout the world that are experiencing a crisis, leaving them without access to clean water. Thank you to our summer campers for living with open hands and spreading God's love around the globe!

About your gift:

When safe drinking water just isn't available — especially in times following natural disasters or emergencies — **a simple ceramic water filter is a lifesaver.** Capable of purifying water without electricity or chemicals, a water filter is a powerful, reliable way to provide safe water when it's needed most.

This gift supports Lutheran Disaster Response.



ELCA GOOD GIFTS | A gift has been given in your honor.



FAMILY FOREST CARBON PROGRAM

Since 2018, Lutherlyn has been investigating ways to increase the health of our forests while allowing them to provide income. In May, the Lutherlyn Board of Directors signed a letter of agreement with the Family Forest Carbon Program (FFCP). This entity is a joint venture of the American Forest Foundation and The Nature Conservancy.

The Family Forest Carbon Program is designed for landowners that have at least 30 acres of forested land and are interested in improving the health of their forest. The landowner receives advice from a consulting forester, a site-specific forest management plan, and annual income. In exchange, FFCP markets verified carbon credits to companies that want to reduce carbon emissions. The amount of carbon credits marketed are based on the carbon being sequestered by the landowner's woodland.

Since joining the FFCP, Lutherlyn has already benefited from the advice of a consulting forester as we deal with the impact of the woolly adelgid on our hemlock trees. We are looking forward to using our forest management plan to increase the health of our woodlands and finding ways to reduce the impact of invasive species. In addition, we are excited about the possibilities to increase wildlife habitat and promote a more mature forest. This is a wonderful opportunity to become better stewards of the forests that have been entrusted to us.



LIFE IN THE WILD

This year's "Life in the Wild" summer camp program at Lutherlyn provided a vibrant mix of adventure and education, immersing campers in the beauty of nature. Each morning brought new specialties for campers to explore.

Junior High campers enjoyed "Outdoor Adventures," trying canoeing, archery, backpacking, campfire cooking, fishing, and orienteering. They discovered hidden talents in fishing (though Big Louie eluded capture!) and enjoyed tasty treats by the campfire. Our Junior campers learned survival skills like building shelters, purifying water, and identifying edible plants, fostering confidence and respect for nature. In "Dig It!," campers worked with Lutherlyn's archaeologist to unearth artifacts from a historic homestead, sparking curiosity about the past.

"Life in the Wild" not only teaches outdoor skills but also builds friendships and deepens understanding of the natural world. Each camper leaves with unforgettable memories, newfound skills, and inspiration to continue exploring and respecting nature long after their time at Lutherlyn.



SON SHINE SOLAR FARM

Over the past 2-3 years, we have been working with Luminous Keystone to explore the possibility of a solar farm at Lutherlyn. Progress continues for Son Shine Solar Farm, and we anticipate the construction of 45-60 acres of solar arrays starting in early 2026. Construction should last less than 1 year. The Solar Farm will be in fields that are currently leased to a farmer along route 528. Lutherlyn will receive lease money for the land that will support Lutherlyn's ministry.

EXPLORE NATURE WITH LEEP FIELD TRIPS!

Are you or someone you know an educator? Discover the outdoors with customized day and overnight field trips for grades K-12 at Lutherlyn! Our hands-on programs immerse students in 660 diverse acres containing various ecosystems, offering unforgettable learning experiences.

One thrilled teacher said, "The students loved working in the stream. Learning through experience can't be beat." Choose from ten engaging activity areas, including Animals, Ecosystems, and Outdoor Skills, all aligned with Pennsylvania's Academic Standards. Our dedicated staff will help you design the perfect trip. Discover nature's beauty - book your field trip today!



SWEET SLEUTHING: WINTER MAPLE TREE ID

Even in the cold months, maple trees have unique traits that make them fun to identify. One of the first things to notice are the twigs and buds. Maple twigs are typically slender and can range in color from reddish-brown to gray. Most importantly, the twigs are arranged oppositely on the branch, a distinctive feature of maples. At the tips of the branches, you'll find the buds. Red maple buds stand out with their bright red color, while the sugar maple has rounded, brown buds.

