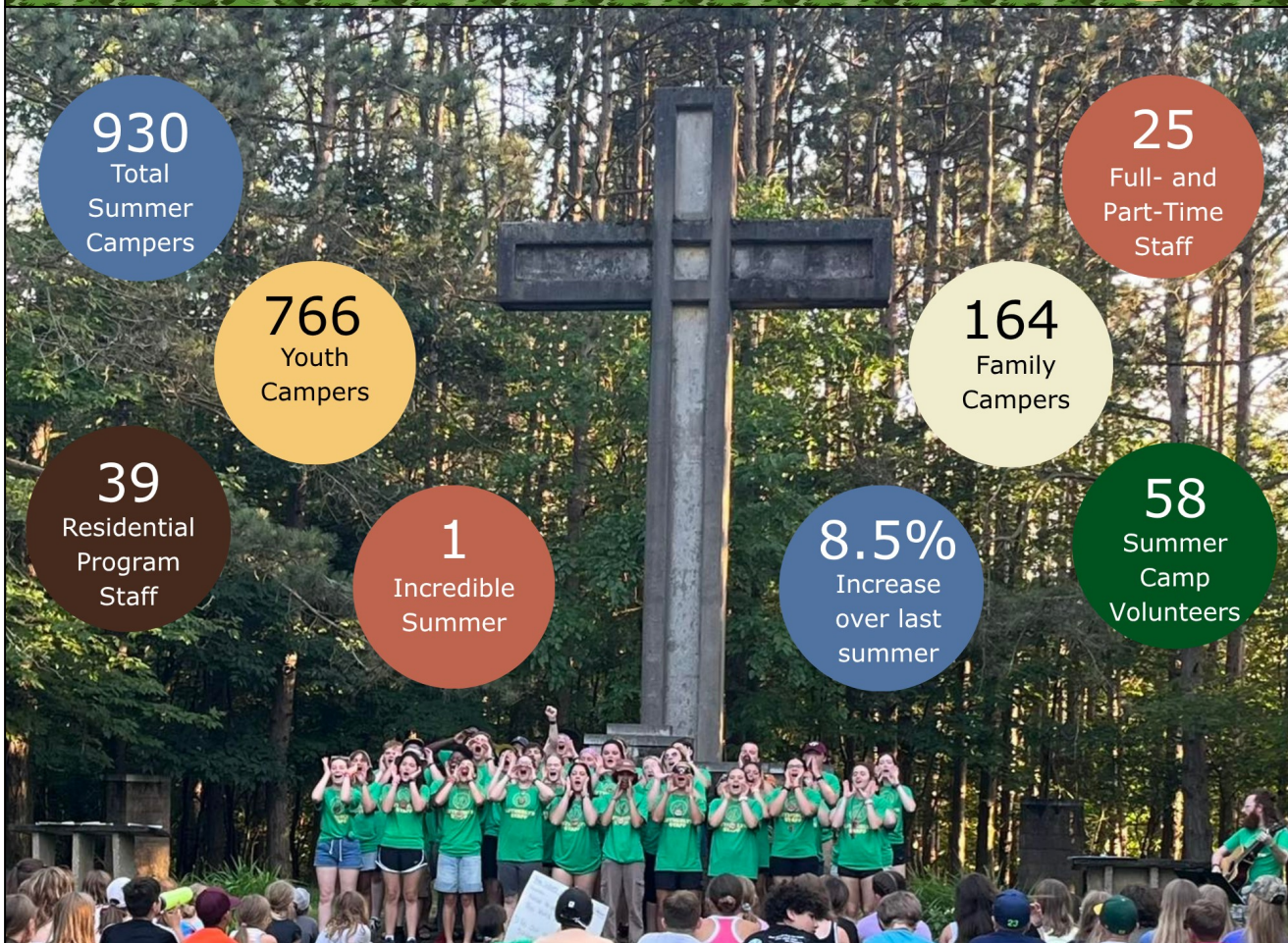


# LUTHERLYN

## 2026

WWW.LUTHERLYN.COM

## Summer Camp 2025



As we look back on the summer of 2025, our hearts are full of gratitude for the incredible community - campers, families, volunteers, and staff - who made it all possible.

We witnessed the energy of this unique, joyful community in action every single day. We saw it in the beaming smiles of first-time campers being welcomed by new friends, and in the way cabin groups quickly became supportive, tight-knit teams. It was present in the cheers at the lake, the quiet conversations on the porch, the squeals of laughter at the pool, the concentration at the craft cabin, the silence of prayer in worship, the laughter while simply walking around together, the songs (and giggles) rising from the campfire circles and in so many other aspects of “camp life.” Last summer, like so many before it, was a powerful testament of how a foundation of acceptance and love allows every child to grow in confidence and compassion.

The memories are cherished, but the journey doesn't end here. **Join us in 2026 for a whole new season of Life-Changing Adventures in Faith. Summer Camp registration starts on February 1, 2026 at 6:00 a.m.** We can't wait to build another unforgettable summer with you!

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

## Introducing Grace Village

Did you know that Lutherlyn's cabins are in alphabetical order and are all named after native Pennsylvania trees? We are excited to announce the names and dedications for the new cabins that were funded by the **Building for the Future** campaign.

The new cabin village is called “**Grace Village**” (in honor of Grace @ Calvary Lutheran Church in Butler) and the cabins are:

- Linden** - In memory of Dick Dunmyre
- Mulberry** - In memory of S.E.A.
- Nannyberry** - In honor of Lutherlyn's Summer Staff Alumni
- Pawpaw** - In honor of Saint John's Lutheran Church of Highland
- Quaking Aspen** - In memory of Harry and Jean (Shively) Bost



## Lutherlyn to Luther Land



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

**Lutherlyn is heading to Germany!** Will you join us? Lutherlyn partnered with Luther Tours to take an adult group from Lutherlyn to Germany on September 16-25, 2026.

