



LUTHER POINT BIBLE CAMP

Summer 2015



THANK GOD FOR CHURCH CAMPS

David J. Lose
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Church camps are, in my opinion, one of the treasures of the church, a treasure that is simultaneously highly valued and grossly undervalued. It's valued by those thousands of persons who had their faith nurtured at camp, had their leadership skills strengthened at camp, and had their identity stretched and enriched at camp.



At the same time, I don't think outdoor ministries receive nearly the support they deserve from congregations or adjudicatories (synods, presbyteries, conferences, etc.). I understand, of course, that there are numerous demands on the dwindling resources of church bodies, but I'd argue that we underfund camps at our peril.

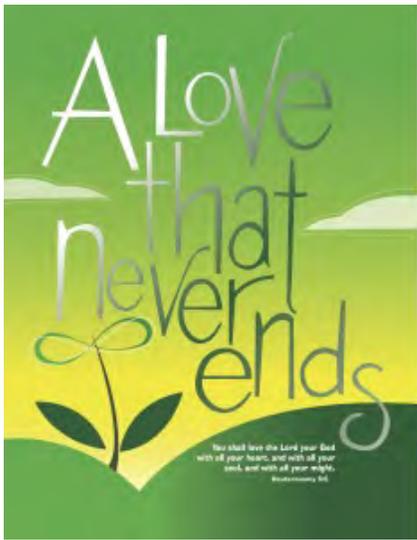


Why? Not only because of the positive impact church camps have on those who attend them, but also because I think that camps offer a model of more effective and faithful congregational ministry in today's world. The counselors and camp pastors, you see, not only have as their goal to help campers – whether kids, young adults, or adults at family camp – grow in their faith, but they've also figured out that in order to help people grow in their faith, they – the counselors and pastors – often have to get out of the way. That is, one of the huge reasons camp is so formative is that participants are invited to pray out loud and for each other, not just to listen to someone else pray. Campers of all ages are invited to retell the biblical story through songs, stories, skits, and more, not simply listen as someone else teaches about the story. Campers share their gifts in worship leadership rather than just watch as someone else “does it right,” which means each and every service both follows a recognizable pattern yet also is distinctly and wonderfully different because of the contributed gifts of those in attendance.



Camp staff, in short, know that faith is caught, not taught, and that you learn best by doing. Which is why I think they provide an interesting model for those who are interested in nurturing a different kind of faith community in and through our congregations. Because if we want to create congregations where the people in attendance aren't simply gratefully receiving the performance of the pastor but instead are learning the key skills of living as a Christian themselves, then we have a lot to learn from our church camps.





SUMMER 2015

This summer campers of all ages are invited to experience *A Love that Never Ends* at Luther Point. Together we will explore the stories of the Old Testament and our call to love God totally and completely, with all of our heart, all of our soul, and all of our mind.

Our daily themes invites

us to consider what it means to live in the world as people chosen by God: Abraham, Israel, Ruth, Jonah and Jeremiah.. And of course, we'll find time to have plenty of FUN this summer!

Summer Celebration & Quilt Auction!

Sunday, August 9, 2015
10 am ~ 3 pm

Mark your calendars for our annual celebration and fundraiser here at Luther Point Bible Camp! It will be a day filled with food and fun for all ages. We will begin with worship in the morning (10 am) followed by our annual Quilt & Craft Auction, featuring items ranging from handmade artisan crafts, original artwork, to intricate, beautiful quilts. This is a great opportunity to spend a day at camp, enjoy some good food, bid on quality craft and quilt items, participate in activities for children and youth, and support the ministry of Luther Point Bible Camp.



Luther Point Bible Camp

*Forming Faith ~
Pointing to Christ!*

Wow – it was exactly what we were hoping for her – to spend some time surrounded with good, positive people, to learn to relax a little and laugh more and to give her a basis for her faith. She came home with a new outlook on life! Thank you!

