LUWISOMO

It was another year abounding with blessings! We hope this newsletter gives you a glimpse of how God is at work and using your gifts. 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 summer camp theme **"SHINE***"*, based on Matthew 5:16, was powerful and impactful as we learned that God wants each of us to "shine by reflecting His light as Jesus taught, wherever we are, pointing others to Jesus". It was also fun having our theme mascot "Sparky" with us each day helping us learn how to shine and reminding us that it only takes a "spark" to get a fire going!

We were encouraged by both the number of returning summer campers God brought to 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 new to their faith (many friends invited by other campers) – as well as camper's 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 is an example summarizing much of the feedback we received:

> *"Thank you for another amazing experience at camp this summer! We are so grateful for this ministry and the way you share God's love and help strengthen campers' faith. Our kids are looking forward to the winter camps and making lists of friends to invite to camp as they strive to "Shine God's Love!"*
>
> *Thank you to everyone at LuWiSoMo! You are all such a blessing! This was the first time my children attended an overnight camp, and they came home enthusiastically going on about their amazing experience!*

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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 the endowment fund.

Triple Challenge

Thanks to 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!

Endowment Fund

Our endowment fund supports 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 this fund in which principal is protected and only earnings are dispersed to help maintain & advance camp ministry. In just under two years the fund has grown to over a quarter of a million dollars. Contact us to learn more about supporting the future of God's ministry at LuWiSoMo in this way.

Summer Camp 2027

Register Now & Save

Registration for summer camp 2027, under our theme **"BELONG",** 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 are hard at work both supporting ministry and checking off many items on the list of needed property and facility upgrades. Thank you!

As your gifts are received, they're put right to work but at a pace ensuring we maintain financial health and proper reserves. These are highlights of some of the projects completed this past year and those up next.

Retreat Center – The newly remodeled lower level, now a game and activity space including carpet ball and a new ping pong table, is getting lots of use! Final touches on the remodeled bathrooms are almost complete, and work has begun on the new lower level outdoor patio and gathering area. Up next - new benches and upgrades to campfire area, and furnishings for the meeting room and lower level.

Youth/Family Cabins – Next, upgraded furnishings, new mattresses, window treatments, lighting, and fans.

Campground – Next, upgraded cabin furnishings and new exterior doors for the main shower house.

Campus / Facility Development Plan – In conjunction with ministry planning and visioning, the following campus and facility development plans have been identified and prioritized.

- **Retreat Center Remodel & Expansion**
  Expand and fully remodel the current room wing bathrooms. Add two new room wings connected by atriums creating three separate group spaces (or room for a large group) all under one roof. One wing would connect off the back of the Dining Hall and another off the end of the current room wing. As part of this plan, we would also address the guest kitchen remodel, room wing entry, auxiliary dining area space utilization, welcome center, and office space.
- **Chapel / Youth Camp Activity Center**
  Reconfigure and expand for better space utilization as a multi-use worship, gathering, and activity center for youth camps and other retreats, including adding meeting / break out rooms, updated summer camp canteen and craft/activity area, outdoor gathering area, possible storm shelter, new exterior cladding, doors, windows, and repair/relight the exterior cross.
- **Waterfront Center**
  New waterfront center with secure indoor boat and equipment storage, a covered picnic / rest area, sand volleyball, and campfire / worship area.
- **Youth / Family Cabins Shower House**
  Remodel (or replace) for improved guest experience and with a storm shelter.
- **New Maintenance Facility**
  Relocate and demolish old when new complete.
- **Campground**
  Campsite upgrades, addition of premium campsite and group camping areas, picnic shelter, improved entrance, welcome kiosk, and added amenities.
- **Other**
  New main camp and campground entry signs and building and campus directional signs with the new logo, and walking trails throughout the campus.

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** 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. Reservations for the 2027 season open in January!

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 Joyful Hearts Fall and Winter Retreats, LuWiSoMo Kid's Christmas in December, and Winter Recharge for middle school & high school students in January (this year with guest speaker Chad Janetzke).

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**

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