So much of the Lutherlyn experience is about community... the feeling of being accepted, loved, and welcomed into the camp community and allowed to learn and grow in a safe environment. For summer campers, that community experience takes place at 500 Lutherlyn Lane. In September of 2026, we are taking that community to Germany!

You are invited (adults 18 and older) to be a part of an intentional community traveling together. Prior to our adventure, we will take some time to get to know each other (including a few optional gatherings prior to the trip). Then, we will spend 10 days together experiencing **Life-Changing Adventures in Faith** in Deutschland. We hope you will join us for this exciting journey! Visit [www.lutherlyn.com/germany](http://www.lutherlyn.com/germany) for all the details.







LETTER TO CAMPERS

“Near to me. Near to you. The Word of God comes near.” The experience of nearness that you felt this summer, dear camper, was real! So real and near that it likely changed your heart, and shifted the words that you have spoken to reflect *the* word of God. Love. That love experienced between newfound friends, the mentoring-love shown through a cabin leader, and the love of God, are spoken “LUTHERLYN STYLE” in all that we do at camp. We talked through bible stories that tell us how God sees us as blessings, shows us the challenges of trust, demonstrates true service, compels us to listen diligently, and reminds us that we have a story to tell. All of this, combined with all the fun of camp, can make this small part of the year shine.

Far from me. Far from you... but now feels different. Perhaps the busyness of school, sports, music, dance, homework, friendships, family, and so many other things has made that week of camp feel far away... a distant memory. And in the same way, perhaps God’s Word feels far away. This is a normal feeling! People many many years ago, who wrote Psalms, poetry and songs that are in our bible today, felt the same way. Our experience as humans can feel this way, but the wonderful surprise is that God’s Word, this love, is still (and always will be) near to me and near to you. So, dear camper, bring these memories of camp; the songs, the games, the crafts, the friends, the “camp you,” near in your mind and your heart. Remember as you look in the mirror, God sees the light of Christ shining brightly through you even when camp feels far away. You are near and dear to God, who loves you more than you will ever know.

~Pastor Ryan

MUSICAL 40th ANNIVERSARY



June 27<sup>th</sup> was an exciting day at Lutherlyn! The 2025 Musical Theater campers performed the 40th original Musical, written by Pastor Bill Brewer, in Baker Chapel for an audience of their family and friends, along with former Musical Theater campers, friends of Lutherlyn, and friends of the Brewer family. To make this special occasion even more exciting, Pastor Brewer's son, Nathan, spent the week at Lutherlyn directing the musical. The campers gave an awesome performance and, as an added bonus, a group of former Musical Theater campers performed a "P.B. Classic" (Wherever Your Treasure Is) at the end of the show. Pastor Brewer is working on the 41<sup>st</sup> musical right now!



WHAT DO OUR CAMPERS SAY?

- “The most important thing I learned this week was: ‘God shines through all of us.’”
- “I can still be connected with God even when I’m not at Lutherlyn.”
- “Gaining connections with strangers who are now my friends was the best.”
- “Todd needs a podcast! I loved listening to all the nature facts he shared with us.”
- “Preaching peace is really important.”
- “This week changed me. My newest and best friends, and my cabin leader got me through. I really am telling the truth when I say, Lutherlyn is a lifelong memory. Please, always continue Lutherlyn, I seriously will always look forward to coming here. Thank you.”
- “The best thing about this week was being with my friends and enjoying the time spent worshipping.”
- “God will love you no matter what.”
- “I feel more in touch with my faith and am excited to go home and share this with others.”

SUMMER OFFERING PROJECT

Our offering project last summer was for goats and flocks of chicks for families in need around the world (to go along with our Wednesday evening "farmyard fun" games). With this gift, each family gains access to an ongoing supply of eggs from their chickens and protein-packed milk from their goat. Even better, extra eggs and dairy products can be sold at the market for a steady income. The funds raised by the summer camp offering were donated to the ELCA Good Gift Program where every \$60 raised gave a family a goat and a flock of chicks. Over the years, Lutherlyn’s campers have donated over \$100,000 to projects all around the world. Our goal this summer was \$3,000 to provide 50 families with goats and chicks.

Once again, Lutherlyn's summer campers exceeded our goal and Lutherlyn donated 57 goats and flocks of chicks through the ELCA good gift program. Thank you to our summer campers for making a difference in the world! You can learn more about the ELCA Good Gift program at [www.goodgifts.elca.org](http://www.goodgifts.elca.org).

2026 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE	
<b>Week 1 - June 14-19</b> Confirmation Camp Classic (Jr/JH/SH) Life in the Wild (JH) Horse Camp (Jr) Adventurers (JH/SH) Staff-in-Training (SH)	<b>Week 2 - June 21-26</b> Classic (Jr/JH/SH) Horse Camp (JH/SH) Adventurers (JH/SH) Young Folks (Sun-Wed) Small Fry Days (Th or Fri) Grown-Up & Me (Th or Fri)
<b>Week 3 - June 28-July 3</b> Family Camp On-Site Day Camp (1st-5th grade) Adventurers Outpost (SH)	<b>Week 4 - July 5-10</b> Classic (Jr/JH/SH) Arts & Musical Theater (Jr/SH) Life in the Wild (Jr) Horse Camp (JH/SH) Adventurers (JH/SH)
<b>Week 5 - July 12-17</b> Classic (Jr/JH) Venture (SH) Horse Camp (Jr) Adventurers (Jr) Young Folks (Sun-Wed) Small Fry Days (Th or Fri) Grown-Up & Me (Th or Fri)	<b>Week 6 - July 19-24</b> Classic (Jr/JH/SH) Horse Camp (Jr) Camp Medley (JH) Model Rocketry (JH/SH) Adventurers (Jr)
<b>Week 7 - July 26-31</b> Classic (Jr/JH) Model Rocketry (Jr) Horse Camp (JH/SH) Night Owls (JH/SH) Adventurers (JH/SH)	<b>ALL SUMMER CAMP DETAILS CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.LUTHERLYN.COM/ SUMMER</b>



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

We are looking for the next incredible team of leaders to serve Lutherlyn’s 2026 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 2026 Summer Staff.