Parent of a Jr. high camper



Wondering how to make this summer the best ever for you and your family.

It's not too late to select from many remaining summer camp options by visiting www.lutherpoint.org.

Meet the Executive Director - Rev. Mark Peters!

As the summer camping season commences, my starting date in September of 2014 as the new Executive Director of Luther Point Bible Camp quickly disappears in the rearview mirror. Everyone's focus – the staff, counselors, and especially the campers and families is engaged in the present moment. The intensive preparation, planning, and training is over – it is “go time.” The electronics and “screens” are unplugged and faith and friendships are sparking. As David Lose stated in the opening article, “Faith is caught, not taught.” Luther Point Bible Camp is in the “spark” business. I can think of no better vocation (in no better location) than to welcome another wave of campers to experience God's grace in this place.



I am the youngest of four brothers and was raised in Madison, WI. My brother Eric and I manage our family farm near Richland Center, WI. The conservation practices we implemented were awarded the Wildlife Habitat Improvement Award by Richland County

in 2009. All four of us attended the University of Wisconsin where I received a BS in Political Science and Education. After graduating from Luther Seminary in Saint Paul, MN I served my first call to a congregation in rural southwestern Minnesota. For the next 18 years I was Executive Director of the Minnesota State Policy Advocacy Office. This ministry was a partnership with the ELCA World Hunger Program and all six synods throughout Minnesota – nearly 1200 ELCA congregations. During this time I mentored more than 70 interns, including many students from ELCA and public colleges. I have a Master of Theology (MTh) from Luther Seminary in Ministry in Pastoral Care and Social Change. In 2013 I completed training at Luther Seminary and was certified for Intentional Interim Ministry before serving as interim pastor at Mount Zion Lutheran Church in Hudson, Wisconsin in 2014.



**New Director walks on water?!
Break-In-The-Lake 2015**

Just recently, my brother Eric uncovered a letter (literally in a shoebox in the attic) that my mother wrote to me while I was at camp when I was 8 years old. It brought back a flood of emotion and gratitude. My mother went to camp when she was a young girl and made sure we all had the same opportunity. I am blessed to be able to offer the same to my two children, Noah (14) and Alek (10) who are both engaged in summer camp games as I write this article. I can hear the joyful sounds of camp through my open office window - it is a daily tonic and balm to my soul.

There is much transition to navigate as I enter the stream and build on the solid foundation that so many dedicated people have laid since the first campers arrived here in 1949. After a winter of commuting to camp from Saint Paul where my kids attended school we are now in the process of moving to live in the “Shadai” house on the hill overlooking camp. My wife, Janeen, has made this transition possible since I have been at camp for most of every week since I started. It helps that this will be our 30th anniversary in October as our relationship is tempered by time which yields a more realistic perspective on such transitions. I also am grateful to my children who have taken the “long view” knowing we will all be again living together once their school year concludes. Thankfully, that time has arrived.



**Becoming the new Director
required a leap of faith**



The Opening More Doors Together campaign began in 2007 in order to open more doors of opportunity for growth, discovery, and ministry; but most importantly, for fulfilling our core value of Safety. At the heart of the campaign was the building of the storm shelter to provide a safe place for our children, guests, and employees to gather during inclement weather. Included in the

campaign was the renovation of a number of our existing facilities as well as updating the septic system.

With the economic downturn in 2008/2009, as well as a decrease in rental retreats, it was evident that the needs of Luther Point needed to be re-prioritized. The decision was made to modify the plan. Rather than investing in new sleeping space, it was decided to focus on the building of the storm shelter/indoor program center near the existing basketball court. This revised project faithfully realizes the Luther Point core objectives in a more cost-effective manner.

