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ECHOES)))))))

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

From The Point

Vol. 20, No. 2

A Newsletter for Campers and Friends of Luther Park

Summer 2009

Open House July 18 celebrates half a century of Christian Outdoor Ministry at Luther Park

By Sharon F. Miller
Communications

Outdoor Ministries provide unique opportunities and experiences to campers, retreaters, families and staff.

Plan now to take a beautiful summer drive to Luther Park's 50th Anniversary Open House celebration on Saturday, July 18.

There will be plenty fun for all ages at this free "THANK YOU!" day for all friends of Luther Park.



Here's what Pastor Lon Larson of Family of Christ Lutheran in Lakeville has to say about Bible Camp: *It was the most intense encounter available with role models, mentors and peers, all giving witness of faith in Jesus Christ, and doing so in ways that were cool and new and not stuffy, rehearsed, or old. In Sunday worship, young people learn what it means to be a Christian once they grow up. At camp, young people learn what it means to be a Christian in that very moment.*

If your children are not signed up for Bible Camp, get on it right away. For reasons that are obvious, and for reasons that are completely mysterious, the encounter with the Holy Spirit at a Bible Camp is like no other.

completely mysterious, the encounter with the Holy Spirit at a Bible Camp is like no other.

Fun for all ages

Come, join us at Open House and experience a touch of the wonder of a summer day at Bible Camp. Visit with young summer staff members/mentors. Cruise the waters of sparkling Lake 26 on

(Cont. on P. 2)

Luther Park or Bust



Here's the schedule of events

9-11 a.m. Arrive at your leisure to enjoy coffee/cold drinks and sweet rolls. Sign in and receive your free gift. Tour camp and visit with old friends and new.

11 a.m. Outdoor worship on The Point.

12:15 p.m. Outstanding Christian Service Award/Volunteer Recognition/Other special recognitions, New Board Member Welcome

1 p.m. Celebration Buffet lunch at the Lodge

2 p.m. Old-fashioned Ice-cream Social, pontoon boat rides, tours of camp, waterfront open with lifeguard, and more.

3 p.m. Luther Park Board Meeting

4 p.m. Depart

Look INSIDE For

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Quilt Auction at St. Barnabas, Plymouth, Oct. 3



Quilters from many Luther Park corporation congregations and others across the area are already busy stitching together another fantastic Quilt Auction.

Scheduled for Sat., Oct. 3, 2009, at St. Barnabas Lutheran, this fundraising event is always a showcase of the creativity and dedication of individual quilters and groups from throughout Luther Park's constituency.

Quilts, afghans and crafts at the event come in a variety of colors, sizes, patterns and prices. Dozens of Quilt Auction attendees have learned that this event is a great place to find a special gift for a loved one or for yourself.

Mark your calendar now and plan to join us at St. Barnabas Lutheran. Viewing will start at 11 a.m., with lunch available beginning at 11:30 and bidding at 1 p.m.

(Cont. on P. 2)

All-staff, -camper, -volunteer & -donor reunions part of 50th Anniversary gathering

By Sharon F. Miller
Communications

BE THERE! LUTHER PARK NEEDS YOU ON JULY 18 TO MAKE THIS CELEBRATION A SUCCESS!

Bring your friends and family! Everyone is welcome. To truly make this occasion special we need as many former staff, campers, board members, pastors, retreaters, parents, donors, volunteers, and friends of Luther Park as possible!

Sign in when you arrive and bring any photos or items you've brought to display to the Lodge. Tables will be available inside for items by decades.

If you're a founding member, pastor, or part of a founding congregation, we'd love to hear from you. Please check with your pastor or congregational historian to see if you have some interesting history or photos to share with us.

Founding congregations include: Bethel, Bethany (on 36th), Calvary, Diamond Lake, Ebenezer, Elim, Emanuel (NE Community), First Augustana,

Gethsemane, Grace, Gustavus Adolphus, House of Prayer, Lutheran Memorial, Messiah, Normandale, Salem, Zion

(Mpls.), Lutheran Church of Reformation, and Mt. Calvary (Excelsior). Please contact us if you know of any

KNOW ANY OF THESE COUNSELORS — CIRCA 1973 TELL US! AND TELL THEM TO COME TO THE OPEN HOUSE!



The best guesses we have are: Jim Collier, Mark Casoria, Kristy Pengra, Nan ?, Kris Lerohi, Eddie Stevenson, Kris Fenlon, Mike Storlie, Rick Lisell, Lynne Kjome, Sue Burke, Gayle Dawson and Pat Hall. These names may not be in the right order and some are missing, but from all reports they were a great group! Help us out. If you know any of them, please have them contact us & come to the Open House.

we've missed.

If you're a first-time visitor to camp, that's great, too. We have an anniversary gift and lots to do in store for everyone.

"As summer 2009 begins, there is hope of a renewed spirit with the celebration of our 50 years in ministry and of finding new ways to partner together to enhance what congregations do and what we as a camp do," said Executive Director Joel Legred. "We have another excellent summer staff of young role models from all over the U.S. as well as the United Kingdom, Brazil, Colombia and Australia (See photo on Pgs. 4-5). Open House is a good chance for you to meet and greet these young Christian mentors."

