



# The Expedition

Your Source for Camp LuWiSoMo News

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 1

The Expedition

WINTER 2007

## LuWiSoMo is a Place for Family

By Kurtis A. Buelmann - Executive Director

LuWiSoMo is a place for youth. This can be seen by our thriving summer youth programs, Confirmation Retreats, Winter Adventure Youth Retreats, and outdoor education programs.

LuWiSoMo is a place for adults. In this newsletter, you will read first-hand experiences of adults who have been guests and volunteers at LuWiSoMo. This is also attested by more than 40 women who are registered for our upcoming Scrapbooking and Stamping Retreat.

LuWiSoMo is also a place for family. As a husband and father of four children, I believe that one of the most important aspects of LuWiSoMo is family ministry. We live in a society where the traditional family structure is no longer the norm. Parents are working extra hours while children consume their time with school, sports, and other extracurricular activities. Sitting down together for



dinner as a family is not as regular as it used to be.

LuWiSoMo provides a place for children to reconnect with parents and grandparents in a beautiful

outdoor setting within the context of the Gospel of Christ, who modeled sacrificial love for us through His death on a cross for our redemption.

Families who spend time together at LuWiSoMo have the option of pitching a

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***"...a place for children to reconnect with parents and grandparents..."***

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## Winter Oasis

By Ryan Hansen - Program Director

Picture yourself lying on the beach in the scorching sun, beads of sweat dripping from your forehead, sipping ice cold lemonade, as you hear the laughter of children splashing in the water, while reading your favorite book. Unfortunately, this is not the scene at camp during our winter months!

Many people always ask me what I do during the



wintertime here at camp. "Surely you don't have programs going on during the winter time?!" On the contrary! Here at LuWiSoMo, we are booming with programs, even in the cold barren winter. LuWiSoMo offers many retreats for those winter enthusiasts!

For youth groups, we offer our Winter Adventure retreats which combine a warm atmosphere for

fellowship and a brisk plunge down one of our tubing hills. Our Winter Adventure retreat is a chance for youth groups (and adult chaperones) to get away from the monotony of the winter blues and enjoy God's wonderful creation in the winter. We offer many activities that keep you warm and looking cool! For the skiing enthusiast, we have over five miles of cross-country trails that take you on a picturesque journey through wooded areas and fields. If you are a bit more adventurous, every Saturday evening, we offer a chance to go

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### Special points of interest:

- “Young at Heart” Highlights
- Helper of the Week Perspective
- “Feeding His Flock” Updates
- Golf Marathon Recap

### Camp Staff

Kurtis A. Buelmann  
*Executive Director*

Pattie Boelter  
*Secretary*

Elaine Bradley  
*Housekeeping Coordinator*

Ryan Hansen  
*Program Director*

Bradley Jentsch  
*Business Operations Director*

Ray Knapwurst  
*Maintenance*

Vicky Knapwurst  
*Food Service Director*

Tom Martin  
*Maintenance Director*

Elizabeth Miller  
*Horse Stables Director*

Joan Voigt  
*Campaign Coordinator*

Sue Winter  
*Office Manager*

# Better Than Disney

By Sharon A. Johnson - LuWiSoMo guest

“Don’t be late for dinner.” That’s just what I did recently while attending the *Young at Heart Senior Retreat* at Camp LuWiSoMo.

My experience brought back the wonderful memories of when I had taken my two sons, Shawn and Aaron, to Camp LuWiSoMo so



Our “Young at Heart” Family

many years ago. They’re both grown now and on their own, but my camp visit so reminded me of those wonderful times.

I attended the retreat to temporarily escape all the craziness in the world, and to refresh my mind and body. I’m happy to say that I found what I was looking for. I was reminded that the Lord is a great God and has truly given me many blessings. My visit to camp helped me to slow down and to once again see the beauty in the world, especially during our wagon tour of the camp—all 420 acres. (420 acres is a lot of territory; that doesn’t quite register until you see it first hand.)

I also enjoyed the music, food, Bible study, and group fellowship. Pastor Randal Poppe from Racine, led us in a wonderful study of Eschatology (theological term talking about end times). He was knowledgeable, compassionate, and really seemed to relate to all of us; he did not just “preach.” He was so interesting that we actually extended our study times.