One of the most exciting aspects of maple trees is their sap, which can be collected in late winter and early spring to make delicious maple syrup! When temperatures rise above freezing during the day and drop below freezing at night, sap starts to flow. To tap a maple tree, choose a maple with a circumference of at least 32 inches then drill a small and shallow hole into the trunk (just past the bark) and insert a spile, which is a tube that allows the sap to flow out into a waiting bucket.

The collected sap is then boiled down to remove excess water, transforming it into rich, sweet syrup. It takes about 60 gallons of sap to produce just one gallon of syrup, so tapping maple trees is quite a process! This sweet treat is perfect for pancakes, waffles, or even as an ingredient in recipes. To see this process in-person and learn more about what it takes to ID maples trees and collect sap, join us for our Maple Sugaring Saturday Safari on March 1st.

So, while you're out enjoying the winter landscape and identifying maple trees, think about the tasty syrup that comes from them. Bundle up, head outside, and embark on your sweet sleuthing adventure - who knows, you might even spot a tree ready for tapping!

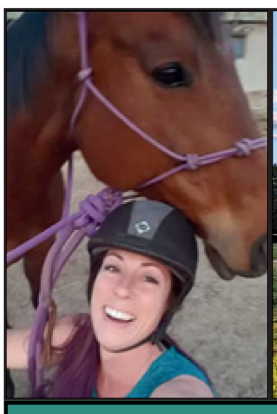


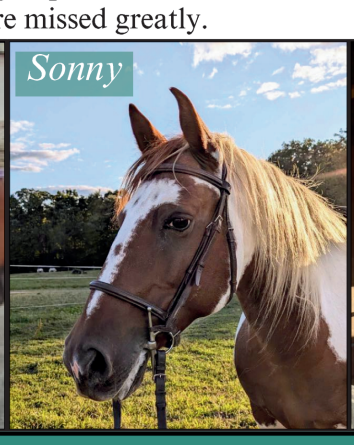
EQUESTRIAN CENTER

GREETINGS FROM THE EQUESTRIAN CENTER!

I feel like summer 2024 went by so quickly. We were met with quite a few challenges this year. My broken arm, along with some injuries and losses to our equine staff, made things challenging. Thankfully, with the love and support of our donors, staff, students, and their families, we overcame them all and had a truly awesome year. The continued support of our "village" allowed our program to continue to flourish despite the difficulties.

We lost our barn class clown this spring. Britt was THE FUNNIEST horse I have ever met. He was so smart and always into something. Britt had spent almost a decade with us. He had extensive training that was such a blessing to so many people over the years. He is greatly missed by many of our students. Then, this fall, we decided it was time to let sweet Riley go. He was very advanced in age and his body was failing him. It was the kindest thing we could do for our faithful servant. Riley spent his entire life as a lesson pony. Prior to being donated to Lutherlyn, he spent many years teaching students to jump at another local barn. These two ponies meant so much to us and are missed greatly.







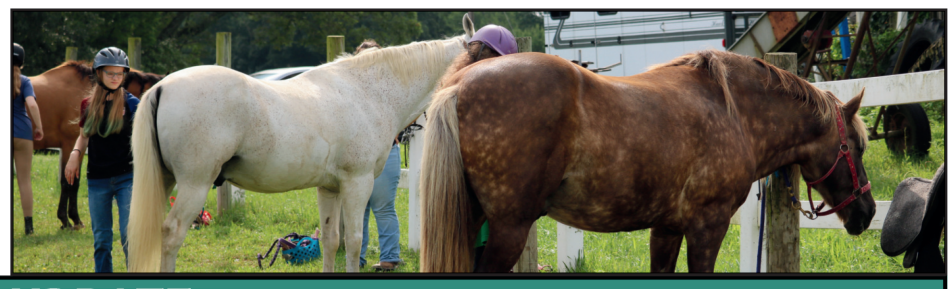
Hailey and Sarah did an amazing job with our summer camp programs. Our campers got to grow in their equestrian skills and knowledge. We had many new faces. It was my pleasure to see so many children introduced to horses and watch their love for animals grow. Don't forget, everyone loves the cats and chickens too. They are just as popular as the horses.