We hope you'll help us spread the word about our 50th Anniversary Reunions. There are many groups such as the one pictured here whom we would also like to get together. And the 50th Anniversary Open House is the perfect place to do it.

We'll have our cameras and note takers, sign-in table and display tables ready and waiting. All we need is you,

(Cont. on P. 2)

A Message
From the
President

Wade Wacholz



On Celebrating the Blessed History of Luther Park

Summers are always great at Luther Park, but Summer 2009 is special—Happy 50th Birthday Luther Park!!!

This July we will take time to celebrate the first 50 years of Luther Park's commitment to ministry for Christ in our world. **We have so much to be thankful for—Luther Park is blessed to be a blessing!**

We are blessed by our founding churches and their members who literally put Luther Park on the map by acquiring the land on Lake 26 so many years ago. We are blessed by the countless supporters who spent time and gave money so eight cabins, the Lodge, Log House, Welcome Center, and all the other facilities could be built and maintained.

We are blessed by the commitment of so many young leaders who have come to Luther Park to serve as staff members over the years, to not only nourish the faith of campers and families, but to grow in their own walk with Jesus. We are blessed by staff leaders like Joel and Anna, Vic and Sharon, Carolyn, Patti, Joleen and all their predecessors, who kept Luther Park going through

thick and thin, with heart, soul and faith.

We are blessed—and you may note that I did not say we **have been** blessed. To be sure, Luther Park's 50th year is a time to look back and give thanks. But Luther Park, as a creation of Christ's church, has always been a forward looking place. We are blessed every day by all the good things that have gone before and brought us here. But we are blessed to be a blessing. So we are called to God's future—a bright and hopeful future.

We are eagerly looking forward to Luther Park's next 50 years! This past year a founding congregation, Bethel Lutheran of north Minneapolis, made a substantial, forward-looking gift toward our Retreat Village. In the coming months we will be coming out to add to that wonderful lead gift through our "Fit for the Next Fifty" campaign.

Please watch for all the ways we can celebrate, not only the blessed history of Luther Park, but also a very blessed future. God is not done with us yet.

Here's to Luther Park's next 50 years!

Blessings,

Wade Wacholz

Reunions Part of 50th Anniversary Open House (Cont. from P. 1)

your friends, your families and your memories of camp. If possible, please let us know if you plan to come so we'll have enough food and supplies for everyone.

You'll find a group page on Facebook (Luther Park Camping and Retreat Center) where you can register to let us know you're planning to attend. Please include information about your connection with the camp as well. You can also call 715.656.7244, or e-mail us at camp@lutherpark.com to share this information. 📧

50th Anniversary Open House (Cont. from P. 1)

the camp pontoon boat, swim, canoe, hike, try out a paddle boat. Or, just relax in the shade, tour the campgrounds and delight in the quiet beauty that surrounds you at camp. See the new additions and subtractions (A few old buildings have come down to make way for future new ones). And check out the photos and displays from the past 50 years set up in the Lodge.

You'll also have an opportunity to hear an update on the specifics of projects involved with the "Fit for the Next 50" campaign.

This might be just the introductory taste you and your family need to understand what Pastor Larson means when he says, *Camp often ends up being a genuinely formative experience for a lifetime of faith, hope and love. Family camp is also an option—the whole family spends time together in a Christian camp setting. Really fantastic!*

Loan us some lawnchairs, if possible

Because of the 50th Anniversary Celebration, we are expecting a larger crowd than usual. If you have some easy to transport lawn chairs that you could bring with you, it would be greatly appreciated. We'll even let you sit on your own chair, if you like.

Overnight Accommodations

If you are interested in overnight accommodations in either the cabins or campground, please call the camp office at 715.656.7244. Space is available on a first-come basis.

Your participation is a blessing for Luther Park!

We'll be celebrating this year's theme: Love to Serve based on Mark 10:45: *For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.*

You'll find a map with directions to Luther Park on Page 8.

Come on along! We'd love to have you with us for this very special 50th Anniversary celebration! 📍



COMING EVENTS AT LUTHER PARK CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

JULY 3-5	Family Camp II
JULY 11-12	Bikeathon II
JULY 18	50th Anniversary Summer Open House Celebration, Volunteer & Special Recognitions, Outstanding Christian Service Award, Introduction of new board members, All-staff and alumni reunions, Board of Directors' Mtg., 3 p.m. and more!
JULY 24-26	Grandparent/Grandchild Camp Weekend
AUGUST 14	Summer Camp Ends
SEPTEMBER	Fall Work Day TBA
OCTOBER 3	Annual Quilt Auction, St. Barnabas Lutheran Church, Plymouth, Minn.
DECEMBER 4	Glad Tidings Advent Dinner
DECEMBER 12	Breakfast with Santa, Sat. morn., Everyone welcome! Get your Christmas photo here!

All events take place at Luther Park unless otherwise noted. For more information contact Joel Legred at 612.987.6628, e-mail: Jlegred@lutherpark.com; or camp at 715.656.7244, e-mail: camp@lutherpark.com.

Quilt Auction (Cont. from P. 1)

Luther Park has already received a commitment of \$1,600 from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to match \$3,200 in proceeds from the Quilt Auction. To meet this match we need great auction items and a crowd of generous bidders.

