

# Looking ahead...

# Staff Alumni Newsletter

2025

## Are you bold enough to brave the cold?

Calling all polar bears, penguins, and brave staff alumni souls!! Lutherlyn's Development Office is currently working to recruit "Plungers" for this year's Plunge on December 6th.

Participants are given a goal of fundraising \$1,000 each from friends (or maybe given the context enemies) to sponsor their icy adventure. Though this event is a short one it is a very fun-fundraiser and we would LOVE to

have a few staff alumni sign up to take the Plunge with us this year! All proceeds benefit Lutherlyn's Annual Fund, which provides the funds needed for Lutherlyn to provide camperships for the families who need them each summer.

Interested in taking the Plunge? Email [andrea@lutherlyn.com](mailto:andrea@lutherlyn.com).



## Giving Tuesday—Matching Gift Opportunity



Save the Date! This year Giving Tuesday is on December 2nd. While we can't divulge the details yet...we believe we have secured a matching gift for this year! Please watch your email box and Lutherlyn's Facebook page as we get closer to December 2nd; we will be sharing details about when and where to give so that your gift can be matched!

## Staff Alumni Get-Togethers

Do you still meet up with any of your fellow former staff? We would LOVE to share these get togethers, feel free to submit a photo for next year's Alumni Newsletter. When submitting photos please include a name for each Staff Alumni, their years on staff (if you have that information), and where the get together took place.

You can send photos to [development@lutherlyn.com](mailto:development@lutherlyn.com) or upload them at [www.lutherlyn.com/alumni](http://www.lutherlyn.com/alumni). We can't wait to see you seeing each other!



## 80th Anniversary All Staff Reunion



We are anxiously awaiting the next All Staff Reunion scheduled for June 10, 2028. Lutherlyn currently has about 675 households in

our Staff Alumni Directory which means we are missing a lot of our staff alumni. We would love to find as many of our staff alumni as possible so that we can extend an invitation to the next All Staff Reunion. Please consider encouraging your fellow staff alumni to make sure they're included by signing up for the staff alumni mailing list at [www.lutherlyn.com/staffinvite](http://www.lutherlyn.com/staffinvite).

This publication has been printed in black & white to conserve resources. To view a full color version or to view full-size photos please visit [www.lutherlyn.com/alumni](http://www.lutherlyn.com/alumni).



Mailing Address:  
PO Box 355  
Prospect PA 16052

Phone: 724-865-2161  
Fax: 724-865-9794  
[email@lutherlyn.com](mailto:email@lutherlyn.com)



## Greetings from Lutherlyn!

Summer Camp 2025 was another great one at Lutherlyn! As usual, we had an amazing group of young people serving on our staff this summer. This year's staff was a great mix of returners and new faces, twenty of our thirty-eight summer staff were newbies. Following tradition, many of our staff members were second (or more) generation staff as well, and even more who have siblings who have served on staff. Fifteen of this summer's staff members have a close family member who has also served on summer staff at Lutherlyn. We were also once again blessed to include several international cabin leaders on this summer's team. Ashari and Maleke came to us from Jamaica and Johan from Mexico. We, and our campers, have certainly enjoyed having them with us for the summer. It was a wonderful summer, thanks in large part to the dedication and caring our summer staff brought to camp.

This summer included campers, staff, and volunteers from 20 US states (including far Hawaii), and included so many staff alumni influences its simply too hard to count them! Many, MANY, of our campers are following in the footsteps of their siblings, cousins, parents, grandparents, and close family friends by coming to camp. A huge number of our campers and

their families indicate that they sign up for camp after a personal recommendation. Thank you! This encouragement is by far the most effective advertisement Lutherlyn could ask for. Please, keep up the great work!

Staff Alumni were also a huge part of this summer's team of volunteers. Volunteers are a vital part of every summer, and make specialty camps like Confirmation Camp, Model Rocketry, and Arts Camp possible. This summer more than forty volunteers spent an entire week with us and another twenty helped with check-in or stayed the day. More than half of those many volunteers have also served on Lutherlyn's staff. Please join us in thanking our amazing volunteers! If you are interested in helping as a volunteer next summer, please contact Deb via email at [deb@lutherlyn.com](mailto:deb@lutherlyn.com).

Another great piece of news is that Lutherlyn's summer camper numbers increased again this year. While many other camps all over the country are experiencing decreasing camper numbers, Lutherlyn has seen a slow increase. Thank you! As we previously mentioned, word of mouth



L to R: Ryan (Associate Director), Sam (Unit Leader), Deb (Executive Director), Nadine (Unit Leader), & Suzy (Unit Leader)

advertising and encouragement from friends and acquaintances is a big factor in why we believe Lutherlyn is experiencing this success. Colleagues at other camps ask us what we're doing, and we regularly say it's the friends of camp who are driving new campers to Lutherlyn.

