



LUWISOMO

New Logo / Fall 2024 News

Thank you for all the positive feedback regarding the new logo - an updated design yet retaining key elements from our past logo and rich history. We're now in process of rolling it out across all LuWiSoMo media and branding.

2024 was a busy year and one abounding with blessings! We hope this newsletter provides insight as to some of the many ways God is putting your gifts to work for His ministry at LuWiSoMo. If you ever have questions or want more information, please don't hesitate to contact us.

God's Ministry At Camp

Whether summer camps, retreats, outdoor education, campground ministry, volunteering - joy and blessings continue to overflow as God is busy impacting lives through His ministry at LuWiSoMo!

Our summer camp theme - "**God is with us in the Rain, Storm, Fire, Wind, and all things, forever**" - reminded each of us how God is always with us, no matter what, just as He was with those who've gone before, especially Noah, Elijah, Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego, Jesus' disciples on the stormy sea and the Israelites - all of whom visited camp to share their stories and answer camper's questions. So as children of God, we can rise, shine, and give God the glory - always and forever!

We were encouraged by both the number of returning campers God brought back to camp for our PreK to High School Youth Camps, Lutheran Band Camp, and Joyful Hearts Camps (for those with developmental disabilities), and all the new families and campers, especially for the younger age youth camps. Camper numbers exceed that of pre-COVID years and continue to grow!

This summer was especially blessed with God bringing to camp a larger number of campers who didn't know Jesus or were new to faith (often as friends of other campers). Many of these campers were so excited about what they were learning and asked if they could take a Bible home because they didn't have one and wanted to read more. What a blessing to give away so many Bibles and see God in action impacting lives through His ministry here at LuWiSoMo!

Continued on Page 2...

New Endowment Fund

We're celebrating an exciting milestone in LuWiSoMo history with establishment of an endowment fund to help secure the long-term financial health of God's ministry at LuWiSoMo! Administered by the LCMS Foundation, this fund provides donors the opportunity to designate gifts, including estate planning gifts, into the fund in which all principal is protected and only interest is dispersed to help maintain & advance camp ministry. As we begin, interest will not be dispersed to help grow the fund. Contact us to learn more about adding your gifts to those already in the fund to help support the future of ministry at LuWiSoMo.

Annual Fund Support

Thank you for your prayers, participation, advocacy, and financial support that continue to make a huge impact for God's ministry at LuWiSoMo! Here are three ways to help financially with our annual fund gift needs:

Triple Challenge

Thanks to two anonymous donors, **your annual fund gift now through January 15th is Tripled!** See the attached Triple Challenge flyer or visit our website for details.

Monthly Giving

Become a "Mustard Seed" Ministry Partner with monthly giving via an automatic credit or debit card charge. It's the easiest and most efficient way of steady ongoing support. See our website for details and to easily start your giving.

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!

Summer Camp 2025

Register Now & Save

Registration for summer camp 2025, under our theme "**LOVED**", is open. Details, along with the summer camp flyer & bulletin insert, are on our website. Register now for first choice of dates and **Save \$50!** Financial support is available. Help spread the word and invite a friend or two!

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.

Serve God At Summer Camp

Share your gifts! Serve God & bless others while enjoying a week of fun at camp! We need volunteers to serve each week as Joyful Hearts camper "buddies" (no experience needed, any age - high school to retired, or smaller youth group servant event), as well as health professionals or students / interns to serve as Health Supervisor. High school students - earn service hours spending a couple weeks serving as a Counselor In Training (CIT). See our website and contact us to learn more and please help by spreading the word in your congregations and circles.

Your Gifts At Work

Your gifts continue to check off many items on the list of needed property and facility upgrades. Thank you!

As gifts are received, they're put right to work, but also at a pace ensuring we maintain financial health and proper reserves. Below are highlights of some of the projects completed this past year and some of those in the works or up next. See past newsletters on the website for the many projects completed over the past several years.