If you have an item you would like to donate to either the Silent Auction or the Quilt auction, or if you would be willing to help prepare the event, please call Joel Legred at 612.987.6628 or e-mail: Jlegred@lutherpark.com.



Quilters from Mt. Calvary in Excelsior are already busy creating some dazzling quilts for the auction at St. Barnabas Lutheran Church in Plymouth on October 3. Shown above is Norma Peterson.



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or

Write: 30376 Lakes Drive,
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Luther Park ECHOES From the Point

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Editor/Writer/Designer/Photographer: Sharon F. Miller

Pictures, information and opinions are welcomed and encouraged. Call or send to: 715.656.7244; 30376 Lakes Drive, Danbury, WI 54830.

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Kitchen/Housekeeper
Executive Director
Communications

Joleen Clendening
Joel Legred
Sharon Miller
Program Director

Maintenance
Office
Head Cook

Vic Nelson
Carolyn Pittman
Patti Schaaf

Anna Treague

1 “doer” + 1 praying couple = 2 great vans for Luther Park

By Sharon F. Miller
Communications

Luther Park was in dire need of a decent van to transport campers and summer staff. Not, one to sit around and wait for things to happen. Carolyn Pittman, a member of Lakeside Lutheran and a part-time office employee at Luther Park, took action.

Being a woman of action, Pittman decided to stop by a local car dealership to ask about the possibility of a passenger van being donated to camp.

Once there, she visited with a couple shopping for new vans for their business. They hadn't yet decided what to do with the old ones. In fact, one comment from this couple was that they had just prayed that morning about what to do with the old vans!

Aha! Pittman's ears perked up. She went back to camp and had the “camp auto experts” go to check out the vans. It turned out they were in great shape, and they could both be ours for the price of one (\$3,000).

But our “woman of action” didn't stop there. She immediately went about starting a fund raising effort to purchase the vans.

She began by raising funds at her church. Then she went to the Luther Park Annual

Meeting in Edina in March with her story and her offering basket. And guess what. Yes, she raised more

money! She had already raised \$1,700 and invited everyone there to help get the gift thermometer up to a goal of \$5,000, which would include insurance and upkeep of the vans.

News releases and word of mouth brought in even more. The latest word received from Pittman is the thermometer is up to \$3,298.

She explained, “We purchased a used spare tire for each van, but I think we are coming close to covering all the costs.”

If you'd like to help meet the \$5,000 goal for the two vans, send a check to Luther Park and write “Vehicle Expenses” on the memo.

Pittman added: “My next mission is to find two electric kitchen stoves, standard size. There has never been one in the apartment of the Welcome Center, and Anna's stove in her house has only two burners working—and the oven burns things! I'm hoping someone out there is ‘trading up’ and is willing to donate a stove in good condition!”

What a “doer”! You gotta love a woman of action like that. You know, with that kind of determination and drive, she just might find those two stoves...and the rest of the money to reach the van goal. 🙌



Carolyn Pittman is shown above at the Luther Park Annual Meeting in March with her little offering basket and toy auto replica. Too bad you can't see the big, bright red “S” on the back of her cape (Photo by Sharon F. Miller).



Board President Wade Wacholz (left) accepted a check for \$200,000 from Bethel Council President Dave Gilyard from the sale of their building dedicated to be used for the future Retreat Center at Luther Park (Photo by Sharon F. Miller).



New board members elected at the Annual Meeting are (from left): Steve Kerska, Lakeside, Web Lake, Wis.; Kris Pearson, Diamond Lake; and Deana Miller, Zion, Mpls. Not pictured is Sarah Abelson, Mt. Calvary, Excelsior (Photo by Sharon F. Miller).

Board Officers elected at May Board meeting

President	Wade Wacholz
Vice-Pres.	Deana Miller
Secretary	David Shirley
Treasurer	Scott Wright

Thanks to Outgoing Board Members:
Paula Bergs, Calvary
Pr. Evelyn Dahlke, NE Community Lutheran
Ann Harless, St. Barnabas
Bob Kresse, Diamond Lake
for their dedicated service!

Annual Meeting highlights

The Luther Park Corporation held its Annual Meeting Sunday, March 15, 2009, at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Edina. Board Vice President Wade Wacholz called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Devotions and prayer were given by Pastor Kimberly Leetch, Shepherd of the Hills. Program Director Anna Treague led the group in singing *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High*.

Bethel Lutheran Church (which closed 4.13.08) Council President Dave Gilyard presented a \$200,000 check to Luther Park for future construction of a Family and Adult Retreat Center.

Bethel was one of the 19 charter member churches of Luther Park, Inc. and has left a wonderful legacy donation to the ongoing family and adult ministry of Luther Park. Thank You!

The March 16, 2008, Annual Meeting minutes were reviewed and approved as presented by David Shirley, secretary.

Treasurer Scott Wright presented the 2008 financial report (including comparison figures from 2007) and the 2009 budget. It was mentioned that Luther Park is planning a flat budget, based on actual revenue and spending from 2008, without consideration of the additional gift income resulting from the recent drive to reduce the year-end 2008 deficit. After review of documents by delegates, the 2008 year-end financial statements were approved, as was the 2009 budget.