Following summer camp, we welcomed two new horses: Big Al and Sonny. Al is a 15 year old Thoroughbred gelding who is the biggest sweetheart there is. He loves trail riding! He jumps, ropes, can move cattle and, is just a totally laid back guy! Sonny is a 13 year old Pinto mare. She is really great with trail riding and has quickly become a favorite amongst the students due to her flashy coloring. These two horses are a great addition to the program.

We recently added a new member to our equestrian center staff. Ali is not new to Lutherlyn, having been a student of both Hailey and myself, but has returned to be a part of our teaching staff. Hailey and I are very excited to have Ali and her pony, Fame, at the barn.

Please check out our wish list needs to help support the horses at Lutherlyn. The Actiflex is an especially desired need – as we love our oldies here! Thank you so much for your continued love and support of what we do.

-Carla



CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Over the past three years, Lutherlyn has been working toward a big fundraising goal…$2 million (with a $2.5 million stretch goal) to renovate and repair the amphitheater, construct 5 new cabins, as well as repair the driveway and remove buildings no longer in use. I am truly overjoyed and humbled to share that, thanks to the generosity of more than seven hundred individuals, families, and congregations, the ***Building for the Future*** campaign reached its $2 million base goal!

These generous gifts to the campaign have already made a big impact here at camp. After summer camp 2023 concluded, work on the campaign's first project, a full renovation of Steininger Memorial Amphitheater, began. It was wonderful to celebrate this project's completion with a service of worship and re-dedication in May, and there was an extra element of nostalgia since quite a few members of Rev. Dr. Russell Steininger's family were able to attend, including some of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. It has been incredibly fulfilling to see the campaign's success and the beautiful and useful changes happening at camp. Thanks to the support of so many people who love camp and want to see this ministry continue, I am excited to see campers and guests of all kinds experience the peace and beauty of this beloved space over the decades of ministry to come.

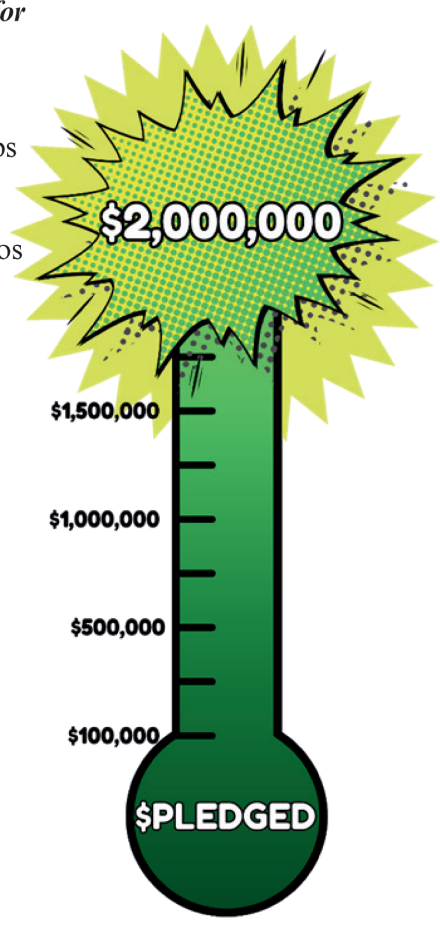
Though the amphitheater has been checked off the campaign's to-do list and is back in regular use during summer camp and throughout the year, there are a lot of exciting changes still to come thanks to those who have supported ***Building for the Future***. The campaign's next project, 5 new cabins in the area between the A-Frame Cabins and the pool, has been fully funded and is now poised to begin. The general area for the cabins has been staked out and a builder is being selected. As soon as Summer Camp 2025 wraps up, construction on the cabins will begin, with their completion anticipated for Summer Camp 2026. These new cabins will make room for more campers, volunteers, and retreat groups over the coming years. Each time I pass the signs for the soon-to-be "Grace Village" I am excited to think about the project and camp's increase in capacity. I look forward to sharing updates with you and very much encourage you to follow along on Lutherlyn's photo sharing site (lutherlyn.sumgmug.com password: adventure) where we will post photos of the project as it is happening.