# Environmental Education

## LEEP CONTINUES THE HOMESCHOOL ADVENTURE



Over the past year, our LEEP homeschool programs have brought students outside and into hands-on learning experiences focused on nature, science, and sustainability. In spring 2025, families explored local wildlife, ecosystems, and water through guided hikes, data collection, and stream investigations. They also got a sweet taste of the season during Maple Sugaring, where students learned to identify trees in winter, tapped their own

maple tree, collected sap, and ended the day by visiting the sugar shack to see syrup being made - and sample the results!

This fall, we continued the adventure with a fresh lineup of immersive programs. In *Sustainable Living*, students toured Terra Dei, Pennsylvania's first straw bale homestead, learned about energy conservation, and planted garlic in an organic garden. *Dig It* took students to a real archaeological site to excavate and study artifacts from Native American and pioneer history. *Survival Skills* introduced basic forest survival techniques like building shelters, finding water, and identifying wild foods. Finally, in *Awareness of the Natural World*, students connected with nature through art and sensory exploration. Younger students made botanical bookmarks and explored with their senses, while older students created nature journals and took a reflective hike to Chapel Rock.

Through these programs, students gain knowledge, confidence, and a deeper connection to the natural world - all while having fun and learning by doing. To learn more or reserve your spot, visit: [www.lutherlyn.com/homeschool](http://www.lutherlyn.com/homeschool).

## FROM SILENCE TO SYMPHONY: HOW A CAMP TRIP BUILDS A CLASSROOM COMMUNITY

The students and teachers from the Glen Montessori Middle School (GMMS), a mixed-age classroom of 7th and 8th graders, anticipate our three visits to Lutherlyn each year. We begin our school year with a three-day, two-night stay during the second week of school. We return in late February or early March for maple sugaring. Our final trip is a second three-day, two-night stay during the second-to-last week of school. These trips are a vital part of our academic, social and emotional curriculum. We all, students and teachers alike, look forward to each experience knowing that we will learn and grow together.



Parent volunteers drive us to and from Lutherlyn. One parent once told me of her initial worry about our September stay, given the silence of the students during the ride to camp. That same year, she volunteered to drive us on our return to school. All worry disappeared as she listened to the laughter, stories, and jokes coming from the now not-so-silent backseat. "I realized then what an important experience this trip is for community building." This parent saw firsthand what my co-teacher and

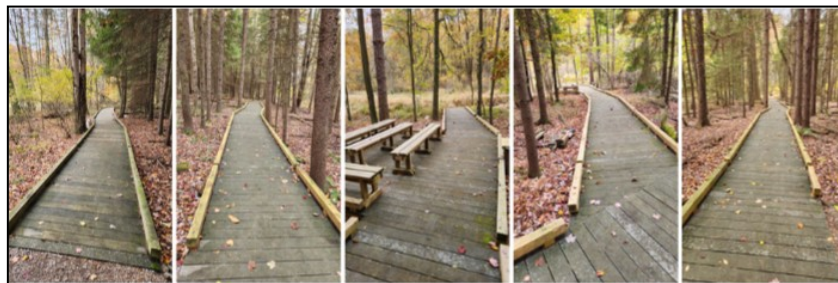
I value so much about our trips to Lutherlyn. The students view it as an adventure with no formal classes, great food from Chef Lisa, plenty of time on the jump pillow, in the ga-ga pit and Rec Hall, and extended time with their friends. We know it to be an opportunity for our new cohort of students to learn one another's and their own strengths and challenges through conversations and exercises with Ryan, begin our science lessons in an outdoor lab with Todd, get to know one another outside the classroom, write creatively and reflectively in a natural setting, build independence, and start to create our class lore.



## UNIVERSAL ACCESS TRAIL WORK REACHES THE MARSH!

In September 2018, with the help of Penn Trails, LLC, we started a universal access trail with 36 feet of gravel path and one boardwalk. Our goal was to create a trail to the marsh that would be "usable by all people to the greatest extent possible." Hundreds of students and campers use this trail every year and the large amount of foot traffic, combined with the hydric soils, made the trail a constant challenge to maintain.

In December of 2024, we completed the 34<sup>th</sup> and final boardwalk needed to reach the marsh. This project would not have been possible without the many volunteers who helped carry materials and the people who donated money to the project. Since December, we have added gravel spur trails that connect the Accessible Trail with Bullfrog fire circle, and added boardwalks and gravel to continue the trail toward the historic Venango Trail and the Heckert archaeology site. Eventually, a gravel trail will loop back from Bullfrog fire circle to the beginning of the trail. In addition, we hope to continue working to improve other sections of the trail that encircles Miller Lake. This will involve replacing plank boardwalks with new 5' wide by 12' long boardwalks. Anyone wishing to help with the project monetarily or physically is welcome to contact the Environmental Education Center at [leep@lutherlyn.com](mailto:leep@lutherlyn.com).



Our wintery return to Lutherlyn affords us a day out in the fresh air after spending many weeks cooped up inside. We collect sap, tap trees, learn about the process necessary to transform the watery sap into the golden deliciousness we enjoy on pancakes, identify trees, engage in a physical representation of the parts of a tree, and discover how syrup was produced and used by indigenous peoples. The students take great pride in their work, and they love knowing they have contributed to the syrup production.

We did not always have a third trip in our schedule, but our students requested an experience at the end of the year similar to our September trip. Our final trip of the year was born from a desire by students to celebrate the community we began to build together in September and to spend time together before we scatter for summer break and our 8th years transition to high school. We spend a few hours helping to ready camp for the return of summer campers. We engage in math, science, literature, and writing lessons in the natural environment. We build on the earlier Lutherlyn lessons and hear a lot of "Remember the time we..." The 7th years plan a tribute to the 8th years and share it during our final campfire. As we depart, the 7th years begin planning for how they will introduce Lutherlyn and all its wonders to the new cohort in September.

