

Luther Point

BIBLE CAMP



Annual Report 2025

Agenda

Annual Meeting of the Lutheran Bible Camp Association

2025 Agenda

Sunday, November 16, 2025

2:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes
4. Dwelling in the Word
5. Reports
 - Associate Report
 - Program Report
 - Board President Report
 - Summer Celebration Report
 - General Information and Trends
6. Financials
 - January 1 - October 31, 2025 Financial Statement Review (with projections)
 - Approval of 2026 Budget
7. Luther Point Foundation
8. Elections of Luther Point Bible Camp Board of Directors
9. Approval of per Baptized Member Church Support for 2026 (presently \$2.25)
10. New Business
11. Adjournment

2024 Minutes

Annual Meeting of the Lutheran Bible Camp Association Sunday, February 23, 2025

Call to Order by Suzanne Vitale - 2:06 pm

Approval of Agenda - Motion to approve by Quinn Stone, Second by Claudia Balcom, Approved

Approval of 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes - Corrections: 4th paragraph: "Immanuel" to "Sweden" & 13th paragraph: "Sutherlan" to "Sutherland".

Motion to approve with/ corrections by Rev. MaryAnn Bowman, Second by Cindy Hagen, Approved

Dwelling in the Word and Opening Prayer - Rev. Marilyn Crossfield

Executive Report - Sam Campeau, report submitted

Program Report - Carissa Ditlefsen, report submitted

Associate & 75th celebration Report - Rev. Marilyn Crossfield, report submitted

General Information and Trends - Sam Campeau

Board Report - Suzanne Vitale, report submitted

January 1 - December 31, 2024 Financial Statement Review - Sam Campeau (focus on 2024 Actual)

Approval of 2025 budget - Sam Campeau

Highlights: insurance cost increase, staff expansion, and greater program revenue

Motion to approve by Beth Bartlett, Second by Juanita Dietmeier, Approved

Luther Point Foundation - Sam Campeau

Elections of Luther Point Bible Camp Board of Directors

Terms ending: Juanita Dietmeier, Jill Rosenberry, Suzanne Vitale

Nominations: Re-election of Suzanne Vitale (Faith LC, Grantsburg, WI) as Board President by Sam Campeau; Rev. Melissa Carmack (Peace LC, Dresser, WI) by Sam Campeau; Leigha Lang (Our Redeemer LC, Pine City, MN) by Sam Campeau.

Motion to nominate slate by Claudia Balcom, Second by Cindy Hagen, Approved

Approval of Per Baptized Member Church Support for 2025 (presently \$2.25) - Maintaining \$2.25.

Motion to approve by Jim Mielke, Second by Quinn Stone, Approved

New business - Sam Campeau - Future annual meetings occurring in November (gives us the ability to provide member churches with information before their annual meetings)

Adjournment - Motion by Cindy Hagen, Second by Rev. Ben Nelson, Approved.

Meeting Adjourned by Suzanne Vitale - 3:10 pm

Associate Report

I officially started as the Associate Director in January of 2025; however, I was working in that role since the fall of 2024. It has been a year of new discoveries. Most of my fall and spring was spent digging into an opportunity that was supposed to open in the Spring of 2025, ACA (American Camping Association) Character at Camp Grant. Due to many factors, the grant did not open up until September. We knew the grant was going to have multiple pathways: an implementation grant or a planning grant. As I learned more about each of these, it became clear that Luther Point needed to apply for the Planning Grant. We have many ideas and dreams, but we need the time and resources to thoroughly research, listen, and form a plan before we can implement the dream. That Grant proposal has been submitted, and we will hear the decision sometime in December.