Lutherlyn remains committed to completing the campaign's projects only as funding allows and will not acquire debt to complete them. While we are very excited about where the campaign stands today, we want to be transparent about the financial realities of the campaign as well. It is very likely that you have noticed that prices on nearly all goods have increased over the last few years. Much like these rising prices affect your own household budget, so too has the campaign's budget been impacted. Due to these increased costs, additional funds will be necessary to complete all of the campaign projects. ***Building for the Future*** has a $2.5 million stretch goal that we believe will be necessary to complete all the campaign projects. Thank you to everyone who has participated in the campaign so far, it is wonderful to see what your generosity is building for the future of Lutherlyn's ministry. It is never too late to participate in this exciting campaign! You can make a gift for the campaign and help Lutherlyn reach our $2.5 million stretch goal at www.lutherlyn.com/donate.



-Sincerely

Cindi





RETREATS & EVENTS

2025 Lutherlyn Calendar
Subject to change

January
- 17-19 Winter Youth Retreat
- 21-26 Quilting/Crafting Retreat

February
- 1 Saturday Safari
- 21-23 Grown Up Winter Retreat

March
- 1 Saturday Safari
- 18-23 Quilting/Crafting Retreat
- 22 Blacksmithing Class
- 28-30 Nature Nerds Retreat

April
- 26 Blacksmithing Class
- 26 Work Day

May
- 10 CAMPBLAST!!!
- 10 Blacksmithing Class

June
- 1-13 Summer Staff Training
- 8 Trinity Pines Club Reception
- 15 SUMMER CAMP BEGINS
- 27 Musical Theater 40th Anniversary and Reunion

July
- 1-31 SUMMER CAMP

August
- 2 Last Day of Summer Camp
- 22-24 Grown Up Camp

September
- 2-7 Quilting/Crafting Retreat
- 6 Blacksmithing Class
- 7 Worship
- 13 Saturday Safari

October
- 18-19 Woodland Quilt Show
- 18-19 Backpacking 101 Retreat
- 18 Blacksmithing Class
- 26 Family Halloween Fun

November
- 1 Saturday Safari
- 18-23 Quilting/Crafting Retreat
- 22 Blacksmithing Class

December
- 5-7 Advent Retreat
- 6 Plunge!

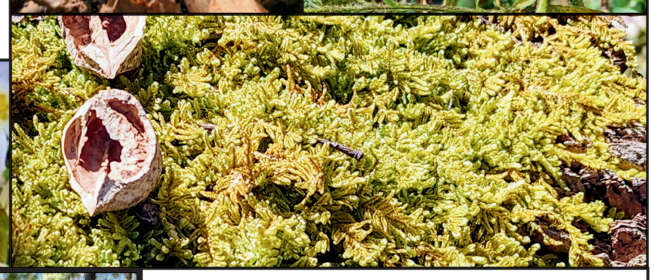
Visit lutherlyn.com/2025 to learn more!

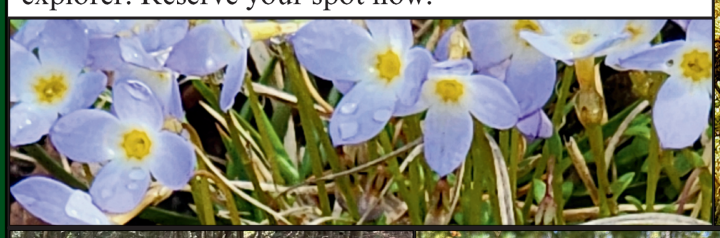
NEW FOR 2025: NATURE NERDS

Join us March 28-30 for "Nature Nerds," an adult-only weekend retreat designed for those who crave the great outdoors and seek a deeper connection with nature. Enjoy guided hikes, hands-on workshops, critter catching, stargazing sessions, and Science! - all while mingling with fellow nature enthusiasts. Escape the hustle and bustle and rediscover your inner explorer. Reserve your spot now!













NEW FOR 2025: BACKPACKING 101

Join us for Backpacking 101, a hands-on, two-day, one-night adventure designed specifically for beginners! Over this short but impactful journey, you'll learn the essentials of backpacking while exploring the scenic trails of Lutherlyn and immersing yourself in nature. Ages 12 and up are welcome to join!