Shirley presented the slate of board members. New this year are Kris Pearson, Diamond Lake (Mpls.); Steve Kerska, Lakeside (Web Lake, Wis.); Sarah Abelson, Mt. Calvary (Excelsior); and Deana Miller, Zion (Mpls.), for a one-year term ending in 2010. (See above for a photo of new board members in attendance. Candidates for another two-year term are: Ann Harless, St.

Barnabas; David Shirley, Messiah; Merle Waldron, Lord of Life; and Scott Wright, House of Prayer.

Currently in the second year of a two-year term are: Norm Okerstrom, Peace; Dave Osteraas, Nativity; Wade Wacholz, Shepherd of the Hills; Chuck Hughes, Richfield Lutheran; and Janet Nelson, Elim. Going off the board were Paula Bergs, Calvary and Bob Kresse, Diamond Lake, and Pr. Evelyn Dahlke, NE Community Lutheran.

The full slate of candidates was approved followed by reports from staff members.

Legred discussed the highlights of his written annual report. He also expressed awe and thanks for the outpouring of financial and spiritual support from congregations and individuals in response to the recent budget deficit.

Carolyn Pittman, office staff, shared a

story about the recent addition of two camp vans (See story and photo above).

Anna Treague, program director, summarized her written report and gave a list of ideas to expand congregational partnerships with outdoor ministries.

Sharon Miller, communications, shared her written report, highlighting the upcoming Ole & Lena Dinner Show & Silent Auction and other coming events.

Wacholz gave a brief update on the Master Plan and the work of the Strategic Planning Task Force as well as the 50th Anniversary and the “Fit or the Next 50” plans. John Stevens, Shepherd of the Hills, discussed options for involvement of work groups and churches to participate in updating camp facilities.

Minutes were submitted by Secretary David Shirley. For a copy of the 2008 Annual Report, please call Anna Treague at 715.656.7244, or e-mail: anna@lutherpark.com 🙌



LUTHER PARK CAMP SCRAPBOOK



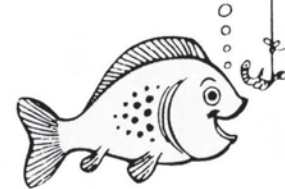
Board member and biker Scott Wright took time out for a photo with his wife Cara (left) and daughters Kaity and Chloe. All from House of Prayer. Also shown (at right) are their friends Rich and Lori Danielson, Diamond Lake, who came to cheer Scott in at the Bikeathon during the summer. Danielson's also worship at Lakeside Lutheran during the summer.



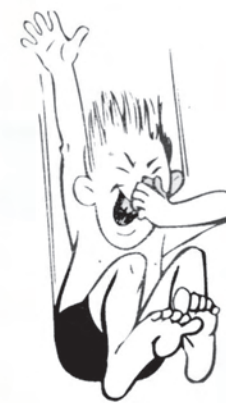
Happy retreat friends from Northeast Community Lutheran share the fun.



Youth from Richfield Lutheran ham it up for the camera during a break from their duties helping at the Ole & Lena Dinner, where they earned part of their way to summer camp.



MEET THE 2009 LUTHER PARK SUMMER STAFF. Names appear in alphabetical order: Kelli Albrecht, St. Paul, Minn.; Alana Anderson, Lakeville, Minn.; Cherise Beggs, Buffalo, Minn.; Kate Billison, Rosemount, Minn.; Laura Buswell, Prior Lake, Minn.; Riley Christensen, Webster, Wis.; Anna Essendrup, Edina, Minn.; Jessica Ferguson, Hermantown, Minn.; Kaitlyn Ferguson, New Hope, Minn.; Theo Hinrichs, Anoka, Minn.; Courtney Hinz, Lakeville, Minn.; Zach Hoskins, Dayton, Minn.; Rachel Jacob, Two Harbors, Minn.; Salim Kaderbhai, Lauderdale, Minn.; Carl Kent, Anoka, Minn.; Danielle Koch, Lakeville, Minn.; Joe Larrivy, Duluth, Minn.; Danielle McCalla (CCUSA) Woverhampton, United Kingdom; Sarah McKenzie, Eagan, Minn.; Crystal Miller, Stacy, Minn.; Salamao Azulay Neto (CCUSA) Belem, Brazil; Jessica Niles, Maple Grove, Minn.; Luis Felipe Ramirez (CCUSA) Neiva, Colombia; Adelle Ryan, South Perth, Australia; Kristine Schuldt, Mankato, Minn.; James Verlautz, Arden Hills, Minn.



Sven (Ken) Ask & Ole (Burt) Miller were in their fanciest attire to greet guests during the reception hour before the Ole & Lena Dinner.



Retreaters from St. John's Lutheran in Lakeville pitched in to help on Spring Work Day.



Luther Park
A Place for All Ages...
A Place for All Seasons
Mission Statement
Luther Park is a cooperative ministry of ELCA and other Lutheran congregations serving people of all ages through a variety of programs in an outdoor setting. Our mission is to provide an environment in which the Christian faith may be strengthened and people may grow in their personal relationship with God.



2009 Summer staffers relax in the Dining Hall during staff training week.



Summer staff members receive communion from Lakeside Lutheran Pastor Pittman during a commissioning service on The Point.



