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## *Lutheran Lakeside Annual Ministry Summary*

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This past year at Lutheran Lakeside has been truly extraordinary. As our first full year of expanded, year-round programming, it marks a significant milestone in our ministry. By every measurable standard—and in countless meaningful ways—this has been a record-breaking year. We welcomed more campers than ever before, filled camp weeks to capacity, expanded programming across all seasons, and strengthened partnerships that sustain and grow this ministry.

### **Year-Round Ministry Growth**

The addition of year-round programming has deepened our impact and extended our reach. Lakeside now serves families, congregations, and schools throughout the entire year. We expanded no-school-day camps, rural church partnerships, and school collaborations, offering outdoor education, retreats, and team-building experiences. Traveling ministry also increased, bringing Lakeside programming directly to congregations and communities.

- 348 total year-round participants
- 161 no-school-day campers
- 6 lock-ins (104 participants)
- 34 church visits/camp days

### **Summer Camp Strength**

Summer camp remains at the heart of Lakeside. This year, 742 campers participated in vibrant, full camp weeks marked by energy, faith formation, and community.

- 742 total summer campers
- 158 Adventure Day Camp
- 126 Trailblazers
- 95 Family Camp participants
- 90 Traveling Day Campers
- 60 EPIC Campers
- 59 Mission Trip participants

Our camper pipeline remains strong, with many returning year after year—half of our summer staff were once campers themselves. Continued investment in leadership development, including returning staff and interns, strengthens both summer and year-round ministry.

### **Hospitality & Guest Ministry**

Hospitality continues to be a vital expression of our mission. This year, we welcomed new retreat groups



while remaining deeply connected to church partners and expanding relationships with schools, nonprofits, and community organizations.

- 36 weddings and events and 10 retreats hosted
- Strong use of cabins, RV sites, and gathering spaces
- New offerings like birthday parties and flexible indoor spaces

Guests experienced connection, rest, and renewal through both structured activities—such as ropes course, archery, and team-building—and unstructured time in God’s creation. Many first-time guests are already returning, and these relationships continue to grow into long-term engagement with Lakeside.

### **Facilities & Stewardship**

We remain committed to caring well for our facilities and resources. This year included both routine maintenance and major improvements:

- Canteen remodel and infrastructure upgrades
- Renovated pool house showers and lodging updates
- New features including a hammock village and retaining wall

Mission groups, family campers, and volunteers contributed over 1,500 hours of service, completing projects such as building a new outdoor worship space, landscaping, and facility improvements. Their work continues to strengthen and beautify camp.

### **Financial Health & Future Vision**

Lutheran Lakeside continues to operate from a position of strong financial stability, supported by faithful partners, growing participation, and careful stewardship. At the same time, we are making meaningful progress toward long-term goals through a developing capital campaign. Key priorities include:

- Upgrading water and sewer infrastructure
- Expanding cabin space for accessibility
- Creating facilities that support year-round use

These efforts will ensure Lakeside remains a safe, welcoming, and sustainable ministry for generations to come.

### **Looking Ahead**

What continues to inspire us most is the enduring impact of Lakeside—faith formed, leaders shaped, and relationships built across generations. This year reflects not only growth, but deepened community, creativity, and shared purpose.

We are grateful for the staff, board, volunteers, and partners who make this ministry possible. As we build on this momentum, we look ahead with hope and trust in the ways God will continue to bring new life through Lutheran Lakeside.