We are so grateful that Lutherlyn, the Environmental Education Program, and the Adventure Program are available to us as extensions of our work in the classroom. The setting and the programs afford our students the opportunity to engage in hands-on work, build confidence and independence, and value one another as learning partners.

~Tess Riesmeyer

Visit [www.lutherlyn.com/leep](http://www.lutherlyn.com/leep) for details about Lutherlyn's Environmental Education Program and ways to participate or bring a group.





## Equestrian Center Announcement

This letter was initially shared in August with those involved at the Equestrian Center and on social media. While it is sad and difficult to share, we want to make sure the whole Lutherlyn family sees this announcement:

Dear Friend of the Lutherlyn Equestrian Center,

After extensive research, evaluation, and careful deliberation, the Lutherlyn Board of Directors has come to the difficult decision to close the Lutherlyn Equestrian Center. As costs continue to increase and the barn continues to deteriorate, the costs to maintain the program and restore the facility are simply too high. Despite our best efforts, it is no longer feasible to continue operations. Our intention is to continue quality lessons, summer horse camp, and care for the herd and facility until August of 2026. While this is a sad moment for all of us, we believe that this decision is the most responsible course of action for Lutherlyn and the future of this ministry.


We would like to express our deepest gratitude to the Equestrian Program Director, Carla Murphy, the riding instructors, and the volunteers at the Lutherlyn Equestrian Center. The impact they have had on the lives of campers and students has been truly remarkable and greatly appreciated. Their hard work, time, and dedication have brought so much joy and opportunity to young horse enthusiasts, and we are incredibly thankful for them.


We also want to thank those who have donated to and supported the Lutherlyn Equestrian Center throughout its history. Your support and generosity have allowed Lutherlyn’s campers and students to discover their love of horses, develop their riding skills, and grow in their own confidence for more than 50 years.

We are committed to continuing our work to determine the best future for our horses and the land. We will spend the next several months exploring our options. Programs will continue through the summer of 2026, and we will provide updates as further details become available.


This decision is painful and sad for friends of the Lutherlyn Equestrian Center. We will do everything we can to keep you informed and to celebrate the equestrian center over the next year. Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns as we move forward.