Ground was broken in September of 2013. Construction moved quickly during the fall with the exterior being completed prior to winter, allowing construction on the interior to continue during the winter months. In the spring of 2014, the storm shelter was dedicated and christened *The Shalom Center*. Shalom is Hebrew for “Peace;” it has a deep meaning that is more than just calm or quiet. It is the type of peace that exists between God and us; the assurance that God will never leave us or forsake us. Shalom points to our well-being, welfare, and safety; it is a place of protection.

It is a great comfort knowing we have this place to protect our children, guests, and staff from storms, as well as adding additional meeting space.

We are extremely grateful for the many generous donors who are committed and invested in this project. On behalf of the children, guests, and staff, we thank you and we thank God for you. While space in this newsletter will not allow us to list all of the individuals and congregations who have given to this project, you will find them listed on the website, annual reports, and future newsletters. A commemorative plaque to be erected in *The Shalom Center* is in the planning as well.

While significant funding has allowed us to realize this project, payments on the construction loan now begin. We remind and encourage those who have made pledges to the campaign to send those pledges in as you are able. We also ask all of you to prayerfully consider continuing to contribute to this project so as to get this financial obligation off the books.



Current Construction Loan Total: \$287,445

Current Outstanding Pledges: \$85,000

Total Remaining Balance: \$202,445

Meet our Program Director - Aaron Good!

Luther Point has been one of the most influential parts of my faith journey over the past 10 years. I have been to summer camp, attended confirmation retreats, served as a counselor, and pigged out on pork sandwiches at the annual quilt auction. All of these experiences were so distinctly different but still played an important role in my life. As a camper, I was able to learn how to be very open with my faith and what it meant to worship a God who loves us. After a meaningful worship during the summer, my counselor brought our group to the labyrinth, which is a guided walk for personal reflection. I remember when I reached the center, I sat down in silence to listen for God, which was something I had learned in a Bible study that week. In that moment, I became overwhelmed with a love that I could not even begin to comprehend. I had always known that God loved me and he sent Jesus down to die for our sins, but that was the first time I began to understand what that really meant. Moments like that are what makes Luther Point such a powerful place for campers.

Because Luther Point had always helped me grow in my faith journey, I was not ready to be done going there after being a camper was no longer an option. To this day, being a counselor has been the best and most fulfilling job that I have ever had.



After two weeks of team-building and preparing Bible studies, it was time to start the eight week Luther Point summer camp season. There is a phenomenon that occurs during a week of camp; kids come to Luther Point not knowing many people and are a little shy when it comes to singing and talking about God. However, within about two days they are fully participating in Bible studies and know every word and action to all the songs we sing (which the parents will also know by the end of the car ride home after picking their child up!). This ability to let loose and have fun opens the door for faith development. Being in a fun environment surrounded by believers and dedicated counselors is such a powerful combination that stimulates this development. Every counselor I have worked with has been a strong believer with a passion and drive to help kids feel closer to God. I have witnessed so many instances of counselors making a difference in their campers lives. It is absolutely incredible seeing God work through the counselors at Luther Point to reach these campers.

I am honored and blessed to be part of the ministry that is Luther Point Bible Camp and am excited for another summer filled with campers and counselors—and to serve this time as your Program Director.





The Mathetria Retreat Center

In January of 2014, Luther Point received an extraordinary estate gift from Carol Anderson. That, along with a substantial gift loan from the Weiss family, allowed us to pay off the remaining balance on the retreat center, making it possible to secure a construction loan for the new storm shelter. In gratitude for Carol Anderson's generosity and the Weiss family's support, the Retreat Center received the name The Mathetria Retreat Center.

Mathetria is Greek for female disciple. The only place it is used in the Bible is in the Acts of the Apostles, in reference to Tabitha; more familiarly known as Dorcas. Tabitha is described as a widow with means who was well respected in the community. She spent most of her time doing good works and acts of charity. She died of an unknown ailment and was later brought back to life by Peter. Much of Tabitha's life can be compared to Carol Anderson's. Though Carol wasn't physically brought back to life like Tabitha, her legacy as a disciple lives on through her gifts to Luther Point Bible Camp!



