



# LuWiSoMo News

Fall 2020

## While We've Been Apart...



*Reroofing the Chapel*

While we've been apart due to COVID, the LuWiSoMo ministry team has been very busy working to improve camp and make it better than ever for when we can all return and gather again.

With all the changes over the last decade, many of the needed infrastructure upgrades and property and facility work were unable to be addressed. That has now changed, and we're digging in!

Your gifts over the past several years repaid the huge debt to a more manageable level and helped resolve the financial situation. Now we're able to put your gifts to work on the much needed investments in the property and facilities to ensure LuWiSoMo is ready to serve God for generations to come.

Replacing and upgrading roads, roofs, plumbing, septic systems, windows, doors, siding, and removing buildings that are unsafe and beyond repair is costly and not as exciting as adding new facilities and other projects, but is very necessary if we're to be good stewards of the blessings we've been given.

We've found ourselves with a huge backlog of these types of projects, some desperately overdue, and are now focused on tackling them and setting up reserves to maintain these needs moving forward. At the same time, we're looking ahead and starting to plan for what is needed to serve the ministry's future needs, so that once we've caught up with this backlog, we're ready to keep moving forward.

Following are highlights of some of what we've completed and what's in the works. Know that while these are big but necessary investments, we're pacing them to ensure we remain financially healthy with proper reserves.

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## Your Help Needed

COVID continues to cause all retreats to be cancelled or rescheduled. This means no operating income. Yet basic expenses continue. Financially, that means your gifts are what support camp right now. Thank you to each of you who've stood in the gap these past months with your gifts. Know they are truly making the difference!

Right now, like so many others, we too need your financial help to get through this and be ready and able to welcome you back when this is done. Thank you in advance for your support! Here are some ways to help...

### Triple Challenge 2020

Support LuWiSoMo by contributing to "Triple Challenge 2020". Thanks to two anonymous donors, your gift **now through January 15<sup>th</sup> is Tripled!** Details on the website.

### Amazon COVID & Holiday Shoppers

If you shop Amazon, sign in via [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and under "Your Account" select the option to make LuWiSoMo your charitable organization of choice. There is no difference in cost or ordering process except signing in via [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) instead of [amazon.com](https://amazon.com), but when you do and select LuWiSoMo, we receive funds from Amazon. Thanks to all who're doing this – it adds up!

### Thrivent Choice

Reminder to Thrivent members, you can designate your Thrivent Choice dollars to LuWiSoMo. Thanks to all who've been doing this! Your dollars add up and make a big impact for God's ministry at LuWiSoMo!

## Tom Martin Retires



Please join us in a huge "Thank You" to Tom Martin for his over 24 years of service to God's ministry at Camp LuWiSoMo, as he has decided to retire at the end of this year. Don't worry, you'll still see Tom around LuWiSoMo as he plans to volunteer from time to time and attend events. We celebrate Tom and his faithful and dedicated service to God at LuWiSoMo over these many years and pray God's richest blessings on him and his family as he begins this new season of his life.

# Summer Camp 2021

Plans are proceeding for summer camp not knowing what will develop with COVID. Dates for the 2021 camp weeks are live on our website, but registration is on hold until the new year to see where things are then with COVID.

New this summer – a slight change regarding the ages for campers for each of our Youth Camps. Ages now vary for each camp week, offering more flexibility and dates for the majority of youth campers, while still maintaining age appropriate programming. Youth Camp weeks are now: Week 1 (Grades 3-6), Week 2 (Grades 2-5), Week 3 (Grades 4-7), Week 4 (Grades 5-8).

## High School CITs

Counselors In Training (CITs) are high school students who spend two or more weeks volunteering at summer camp, serving alongside camp counselors and staff. You experience the joys and hard work of camp ministry, while developing your leadership skills and growing in faith. If this sounds like an opportunity for you, or for someone you know, see the details on our website or contact us.

## Attention Nurses

Each week of summer camp we need a volunteer nurse or nursing student to help serve with distribution of meds and as our Health Supervisor. Your meals, and housing for you and your family, are provided. Enjoy time at camp and sharing your gifts! If this sounds like something that interests you or someone you know, please consider being a blessing in this way. Contact us to learn more and schedule your week(s). Thank you!

## While We've Been Apart...

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While COVID has slowed progress on some of the more costly projects, we're using plenty of our own "elbow grease" to keep moving on all that we can. Thank you in advance for your gifts that will allow this work to continue!

### Completed

- Retreat Center – Kitchenette cleaned and restored as true "Guest Kitchen". Stove added. LVP flooring laid in Meeting Room. All carpet now removed for cleaner environment and easier maintenance.
- Retreat Center / Dining Hall – Failed septic systems completely rebuilt with new pumps and equipment.
- Campground Shower House 2 (Main) – Replaced water heater and added new iron and sediment filters. All new toilets and major plumbing repairs. Up next, repainting, inside and out!
- Farmhouse, old "pigpen" and outbuildings on west side of the Chapel removed.
- New roofs on all camp & campground buildings (mostly covered by 2017 storm claim) and all now the same for a uniform "campus" feel. New building exterior color plan in place so as updates are made, we grow into a uniform "campus" appearance.

- Staff House 1 (formerly Director House) completely remodeled and now home to Heather "ZuZu", our wonderful Program Director.
- Roads – Began phased project to upgrade all roads, many in desperate need. Main camp & campground roads done. Remainder to be done in next 2 years

### In Process

- Outdoor Education Curriculum – Update & Expand
- Retreat Center Water System – Old water heaters, pressure tanks, and water filtration and softener systems replaced along with full plumbing upgrade.
- Retreat Center – Replace failing smoke / CO2 detectors with new system to current code. Replace broken card reader door hardware and repair doors. New exterior window & doors. Restore lower lever to guest recreation area. Upgrade lighting and paint.
- Maintenance Shop – Full clean up and organization, inside and out, just about complete.
- Summer Camp Arts & Crafts and Canteen – Moved from Old Dining Hall to Chapel Activity Center and Nurse's Station to restore Chapel and its Activity Center as the hub for youth summer camp activities.
- Shepherd's House & Old Dining Hall demo
- New & expanded parking area behind Chapel
- Waterfront – Reorganize and expand
- Picnic Tables – Phased replacement from wood to aluminum for longer life and easier maintenance.
- Picnic Shelter - Add "ceiling" to address bird issue & refurbish. Part of Chapel Courtyard development.
- Youth & Family Cabins – Restrain exteriors. Replace doors & hardware. Repair / replace porch decks

### Upcoming

- Master Plans – Campground including adding group camping, gathering shelters, and other upgrades, and Full Camp including walking trails throughout and connecting all areas of property, family housing, relocate maintenance building, activity center / gym.
- Bunk House (formerly Dormitory) – Convert to year-round group housing. Replace asbestos exterior siding, windows & doors, install air conditioning, finish last of interior work and add new bunk beds.
- Retreat Center Bathrooms Remodel
- Retreat Center Kitchen Remodel

## Questions / Stay Connected

If you have a question, want to know more about what's happening or share a thought, we're always excited to hear from you! Feel free to contact me directly via the "Contact" page on the website or give us a call.

Are you receiving LuWiSoMo emails? If not, or to be sure we have your current contact info, email us your info and we'll make sure you're on the email news list.

Dan Freiburger

Business Director | Executive Director

[www.LuWiSoMo.org](http://www.LuWiSoMo.org) | 920- 622-3350