Sincerely,


  
Serafina Lanna  
President, Lutherlyn Board of Directors

  
Deb Roberts  
Executive Director

## A Note from Carla

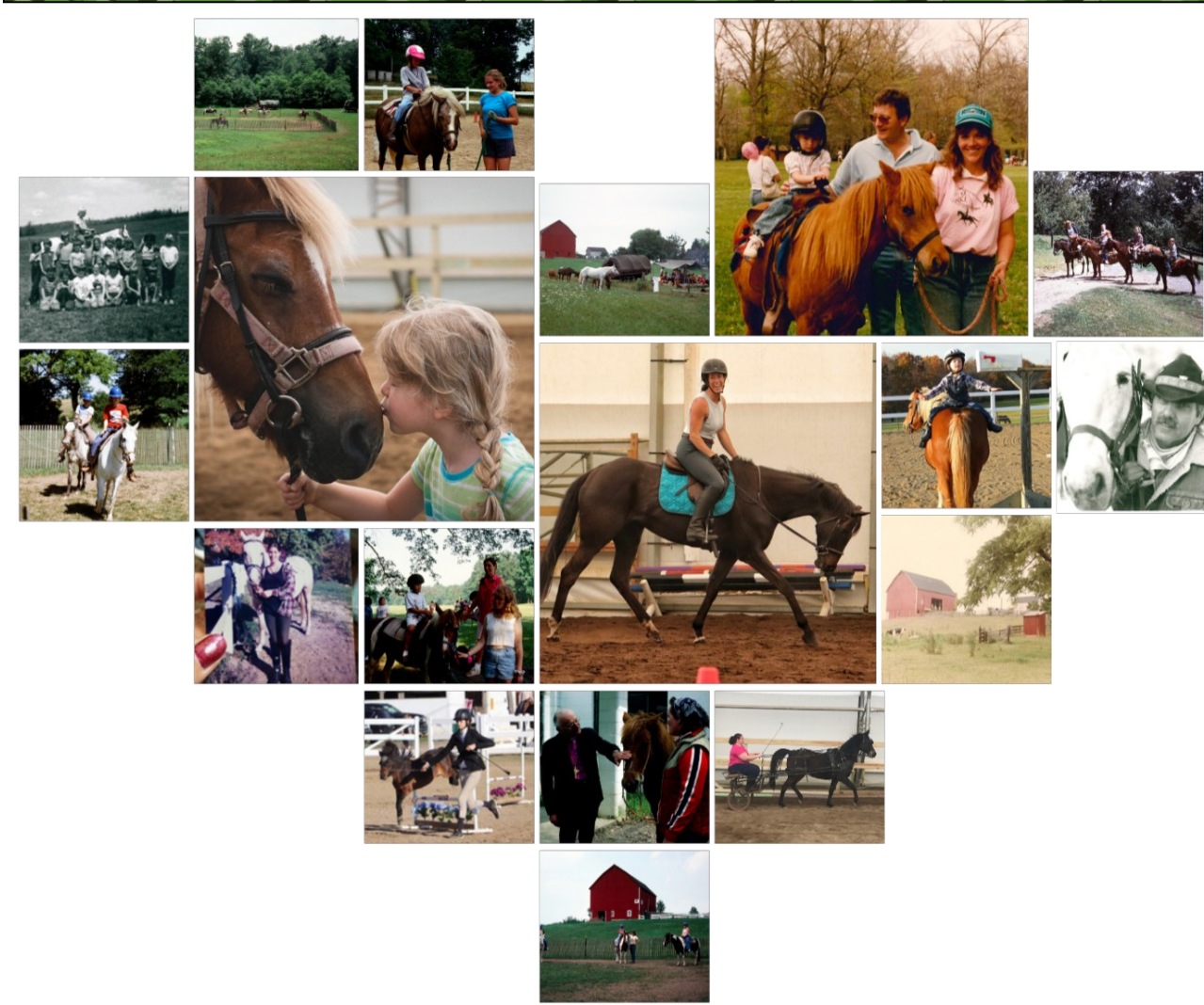


It has been an absolute pleasure to serve at Lutherlyn for 20 years. When I was a young girl, I dreamt of running a horse barn, and I am blessed to be able to say I have lived my dream. In college, I had many discussions with my professors about the therapeutic impact horses have on people. That led me to do my internship at Lutherlyn in 2005, working with Special Olympic athletes. I truly believe God led me to this place to use my passion and talents to positively influence the youth we serve in our community. I know I have made an impact on their lives, just as they have on mine. The memories I have from working with these children will be with me forever. I have been blessed to have raised my two boys in such a beautiful environment. Keep us in your prayers as the three of us embark on our next adventure – in faith.



~Carla Murphy

## The Horses of Lutherlyn



These are the horses, in no particular order, who have called Lutherlyn “home” over the past 50 years. We are sure a few are missing from the list. Each of these horses (along with the staff and volunteers who cared for them) have had an impact on a camper and riding student. We are so thankful for each horse, staff person, volunteer, and rider who has spent time at the Lutherlyn Equestrian Center over the past 50 years.

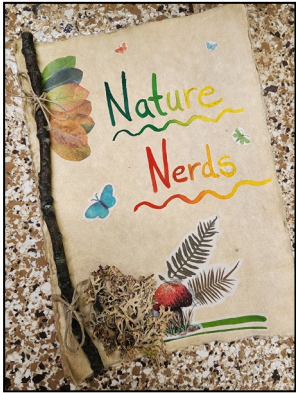
Rudy, Casey, Shenna, Scout, Kahlo, Babe, Doc, JB, Jimmy, Soxxy, Gee, Bud, Lady, Peanut (x2), Beau, Mariah, Kent, Jazz, Blackie, Barye, Treasure, Luther, Brown Beauty, Suzie, Merri Mae, Appy, Rebel, Chief, Shownee, Flying D, Misty (x2), Warrior, Travis, Dusty (x2), Zoey, Stormz, Charlie Brown, Charlie Pony, Ty, Delight, Sierra, Tuffy (x2), Arthur, Little Bit, Red , Thor, Flash, Barnie, Jiminy Cricket, Bo, Rocky, Ralph, Tego, D.D., Ed, Maverick, Shiloah, Sheeza, Cheyanna, King, Ty, Mocha, Classy, Sham, Danny, Riley, Caracey, Pepper, Pumpkin (x2), Saison, Coffee, Andy, Tani, Shrek, Kita, Joe, O’Shay, Dante, Britt, Roxy, Echo, Bette, Romeo, Big Al, Montana, Jasmine, Alizar, Cherokee, Duchess, CoCo, Shawnee, Sunshine, Lilly, Linus, Angel (x2), Condo, Ariel, Chelsey, Tootsie, Susie, Norman, Bishy, Birdie, Evy, Jelly Bean, Tandy, Reggie, Penny, Mello Yellow, Sonny, Thunder, Lucky, Peppermint Patty, Checkers, Grace, Tea, Tinkerbelle, Canyon, Houston, Theo, Reggie, Hilda, Sid, Hank, Silver, Maddie, Rue, Pepper, Sonny, Sunshine, Willy, Skye, and Cubby.





# Retreats & Events

## NERDY FOR NATURE: A WILD WEEKEND AT LUTHERLYN



This April, an intrepid group of eleven adults gathered at Lutherlyn for the inaugural Nature Nerds retreat. Over the course of the weekend, we embraced our shared love of the natural world - getting nerdy about native species and delightfully dorky about diversity!

We kicked things off Friday evening with a unique icebreaker game “*Name that Native!*” - a fun way to learn each other’s names and our local wildlife. The night ended with a cozy campfire, complete with roasted sausages and enjoying the company of our fellow nature enthusiasts.

Saturday was packed with hands-on exploration. We began by crafting personalized nature journals before setting out on a hike to Chapel Rock, where we took a deep dive into the fascinating geology of Lutherlyn. In the afternoon, we hit the Trinity Pines Trail and visited Lutherlyn’s abandoned mine drainage remediation wetland. There, we conducted real-time chemistry experiments to evaluate how well the wetland filters out pollutants.

Saturday evening brought a highlight of the retreat: *Frog Watch*, a national citizen-science program that monitors frog and toad populations. Equipped with data sheets and keen ears, we recorded breeding call activity and contributed valuable data to broader ecological research.

On Sunday, we rose early for birdwatching and capped off the retreat with a guided tour of Terra Dei, the first ever straw bale house built in Pennsylvania, showcasing innovative conservation technologies. We concluded the weekend with an outdoor worship service, reflecting on the beauty and wonder of creation.

The Nature Nerds retreat will return in 2026 with even more outdoor fun! Are you a Nature Nerd? Join us March 27-29, 2026 as we stargaze, hike, hunt for critters, and enjoy hands-on SCIENCE!



## WORSHIP AT LUTHERLYN

Worship has always been an important part of what we do at Lutherlyn but it has been in the context of summer camp, a retreat, or an event that you must register for. We are so happy to now have four times each year that you are invited to just show up and worship at camp. Everyone is welcome and invited to join us, no RSVP needed. Communion Worship starts at 3:30pm (plan to arrive early to allow time to park and walk to worship). More details at [www.lutherlyn.com/worship](http://www.lutherlyn.com/worship).

### 2026 Worship Dates:

April 12, 2026 - Baker Chapel  
September 13, 2026 – Amphitheater

June 7, 2026 – Chapel Hill  
December 6, 2026 – Baker Chapel

## CampBlast!

No registration is needed. Just show up with all your friends, family, neighbors, and anyone else looking for a fun, free day at Lutherlyn.