RETREAT REFLECTIONS

We love to come to Lutherlyn for our twice-a-year crafting retreats. Our group gathers in the fall and winter to spend time together, work on our projects, exchange ideas, and encourage one another. We are always so welcomed and taken care of at Lutherlyn. The staff does everything they can to ensure a smooth stay. We have been blessed with delicious food, warm cabins (winter), and beautiful surroundings when we explore the property for a break from our creations! We are thankful for a wonderful location to host us year after year!

-Creative Memories

As a yoga & wellness studio, sometimes it is hard to find the perfect retreat location. We always look for a serene setting, comfortable accommodation, and affordability. Satisfying all of these points can be distressing! We stumbled upon Lutherlyn by pure happenstance and we truly feel that the universe led us to this dedicated staff, these pristine woods, and the perfect location - not too far, not too close. We have had NOTHING but prompt & clear communication from Kara and the other superb staff, tremendous ability to accommodate our needs and an openness that makes every single person who attends our retreats feel accepted, welcomed, and wanted. From the well maintained cabins, to the endless groomed hiking trails, Lutherlyn has become our sole location for wellness retreats and we continue to find more and more aspects (like the amphitheater) that we discover each time we arrive.

We have hosted 3 retreats with Lutherlyn all of varying themes and have received an overwhelming response from our guests that Lutherlyn is truly a hidden retreat gem. Although I would love for this to remain a secret, as we love always being able to get the weekends we want, the cabins, the meeting house and the fire pits; we know that as soon as you see how stunning your retreat can be here you will want to be here as well. So, we'll run the risk of heavily booked weekends and others reserving their retreats because we truly feel that there is magic at Lutherlyn and feel that every retreat should bask in such an awe-inspiring location.

-Lutherlyn is where the heart is,
Meko Yoga & Wellness







NEW AT LUTHERLYN

EXPLORING NATURE:
HOMESCHOOLERS EMBRACE THE OUTDOORS

As traditional classrooms often limit learning to enclosed spaces, many homeschooling families are increasingly embracing the outdoors as an expansive classroom. This fall, homeschool families participated in enriching field trips at Lutherlyn, where nature served as both teacher and exploration site. The Lutherlyn Environmental Education Program (LEEP) offered a hands-on curriculum covering topics from the water cycle to Native American history.

The series began with "The Wonderful World of Water," where students explored the water cycle and stream ecosystems through hikes and specimen collection, highlighting the vital role of wetlands in biodiversity. Next, "Dig It!" allowed students to excavate and identify artifacts at Lutherlyn's archaeological site, uncovering clues from local history.

The third program, "Everything Ecosystems," focused on habitats, wildlife, and the importance of healthy forests, emphasizing ecosystem interconnectedness. The series then concluded with "Life Skills of the Woodland Tribes," where students learned Native American survival skills, including plant identification and traditional games.

These immersive field trips provided valuable insights into environmental science and regional history, fostering a renewed passion for the natural world and responsible stewardship. We encourage anyone with homeschooling connections to share information about the Lutherlyn Environmental Education Program and look out for future offerings.





2025 Summer Camp Schedule

Week 1 **June 15-20**	-Confirmation Camp -Classic (Jr) (SH) -Horse Camp (Jr)	-Life in the Wild (JH) -Adventurers (JH/SH) -Staff-In-Training (SH)
Week 2 **June 22-27**	-Classic (Jr) (JH) -Horse Camp (JH/SH) -Adventurers (JH/SH) -Musical Theater (Jr/JH)	-Young Folks (Sun-Wed) -Small Fry Days (Th & Fri) -Grown Up & Me (Th & Fri)
Week 3 **June 29-July 4**	-Family Camp -On-Site Day Camp (1st-5th grade) -Adventurers Outpost (SH)	
Week 4 **July 6-11**	-Classic (Jr) (JH) (SH) -Life in the Wild (Jr) -Horse Camp (JH/SH) -Adventurers (JH & SH)	-Young Folks (Sun-Wed) -Small Fry Days (Th & Fri) -Grown Up & Me (Th & Fri)
Week 5 **July 13-18**	-Classic (Jr) (JH) -Venture (SH) -Horse Camp (Jr)	-Adventurers (JH & SH) -Arts Camp (Jr/JH)
Week 6 **July 20-25**	-Classic (Jr) (JH) (SH) -Horse Camp (Jr) -Rocketry (JH/SH)	-Camp Medley (JH) -Junior Adventurers (Jr)
Week 7 **July 27– August 1**	-Classic (Jr) (JH) -Night Owls (JH/SH) -Horse Camp (JH/SH)	-Rocketry (Jr) -Junior Adventurers (Jr)