I also wrote a grant to the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin for a mental health initiative. We received the grant; however, the disbursement was in August, so it will be used to continue the initiative next summer when we partner with My Dear Scout to offer training and resources to our staff around mental health at camp. We started implementing the initiative this past summer. We received a Thrivent Action Plan Grant to create Mental Health bottles. These were placed in each of the cabins and shared spaces. Staff were instructed on how to use them and share with their campers when they needed a fidget, distraction, busy work, focus activity, or simply earplugs. These bottles had stickers, dice, earplugs, and other things that could be used to help bring calm and focus. We will continue to use these next year, along with other resources. I will be receiving more training on Mental Health, specifically for camps, at the upcoming LOM (Lutheran Outdoor Ministry) yearly gathering. Carissa and I will be receiving Camp Well level two training.

Another focus this past year has been on ways that we can continue to partner with our congregations and families. One of the driving forces behind our curriculum this past summer was the drive to connect camp to home, congregation, and community. I created a worship service template that congregations could adapt to their context to introduce the summer camp theme. I also adapted the summer Bible Study for congregations to use in their context so that adults in our partner congregations could share in the learning that our campers were experiencing. I heard from one congregation that did the Bible study and how it had blessed them. Even though they do not have youth in their congregation who are going to camp, they felt a connection to camp by doing the Bible Study and being able to pray for all who were experiencing the same lessons at camp.

I also developed multiple resources for families to be able to connect with what their campers were experiencing at camp; from take-home schedules with daily Bible Study readings for caregivers to reference during the week their camper was at camp, to a Candle Time devotional that households received as campers went home to continue the conversations at home.

One of my favorite highlights from this year was having campers take ownership of the evening worship. On Sunday, the cabins learned which day/theme they had for worship and could begin working with their counselor to plan the worship they were assigned. Initially, there was some trepidation about this, but it quickly became the highlight of our weeks. Each time, campers brought new energy and imagination to worship, and it gave them a sense of purpose as they learned to lead their peers.

I can't end without mentioning the chickens. It has been a delight to see the ways that the chickens have brought new excitement and energy to camp. To watch the campers, those who have no fear and those who were apprehensive, engage in the care and learning about the chickens at whatever level they were comfortable with, was amazing to witness. The chickens brought out a sense of leadership and community that I hadn't even anticipated.

There is much transition and wondering about the next steps. I look forward to the ways the Holy Spirit will continue to lead us to take the next faithful steps to share God's Abundant Creation with every person who comes to Luther Point to encounter the Holy. I look forward to the journey.

Pr Marilyn Crossfield

Program Report

During the end of February into March, there was a lot of planning for the upcoming summer program, and I was beginning to interview potential summer staff members. In April, Marilyn and I attended the Program Share-a-thon, where we met with program directors from other camps. It was not only a great opportunity to connect with other program people, but it also gave Marilyn and me intentional time to work on the summer program. After the share-a-thon, we stayed longer to intentionally look through the curriculum we purchased, with the other program directors who purchased the same curriculum. This was my first year since I started as Program Director to use the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (LOM) Curriculum (Luther Point has used it in the past). I'm glad we tried it out last summer, and we have already purchased their curriculum to use for next summer.

As we were getting ready for summer, we also had to get ready for camp to have CHICKENS!! If you missed it, we added chickens to our programming this summer, and many campers loved it. Marilyn got the chicks in April and was busy taking care of them at her house with the help of her two children. I knew a family friend who had chickens and had built their own coop, and they were nice enough to share the plans with us and come out to build the coop with our supplies. During our spring clean-up day, we built the run and moved the garden down into the main camp, which made visiting the chickens and the garden easier than it had been for counselors and campers in years past. Shalom also got a new coat of stain that day (we still have one side left to do), and we used the same stain on the chicken coop to have them match!