Saturday May 9, 2026

11AM–4:30PM

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



## WISH LIST AND SUPPORT

Each year, many generous donors help to alleviate the ever-increasing cost of materials and supplies that are needed at Lutherlyn. Lutherlyn is happy to receive monetary donations and donations of items that are needed for this ministry. Here are a list of some of the ways that friends give to Lutherlyn.

Visit [www.lutherlyn.com/support](http://www.lutherlyn.com/support) for details behind each of these ways to give.

- Trinity Pines Club Annual Donation
- One-Time Online Donation
- Mail a Check to PO Box 355, Prospect, PA 16052
- Automated Monthly Giving
- Planned/Estate Giving
- IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution
- Gift of Stock
- Thrivent Choice Dollars
- Thrivent Action Team
- United Way Employer Giving
- Wish List Items
- Venmo/Paypal
- Buy a Friendship Way Brick



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

Visit [lutherlyn.com/2026](http://lutherlyn.com/2026)  
for details about all our retreats and events.

## 2026 LUTHERLYN CALENDAR

Subject to change

### January

- 16-18 Winter Youth Retreat
- 20-25 Quilting/Crafting Retreat
- 31 Saturday Safari

### February

- 20-22 Grown-Up Winter Retreat
- 28 Saturday Safari

### March

- 17-22 Quilting/Crafting Retreat
- 21 Blacksmithing Class
- 27-29 Nature Nerd Retreat

### April

- 12 Worship at Lutherlyn
- 25 Blacksmithing Class
- 25 Work Day

### May

- 9 CampBlast!
- 9 Blacksmithing Class
- 31 First day of Staff Training

### June

- 1-12 Summer Staff Training
- 7 Trinity Pines Club Reception
- 7 Worship at Lutherlyn
- 14 SUMMER CAMP BEGINS

### July

- 1-31 SUMMER CAMP

### August

- 1 Last Day of Summer Camp
- 21-23 Grown Up Camp

### September

- 8-13 Quilting/Crafting Retreat
- 12 Saturday Safari
- 12 Blacksmithing Class
- 13 Worship at Lutherlyn

### October

- 17 Blacksmithing Class
- 25 Halloween Family Fun

### November

- 7 & 8 Woodland Quilt Show
- 7 Saturday Safari
- 17-22 Quilting/Crafting Retreat
- 21 Blacksmithing Class

### December

- 4-6 Advent Retreat
- 5 Plunge!
- 6 Worship at Lutherlyn





## SUMMER 2026 CURRICULUM: WEAR LOVE



*Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. Colossians 3:14*

Consider your favorite piece of clothing - the well-worn flannel, cozy sweater, or lucky jersey. Behind each garment is a story: the fibers, the hands that crafted it, and the care required to stay in your wardrobe. Love, much like clothing, has a journey. Rooted in God's love, it's woven into our lives, connecting us to others and guiding our actions. As Paul writes to the Colossians, love binds us together through virtues like kindness, humbleness, calmness, steadfastness, and forgiveness. These qualities strengthen our relationships, reflecting God's love in every interaction and aligning us with the values that create the life God wants for all of us.

## CABIN DEMOLITION

While new construction is exciting, raising funds to demolish well-loved, unused cabins is a tougher ask. Lutherlyn is incredibly lucky to have a donor who prioritized "cleaning up" camp by removing un-used cabins. Thanks to their gift, we were able to remove the unused "cabin row" cabins over the past year and we have the funds to remove the Shaulis Cabins over the next year. We hope that you have a chance to see what an incredible improvement removing these cabins has made to the aesthetics of camp.

## NEW BISHOPS



Lutherlyn is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and serves as an Outdoor Ministry of the Northwestern and Southwestern Pennsylvania Synods of the ELCA. In 2025, the ELCA, the NWPA Synod, and the SWPA Synod all elected new Bishops. Bishop Yehiel Curry was elected and installed as the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Bishop Kristen Papon is the new Bishop of the NWPA Synod, and Bishop Melissa Stoller now serves as Bishop of the SWPA Synod. We are thankful for the leadership of each of our new Bishops.

In August, it was an honor to host the retirement celebration for Bishop Kurt Kusserow at Lutherlyn. Bishop Kusserow faithfully served as the SWPA Synod Bishop for 18 years and we are thankful for his wisdom and guidance.

## GLORIA YOUNT RECEIVES CORNERSTONE AWARD



On June 7th, at the Trinity Pines Club donor appreciation event, Deb, Lutherlyn's Executive Director, awarded longtime volunteer and donor, Gloria Yount, with the Cornerstone Award.

It is a common occurrence to see Gloria volunteering at camp! In recent years Gloria has volunteered with Quilt Camp, helped the office staff with mailings, planned craft activities, crafted centerpieces, and even taken the Plunge three years in a row! In

addition to all that, Gloria is also the chair person for the Woodland Quilt Show. Gloria keeps everything running smoothly—all with the goal of raising funds for children who need financial assistance to come to camp.

Please, thank Gloria for all she does when you next see her! For more information about the Woodland Quilters or their annual Quilt Show please visit [www.lutherlyn.com/quilts](http://www.lutherlyn.com/quilts).

## BELL TOWER PROJECT



Tom Vezzetti volunteered innumerable hours at Lutherlyn in the 1970s. Tom created the wooden mural in Rice Hall, helped winterize cabins, helped design and build the amphitheater, built the fireplace in the picnic shelter in the Rustic Retreat Center (which bears his name), and built the bell tower. The bell tower was erected across the driveway from the Health Hut and was built in memory of Tom's daughter. Tom built the bell tower in 1975 out of red cedar so that it would be rot

resistant, and it lasted for four decades.

This summer, Eagle Scout Eli Roberts took on the task of replacing the bell tower. Eli and his troop reconstructed the bell tower and added benches for small group gatherings. The site of the bell tower was moved to Baker Chapel where it will get much more use, but Tom's original triangular design was kept. Fifty years later, it is encouraging to know that a place that was so important to Tom Vezzetti, is equally important to current generations. Once more, the bell will be rung as a call to worship, and people will be reminded of who they are and whose they are.



