

Greetings from Lutherlyn!

It has been a great year at Lutherlyn and we are so thankful for the support that the SWPA Synod, the NWPA Synod, and each of the congregations in those synods extends to Lutherlyn. 2023 is Lutherlyn's 75th anniversary; for 75 years the Lutheran congregations of Western Pennsylvania and Lutherlyn have been partners in ministry.

Lutherlyn is a God-given place to be accepted, challenged, and sent out into the world to make a difference. Lutherlyn serves around 15,000 people each year through 5 core areas of ministry: Summer Camp, Retreats/Events, the Lutherlyn Environmental Education Program, the Lutherlyn Equestrian Center, and Adventure Programs. Lutherlyn, with the help of many faithful donors, maintains the un-broken promise that no child is turned away from a week of camp for financial reasons.

Summer Camp 2022 was a wonderful return to a more "normal" camp routine. 700 campers experienced life-changing adventures in faith at Lutherlyn last summer. Thanks to an Ethel Verney grant and camper's offering from their camp store accounts, Lutherlyn's campers made 800 hygiene kits for those experiencing homelessness in Western PA. Unfortunately, like many camps across the country, we had to reduce our capacity for the summer of 2022 and cancel our "Lutherlyn on Location" (Day Camp) program due to a staffing shortage. Registration for the summer of 2023 is going great and several programs are full. Our theme for the summer of 2023 is "Holy Trinity, Wholly Love." Hiring summer staff continues to be a challenge. We are working hard to increase pay, work with applicants to accommodate other summer commitments, and work with schools to allow for internship credit while working at Lutherlyn. Your help would be greatly appreciated; not only in encouraging kids to come to summer camp, but also in pointing out the gifts that you see in young people and encouraging them to consider working at Lutherlyn when they are 17 or older.

The ***Building for the Future*** Capital Campaign is off to a great start. As of March 20, 2023, \$1.3 million of the \$2 million goal is already pledged. We have received enough donations to proceed with the first project of the campaign; in the fall of 2023, the Amphitheater will have a complete renovation. You are invited to join us for the final worship service in the current Amphitheater on August 6 at 3:30pm. We are now in the congregation phase of the ***Building for the Future*** Campaign. Hopefully, your congregation has already been approached about participating in this campaign. If not, please anticipate contact from a campaign volunteer in the fall. Thank you to all the congregations who have already participated in this important effort to improve Lutherlyn's facilities for the future!

An exciting possibility presented itself to Lutherlyn this past year. We entered into an agreement with a solar energy company to possibly lease approximately 100 acres of Lutherlyn's land for a solar farm (acres that are currently farmed – not program space). **At this point, this is a future possibility.** The solar company is in the permitting process with the state and power companies. Lutherlyn has signed an agreement to proceed if all permits are obtained and the solar company chooses to proceed. We anticipate a more definitive answer in 2024. We believe a solar farm is compatible with Lutherlyn's Environmental Impact Statement and will be used as a teaching tool in our Environmental Education Program. We are excited about this possibility and will provide updates as this process progresses.

Again, thank you for being Lutherlyn's partner in ministry. Lutherlyn is your camp; if there are ways that we can better serve you or your congregation, please reach out to me. This report is a brief summary of some of what is happening at camp, please visit www.lutherlyn.com to see the complete calendar and details about everything happening at Lutherlyn. I hope to see you at camp sometime soon!

Your Partner in Ministry,

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