In late May/early June, we had Team Leader and Staff Training. We had an amazing staff of about 20, with a handful of past staff volunteers scattered throughout the summer when we needed them. We also had another international counselor through the ELCA International Camp Counselor Program: Charity Million from Zimbabwe. Staff training is one of my favorite times of the year! It's the first time camp starts to feel like summer again, the new and old summer staff come together, and there's a lot of excitement mixed with some nervousness. We brought back Day Camps this summer, and had them for two weeks of the summer before our regular summer programming began. We went to Luck Lutheran (Luck, WI), Joy Lutheran (Centuria, WI), and Eisvold & Svea & English Lutheran (Bay City, Hager City, Ellsworth, WI). The nice thing about the two local day camps was that we were still able to fit in more staff training during the evenings when the summer staff would get back to camp. Our theme this past summer was God's Word Comes Near. This was the curriculum we bought from LOM. It was really nice because it had activities, bible studies, crafts, and so much more for all ages. We went through the adult bible study with the staff during training, but also provided them with the elementary bible studies in their summer binder. We also hosted Camp Breakaway for the fourth summer in a row, and each year we continue to make improvements to help them make their week at camp go more smoothly. We overall had another successful summer camp season!

This fall, we tried something new and hosted a Fall Day at Camp on Saturday, October 18, for 1st - 5th graders. We had a small turnout but it was a really fun day for the few kids that came. We made the day's theme around preparing for winter, and we had the kids help us get the chickens and garden prepped for winter. We plan on hosting a Fall Camp again next year, and we hope to at least double the number of kids who attend! We also participated in 11 church/community Trunk or Treats this fall, and we ended up reaching around 1,000 kids!! We made little goodie bags that not only had candy, stickers, or other fun stuff, but also had a half sheet with our tentative summer schedule. It was a very successful and busy outreach.

I'm writing this right before I leave for two conferences in North Carolina. The first is the Leadership Training Event (LTE) hosted through LOM. This specific conference happens every year, but there is a three-year cycle, and this year its focus is on Program & Service (this is the first time I'm going to this specific conference). The other conference I'm attending will also be a first for me, because every year LOM hosts an annual conference, which I've been to, but this year it's The OMC (Outdoor Ministries Connection) Great Gathering, so it will be more than just the Lutheran camps. Our annual meeting will be taking place basically right when I get back from the conference, so I will have more to share at the meeting.

Summer will be here before we know it. Our summer theme is "Wear Love" - Colossians 3:12!

Carissa Ditlefsen
Program Director

Board President's Report

2025 has turned into a year of change for Luther Point.

In September, Sam Campeau announced that he had accepted a new job and would be leaving us after nine years. We wish Sam and his family the very best as they begin a new life in California.

With help from Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, we were able to meet and hire Carolyn and Jerry Fritsch as co-Interim Executive Directors. They began work at Luther Point Nov. 10, and the board is excited about the opportunity to work with them.

The Fritsches come highly recommended, and they plan to focus on:

- Board development
- Staff development and organization and
- Strategic planning.

I feel truly fortunate to serve with fellow board members who care so much about Luther Point. We are all stepping up in ways we haven't had to before, and I think that means only good things for Luther Point's future!

Sincerely in Christ,
Suzanne Vitale
Board president
Grantsburg, Wis.



Summer Celebration Report

2026 Summer Celebration **Sunday, August 9, 2026**

Save the date to celebrate 77 years of ministry
at Luther Point Bible Camp!

2025 Donations

SILENT AUCTION: \$1,340

LIVE AUCTION: \$1,430

STORE: \$1,090

CANTEEN: \$261

DONATIONS: \$4,725

TOTAL: 8,846

Thank you to all who joined us for our 2025 Summer Celebration!



Welcome Jerry & Carolyn Fritsch!

Greetings from the ELCA's Lutheran Outdoor Ministries!

Carolyn and Jerry joined Luther Point Bible Camp as the Interim Executive Directors on November 10. They come to LPBC having served a combined total of 50 years at ELCA camps throughout the Midwest and New York. This is their seventh interim position since they retired from Lutheran Lakeside Camp in 2017.

Home is in Spirit Lake, Iowa, which is home to the Iowa Great Lakes of Okoboji in northwest Iowa. Just south of Jackson, Minnesota, off I-90.

Carolyn and Jerry have two adult sons and three grandsons.

Carolyn is originally from Greene, Iowa. She received her teaching certificate from Wartburg College and taught fourth and fifth grades before becoming involved in outdoor ministry. Carolyn has served as Development Director and Co-Executive Director at ELCA church camps since 1988.