Thank you Lutherlyn Staff Alumni, for continuing to be a driving force in the Lutherlyn community, and thank you for advocating for Lutherlyn and the ministry that happens here. We love and appreciate your support!



Ashari (2nd from left) helping with archery.



Johan (right) paddling a canoe.



Maleke (right) playing tag.



# Fun in the Field!

## Jumping into FUN!

At the last All Staff Reunion we had started the installation of the jump pillow in the sports field in front of the Dining Hall. If you were here you may remember seeing the materials piled up in the field. In the weeks just after the reunion the jump pillow was installed. Once completed, the jump pillow quickly became a camper favorite. In addition to pavilion which was constructed in 2020, and the shuffleboard courts added in 2021, and updates to the gaga pit and platform in 2022 the area between the sports fields and Dining Hall had two brand new sets of permanent, all-weather, corn hold boards installed before camp this summer.

While we would have loved to complete all these projects simultaneously, each aspect of this project was completed as funds were available. To ensure Lutherlyn remained debt free, no portion of these projects were funded from Lutherlyn's operational funds, or from the acquisition of debt. Though the pandemic affected the timeline for these improvements it has still been incredibly fulfilling to the space used with increased frequency after each addition. This new recreation space has been a hive of activity with summer campers, retreat guests, field trip attendees, and group rentals. Thanks to the donations which made these projects possible, visitors to camp will be able to enjoy these spaces and activities for years to come!

At the next All Staff Reunion you should check out this awesome new space at camp and maybe challenge a fellow alum to a round or two of cornhole!



## Camper Quotes...

Each summer our campers complete a survey about their week at camp, here are a few highlights:

The best thing about this week was...

- "my new friends!" Piper, 13
- "my cabin leaders!" Marcus, 9
- "EVERYTHING!" Lane, 11

The most important thing I learned this week was...

- "kindness, and how to stop conflict." Kennedy, 12
- "sometimes you have to step out of your comfort zone to truly have fun." Quinn, 14

- "God shines through all of us."

Aubrey, 11

- "God looks at your interior, not exterior." Juliana, 14

- "I feel more in touch with my faith and am excited to go home and share this with others." Merryn, 13
- "the connections you make here are for life." Dakota, 16

And, Jaden, 14, suggested that Lutherlyn start a podcast called "Todd-cast", a suggestion we all really got a kick out of!



# Fundraising Update



## Building for the Future

Exciting things are happening at Lutherlyn! Site preparations for the Grace Cabin Village is underway!

Thanks to the generous support of people like you, the *Building for the Future* Capital Campaign reached its goal, making this new cabin village possible. Grace Village will include five new cabins very similar in design to Lutherlyn's other modern cabin villages, which can be separated into two halves, but will also feature some additional storage space for our campers' belongings. This new village is being constructed between the pool and existing A-Frame Cabin Village. The additional space these cabins provide will allow Lutherlyn to increase both it's summer camp capacity, allowing for more campers and volunteers, as well we our capacity for other retreats and rental groups throughout the remainder of the year. In particular, Lutherlyn's winter visitors appreciate being close to the Dining Hall.

As you may remember, in 2023 a challenge was issued to all former staff. If Lutherlyn's staff alumni could meet a \$200,000 fundraising

challenge one of Grace Village's cabins would be dedicated in honor of all former staff. In total, more than 600 families participated in the campaign, including more than 120 staff alumni families. The campaign has reached a pledge total of \$2,036,476 and the staff alumni total was.....insert drum roll here..... \$356,368 (if all our alumni fulfill their pledges)! WOW! Thank you all so much for your support!

## Save the Date!

Grace Village  
cabins are being  
dedicated on  
**May 9, 2026**

As promised, due to the \$200,000 collective fundraising goal being met, one of the new cabins in Grace Village will be dedicated in honor of all former staff! Grace Village is scheduled to be completed prior to the start of summer camp 2026 and will be dedicated on May 9th, 2026 kicking off CampBlast! You are, of course, invited to attend this service

of worship and celebration, as well as invited to attend CampBlast!

The *Building for the Future* Capital Campaign is still an active one. While the \$2 million base goal has been met, it is likely that Lutherlyn will need an additional \$500,000 to finish all of the projects initially included in the campaign as the pandemic and resulting inflation increased material costs. Lutherlyn will continue to fundraise and work on planned improvements to campus as funds allow. Lutherlyn's Board of Directors and Executive Leadership are committed to Lutherlyn remaining debt free. The Amphitheater, a beloved space at camp, has been completely renovated, the windows in Redwood Lodge have been replaced, and several disused cabins have been removed thanks to the support that the *Building for the Future* has received. As funds are donated additional improvements to Lutherlyn's campus, like a renewal of the Shaulis Village and camp's driveway. If you would like to make a gift to *Building for the Future*, please visit [www.lutherlyn.com/donate](http://www.lutherlyn.com/donate). We hope to see you at the dedication!!