Report from Lutherlyn

2019 Bulletin of Reports

Greetings from Lutherlyn! We are busy preparing for another exciting summer of life-changing adventures in faith at camp. There is so much to reflect on from this past year.

The biggest and most exciting news is that all five core areas of ministry experienced growth in 2018. As Lutherlyn continues to live into the Strategic Direction that was adopted by the Board of Directors in 2017, we are working hard to strengthen each of the five core areas of ministry.

1. **Summer Camp** grew in camper numbers and our second summer of “tiered pricing” proved to be successful. Presenting families with the option to pay the “true” (non-subsidized) cost of camp has allowed Lutherlyn to offer a $100 discount to first-time campers and continue to keep the promise that no child is turned away from camp for financial reasons. Over $50,000 in camperships were granted in the summer of 2018. It is thanks to the generosity of many donors that Lutherlyn is able to provide camperships and offer a subsidized rate for camp to make it financially possible for more families. There is still time to register for the summer of 2019. First-time campers can get $100 off by using coupon code FIRST19 when they register.
2. The **Lutherlyn Environmental Education Program** (LEEP) is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year and in 2018 it served the largest number of students EVER! 8,000 students, teachers, and chaperones attended a LEEP field trip in 2018. So far, 2019 is looking like it will match or exceed last year’s numbers.
3. The **Lutherlyn Equestrian Center** served its largest number of students and riders in 2018 and continues to grow thanks to the indoor riding arena. The equestrian center serves students that come for weekly riding lessons, retreat groups, and summer campers.
4. The **Adventure Program** grew in groups that came just to do group building activities and in retreat groups that added adventure programing to their itinerary. The summer “Adventurer” camps filled and had a waiting list. One new challenge course was added and several of the others received “upgrades”. There is nothing quite like the excitement and joy on a camper’s face when they surprise themselves with their own abilities and accomplishments!
5. **Retreats and Events** grew in the number of individual participants and the numbers of groups. It is such a joy to be able to provide the space and opportunity for people of all ages to find time away from their normal routine for rest, renewal, fun, and dedicated time devoted to their faith.

The Board of Directors has appointed a Strategic Planning Committee that has been working since January to turn the 2017 Strategic Direction into a Strategic Plan that will guide our decisions and priorities over the next few years. This group is working hard to identify the needs of the future and set goals for Lutherlyn to best care and provide for our campers, guests, congregations, facilities, and land.

There are many projects to complete around camp. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of several volunteers from Butler Area Lutheran Ministries, the office has received a face lift. Several people have visited camp and thought that we built a new office; it looks great! We also put new bathrooms in 2 cabins, replaced a few furnaces, started a “Universal Access Trail” around Upper Lake, added more directional signs, cleaned up many down trees (from the wind and ice over the past year), and hundreds of other little projects to take care of our 660 acres and 90 buildings. We are committed to caring for and maintaining our existing buildings/facilities and working to keep these spaces in the best condition possible. While there is a need for additions/new/updated meeting spaces and cabins, we maintain our commitment to begin these projects only once they are fully-funded.

The less tangible but exceptionally important “Preserving the Future” appeal has been such a blessing to Lutherlyn! The credit line is completely paid off, the debt is half of what it was two years ago, and Lutherlyn has had two consecutive years of a balanced budget and ending the year in positive financial standing; all thanks to the generosity of so many wonderful friends of Lutherlyn. The appeal continues, as we still have $300,000 remaining in old debt. We continue to need your support as we work hard to serve more people in each core area of ministry, to serve more people that are in need of financial assistance, and to care for our aging facilities.

**Lutherlyn is a God-given place to be accepted, challenged, and sent.** With each passing year it feels more and more important to accept each person just as they are, to challenge them to grow in their faith and their own sense of self-worth, and to send them out into the world to let their light shine so that other’s may see God in them. Thank you for your partnership in this ministry. Thank you for your support. Thank you for being “home” for so many of Lutherlyn’s campers the other 51 weeks of the year.

If you have comments, questions, ideas, suggestions, or a vision for future ways that Lutherlyn can work with you; please do not hesitate to call, e-mail, or visit. I hope to see you at camp sometime soon!

Your Partner in Ministry,

Deb Roberts

Executive Director