



# LuWiSoMo News

Fall 2023



## “CrossWalk” Blessings

2023 Summer Camps, under our theme “**Cross Walk**”, overflowed with joy and blessings as God impacted lives through His ministry at LuWiSoMo.

Each day focused on an aspect of our “CrossWalk” - how God created and chose us to walk towards Heaven - **In Joy, Forgiven, By Faith, With Jesus, In Love & Service As Easter People!**

We celebrated many returning campers and lots of new campers and families at camps for PreK to High School and Lutheran Band Camp. While our focus and priority is on each individual camper and their experience, for those asking about camper numbers, youth campers increased 25%, now back to more than the summer before COVID.

Joyful Hearts camps, for campers of all ages with developmental disabilities, welcomed returning and new campers. Our Joyful Hearts Fall Retreat happened again in September and the Winter Retreat happens in January.

God blessed us and His campers at LuWiSoMo with an incredible summer ministry team - staff, counselors, volunteers, CITs, and campground hosts!

See the hundreds of images on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/campluwisomo](http://www.facebook.com/campluwisomo)

These are a just few examples of feedback we received:

### From a New Youth Camper’s Parent

“WOW what an AMAZING camp! My daughter didn't want to leave! We heard nothing but good things from her and she can't wait until next summer to return! Thank your incredible team for everything!”

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## “Recharge”

**NEW** – For Middle & High School Students

Spend a weekend at LuWiSoMo - **January 26-28** - to “unplug” from your daily routine and “recharge” with God.

Relax, breathe, have fun, laugh, listen to God, grow in your faith, worship, encourage and be encouraged, meet new friends and reconnect with camp friends, enjoy some time alone and time together with others of like mind and desire. Don't miss out on all the fun!

Come on your own. Bring friends or a small youth group. Summer Campers – don't wait until next summer to see your camp friends!

Details at [www.luwisomo.org/retreats/recharge](http://www.luwisomo.org/retreats/recharge)

## 2024 Summer Camp

### Register Now & Save

Summer Camp 2024 registration is open. All information is on our website. Register now for your first choice of dates and **Save \$50!** Financial support available (details on the website). Help spread the word and don't forget to invite a friend!

### Give Camp For Christmas

Attention parents, grandparents, uncles & aunts, contact us to put money on account for all or a portion of summer camp tuition as a gift for the special camper(s) in your life! Camp dates can be worked out after the gift is given.

## Support LuWiSoMo

Thank you for your prayers, participation, advocacy, and financial support that are making a huge impact in God's ministry at LuWiSoMo! Here are a few more ways you can help right now.

### Triple Challenge

Make a “Triple Challenge” gift. Thanks to two anonymous donors, **your gift now through January 15<sup>th</sup> is Tripled!** Details on our website.

### Thrivent Members / Thrivent Choice

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

### Nurses / Nursing Students

Each week of summer camp we need a volunteer nurse or nursing student to serve as Health Supervisor. Meals & housing are provided. Enjoy time at camp and share your gifts! If you or someone you know may want to be a blessing in this way, contact us to learn more. Thank you!

## Your Gifts At Work

Your gifts continue to drive progress on the long list of needed property and facility upgrades, and as your gifts are received we're putting them right to work, checking off projects on that list!

Here are highlights of some of the work completed this past year and what's up next. See past newsletters on the website for the many projects completed in 2020-22.

Know that while some of these needed investments are costly, we're pacing them as gifts are received to ensure we maintain financial health and proper reserves.

We're also blessed and thankful to report that in addition to all of this investment over the last several years, the last of the large debt and mortgage from the camp transfer and reopening several years back will be retired in 2024.

- **Chapel** - New water conditioning system, so the water now tastes great and no more rust stains to clean!
- **Waterfront** - East side cleaned up and leveled to add a picnic area; master plan includes a sand volleyball court at the beach and new large boat house with storage inside for all boats, kayaks, and equipment.
- **Worship Bowl** - Phase 1 of restoration was uncovering it from a decade of being reclaimed by nature, due to storm damage and flooding, so it could be used again. Plan is full renovation and improvement of this valuable asset, with provision to prevent future flooding.
- **Volleyball Courts** - All 3 sand courts (Athletic Field, Cabins, and Campground) fully refurbished.
- **Frisbee Golf** - Old course restored; new signage and a few upgrades in the works.
- **Youth/Family Cabins** - Road to cabins improved; new water heater in the shower house
- **Old Dining Hall** - Said goodbye this fall to this long-vacant condemned building per the plan to revitalize this area of camp.
- **Retreat Center** - Added new laundry (relocating from old pump house); new water treatment/conditioning system; replaced original furnaces for older wing and lower level; working on new exterior doors for the room wing, and then much needed bathroom renovations.
- **Retreat Center Meeting Room** - Adding sun blinds and furnishings to complete transformation to a multi-use space for events, gatherings, and guest relaxation.
- **Retreat Center Lower Level** - Work begun to convert this space into a large comfortable guest game/activity space with a patio area just outside.
- **Signage** - Plans underway to replace rotting camp and campground entry signs and all campus directional and building signs with new coordinated branded signage.
- **Picnic Table Replacement** - Ongoing as funds permit.
- **Master Campus Development Plan** - In the works to guide development in conjunction with ministry plans, including walking trails, relocated maintenance facility, activity center/gym, family-style housing and more.

## School Visits

Would a visit during your school chapel time help students get excited about continuing their education and growth at summer camp? We'd love to come and share (and can lead chapel)! Contact us to learn more and get on the list.

## “CrossWalk” Blessings

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### From a New JuniorCamper's Parent

“Thank you to everyone at Camp LuWiSoMo! This was the first time my children attended an overnight camp on their own and they came home enthusiastically going on about their amazing experience. Thank you for this incredible experience for my children to try new things while celebrating God's creation and salvation! They can't wait to return next summer, but for a whole week!”

### From a KinderCamp Parent Camper

“This was such a great weekend and experience. I enjoyed meeting other parents and grandparents who wanted to share a camp experience with their children / grandchildren. I was so encouraged by your staff - seeing students sharing the love of Jesus. They did an amazing job! This was a weekend my family will never forget, and we can't wait to come back next summer!”

### From a Joyful Hearts Camper's Parent

“This was my daughter's first time at camp. She had an amazing time and is looking forward to returning next summer. She continues to share multiple stories about her time at camp. However, her most favorite part was learning about Jesus. As a mom this is my favorite part. Whenever anyone asks her about camp, the first thing she tells them is all about Jesus. God bless your team!”

## LuWiSoMo Retreats

Winter and Spring are great times for Retreats (youth or adult group getaways and faith building, confirmation, outdoor education, leadership, men or women's groups, families, etc.). And it's not too soon to book for Summer and next Fall. Enjoy the blessings of time together in God's beautiful creation of LuWiSoMo! We have lodging, great food, beautiful facilities, and can help you lead or plan activities. Contact us for details or to arrange a tour. Let LuWiSoMo be a blessing to your group!

## CITs

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

## Questions / Stay Connected

Have a question or thought to share - we're always glad to hear from you! Feel free to contact us via the website “Contact” page or give us a call.

Do you receive LuWiSoMo news via email? If not, or not sure if we have your current contact info, email us your info and we'll make sure you're on the email news list. Check with your church to be sure they get this info too!

**www.LuWiSoMo.org | 920-622-3350**