Board Member David Shirley and others cross the Bikeathon finish line at Luther Park (See story on P. 7).

Diamond Lake confirmand chooses Luther Park for special service project

By Sharon F. Miller
Communications

Last February, Drake Kilber contacted Luther Park Executive Director Joel Legred about the service project he was considering as part of his confirmation at Diamond Lake Lutheran.

Kilber got the idea for his project as a result of the current tough economic times. In his first contact about the project he asked Legred: "I am wondering if there is a list of things that you could come up with that has items under \$50 that people of my church could donate. I was planning to bring up the donations on Spring Work Day."

To say that Legred was excited about this project is quite an understatement. He jumped on it, and immediately contacted other staff members to get them involved, too.

Well, the project was very successful and many of us on staff at Luther Park were beneficiaries of Kilber's efforts. In fact, my own work for Luther Park benefited. Among the items brought to camp were lithium camera batteries, which I coincidentally used when taking the photo here of Drake, his dad and mom.

Because of his creative and successful project, Kilber was asked to speak at the Point and Cross Banquet in May, where he was a big hit!

Here are some excerpts from the talk

he gave that night:

"Luther Park is one of my favorite places ever...When I'm up there, I look around at everything that there is. I feel like anything is possible with God on your side... Some camps and churches are so big that you feel like you are just 'one of the campers,' or 'one of the people in the congregation,' but Luther Park is not like that. Every time one of us goes up to Luther Park we have a

collected were the typical camp necessities, like scissors, glue and paper, even a blender for the kitchen. I even collected a table and two sets of chairs.

Although these are only items, they are something. When giving something or helping someone...it doesn't matter how much you give or how well you help or serve... It matters that you HAVE helped or served.

Luther Park accepted everything.

They didn't care if it was a glue stick or a table. They took it. And it made me feel great to help an organization that has helped so many other people."

Kilber explained that Luther Park is one of his and his church's youth group's favorite places to go. He noted that he also has three older siblings who have gone to Luther Park many times.

Legred emphasized: "We are so impressed and thankful for all that Drake has done.

He truly has a servant's heart and is a wonderful role model for our youth."

If you'd like to help out in honor of Kilber's idea, please contact camp at 715.656.7244. We'll be happy to send a list of items needed to you for your youth group or congregation.

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord that you are serving. 🙏



Drake Kilber (Center) is shown above with his father and mother, Monica & David Kilber, while holding a photo of some of the donated items delivered to camp for his project (Photo by Sharon F. Miller).

personal experience. An experience that only gets better each time. That's why I took my time to give something back to Luther Park after all the camp has given to me.

I just got confirmed this morning, and it was a great experience. One of the things we had to do for confirmation was a service project. A lot of the service projects that are done are typical projects. Like helping people at school or helping the elderly, but I decided to do something that literally no one else had ever thought of doing.

I collected items at my church for Luther Park. The items that were

A Message
From the
Program
Director

Anna Treague

The Son's Reflection

A SERVANT'S SONG

For the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.

~Mark 10:45

How and where do we serve? Whether at church, in our communities, around the world, or in our own families—the places and ways are endless.

Why as Christians do we serve? Personally, I serve because Christ did. In our theme verse this summer, Mark 10:45, it says that Christ came to serve others and gave His life for us all.

By doing this, Christ gave us the ultimate teachable moment, leading by



example. He shows us what service really is—giving of oneself, changing the lives of so many.

We here at Luther Park Camping and Retreat Center have 27 wonderful summer staff who are doing just that. They are serving our churches, youth and adults, and more importantly Christ for 10 weeks this summer.

We ask them to provide for the needs of many and give of themselves. We pay them modestly, but the lives that are touched and changed are priceless. Summer staff members are Christ in the flesh. Please join me in praying for them and the ministry they do here at Luther Park and in our congregations.

In Christ,

Anna Treague

Welcome
to our new
Retreat
Coordinator!

Kaitlyn Ferguson,
New Hope, Minn.

We are pleased to announce that Kaitlyn is now serving as one of our Assistant Program Directors. She will begin the Retreat Coordinator position this fall. Watch for a photo and more information about Kaitlyn in the next Echoes. 🙏

LUTHER PARK WISH LIST

Listed below are some of the camp's current needs. Perhaps you don't have any of them on hand, but would like to give a special gift or a gift in honor or memory of someone. To contribute toward any of these items, just make a check out to Luther Park, note your wishes, and mail to: Luther Park, 30376 Lakes Drive, Danbury WI 54830-9508

URGENT NEEDS

Multiple DVD Burner (Very urgent – needed for summer camp sessions 3/4, Ton 4 Wheel drive pickup Convection Oven or money to purchase one

SPECIAL NEEDS

Maintenance:

Gas power washer (portable)
Electric or gas cement mixer
Paint spray gun
Covered Pontoon boat Lift
Volunteers/assist with renovation of cabins—Call Anna at camp
Lawn Mowers

Kitchen:

Hobart mixer
Soup Bowls
3-4 gallon electric soup pot

Program:

Portable DVD Player (for recruiting)
Periodic piano tuning
Broomball equipment
Construction paper
Pipe Cleaner
Tempera paint
Crayola markers
Seed beads & Pony beads

Office:

SHARP Color Copier
Copy Paper (white and colored)
Office Supplies
Computer, laptop (Mac or PC compatible)

Thanks for These Gifts!