WORSHIP AT LUTHERLYN

Starting in 2025, we will have opportunities to worship together at Lutherlyn throughout the year. Everyone is welcome and invited to join us. Communion Worship starts at 3:30pm (plan to arrive early to allow time to park and walk to worship). If it is raining, we will worship in Baker Chapel.

June 8, 2025 – Chapel Hill
September 7, 2025 – Amphitheater
December 7, 2025 – Baker Chapel

The schedule each year will be:
The Sunday after Easter -Baker Chapel
The Sunday in the middle of Staff Training – Chapel Hill
The Sunday after Labor Day - Amphitheater
The Sunday of the Advent Retreat Weekend – Baker Chapel

We hope you will join us for worship!

CONFIRMATION CAMP

We are making some changes to the way that we do confirmation camp at Lutherlyn. In the past, confirmation camp has primarily been attended by congregations who had a pastor participating in the leadership. Starting in the summer of 2025, individual campers are invited to confirmation camp, even if their pastor is not participating or they do not have a pastor or home church.

Confirmation Camp at Lutherlyn is an invitation to join a group of ELCA Lutheran leaders in creating a safe place to explore our faith, build trusting relationships, and experience the joy of Christian community. Confirmation Camp is week #1 (June 15-20, 2025) and the theme is Amazing Grace.

While groups from congregations will continue to come to confirmation camp together with their pastor, we are inviting congregations from the NWPA and SWPA synods to send individual campers. There are 3 hours of theological instruction each day (based on Luther's Small Catechism) and the rest of the week is traditional summer camp.

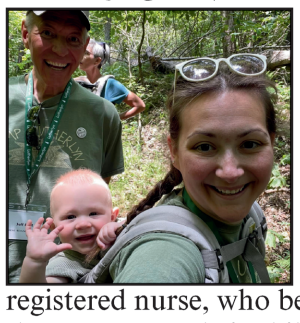
If your congregations is interested in sending a group or individual students to confirmation camp, please contact Deb at Lutherlyn for more information. A detailed curriculum outline and schedule are available.





SPECIAL HIGHLIGHTS

5 GENERATIONS AT LUTHERLYN



Camp Lutherlyn was founded in 1948 and shortly after that, in 1950, my Great-Great Grandfather, Walter F. Shively initiated Lutherlyn's first nature program as the Nature Director. Walter was a biology teacher at Schenley High School in Pittsburgh during the school year. Walter was joined at camp by his wife, Mildred, a registered nurse, who became a camp nurse. Even more family joined them at camp, their children, John and my Great-Grandmother, Jean (Bost). They belonged to First Lutheran Church in downtown Pittsburgh and had originally learned about Lutherlyn during its construction. In the early years, camp staff's children often helped out and served by doing various jobs. John worked on the Grounds Crew and Jean did KP duties in the kitchen. Jean later served for many years as camp nurse and was on camp council. Lutherlyn's first Director, Rev. Sam S. Shaulis, and their children, became good friends with the Shively family. The Shaulis's daughter, Betty Sue (Lehew), and Jean became best friends.

My Great-Grandfather, Harry Bost, met Jean at Lutherlyn, where he served one summer on grounds crew building the cinder block cabins. Harry and Jean had three children: Jeff Bost (my Grandfather), Bob Bost (my Great Uncle) and Cheryl (my Great Aunt). Both Jeff and Bob were camp counselors along with my mother, Holly Bost, who was a counselor and a lifeguard.