Our entertainment was superb. On Monday, we listened to Kenneth Lester Gilbert Sawotka, *aka The Music Man*, play an accordion. Such joy and compassion with which he played cannot be put in words. He clearly enjoys what

he does. On Tuesday, we enjoyed a concert by *Bob Mattice and the Rainmakers*, a quartet which included Kurtis Buelmann (Camp’s Executive Director) on the drums. They gave an excellent performance, and I had a front row seat. I felt like an honored guest in the Chapel of St. Barnabas.

As for the food, I can think of only one word...Wow! I had expected the usual institutional food but was pleasantly surprised at the quality (and quantity) of our meals. It was all delicious; I can’t say anything more.

I am a married correctional officer for the Washara County Jail. I deal right with the inmates, booking them in, pictures, fingerprints, walking the cell blocks of both the male and female inmates. I have acquired an extensive “four-letter” vocabulary—just a fact. We don’t deal with the “choir” boys, and those that are intoxicated are not the “friendly drunks” when they come to see us.

I believe God directs us to where we can best serve Him, and proclaim His love and forgiveness. I’ve known some “hell” in my



Enjoying the Bible Study

life, and I’ve survived. I feel privileged (at times) to work in the jail, but I need to regroup at times and be around others that live their faith and are caring individuals.

The fellowship of the others at camp was a delight. Our camp leader/advisor was Elizabeth Miller. She was young, energetic, and related well to us. The other campers all

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# CHOW, MOW, POW, NOW

By Lisa McInnes - LuWiSoMo volunteer

Wondering what these acronym's stand for? They refer to Camp LuWiSoMo's Helper of the Week program – The Cook's Helper Of the Week, the Maintenance helper Of the Week, the Pastor Of the Week, and the Nurse Of the Week. It's a wonderful way for parents to experience summer camp with their children at LuWiSoMo. These volunteer opportunities offer reduced camp fees in return for service hours in various areas of the camp. This program has been a wonderful opportunity for our family.

My experience has been with the CHOW program. It's the toughest job you'll ever love — there's plenty of work, but lots of kitchen camaraderie too! The Cook's Helper of the Week works with Vicky Knapwurst, Food Service Director, and the kitchen staff. Vicky is the hardest working person I have ever met in my life! She's amazing – a dedicated team leader who guides her crew as they produce delicious and nutritious meals for the campers and staff – three meals a day, seven days a week – every week. What a job! It's hot (really, really hot), it's heavy (think giant cauldrons of spaghetti sauce) and it's more than a bit stressful (imagine the pressure of 200 ravenous campers just outside the dining room door!). But Vicky, Joan, Liz, Paul, and the kitchen staff manage to do this job with style and a smile! In fact, they make it look easy! As a veteran of the CHOW opportunity, let me tell you, there is nothing easy about it! But, if you can chop a head of lettuce (make that 20 heads of lettuce - for one meal), Vicky will happily put you to work. There are campers to be fed and no shortage of work to be done!

The opportunity for discounted camp tuition was the initial incentive for my participation in the CHOW program. It is

truly the blessing that enabled us to send our kids to camp. But, the CHOW experience has come to mean much more than just dollars and cents for me. I look forward to my week at LuWiSoMo just as much as our children do! It's an annual faith building “tune-up” that energizes me for the whole year.

Working at camp provides a glimpse into “camp life” that helps me understand my children's experience just a bit more than if I wasn't present for the

week. I get to see the staff interact with each other and with the campers. I get to hear the songs they are singing, the prayers they are lifting, and the laughter that makes the

days fly by. And it makes me feel young again...I enjoy the chance to reminisce about my own wonderful confirmation camp experiences.

As a CHOW, I don't really interact much with my own kids during camp. I'm much too busy working much too hard in the kitchen, and they are much too busy having so much fun with their cabin groups that we really see very little of each other. But, I do catch a glimpse of my children as they pass through the dining room line and sometimes they'll even stop to say, “Hi!” (My children have reached the delicate, pre-teen age – when this is a gift).

