

Synod Report from Lutherwood Camp and Retreat Center, Bellingham, WA

This past year was one of great change for Lutherwood. The Board of Directors parted ways with the Executive Director and now has an interim executive director and a new program director. The Board also developed a strategic plan with this new mission and vision statement:

Vision

People of any age, ability, identity, and economic opportunity are welcomed, nurtured, and valued as a diverse body and a blessed part of God's creation.

Mission

Exploring GRACE* in Creation.

***Values**

Growth- Growth in oneself and community is fundamental, limitless, and irrevocable. Growth occurs when we are challenged while we create and respect safe environments. This allows for everyone to explore faith, nature, and relationship with God at a pace and depth that they choose.

Renewal- Renewal occurs when time and space are set aside for reflection, practice, and rest. We are renewed through salvation and thus restored.

Adventure- Adventure happens when one approaches unknown risks and activities with faith and joy. Adventuring occurs when people are free from judgment and have access to discover the complexity of nature and God in a safe way.

Community- Community and families have diverse values, needs and gifts. Communities are built through fellowship, connection, hospitality, and appreciation for the Body of Christ.

Education- Education that allows people to transform, develop, and understand relationships and the world around them in a new way. Education occurs through opportunity, exploration of the world, continued learning and lived experience.

Lutherwood is YOUR camp! It was created to serve the Lutheran congregations of Western Washington. It exists because of you and FOR you! We are ready to partner with you both at camp and at your congregation! As we work to do that, we also ask for your help. To keep camp healthy, we would have to charge \$850-\$1,000 for a child to attend a week of camp. Our

fees this summer are around \$575. The rest of the money needs to come from congregations and individuals. We just started a giving club (gifts of \$300 or more) and are nearing the initial challenge match of \$10,000 that a donor gave. One small church alone raised \$6,000 from its members. Could your congregation do the same? Is Lutherwood in your church budget? To be able to have official delegates to the annual meeting and to have members serve on the camp board, your congregation needs to contribute financially to the camp budget.

In addition to annual needs, we often need funds for capital projects. One that we have this year is to pave the central area of camp to make the central buildings, waterfront, and campfire area accessible to people using wheelchairs or walkers. We have received or applied for grants that would cover half of the expense. Does your congregation have a foundation/endowment to help provide for some of these needs?

ALSO, we want you to know that no one is turned away from camp if they are not able to pay the camp fee. Again, Lutherwood is here for you! Thank you very much for your partnership in ministry!

In God's Love and Grace,

Judy Engh

Interim Executive Director