Jerry is from Chicago, graduated from Wartburg College with a BSW and MSW from Indiana University, and was a clinical social worker for over 40 years in Iowa and Minnesota. His son says that he still speaks like he's from Chicago.

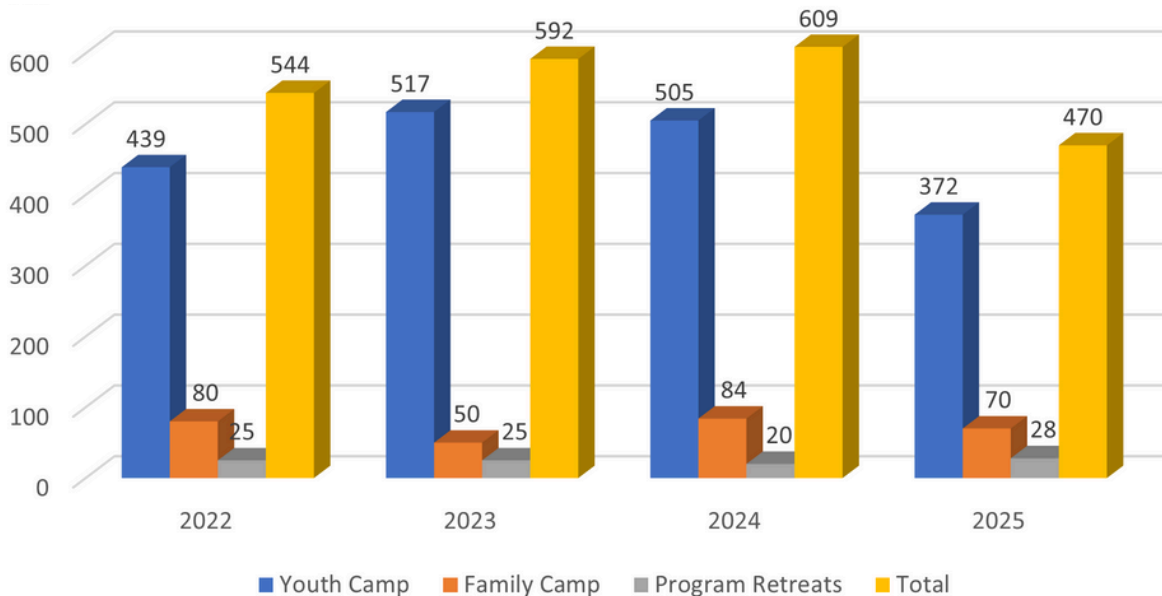
They are excited about joining the LPBC staff and have hit the ground running. A friend of the camp has provided housing for the couple directly across the lake from camp. They can swim across most of the year, and in the winter, walk across on the ice.

(But won't.)