Service and friendship have always been part of our Lutherlyn experience. Meeting new people and renewing old friendships in such a beautiful natural setting is just amazing!

So far I've related a lot of history, which since, I'm just 2.5 years old, I wasn't around to experience it first-hand. Now to the most important part; why I love Lutherlyn. It's FUN! So far, I've been a Family Camper for two summers. I like to bring my whole family. My grandparents love spending time with me at camp and I can tell my mom loves the extra help. For over 30 years my family has been Family Campers, in addition to all the other ways we find to be at Lutherlyn. My grandmother, Kathy Bost, signs our family up for a cabin and every July we get to come to camp to celebrate, hike, talk, swim, sing and do fun things we don't do anywhere else but at camp. I really love the jump pillow and, of course, the campfires with s'mores. My mom loves taking me to nature activities and my aunt is always happy to craft with me in the craft cabin.

Just like my Great-Great-Grandfather Walter first did 74 years ago, as a fifth generation camper I've experienced what it is like to be part of the Camp Lutherlyn family. My family says camp is our second home. It's a sanctuary that allows peace and freedom from the stress of life and a time to reconnect to family, old friends, new friends, nature, and God. For me, it's still all about having FUN. See you next summer!

By fifth generation camper Hazel, with a little help from Holly Bost (mother) and Jeff Bost (grandfather)



SUMMER CAMP STAFF: IT'S IN THE DNA

We had 11 staff this past summer who are the children or grandchildren of former summer staff. CJ, Gracie, Eli, Amelia, Bridget, Ian, Brandon, Lacey, Nadine, Maren, and Mare are all at least the second generation of summer staff in their families. Ian's parents (Ryan and Meredith) met on summer staff in the 90s and his grandparents (Walt and Jan) met on staff in the 60s. Mare's mom and grandparents are past staff. Maren's mom was on summer staff and full-time staff. As Lutherlyn ages, it is such a blessing to be a special place for multiple generations of families.

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: - Lowes, Home Depot, Amazon, Wal-Mart, Tractor Supply, Agway Items marked with * can be found on our Amazon Wish List.

HAPPY RETIREMENT

After 15 years of faithful service, Gary Swigart retired from Lutherlyn's Maintenance Staff in December. Gary has been a blessing to Lutherlyn's campers, guests, and staff as he has done his work with a smile, a positive attitude, and great care for Lutherlyn's facilities. Congratulations Gary!





HAPPY RETIREMENT

Lutherlyn would like to wish a very happy retirement to Mir Youngquist-Thurow, who started the Lutherlyn Environmental Education Program in 1989 as her master's thesis at Slippery Rock University. Mir directed the program for 7 years before moving to North Carolina to start the Agape Center for Environmental Education at Camp Agape. She has not only been instrumental in creating highly successful EE programs, so has inspired generations of people to take care of God's creation. Well done, Mir!



DIRECTOR'S NOTEBOOK



Director's Notebook....

The past year at Lutherlyn was nothing short of amazing! Year 76 for Lutherlyn was full of joy, growth, site improvements, generosity, friendship, and, most importantly, ministry. A highlight of the year, for me, was the completion of the Steininger Memorial Amphitheater renovation. I'm going to be honest with you, I was very nervous about this project. Memories of affirmation worship services and other special worship experiences in the Amphitheater are significant for MANY people (including me). This project really had to be done right, and it had to still resemble the Amphitheater. I could not be more pleased with the outcome. Worshiping in the Amphitheater this summer and watching the candles float on the pond was such a joy. My favorite compliment is that it still looks and feels like the Amphitheater…. only better!

Summer Camp 2024 was unforgettable; filled with laughter, growth, and friendship. Our incredible summer staff poured their energy, care, and enthusiasm into making this summer special for all campers. Each week, we saw young lives touched by the love of Christ and the joy of community. Our summer camp registration numbers continue to grow but we are not quite back to our "pre-2020" numbers. We market summer camp using a professionally compiled marketing plan BUT…. word of mouth and an invitation from people who are already familiar with Lutherlyn is still the best way to bring new campers to Lutherlyn. Your help in inviting new campers to Lutherlyn would be greatly appreciated!