Actually, my son, Robby, shared much more than just a quick hello when he has passed through the lunch line one afternoon. What he said made me duck quickly back into the work area of the kitchen – otherwise my tear-filled eyes would have been quite a spectacle. In just a few hurried words, my ten year old summed up his camp experience when he said, “Mom, camp is so much fun this year – I have the best counselor. Doc is so cool. He lets us burp and goof around and stuff – but when it's time for

devotions, he's ‘on-fire’ for the Lord. He talks and talks and talks and us kids are like, ‘Hey man, the canteen's going to close...’ But you know what Mom, it really makes sense when he's teaching us; he says it in a different way, and it's like I really get it! ‘Thanks Mom, I'm having a great week.’ And with that, he scampered off to join his cabin group for another day of playing, learning and...burping.

My daughter, Callie, is not one who wants to talk with me during camp, but she always has plenty to say on the ride home. Working at camp helps me feel like I truly know what she was talking about as she shares her stories. This year, Callie had a sweet-spirited, gentle counselor nicknamed Gadget who encouraged the girls to participate with the Joyful Hearts campers at a talent show event. This experience was pivotal for my daughter - and again, the words of a child (twelve years old) just seemed to sum up what Camp LuWiSoMo means to us... “Mom, they (the Joyful Hearts campers) are such special people. They are so kind and encouraging to each other – it's the way that Jesus wants us all to be.” Yes, Callie – I think you really get it too – and with that I was teary eyed all the way home.

Outdoor, camp style ministry is a powerful means of planting, building, and developing Christian faith in young people. Camp LuWiSoMo has been just that for our family – a wonderful place to grow in our Christian faith. And while the stipend provided by the Helper of the Week programs certainly makes camp more affordable, it really is so much more than just financial assistance. The Helper of the Week opportunities make Bible camp an unforgettable family tradition. Thank you to everyone at Camp LuWiSoMo for the work that you do in service to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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**“...a wonderful place to  
grow in our Christian  
faith.”**

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# Share Your Enthusiasm for Camp as a Volunteer in “Feeding His Flock”

By Joan Voigt - Campaign Coordinator

It has been one year from the official Campaign kickoff. We have received pledges of \$478,775.00. The first phase of the Campaign was successfully completed in time for summer camp, with the construction of five new log cabins to replace the old cabins.

We are ready to move forward into congregations to present the next two exciting phases of the Campaign: construction of a larger dining hall and family lodging suites.

There is a tremendous group of representatives in the South Wisconsin District that have already

volunteered to serve in the promotion and support of the Campaign. We can use more volunteers to share their enthusiasm for camp in each congregation.

Please prayerfully consider how you can serve the Lord in this Campaign to enable growth in this year-round outdoor ministry with the gifts He has granted you. The success of this project depends on the cooperation and effort of

volunteers to work toward the long-term vision for camp to build a new dining hall to meet the growing needs of present and future campers. We will be able to serve more

campers in a more comfortable dining hall and family style accommodations while we continue to provide spiritual enrichment through the outdoor ministry programs offered at Camp LuWiSoMo.

Carl Brakebush, Campaign Co-Chair, shares his insight about the camp vision, “The Outdoor Ministry at Camp LuWiSoMo has affected many people and will continue with

God’s blessings to add to our walk with Jesus in our lives for many generations. The amounts of money that are needed for growing and expanding the camp are challenging. If we all work together in His name, we can accomplish many things. Prayerfully consider the needs here at your camp and God’s plans for this camp will become a reality.”

Being a volunteer is quite simple. Regional coordinators set up small group



congregational meeting dates to share our vision for the camp. We simply need volunteers in each congregation to arrange these small group meetings. They send

biweekly reports of contacts and progress in each circuit to the camp office. As a volunteer, you will share in the joy when we reach our Campaign goal and see the completion of the new dining hall. Can you or someone you know help by making these simple arrangements in your congregation?

Watch for meetings on the “Feeding His Flock” Campaign in your congregation. Or if you can help to arrange a meeting for a small group in your own congregation, please call the camp office (920) 622-3350 or Carl Brakebush (800) 933-2121 ext. 1201.