(Received since Winter/Spring 2009)

2 portable PA systems w/ carts
Dell laptop
1988 Ford Bronco
27" TV
2 Brita Water Filtration Systems, Logitech Z-4
2 hair straightening irons
Sound system, and other sound equipment
Paint
12" crescent wrench
Electrical and Plumbing supplies
15 passenger Dodge van
Trailer
CO detectors
Office and sports supplies
Kitchen countertops and fittings
Epson digital Light projector

ATTENTION! GRANDPARENTS AND GRANDCHILDREN

The 3rd Annual Grandparent/Grandchild Weekend is set for July 24-26, 2009. Plan now to join us for a fun-filled weekend. This programmed retreat provides a perfect opportunity for grand-parents and grandchildren to spend time together in an outdoor atmosphere... fishing, playing, hiking, and more while enjoying God's great outdoors!

For more information, please call camp at 715.656.7244, e-mail: camp@lutherpark.com or visit our Web site: www.lutherpark.com. 🙏

June Bikeathon Report: Weather damp and cold; but spirits arid, warm and enthusiastic

By David Shirley
Secretary, Luther Park Board

Considering the current economy, and the corresponding fundraising challenges, the Annual Luther Park

Bikeathon was a great success, with dedicated riders experiencing some weather related challenges of their own.

This year's June Bikeathon had 11 determined riders, along with three support staff in two sag vehicles providing resources and energy for the event.

The riders started at Messiah Lutheran in Minneapolis on Saturday, June 6 around 7:50 a.m. and arrived in Luck, Wis. around 4:30 p.m. that day.

The weather was damp and cold, but the riders' spirits were not dampened by the rain and temperatures in the upper 40s. Some riders re-warmed themselves on Saturday evening in the Luck Country Inn's hot tub. The entire group enjoyed dinner together, while sharing their excitement from the day's ride.

The group departed Luck at 7:30 a.m. Sunday, arriving about 40 miles and four

hours later at Luther Park to an enthusiastic greeting by the camp's summer and full time staff, sporting their new tie-dyed staff shirts for 2009. The group enjoyed a great lunch in the company of Luther Park's staff, while sharing their excitement for the imminent

summer camper season.

Although the riders experienced a few flat tires during the ride, there were no flattened spirits for this annual fundraising event. Pledge efforts at three Luther Park corporate member churches (House of

Prayer, Family of Christ & Messiah), resulted in total donations—including Thrivent matches—of more than \$7,000 for increasingly needed youth camper scholarships! Many thanks to the numerous individuals donating to this annual scholarship fund raiser and to Thrivent for their support, as well as Luther Park's exceptional and invigorating staff.

Many churches already have bike riding events or groups, and the Bikeathon is another great opportunity for a faith community building activity. The goal for the 2010 Luther Park Bikeathon is to get more churches involved. Next year's first Bikeathon will be held June 5-6, 2010.

You are encouraged to have riders from your church participate in next year's June or July Bikeathon, or even consider starting your own event (there are excellent support materials by request).

If you or your church has an interest in participating in next year's bikeathons, please e-mail Joel at Jlegred@lutherpark.com.



June Bikeathon participants are shown above at the entrance to Luther Park. From left are: Pastor Lee Cunningham (Messiah), Donny Bergquist (Family of Christ), Tom Gustafson (Messiah), Matt Settergren (Messiah), Scott Wright (House of Prayer), Pat Shirley (Messiah), Michelle Russell (Messiah), Steve Neumann (Messiah), Sarah Pesola (Messiah), Matt Xiong (Messiah), David Shirley (Messiah), Peggy Nerdahl (Messiah) and Rod Nerdahl (Messiah).

Former Staff shares how camp impacts life

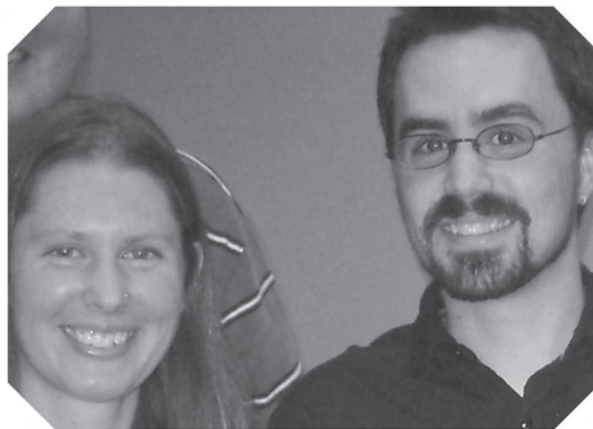
Sharon F. Miller
Communications

No matter how much some things change, one thing stays the same: Fifty years ago, as now, Luther Park's leadership recognized that children's experiences and relationships can have a profound effect on their futures.

Former staff member, song writer and musician, Nick Barr learned this early on and recently shared some of his feelings about the impact camp has on both campers and staff.

At the recent Point and Cross Club gathering, Barr noted how encouraged he was by people who prioritize Luther Park and support it so well through their time and resources.