Our five core areas of ministry - summer camp, environmental education, retreats/events, the equestrian center, and adventure programs - are all thriving. Each program area plays a vital role in our mission to be a God-given place to be accepted, challenged, and sent out into the world to make a difference. From teaching environmental stewardship to fostering leadership skills and encouraging spiritual reflection, these programs are reaching people in impactful ways all year-long.

Looking to the future, I am filled with anticipation for the next project of the ***Building for the Future*** Campaign – Grace Village. Construction of 5 new cabins will begin after Summer Camp 2025 and will be completed before the start of Summer Camp 2026. This exciting addition will allow us to welcome even more campers and increase our summer volunteer capacity. The completion of Grace Village will also mark the end of all cinder block cabins at Lutherlyn. In 2024, thanks to a generous donor, all the remaining un-used block cabins on main camp were removed. I know that this is sad news for some of us who have fond memories of "cabin row", but it will be wonderful for all our cabins to be winterized, comfortable, accessible, on main camp, with the same interior.

We are so grateful to everyone who supported Lutherlyn this year - your contributions (time, talent, and treasure) allow Lutherlyn to continue providing Life-Changing Adventures in Faith. In 2025, we invite you to visit us, bring friends, and encourage others to participate in Lutherlyn's programs. We especially encourage you to register campers for summer camp, where they can embark on adventures, explore their faith, and build friendships that last a lifetime. Thank you for being a part of the Lutherlyn family!

Your Partner in Ministry,

Deb

P.S. As always, I would love to hear from you! If you haven't been to camp for a while or if you are too far to spend time at Lutherlyn, feel free to call or e-mail. I love to hear about your memories from your time at Lutherlyn.



Dear Lutherlyn From a Happy Parent

My son had such a great time at Rocketry this year, and my daughter enjoyed Horse Camp and made a camp bestie, so I just want to share some of the really cool things that have come out of it. First of all, my brother was a Rocketry camper in the 1980s and 1990s. My brother and son had some fun conversations about building rockets and even how camp was the same after all these years (My brother exclaimed, "Dick Freed is still there?!? …and Geir, too?!?") and different (no launch at pick-up for families to watch). My brother has a new way to relate to his nephew. For that, I am most grateful!

My son enjoyed rocketry so much that he asked everyone coming to his August birthday party for model rockets. He even included one of the rockets he built at Lutherlyn as one of the three items in his "About Me Bag" to kick off the school year icebreakers. That created quite a buzz in the fourth grade at his school. He decided that he wanted to share more about rocket building, so he asked the principal if he could start an after-school club. The principal told my son if he could find a sponsor and figure out a plan, the principal would allow it. It seemed like it would die there as the elementary had zero student implemented after school clubs at the time. My son has been working tenaciously for the last month (school started on August 5) and, today, he brought home the official permission slip to join the club. I'm so proud of him for making it happen!

My daughter loved Horse Camp, but what really stood out was the friendship she made at camp. She hit it off with a girl in her cabin, and they have called and texted since camp. Her friend's mom suggested they switch to being pen pals since neither girl has a cell phone and they were borrowing ours. I wasn't sure it would happen in this day and age, but the letters have been flying (literally! and figuratively). It has been very nostalgic for me because I have a cabin buddy who I met at Outpost in 1980-something and have remained friends for close to 40 years! We wrote hundreds of (maybe close to a thousand!) letters to each other while we were in junior high, high school and college! Back then, our parents would never have agreed to long distance calls and texting didn't exist! Letters were the only way we could stay in touch and plan our annual week together at Outpost! They meant everything to us, and it just warms my heart to watch my daughter check the mail and come dancing through the house with her latest treasured letter from her camp bestie.

So, once again, thank you, Lutherlyn! I was blessed as a camper with incredible mentors and lifelong friends. (Thank you #1) As a counselor, I learned more about myself and my faith. (Thank you #2) After years as a camper and a summer as a Go For It! Counselor, I am now blessed by Lutherlyn a third time as I watch my children experience Lutherlyn and create friendships and memories. It is even better this third time around.