Of special financial note, we're blessed and thankful to report that in addition to all these investments over the last several years, we were also able to pay off the large mortgage from the camp transfer and reopening several years back early this past January. Again, thank you for your generous ongoing gifts that make this all possible!

- **Retreat Center** - Work on full remodel / conversion of lower level into a large comfortable guest game/activity space with a patio area just outside is well underway, with plans for completion this Spring. The room wing entry doors were replaced with new commercial glass doors matching the Welcome Center (first phase of new larger entry area & canopy). New drinking fountains with bottle fillers in Welcome Center & room wing. Up next, new benches / upgrades to RC campfire area and planning for bathroom renovations.
- **Campground** - Cabin exteriors professionally cleaned, resealed and stained. Trees and stumps removed on numerous campsites to improve and make room for larger campers, along with those encroaching on the entry road & main shower house. Dilapidated miniature golf and rotten wooden playground set removed. Next up, new aluminum picnic tables replacing rotten wood tables on most used sites, upgraded cabin furnishings, and planning for new entry and other signage, premium sites, and picnic shelter adjacent to the shower house.
- **Chapel** - New drinking fountain / bottle filler.
- **Old Dormitory** - Removed due to excessive renovation cost vs new & revitalization plans for this area of camp.
- **Picnic Shelter** - Replaced old rotten picnic tables.
- **Signage** - Main camp sign removed (beyond repair). Plans in the works for new masonry lighted sign in lawn, as well as campground entry and all campus directional and building signs, all with new logo / branding.
- **Youth/Family Cabins** - Up next, upgraded furnishing & mattresses, and shower house interior renovations.
- **Master Campus Development Plan** - Board project to guide development in conjunction with ministry plans - including walking trails, relocated maintenance facility, new waterfront center, campground improvements, family-style lodging, etc.

LuWiSoMo News

Does your congregation or school receive emailed news from LuWiSoMo that is then shared in your bulletins and newsletters? We're working to ensure this information is emailed to everyone needing / wanting it at all of our SWD or other interested churches, schools and ministries. Help by checking with your congregation / school and letting us know who should be receiving this information so we can ensure it is included and accurate on our distribution list. Thank you!

God's Ministry At Camp

Continued from Page 1

Visit our Facebook page to see hundreds of summer camp images: www.facebook.com/campluwisomo

This year we also saw an increase in church, youth, and school outdoor education retreats, including some SWD churches and schools that haven't used LuWiSoMo in the recent past. Keep spreading the word in your circles that LuWiSoMo is open and here to partner with and serve our Wisconsin congregations and school ministries.

Our first "Recharge" for middle & high school students last winter was a success and happens again January 24-26. "Recharge" is for individuals or small groups to enjoy a weekend at camp, "unplug" from their daily routine and "recharge" with God. It's a time to relax, breathe, have fun, laugh, listen to God, grow in faith, worship, encourage and be encouraged, enjoy time alone and time together with others of like mind and desire. It's a model adaptable for people of all ages, interests, or families, which we seek to grow.

The campground ministry welcomed lots of returning guests, as well as many new guests, all sharing positive feedback about our "quiet", relaxing, family friendly, campground enabling quality time with family and God.

Come. Enjoy. Experience. Don't miss out on the many ways God is busy impacting lives through His ministry at LuWiSoMo and help spread the word! Thank you for your prayers, participation, advocacy, and financial support, though which God is working!

New Logo Gear



Many of you've asked about getting more of the new logo gear, so we've arranged for the vendor to open the online store for another production run. The store is now open to place orders until **January 5th** with orders to then be shipped a couple of weeks after that.

If enough orders are received by **Sunday, December 8th** to meet minimum runs, they'll do a special run to ship just prior to Christmas.

Choose from short & long sleeve tees, polos, sweatshirts, performance tops, joggers, sweats, shorts, hats, and car decals. www.luwisomo.org/luwisomo-gear

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 email, send us your info and we'll make sure you're on the email news list. Or follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/campluwisomo

www.LuWiSoMo.org | 920-622-3350