"There are many amazing stories of how camp has changed campers lives...But I hope you realize that camp doesn't just change campers lives, it changes counselors lives. It changed my life, too," said Barr. "Never before have I encountered in one place so many people who, for me, were Christ with skin-on...People who



Nick and Heidi Barr are pictured above at the recent Point & Cross Club Dinner at St. Barnabas, Plymouth

accepted me and my particular skills and quirks and encouraged me to use both in my service.

"As wild places disappear—slowly being paved over—camp itself is sacred ground for me. There is a peace I feel in those 186 acres that I don't know that I feel anywhere else on earth.

"Campers of all ages and ethnicities have taught me (though I was trying to teach them...) those elemental lessons of faith that I had become too busy or distracted in my own life to remember.

"So thank you to all of you, for allowing Luther Park to be a place that continues to change lives, including my own."

The musically gifted Barr shared these words at the Point and Cross dinner, as well as an original song he had just completed. His and his wife, Heidi, who also attended the event, first connected at camp where she also served as a counselor. We are blessed to have had both of them on staff.

Ya, Oles & Lenas raise campership funds for the 13th year: UFFDA!

Ya Sure, You Betcha! About 180 Oles and Lenas kicked up their heels at the Ya, Sure, You Betcha Party at Richfield raising a grand total of nearly \$8,500. This includes supplemental funds of \$2,800 from Thrivent Financial for

Lutherans, Care Abounds in Communities, via the Central Mpls. Chapter, and the Southwest Hennepin County Chapter. All funds go directly to camping scholarships for kids, many of whom would otherwise never be able to attend Bible camp. Many thanks to Thrivent, Richfield Lutheran, who hosts this event each year, and to all of you who support Luther Park through this unique FUNdraiser.



Ole & Lena, (far right & left) pose with Best Costume winners Sven (Severt) Legred and Gina (Shirley) Huntington.

But that wasn't all—They enthusiastically raised lots of money to send kids to camp at Luther Park!

The Thirteenth Annual Ole & Lena Spaghetti Dinner Show and Silent auction once again was a great event,

Point and Cross Club Banquet of Blessings draws faithful donors

On May 3, Ministry Center at St. Barnabas Lutheran Church in Plymouth was again transformed into an elegant dining space for the annual Point and Cross Banquet of Blessings.

Following a welcome by Pastor Wayne Peterson and a well-prepared and served dinner, guests enjoyed watching a camp video presentation titled "Grace After All" and were led in song by Program Director Anna Treague. Guest speakers for the evening were a former camper (Drake Kilber, see story on P. 6), and a former summer staff member (Nick Barr, see story above) who shared the importance of Luther Park in their

lives.

The relaxed gathering of faithful donors concluded with an inspiring and informative message from Executive Director Joel Legred.



Members from Messiah Lutheran Church enjoyed visiting before dinner. From left : Tom Gustafson, Addie Leraas, Herman Asproth, and Cyndy Hurley (Photo by Sharon F. Miller).

These gifts help cover the program and staff costs of running the camp and allow it to offer financial assistance to any family requesting help. For more information about the club, contact Joel Legred at 612.987.6628 or e-mail Jlegred@lutherpark.com

The Point & Cross Club recognizes donors who share \$100 or more each year for Luther Park's

Annual Fund.

These gifts help cover the program and staff costs of running the camp and allow it to offer financial assistance to any family requesting help. For more information about the club, contact Joel Legred at 612.987.6628 or e-mail Jlegred@lutherpark.com

Summer Camp Information

Openings still available for some weeks! Call Anna at 715.656.7244 for information. Registration forms are available on our Web site, from Anna, or at your church.

TO REGISTER: (Try our online registration)

- ✓ Select a program based on the grade your camper completes in June 2009.
- ✓ Completely fill out the *Registration and Health History Form* for each camper. Parent or guardian and camper signatures must be on the form. The state of Wisconsin requires a physical exam be completed less than 36 months prior to arrival at camp. However, proof of a physical exam is required only if the camper is under the care of a physician for a medical concern, and it must then be signed by the examining physician and received at camp two weeks prior to the camper's arrival.
- ✓ Send the *Registration and Health Form* with a \$200 deposit to Luther Park. The deposit is non-refundable and non-transferable after May 1.
- ✓ Final payment is due at the camp office two weeks prior to arrival at camp.
- ✓ Upon receipt of registration materials, we will mail you a letter of confirmation, directions to camp, balance due, and other information including arrival and departure times.
- ✓ Registration is on a first-come basis.

ONLINE REGISTRATION NOW AVAILABLE!

OR Mail to:

Anna Treague, Program Director Phone: 715.656.7244 E-mail: camp@lutherpark.com
Luther Park Fax: 715.656.3013 Web site: www.lutherpark.com
30376 Lakes Drive, Danbury, WI 54830-9508

2009 Remaining Summer Schedule

Date	Cabins	Treehouses	Canoe Trips	Sr. High Leadership
July 5-10	Gr. 7-9	Gr. 3-6		
July 12-17	Gr. 7-12	Gr. 7-9		
July 12-24	Gr. 7-12 Double Week (Cabins)			
July 18	SUMMER OPEN HOUSE-ALL WELCOME			
July 19-24	Gr. 7-12	Gr. 3-6		Gr. 10-12 Leadership Mentoring*
July 24-26	Grandparent/Grandchild Weekend Camp			
July 26-31	Gr. 3-6	Gr. 7-9		Gr. 9-12 Leadership Training
Aug. 2-7	Gr. 3-6	Gr. 7-12	Gr. 9-12**	
Aug. 2-14		Gr. 7-12 (Double Week)		
Aug. 9-14		Gr. 7-12		



www.lutherpark.com

NOTE

*Prereq.: Attend Leadership Training or TIM Team Training & completion of Gr. 10.
**Weeks where individual youth may sign up for these programs. Group regis. for Canoe & P&P trips booked anytime.

