



# LUWISOMO

It was a busy year, but one abounding with blessings! We hope this newsletter provides insight as to how God is at work and putting your gifts to work 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, or volunteering - joy and blessings continue abundantly as God is busy at work impacting lives through His ministry at LuWiSoMo!

Our 2025 summer camp theme "**LOVED**" was powerful and impactful, reminding each of us that "we are loved by God, perfectly, unconditionally and eternally, and so we love God and love one another because He first loved us". It was also exciting to have Paul (formerly Saul) visit camp each day to share with us and answer questions.

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, Camp Rise, and Joyful Hearts Camps (for those with developmental disabilities), and all the new campers - especially those who didn't know Jesus or were new to faith (many friends invited by other campers) - and their joy and excitement about what they were learning and the fun they were having as God was busy impacting lives!

...and praise God for the amazing summer camp ministry team - counselors, volunteers, CITs, "Helping Hearts," health supervisors, and staff - He assembled to serve!

Here are just a couple examples summarizing much of the feedback we received:

*"This was my son's first camp experience, and he can't wait to return next summer. He continues to share stories about camp, and what he learned about Jesus' love and loving others. God bless LuWiSoMo and your team!"*

*"My children can't stop talking about all the things they did at camp, the fun they had, friends they made, songs they sang, games, campfires, and all they learned. This is an amazing camp and a true blessing of God! They can't wait to come back next summer and invite their friends. Thank you to everyone on your amazing team!"*

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## How You Can Help

Thank you for your prayers, participation, advocacy, and financial support – all of which 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, as well as an opportunity for long-term support via our endowment fund.

### Triple Challenge

Thanks to two anonymous donors, **your annual fund gift now through January 15<sup>th</sup> 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!

### Endowment Fund

Our new endowment fund was established to support 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.

## Summer Camp 2026

### Register Now & Save

Registration for summer camp 2026, under our theme "**SHINE**", 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.

- **Retreat Center** - Full remodel and conversion of lower level into a large comfortable guest game and activity space with a patio area just outside is almost complete. New sunshades for the meeting room and lower level. Up next, new benches / upgrades to RC campfire area, meeting room furnishings, addressing acoustics in the dining hall and meeting room, and planning for a new room wing entry canopy, and room wing bathrooms and guest kitchen renovations.
- **Campground** - Special gifts enabled purchase of a new picnic table for each campsite. Cabins have new exterior lighting. Up next, upgraded cabin furnishings, new entry and other signage, and planning for shower house renovations, premium sites, and a picnic shelter adjacent to the shower house.
- **Chapel** - Initial discussion and planning have begun to reconfigure and enhance space utilization, add meeting and activity space, update the summer camp canteen, address exterior cladding, doors, and windows, and repair / relight the exterior cross.
- **Signage** - Plans underway for new main camp and campground entrance signs, along with building and campus directional signs – all with new logo / branding.
- **Youth/Family Cabins** - Up next, upgraded furnishings, mattresses, lighting, fans, electrical, and shower house interior renovations.
- **Waterfront** - Up next, new kayaks, canoes, life jackets, paddles. Planning for new larger waterfront center with indoor secure boat and equipment storage, covered picnic area, sand volleyball, and campfire area.
- **Natural Resources** - New initiatives for land and wildlife management and sustainability begun to ensure protection / care of camp's valuable natural resources to thrive and remain sustainable as God intends.
- **Master Campus Development Plan** – Planning and prioritization continue for campus / facility development in conjunction with, and to meet ministry plans and visioning, including additional family-style lodging, new waterfront center, chapel and surrounding gathering area renovations, walking trails throughout the campus, new relocated maintenance facility, and campground improvements.

## 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 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.

## God's Ministry At Camp

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See hundreds of summer camp images and more on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/campluwisomo](http://www.facebook.com/campluwisomo) and keep spreading the word about the life-changing opportunity of summer camp at LuWiSoMo!

Our campground ministry also 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.

Outside of the summer season, we continue serving as a ministry partner to Lutheran congregations, schools, and ministries for their congregation, youth, confirmation, and outdoor education retreats, and other ministry events, as well as offering our annual LuWiSoMo Kid's Christmas, and Joyful Hearts Fall and Winter Retreats. In addition, we're excited about our Winter Recharge for middle school & high school students, and this year's theme "Standing Firm In God's Truth", happening in January!

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!



## Questions / Stay Informed

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 at [www.facebook.com/campluwisomo](http://www.facebook.com/campluwisomo)

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