If you have never experienced outdoor ministry, consider a weekend get-away in the scenic, peaceful setting that LuWiSoMo offers to relax, rejuvenate, and renew your spiritual life so you can return refreshed and ready to serve the Lord in the plans He has for you. LuWiSoMo is committed to providing faith-growing opportunities in a Christ-centered outdoor ministry setting for all ages in all seasons.



Carl Brakebush

## 100-Hole Golf Marathon Update

By Bradley Jentsch - Business Operations Director

September 25th was the date of the 3rd Annual LuWiSoMo Golf Marathon. Winds were light, sun was bright, the temperature was near 70, and golf balls were sailing through the air. This is just one account of the day’s activities which focused on raising funds necessary to provide financial assistance to families who wish to have their child attend one of LuWiSoMo’s programs and cannot

otherwise afford to do so.

Several members of Camp’s Board of Directors, along with other supporters of camp, and staff members participated. Pledges for this event currently total more than \$10,000 of the approximately \$60,000 provided to families by LuWiSoMo in the forms of *earlybird*, *multiple camper*, and *financial campership* discounts in 2006. There is still time to

help offset this budget deficit by sending a monetary gift designated for this program to the LuWiSoMo office.

Our thanks to those sponsors who have already pledged and sent in gifts and also to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for providing matching funds through the Giving Plus Program.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the next Golf Marathon on Sept. 24, 2007.

# Meet Joan Voigt

By Bradley Jentsch - Business Operations Director

Joan is attending the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and plans to graduate in December 2006 with a Bachelor of Science in communication and an emphasis in public relations with a minor in forest recreation. She is a member of the Wisconsin Park and Recreation Association (WPRA) and the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) at UW-Stevens Point.

Joan has a passion for photography that she incorporates into her interest in the outdoors: nature study, camping,

biking, hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing. In her spare time, Joan teaches the art and design of stamping and scrapbooking. She and her husband, Tom, are members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Wautoma where they have served as youth group advisors. They have been blessed with two children, Sarah and Matthew. Joan has been drawn to the



Joan Voigt

outstanding outdoor ministry programs and the refreshing spiritual enrichment offered at the scenic LuWiSoMo retreat location. She joined Camp LuWiSoMo in service to the Lord as Capital Campaign Coordinator in August 2005 and looks forward to

whatever plans the Lord may have for her future service at camp.

## Winter Oasis cont...

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downhill skiing at Nordic Mountain in Mt. Morris. For those who are more interested in sledding, we have a great hill for sledding and tubing. Many come and brave the dreaded climb to experience a taste of childhood revelry. For those who like more of a flat footed experience, we always have a large game of Wisconsin's favorite winter sport—broomball! Of course, after all of these chilly adventures, we warm ourselves up with a hot cup of cocoa and a heated game of cards! On top of all of this, we join together in the warmth of fellowship and fun with Bible Studies and Worship.

After a long five month wait for many children, LuWiSoMo will once again be holding our Kid's Christmas in December. Did you know that Kid's Christmas is the half way marker until next year's summer camp? Kid's Christmas is a chance for many kids who

came to camp during the summer, to catch up with camp friends, enjoy camp in a different season, and celebrate the greatest gift of all—Baby Jesus! This year's theme is, "Christmas Around the Globe." Some activities that we will be participating in during the

weekend include Christmas cookie decorating, Christmas caroling, tree decorating, Bible Study, and winter outdoor activities. Joyeux Noel, Frohe Weinachten, Feliz Navidad, however you say it, we are going to be doing some early celebrating and wishing for a Merry Christmas!

Also, LuWiSoMo is

running our second year of Winter Joyful Hearts, which is a program for youth and adults with developmental disabilities. Similar to our summer program, Winter "J.H." is a week-long program that combines Bible Studies and games with outside activities. Weather permitting, some outdoor activities include, snowman building competitions, opportunities for sledding, winter hikes, and many other winter activities.

So don't let the wintertime get you frozen in one place! Come to

LuWiSoMo and experience the warm atmosphere of winter fun! For more information, please check out our website at [www.luwisomo.org](http://www.luwisomo.org).