Special Programs not listed above

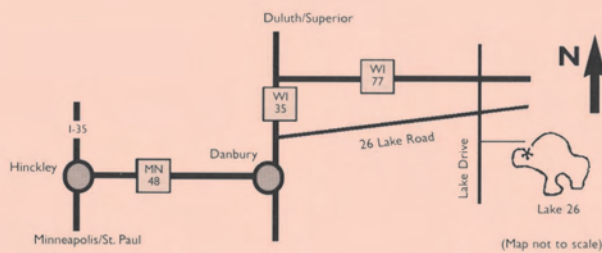
Canoe Trips: Most weeks (June, July, August), on Namekagon and St. Croix rivers of N. Wisconsin.

Teens in Mission, Great Lakes Mission Trips: Each week (June, July, August). Group registration required.

How to Get to Luther Park

From Twin Cities: Take I-35 to Hinckley, MN. Go E. from Hinckley on Hwy. 48 (about 30 mi.) to Danbury, WI. Then N. on WI Hwy. 35 for 2 mi., and E. on Hwy. 77 for about 5 mi. (Watch for white arrow sign on right side of road.) Turn right on Lakes Drive, go about 2 mi. to stop sign. Go straight ahead at stop sign & up driveway to Lodge — a large brown building on left side.

From Duluth: Go to Superior, WI. Take WI Hwy. 35 S., then E. on WI Hwy. 77 (about 5 mi.-watch for white arrow sign on S. side of road). Turn S. on Lakes Dr. Go about 2 mi. to stop sign & up driveway to the Lodge. **WELCOME!**



FEE SCHEDULE

SPECIAL OFFER!
SIGN UP FOR A SECOND WEEK OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE FOR HALF PRICE

Member/Non-member*

One Full Week	\$430/450
Double Week	\$700/760
Sr. Hi. Leadership	\$445/465
—Includes 1 free week & recharge weekend in Spring—	
(Leadership Training, Leadership Mentoring and TIM (Teens in Mission)	
Great Lakes Mission Trip	\$450
Campground	\$13 per site/per night: \$15 with elec.

Fees Cover: Free T-shirt, DVD of your week, Meals, lodging and program materials (except Campground). **Fees do NOT include transportation.**

Round-trip transportation: \$80; one-way transportation: \$60

(Transportation available only for weeks of July 19-24, & Aug. 2-7.)

Pick ups at: House of Prayer in Richfield and Elim in Robbinsdale.

NOTE: Camper fees shown are subsidized by gift allocations. The actual cost per camper, per week is \$600.

Check with your church or Luther Park about camp scholarships.

A Message
From the
Executive
Director

Joel Legred



Trends indicate that Bible Camp ministry will become even more vital to the life of our churches.

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever” — Hebrews 13:8

The years will come and go, generations will pass away, but Jesus Christ remains the same. What a comfort and joy to know that even though we don't know the future, we know who holds the future.

As I think about the 50th year of Luther Park's ministry, I believe we are at a pivotal place. We look back over 50 years, giving thanks, and we look forward to a future we can't see. What will that future be?

If the trends we have seen over the last 20 years continue, Bible Camp ministry will become even more vital to the life of

our churches. Young people are not in our pews. Children are not necessarily going to Sunday School.

And yet, we know that Luther Park has served as host to thousands of young people every year who spend more time thinking about God and faith matters, and being mentored by college-age role models, than almost anywhere else.

You have been part of our past and our present. Will you be part of our future? Please do consider if you can help with special anniversary gifts, a legacy gift through a will or estate plan, or a gift to help make our retreat center a reality.

What you do today will have lasting impact for the generations to follow. I give God thanks for you!

God bless you.

Joel Legred

QUOTABLE QUOTE

**Knowledge is like a garden.
If it is not cultivated,
it cannot be harvested.**

—African proverb

Luther Park Newsletter Mailing Request

PLEASE RESPOND BY JULY 15, 2009

Luther Park is in the process of establishing an electronic newsletter to keep members, donors, volunteers, alumni, and all friends of Luther Park informed of upcoming events, project and program updates, volunteer opportunities, and other interesting news.

Please take a minute to let us know how you would like to receive correspondence from Luther Park. **Note: We do not sell or trade mailing lists.**

I would like to receive news by email to help reduce paper waste and cost. Please enter your email address: _____

and mail to: Luther Park, 30376 Lakes Drive, Danbury, WI 54830.

Or, go to www.lutherpark.com and click on the "Go Green" box.

I would like to continue to receive hard-copy mailings.

I would like to be removed from the mailing list.

Blessings and Thank You for your time and support!