## JUMP INTO FUN: CORNHOLE, SHUFFLEBOARD, AND MORE!



If it has been a few years since your last visit to Lutherlyn, you may not have seen all the fun additions that have taken place between the Dining Hall and the sports fields. A brightly-striped jump pillow was installed in 2020 and quickly became a favorite for campers of all ages! A pavilion with lights and benches was erected next, then volunteers built a new deck for a brand new gaga ball pit. Additionally, two shuffleboard courts were added in memory of

Earl Geyer, and most recently, two permanent sets of concrete cornhole were installed in memory of Dick Albright.

This refurbished area of camp is now regularly a source of giggles, shouts, and a whole lot of fun! While a lot has already changed, there is still more to come. The next facet of our "Jump Into Fun" project is to update the basketball court and add sand volleyball or perhaps pickleball.

Lutherlyn's leadership is committed to camp remaining debt free, and no part of these projects were paid for by Lutherlyn's operational funds. As additional gifts are received, work will continue.

Thank you to everyone who supported the *Jump Into Fun* campaign and each of the families who have made memorial gifts, it has been an absolute joy to see all the fun your gifts have brought to Lutherlyn's campers and guests. You should definitely plan to check out this fun space on your next visit to camp.

If you would like to discuss a memorial Project, please contact the Development Office at 724-865-2161 or [andrea@lutherlyn.com](mailto:andrea@lutherlyn.com).







Four years ago, the **Building for the Future** capital campaign was announced with a \$2 million dollar goal to renovate Steinger Memorial Amphitheater, build five new cabins, remove unused cabins in the Shaulis Village, pave the entrance road, and other improvements to Lutherlyn’s site. Since that initial announcement, more than seven hundred individuals, families, and congregations have supported **Building for the Future** and we met the \$2 million dollar goal.

The campaign’s first project, renovating Steinger Memorial Amphitheater, was completed in May of 2024. As a former camper with fond memories of closing worship and affirmations my cabin leaders shared with me, I am very happy that, while the new amphitheater is amazing, it has the same warm and welcoming feel it always has. It’s beautiful, more accessible, and will serve our campers and guests for decades to come.

The next campaign project, construction of five new cabins, is now underway! Grace Village is located in the area between the pool and the A-Frame cabins. These cabins are very similar to Lutherlyn’s other “new” cabins. Each cabin can be separated into two rooms, both featuring a full bathroom. The new cabins will also include storage space for luggage and belongings. Once completed, Grace Village will increase capacity for summer camp, house more summer volunteers (which we have had to limit in recent years due to housing constraints), and provide more lodging for retreats and rental groups close to the Dining Hall.



The week after summer camp 2025 ended, site work began for Grace Village. Since those first days of work, trees and old stumps were taken down and hauled away, utility lines were buried, foundations were dug, and footers and foundations were poured. By the end of October framework for the first cabin was installed and, within just a day of the timber arriving, things started looking a whole lot more cabin-like! There were actual shouts of joy from those of us at the office when we saw the first walls up, complete with doorways and window openings. The week of the final edit of this newsletter, all 5 cabins are completely framed and 2 have completed roofs. By the time this newsletter reaches you, it is very likely that all the roofs will be completed and interior work will continue through the winter. The new cabins are slated for completion prior to the start of Summer Camp 2026. While a cabin could simply serve as a place to stay or sleep, at Lutherlyn a cabin also serves as a location where friendships are forged, prayers are shared, and faith grows. I can’t wait for our campers to inhabit the Grace Village cabins!

Lutherlyn’s Executive Leadership and Board of Directors are committed to Lutherlyn’s long term financial stability and are completing the campaign’s projects only as funding allows. Lutherlyn is debt free and will not take on debt to facilitate these projects. While the new cabins will be completed relatively soon, the campaign will remain active. Improvements to Lutherlyn’s campus, like repurposing the Shaulis Village area, renovating the former “upper shower house” into a meeting space/retreat center, as well as improvements to camp’s roads and driveway are also part of the campaign and will be completed as funds are raised. Though everyone at camp is very excited about these projects, we also want to be transparent about the financial realities of the campaign. The campaign’s initial goal of \$2 million dollars was adequate to complete all the projects when the quotes were obtained in 2018-2019. The campaign was paused in 2020 when the pandemic required Lutherlyn to focus on the immediate financial needs. Due to the delay, we know that the initial \$2 million dollars will not cover all of the intended campaign projects. The cabins are fully funded but it will take an additional \$500,000 to complete the remaining campaign projects.

If you have not yet made a gift to the Building for the Future campaign, I hope that you will consider participating with a donation now to help Lutherlyn with the next projects, as they are all important and will help Lutherlyn better serve everyone who visits camp for years to come. Gifts can be made at [www.lutherlyn.com/donate](http://www.lutherlyn.com/donate).



Thank you so much to each and every one of you who participated in the **Building for the Future** Capital Campaign. Your gifts have made an incredible difference at Lutherlyn already, and will help Lutherlyn be a more welcoming ministry for decades to come.

With Excitement & Gratitude,

Andi

### ENDOWMENTS AT LUTHERLYN



If you have spent much time at Lutherlyn over the years, you can likely think of a family tree or two that is rooted at, or branches through, Lutherlyn. From couples who met at camp, to summer staff following in their parents’ footsteps, to campers who exclaim “my grandma was a camper here too!” There are many families who have multi-generational experiences at Lutherlyn. Some of these families have expressed their generosity and passion for camp by establishing named endowment funds to support Lutherlyn.