# Leaving a Legacy for Outdoor Ministry in the South Wisconsin District

By Bradley Jentsch - Business Operations Director

Over the past 20 years, I have had the pleasure of working for several organizations associated with the South Wisconsin District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, including Bethesda Lutheran Homes and Services, Sheboygan Area Lutheran High School, and St. Paul Lutheran School in Sheboygan. Of these institutions a common thread runs--committed and caring individuals praising and serving God with thanksgiving for all His blessings.

Another common thread was Planned Giving. Planned gifts included Estate Planning and inclusion of the institution as a Bequest in a Last Will and Testament, Assignment of Life Insurance Policies, IRA Rollovers, Stocks and Bonds, Real Estate, and outright cash donations were among the means used to leave a lasting legacy. This planning did not happen as a fluke or as the result of some abnormal anomaly, rather a

dedicated effort put forth to protect, preserve, and enhance the future of each individual organization following the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:19-20. The future success of Camp LuWiSoMo can and will be directly affected by this current generation. The needs of an aging camp are being addressed by the current "Feeding His Flock" Capital Campaign. The destruction of the old and subsequent construction of eight new youth cabins have lead the way in this current phase of facility improvements. The "Feeding His Flock" facility expansion will also provide the desperately needed new kitchen and dining hall facility along with year-round housing.

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***"The future of Camp LuWiSoMo can and will be directly affected by this current generation."***

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The increased numbers of children attending camp during our current fiscal year are signs of things to come. We all need to act now to ensure LuWiSoMo's future. You can help by pledging to support the ministry and programs with your continued prayers, serving as an advocate for the ministry of LuWiSoMo within your congregation and community, and by reflecting upon the blessings you have received from the Lord and consider making a gift to LuWiSoMo as your heart leads. Will you please consider making a gift to support this ministry here in the South Wisconsin District? If you have questions regarding planned giving, please feel free to contact the LuWiSoMo office at (920) 622-3350 or John Meyer at the SWD Office in Milwaukee at (414) 464-8100.

## Better Than Disney cont...

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brought their own stories, histories, and flavor to our group. We had a female in a wheelchair with such a positive attitude, a loving couple in their 80's still loving each other and growing strong, and a male and female who didn't have a spouse to bring, but shared so much of themselves. It was a diverse group that was a joy to be around. To all of you, I say "thanks."

Needing to be physically refreshed also, I took a nap everyday. It was good. We had free time to pick our own activity. Camp was great and so was napping.

When I returned to the jail, the

inmates asked where I was. (They watch us so closely—we are a daily example to them—good or bad.) I said I came back from vacation at a Lutheran Camp. One inmate asked why I didn't go to Disney. I took three days of vacation from work to attend camp. I came away refreshed and at peace again. The Lord is good, and the Lord is patient. A Disney vacation doesn't have anything over Camp LuWiSoMo. It wouldn't have given me what I needed. The Lord provides, and I am truly thankful.

PS. I never heard anyone swear once at camp. Three days with no swearing—

that alone was worth it.

PPS. Pastor William Meier had extended the invitation to me to attend the Senior Retreat. (I am still under 50 years old for the record.) He said he thought I'd enjoy it, and he was correct. (Thanks, Pastor Meier.) Now, I want to extend the invitation to everyone who feels the need to be refreshed. I think you will enjoy it. God's peace to you! "COME ON HOME." (Rest, refresh, and rejuvenate at the next Luther Hostel Retreat scheduled for April 23-25, 2007.)

## For Family cont...

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tent or parking an RV in our wooded family campground. Gorgeous log cabins also provide an ideal home away from home. Many families prefer to stay in the Krueger Retreat Center. A 3-bedroom Family Cottage offers a wonderful place for families to relax. Upon the success of "Feeding His Flock," LuWiSoMo will also offer the convenience and comfort of family suites.

One of the highlights each year for families is the annual Family Weekend Celebration sponsored by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, and this past year was no exception. Brakebush Brothers provided a delectable chicken barbecue, supplemented with scrumptious homemade pie.

Families participated together in the Walk/Run. The overall winner for the 5K was Jim Leschke with a time of 17:58, while the top female was Ashley Kapral. The 10K was won by Aaron Goodman in 35:45, and Brenda Swanson was the first female.