Luther Point Bible Camp Annual Meeting 2025

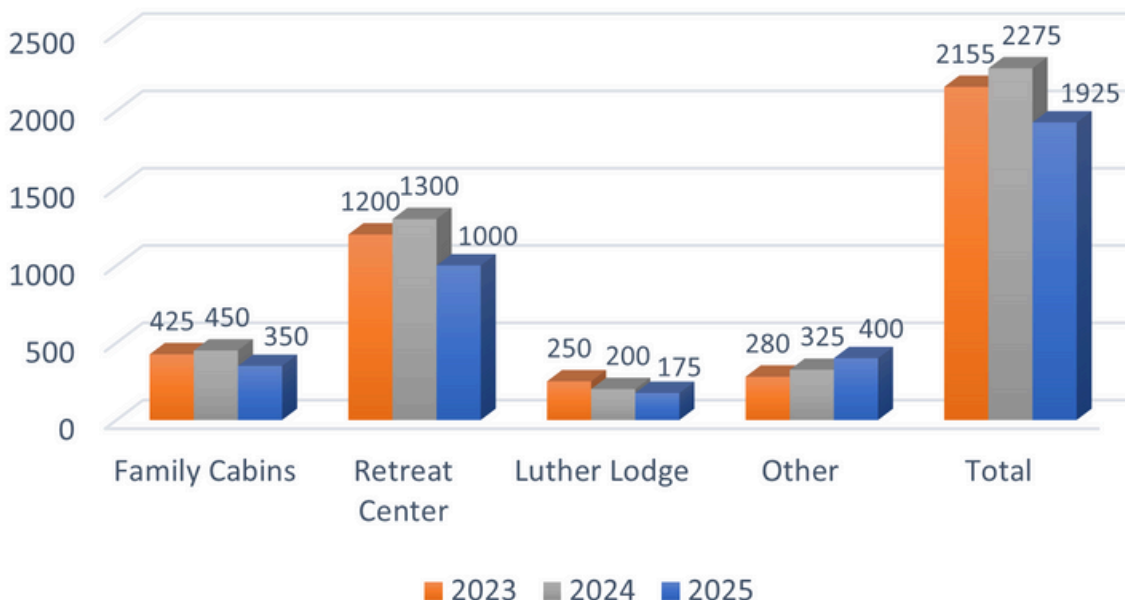
Attendance Trends

Camper Trends



We also connected with almost 90 campers across 3 off-campus day camps this summer!

Retreat Trends



These numbers are estimates. Please note that Ella may have estimated differently than Sam has in the past.

Member Church Giving

Augustana Lutheran Church, Cumberland WI*
Balsam Lutheran Church, Amery WI*
Barronett Lutheran Church, Barronett WI
Bethany Lutheran Church, Grantsburg WI
Bethany Lutheran Church, Siren WI*
Bethany Lutheran Church, Star Prairie WI
Bethel Lutheran Church, Hudson WI*
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Bay City WI*
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Bayport MN
Bone Lake Lutheran Church, Luck WI
Braham Lutheran Church, Braham MN
Cambridge Lutheran Church, Cambridge MN
Chisago Lake Lutheran Church, Center City MN*
Christ Lutheran Church, Somerset WI*
Concordia Lutheran Church, Superior WI
Cross Lutheran Church, Roberts WI
East Immanuel Lutheran Church, Amery WI
Eidsvold Lutheran Church, Bay City WI*
Elim Lutheran Church, Amery WI*
Elim Lutheran Church, Scandia MN*
English Lutheran Church, Ellsworth WI*
Ezekiel Lutheran Church, River Falls WI*
Faith Lutheran Church, Balsam Lake WI*
Faith Lutheran Church, Grantsburg WI*
Faith Lutheran Church, Isanti MN
First Lutheran Church, Amery WI*
First Lutheran Church, Cushing WI*
First Lutheran Church, New Richmond WI*
First Lutheran Church, Rush City MN
First Lutheran Church, Taylors Falls MN*
Gilman Lutheran Church, Spring Valley WI*
Grace Lutheran Church, West Sweden WI*
Grace Lutheran Church, Mora MN*
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Glenwood City WI*
Hope Lutheran Church, River Falls WI*
Immanuel Lutheran Church, Almelund MN

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Wilson WI*
Joy Lutheran Church, Centuria WI*
Laketown Lutheran Church, Cushing WI*
Living Waters Lutheran Church, Lino Lakes MN*
Long Lake Lutheran Church, Isanti MN
Luck Lutheran Church, Luck WI*
Mount Zion Lutheran Church, Hudson WI*
North Valley Lutheran Church, Centuria WI*
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Pine City MN*
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Beldenville WI*
Our Savior Lutheran Church, Superior WI
Peace Lutheran Church, Dresser WI*
Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Frederic WI*
Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Superior WI
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hudson WI*
Rush River Lutheran Church, River Falls WI*
Sabylund Lutheran Church, Stockholm WI
Salem Lutheran Church, Shell Lake WI*
Saron Lutheran Church, Ashland WI*
Spring Lake Lutheran Church, Spring Valley WI
St. Andrew Lutheran Church, East Bethel MN
St. John's Lutheran Church, Spring Valley WI*
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wyoming MN
St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Luck WI
Trinity Lutheran Church, Birchwood WI
Trinity Lutheran Church, Hammond WI
Trinity Lutheran Church, Lindstrom MN*
Trinity Lutheran Church, Siren WI
West Denmark Lutheran Church, Luck WI
West Immanuel Lutheran Church, Osceola WI
Wilson Lutheran Church, Wilson WI*
Yellow Lake Lutheran Church, Danbury WI*
Zion Lutheran Church, Chisago City MN
Zion Lutheran Church, Trade Lake WI*
Zion Lutheran Church, Woodville WI
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, Chetek WI**