A Legacy Gift is a wonderful opportunity to invest, support, and make a statement about all that you hold most dear—your faith, your passion, your loved ones, and the opportunity to touch so many lives for years to come. The thought and care you put into making plans today will give you the peace of mind of knowing that your legacy will indeed reflect your life, your beliefs, and your values. What is more, you can also make an enduring impact on the lives of literally hundreds—if not thousands—of youth and adults whose lives are touched and transformed through the ministry of Luther Point Bible Camp.

Estate planning often seems complicated and overwhelming, or perhaps we may think our “estate” is too small for planning to matter, or we don't expect to have an estate at all. But estate planning and leaving Legacy Gifts doesn't have to be complicated. And the size of the gift isn't what is important; it is really about the defining of your own life and the legacy you wish to leave.

Legacy Gifts have been a wonderful blessing to the ministry of Luther Point Bible Camp. Please feel free to contact our office so that we may walk with you and connect you to professionals that can assist you with your planned giving needs.

SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE 2015

June 14 – 19

Week One

Buddies I

Jr. High/Confirmation Camp
 5th/6th Grade Camp
 5th/6th Grade Horse Camp
 June 14 - 16: 3rd/4th Grade Camp
 June 17 - 19: Grandparent/Child Camp

June 21 - 26

Week Two

Buddies I

Jr. High/Confirmation Camp
 5th/6th Grade Camp
 GoFishN' Camp :5th/6th Grade
 June 21 - 23: 3rd/4th Grade Camp
 June 24: Day at Camp
 June 25: Day at Camp

June 28 - 30

Week Three

*Half Week

Jr. High Night Life
 5th/6th Grade Camp
 3rd/4th Grade Camp
 June 29 - 30: 1st/2nd Grade Overnight

July 8 - 10

Week Four

*Half Week

Outdoor Explorers: 3rd - 6th Grade
 July 8 - 9: 1st/2nd Grade Overnight
 Grandparent/Child Camp

July 12 - 17

Week Five

Buddies II

Jr. High/Confirmation Camp
 5th/6th Grade Camp
 7th/9th Grade Horse Camp
 July 12 - 14: 3rd/4th Grade Camp
 July 15 - 17: Grandparent/Child Camp

July 19 - 24

Week Six

Buddies II

Jr. High/Confirmation Camp
 5th/6th Grade Camp
 GoFishN' Camp: 7th/9th Grade
 Jr. High Horse Camp
 July 19 - 21: 3rd/4th Grade Camp
 July 22 - 24: Grandparent/Child Camp

July 26 - 31

Week Seven

Buddies III

Jr. High/Confirmation Camp
 5th/6th Grade Camp
 Drama (7th/9th); Fine Arts(7th/9th); & Guitar Camp (5th/6th)
 July 27 - 29: 3rd/4th Grade Camp
 July 29: Day Camp
 July 30: Day Camp

August 2 - 7

Week Eight

Buddies III

Families of all shapes and sizes Camp
 Senior High Horse Camp (10th - 12th Grade)
 August 5 - 7: Family Camp for Youth with Dev. Dis.

August 9

END OF SUMMER CELEBRATION & QUILT AUCTION!

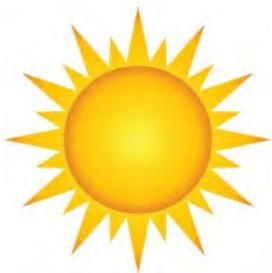




Forming Faith, Pointing to Christ

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TWIN CITIES, MN



Summer Celebration & Quilt Auction

Sunday, August 9, 2015

10 am ~ 3 pm

Food ~ Fun ~ Fellowship!

Celebrate another Spirit-filled year of summer camp & help raise funds to continue in support of our ministry

Look for more information to come and check out our website: lutherpoint.org

Bring on Summer!