A large chicken was spotted during the chicken

This was truly a family weekend for me as well. My parents came up, since my dad, Rev. David Bueltmann, was the guest speaker for the Worship Service. Sibling Harmony performed a concert of original Christian music. Sibling Harmony consists of my brother Kevin, my sister Kim, and me.

The day was filled with many other activities such as the Ping-Pong Ball Drop, volleyball and horseshoe tournaments, an auction, horseback riding, swimming, wagon rides, and the list goes on. The evening ended with a bang, literally. The Oakley family dazzled us with the most amazing fireworks display I have ever

seen in my life. Partway through the fireworks, my niece leaned over and asked, "How many grand finales are they going to have?" A favorite was the gold fountains that sprayed from the ground.

Be sure to join us for our next Family Weekend Celebration on August 10-12,

2007. The guest speaker for the Worship Service will be Rev. Ken Klaus, Speaker of the Lutheran Hour. We also promise more chicken and fireworks!

A new opportunity for families at LuWiSoMo is a Family Camp over the Fourth of July week in 2007. Gary Janetzke, SWD executive for youth and family, will be the guest presenter. Watch for registration information on our website.

The great thing about LuWiSoMo is that families can come any time of year for any length of time. The next time you think about spending time with your family, think of LuWiSoMo.



Watching for hundreds of Ping-Pong balls to fall

## Camp LuWiSoMo's Wish List

Ever since its inception, LuWiSoMo has relied on donations from generous people - donations of time, talents, finances, and equipment. Here are a few of the items from which the ministry at LuWiSoMo could benefit:

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|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> LCD Video Projector <b>THANK YOU!</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/> Pentium III/4 computers      | <input type="checkbox"/> 8' plastic folding tables |
| <input type="checkbox"/> small pick-up truck   | <input type="checkbox"/> new folding machine          | <input type="checkbox"/> pontoon boat              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> utility vehicles  | <input type="checkbox"/> dictionary <b>THANK YOU!</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> pontoon boat trailer      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> golf cart   | <input type="checkbox"/> computer clip art            | <input type="checkbox"/> basketball court          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4-wheeler   | <input type="checkbox"/> wood working tools           | <input type="checkbox"/> cross-country skis        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4-horse bumper hitch or goose neck trailer  | <input type="checkbox"/> chain saws                   | <input type="checkbox"/> cross-country ski boots   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> horse tack (saddles, bridles, halters)  | <input type="checkbox"/> wood splitter                | <input type="checkbox"/> playground balls          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> grooming equipment (hard & soft brushes, rubber curry combs, hoof picks, mane & tail combs) | <input type="checkbox"/> hand tools                   | <input type="checkbox"/> soccer balls              |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> shovels                      | <input type="checkbox"/> softballs                 |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> rakes                        | <input type="checkbox"/> volleyballs               |
|  | <input type="checkbox"/> air compressor               | <input type="checkbox"/> pinnies                   |

## Camp LuWiSoMo

*South Wisconsin District of the LC-MS*  
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Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
WILD ROSE, WI 54984  
Permit Number 6



Check us out on the  
web at  
[www.luwisomo.org](http://www.luwisomo.org)

## Upcoming Events at Camp LuWiSoMo

For more information and registration forms, please visit us on the web at [www.luwisomo.org](http://www.luwisomo.org)

### **Women's Scrapbooking & Stamping Retreat**

November 10-12, 2006

### **Winter Joyful Hearts**

January 7-12, 2007  
January 14-19, 2007  
January 21-26, 2007

### **Men's Retreat**

April 13-15, 2007

### **Kid's Christmas Camp**

December 8-10, 2006

### **Youth Confirmation Retreats**

March 2-4, 2007  
March 9-11, 2007  
March 23-25, 2007

### **Spring Work Weekend**

April 20-22, 2007

### **Pancake Brunch**

April 22, 2007

### **Winter Adventures**

January 5-7, 2007  
January 19-21, 2007  
February 2-4, 2007  
February 9-11, 2007  
February 16-18, 2007

### **Women's Scrapbooking & Stamping Retreat**

March 16-18, 2007

### **Luther Hostel**

April 23-25

### **Singles Retreat**

May 4-6, 2007