* Denotes congregations who financially supported Luther Point Bible Camp in 2025

** Denotes congregations who financially supported Luther Point Bible Camp in 2025 but are not a member congregation.

IMO Gifts & WELCA Donations

In Memory Gifts

Kyra Hayes, by James & Paula Knutson, Rush

River Lutheran Church

Jeanine Gilbert, by Geraldine Hohn

Joyce Hetland, by Geraldine Hohn

Rev. Chuck Arndt, by Mary Jo Arndt

Oscar & Paulenia Hoffman & Verna Bloms,

by Geraldine Hohn

Pr. John Henning, by Richard & Barbara Kuss,

Mark Hall

Kyle Anderson, by Keith & Mary Anderson,

Diana & Hugh Lockerby

Nate Sikkink & Chris Nelson, by Al Arndt

Eugene Close, by Darlene Close

Jerry Solum, by Richard & Barbara Kuss

Barb and Darrell Peterson, by Hayley Marxen

Robert Rosenbrook, by Carrie Blackburn,

Curtis & Sue Fallstrom, Linda & Steven Dahl

Karen Jorgensen, by Janelle & Jeff Hermann

Eng Family, by Wilson Lutheran Church

WELCA Donations

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Almelund

Mount Zion Lutheran Church, Hudson

Ezekiel Lutheran Church, River Falls

Bethany Lutheran Church, Star Prairie

East Immanuel Lutheran Church, Amery

Bone Lake Lutheran Church, Luck

Cross Lutheran Church, Roberts

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

This is not a complete list for 2025. There were 14 WELCA donations made in November & December of 2024, so we expect to receive more around the holidays.

Financial Statements & 2025 Budget

Income

	2025 through Sept	4th Quarter Proj.	2025 Proj. Totals	2026 Budget
Annual Fund Donations	\$62,486.10	\$50,000.00	\$150,000.00	\$145,000.00
Special Undesignated Funds	\$4,006.50	\$3,000.00	\$7,006.50	\$6,500.00
Special Designated Funds	\$13,208.70	\$1,500.00	\$14,708.70	\$15,000.00
Member Church Support	\$61,181.50	\$25,000.00	\$86,181.50	\$80,000.00
Program Revenue	\$89,162.45	\$2,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
Retreating Revenue	\$106,800.47	\$13,445.00	\$120,245.47	\$120,000.00
Special Events and Activities	\$10,391.00	\$2,500.00	\$12,891.00	\$30,000.00
Canteen/Craft Revenue	\$15,597.38	\$0.00	\$15,597.38	\$20,000.00
Other Revenue	\$1,533.64	\$500.00	\$2,033.64	\$2,000.00
Transfer From Money Market				
Total Income	\$364,367.74		\$508,664.19	\$518,500.00

