

ORGANIZATIONAL PROFILE



Who we are

Luther Park is a summer camp and year-round retreat and meeting facility located in Danbury, Wisconsin. It's people and programs assists congregations and groups in gathering around the Word for renewal, refreshment and growth. People who come to Luther Park live together in small groups, participating in worship and learning activities as well as in relationship building and recreational opportunities. Each person is challenged and given the opportunity to speak out, to take part in leadership, to experience spiritual growth, to develop outdoor skills and engage socially.

The site is located on the shores of beautiful, spring-fed lake 26. Surrounded by 180 acres of forest land and trails, the camp is seven miles east of Danbury, Wisconsin, and 118 miles northeast of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The camp was incorporated in 1958 by an association of Lutheran congregations in the Minneapolis area to function as an extension of the parish life and ministry of the constituent congregations. Over the years, congregations located in St. Paul, northeastern Minnesota, and northwestern Wisconsin have also become corporate members of this Christian Outdoor Ministry.

Luther Park has a strong community of volunteers that regularly volunteer to help maintain and improve the site and ministry. Our constituency is a varied one, we have constituents that represent rural, suburban and urban areas. This creates for a wide variety of connections and representation of backgrounds.

Luther Park is unique in the way of our size. We are a smaller camp and can be nimble. We are able to meet the needs of many types of congregations by adapting our ministry quickly to the needs and desires.

Theology

Luther Park is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). Our member congregations are also a part of the ELCA tradition. However, many of our non-church groups do not always associate with a specific denomination. Luther Park's theology is deeply rooted in the Lutheran tradition emphasizing being saved through grace and not by works. Grace is the at the heart of our ministries and teachings- we believe that we are strengthen to do Christ's works by worship, sacraments and studying God's word. Modeled after the ministry of Jesus Christ, we believe that we are to create an environment where all can be welcomed as a Child of God. We understand that camp provides opportunities for people to connect with and learn about God in unique ways through hands on, outdoor experiences, intentional community living and focused time and activities that challenge and strengthen one's faith.

Programs

Since the beginning of Luther Park's existence providing a space away in God's creation for congregations and their members has been a priority. This is accomplished by hosting both programmed summer camp experiences and space for retreats and rental groups.

During the summer, we host traditional camp experiences for children and youth starting after their first-grade year. We have two program sites on our property. We call one site "Mainsite" and this is our traditional, cabin camp (electricity, food served in dining hall by cooks, bathrooms in cabins, etc.). The other site is called "Outpost" which includes our public campground and our Treehouse program. Treehouse Village is our rustic program (no electricity, simple living, cook over fire, bathhouse vs. bathroom in living spaces). We also offer weekend family experiences and send teams of staff to churches to host Vacation Bible School experiences.

Retreats run year-round, but are a bigger deal during the Fall and late winter months. Most of the retreats Luther park does not provide programming for, however, on occasion Luther Park hosts a programmed retreat and assumes full leadership.

Staff

Year-round staff consists of the Executive Director, Program Director, Maintenance Manager and kitchen/housekeeping staff. Summer staff include summer leadership/specialty, kitchen assistants, and counselors. The staff have huge influence on the ministry of Luther Park and have a lot of independence (with team work, of course) to make decisions and make a difference in the lives of the people at Luther Park.