One such family is the Steiners, starting with Pastor Bill Steiner who served as program director from 1970-1980. Pastor Bill and his wife, Joyce, managed a bevy of tasks and activities all while raising their children, Signe, Leah, Mark, and Roger at Lutherlyn. (Can you imagine being lucky enough to grow up at camp??) Bill and Joyce sought to make Lutherlyn a place where all children, not just their own, could grow in faith, and grow the skills they would need to become leaders within the church. Their commitment to outdoor ministry at Lutherlyn was carried on by their children and grandchildren. Each of the Steiner children worked at camp, as well as many of Bill and Joyce’s grandchildren in the following generation. As a person lucky enough to have heard a few of their stories, I can assure you that they all do indeed have a passion for outdoor ministry and for Lutherlyn!



After Bill and Joyce passed away, their children and grandchildren established the *Bill & Joyce Steiner Leadership Endowment Fund* to honor their incredibly legacy. This fund was established in 2020 and provides financial resources to Lutherlyn in support of leadership development, diversity, inclusion, and staff recruitment. The fund has already been utilized to provide training to our summer staff members and to support international summer staff. As an endowment,

gifts to the fund are invested and then the interest is used to recruit and develop a diverse group of young people who will best serve our campers!

Another camp family you may know are Clair and Carroll Klingensmith. In the early 1940’s Clair’s father, Eugene McCormick was one of the leaders from the Pittsburgh Synod of the United Lutheran Church that began exploring the idea of creating a leadership training camp. Carroll had her first camper experience in 1950. After finishing her camper career, Carroll returned to volunteer as a nurse for a week during the 1960s, and by the 90s had brought the whole family to Family Camp. Their son, Kirk and his wife Cynthia, have continued to attend family camp and several members of the family have served on Summer Staff over the years. To celebrate their family’s love for and commitment to Lutherlyn, the Clair and Carroll Klingensmith Endowment Fund was established in 2024, and, after Clair’s passing in August, a number of memorial gifts were added to the fund. As the fund continues to grow, its income supports Lutherlyn’s Annual Fund, providing camperships and other financial resources for ministry for as long as Lutherlyn exists. In Carroll’s words “Lutherlyn has always reflected our deep faith and lifelong commitment to encouraging young people to grow in that faith. It is why we set up the endowment fund to ensure that this legacy of love, service, and spiritual growth will continue for years to come.”

If you would like to contribute to one of these incredible resources for camp, you can make a gift at [www.lutherlyn.com/donate](http://www.lutherlyn.com/donate) (or mail a check to camp) and include “Steiner Endowment” or “Klingensmith Endowment” in the notes/memo. Each gift will certainly have a lasting impact!



# Director's Notebook

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

As Lutherlyn's 77<sup>th</sup> year comes to a close, I give thanks for all that God has done in and through Lutherlyn in 2025 and for everyone who has been a part of this ministry. What a year it has been!

This summer was an incredible one - our summer camp program saw *increased camper numbers*, a vibrant and faith-filled community, and an *exceptional summer staff* who poured their energy, creativity, and love into every camper's experience. The joy, laughter, and growth we witnessed in our campers was exciting and encouraging. It is so interesting to read the camper evaluations and engage summer campers in conversations about why they love their week at Lutherlyn. Not long ago, we had to carefully explain why we don't allow cell phones at camp, and it was often received by campers and parents as a "downside" to camp. Now, campers and parents truly value and seem excited about their time disconnected from all the cyber-noise in their daily lives. Kids need time away from screens and time in nature and it is very cool to be a part of that disconnected time for them. The enthusiasm, creativity, and energy that we see in campers when they are in a safe space and able to be themselves in the moment is very exciting!

Beyond the summer, Lutherlyn continued to thrive as a place of retreat, renewal, and community. We hosted an *incredible retreat season* filled with a wide variety of groups - congregations, schools, organizations, and individuals - all finding peace and time to connect with nature. It is such a joy to see groups of people finding the time and space they need at Lutherlyn. I hope you will consider coming to one of Lutherlyn's retreats/ events or bringing a group for a retreat of your own.

Although necessary for Lutherlyn's financial future, the decision to close the Equestrian Center in August of 2026 leaves many of us with a feeling of sadness. I remember riding Treasure as a camper in the early 90s, and I have watched my daughter grow in confidence through her riding lessons over the past ten years. Please know that this decision was made only after careful consideration and extensive



research by the Board of Directors. Ultimately, it was determined that continuing the program simply isn't financially feasible. We are deeply grateful for the many years of ministry, learning, and care that took place in that space, and for everyone who was part of Lutherlyn's Equestrian program. I am also so thankful for Carla and the care that she has invested in the program and the campers/students.

At the same time, we celebrate new beginnings. The *construction of five new cabins* is well underway — a sign of growth and anticipation for the future. It's exciting to imagine the countless campers, retreat guests, and families who will find community, rest, and renewal in these cabins for generations to come. While many campers, including me, had an amazing experience while staying in the Shaulis Village cabins, it is exciting to have all the cabins on main camp, winterized, and modernized so they can be used year-round by all campers and guests.

As we look ahead, I ask for your continued prayers and support. Please keep *spreading the word about Lutherlyn!* You — our campers, families, donors, volunteers, alumni, and friends — are the best at inviting new friends to come to camp. Your stories and enthusiasm inspire others to come and experience the joy of this place. Thank you for being part of the Lutherlyn community and for your part in helping Lutherlyn continue to be a God-given place to be accepted, challenged, and sent out into the world to make a difference!

Your Partner in Ministry,

Deb Roberts  
Executive Director



The Summer 2025 Leadership Staff  
Ryan, Sam, Nadine, Suzy, Deb



## THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

Lutherlyn relies on volunteers for many key roles in our summer camp program. In addition to the summer staff, each week of summer camp has volunteer nurses, chaplains, grandparents, and program leaders. We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to our summer volunteers. We are so thankful for their time, dedication, and care for our campers. With the completion of the new cabins, we will have 1 more cabin of housing for summer volunteers. If you are interested in serving as a summer camp volunteer, please contact [deb@lutherlyn.com](mailto:deb@lutherlyn.com) or call the office at 724-865-2161 for details and an application.

## \$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.

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

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

## MISSION STATEMENT

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



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



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