Expenses

Canteen/Craft Expenses	\$9,716.37		\$9,716.37	\$14,000.00
Exec Staff Salaries	\$153,244.60	\$35,000.00	\$188,244.60	\$140,000.00
Temp Prog Staff Wages	\$47,973.61	\$1,500.00	\$49,473.61	\$65,000.00
Perm Staff Wages	\$55,033.41	\$20,000.00	\$75,033.41	\$65,000.00
Bank, Legal & Accounting Fees	\$3,325.61	\$4,000.00	\$7,325.61	\$8,000.00
Insurance & Taxes	\$84,468.51	\$20,000.00	\$104,468.51	\$50,000.00
Interest Expense	\$9,902.17	\$3,000.00	\$12,902.17	\$10,000.00
Loan Payments		\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00
Fund Raising Expenses	\$242.29		\$242.29	\$3,000.00
Promo/Public Relations	\$4,102.31		\$4,102.31	\$5,000.00
Special Event Expenses	\$340.66		\$340.66	\$2,500.00
Program Supplies and Expenses	\$9,382.49		\$9,382.49	\$12,000.00
Ultra Camp; Camp Software Fees	\$4,284.70		\$4,284.70	\$6,000.00
General Supplies and Repairs	\$63,548.96	\$9,000.00	\$72,548.96	\$75,000.00
Utilities	\$31,740.89	\$8,000.00	\$39,740.89	\$35,000.00
Vehicle Expenses	\$3,667.55	\$1,500.00	\$5,167.55	\$7,500.00
Other Expenses	\$3,498.69		\$3,498.69	\$2,000.00
Total Expenses	\$484,472.82		\$602,472.82	\$516,000.00
Net Operating Income	\$364,367.74		\$508,664.19	\$518,500.00
Net Income	(\$120,105.08)		(\$93,808.63)	\$2,500.00

Foundation

Account	Jan. 2025 Balance	Income Earned	Disbursments	Ending Balance
Money Market	\$92,921.61	\$399.45	\$88,000.00	\$5,321.06
Thrivent Mutual Funds	\$51,539.97	\$2,785.37		\$54,325.34
ELCA MIF 1 Year CD	\$13,274.89	\$468.89		\$13,743.78
ELCA MIF 3 Year CD	\$13,265.31	\$480.07		\$13,745.38
I-Bonds	\$6,997.20	\$217.00		\$7,214.20
Totals	\$177,998.98	\$4,350.78	\$88,000.00	\$94,349.76



Luther Point Bible Camp Annual Meeting 2025

Our Staff & Board of Directors



Summer Staff 2024

Team Leaders

Kennedi Kjellberg

Leif Crossfield

Sr. Counselors

Lana Backstrom

Maja Ince

Charity Million

Eddie Sutherland

Allison Witzmann

Jr. Counselors

Kendra Flynn

Liam Hammond

Ellie Land

Niibin Rowan

Cooks

Virginia Hillman

Barbara Haberlach

Nurse

Adriana Addison

Camp Connect

Taylor Andersen

Elly Anderson

Kaylee Anderson

Devan Holmstrom

Kenley Korhonen

Khloe Korhonen

Dehlia Quintana

Kenzie Skow-Woody

Support Staff

Jett Jenson

Kendall Johnson

Volunteers

(all past staff)

Maggie Brown

Parker Gangestad

Addison Kostac

Brett Lund

Evie Tiedemann

Board of Directors

Term Ending 2026

Rev. John Sutherland - Cross LC, Roberts, WI (term expired)

Rev. Ben Nelson, VP - Zion LC, Woodville, WI (term expired)

Rev. Melissa Carmack - Peace LC, Dresser, WI (resigned)

Term Ending February 2027

Beth Bartlett - Zion LC, Trade Lake, WI (2nd term)

Jennifer Werner (1st term)

Terrie Lunsman, Treasurer - Joy LC, Centuria, WI (1st term)

Rev. Pete Warren, Secretary - English LC, Ellsworth, WI (1st term)

Term Ending February 2028

Leigha Lang - Our Redeemer LC, Pine City, MN (1st term)

Suzanne Vitale, President - Faith LC, Granstburg, WI (2nd term)

Year-Round Staff

Jerry & Carolyn Fritsch - Co-Interim

Executive Directors

Carissa Ditlefsen - Program Director

Rev. Marilyn Crossfield - Associate Director

Henrik Hanson - Facilities

Ella Esanbock - Office Manager

Nick Lang - Camp Assistant

Board of Directors Nominees:

Quinn Stone, Pastor Paul Backstrom, Pastor Sean Koos, Pastor Justin Fenger, Pastor Emily Stelling

Luther Point Bible Camp Annual Meeting 2025