

# **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR WINTER YOUTH CAMP**

*Greetings in Christ from Camp Luther,*

*Thank you for enrolling your child in our Winter Youth Camp. Camp Luther is a special place in God's creation where your child can enjoy fellowship with others their age and grow in their faith. Camp has certainly made a difference in my life, and it is my prayer that the same happens for your child as well. Below you will find some common questions about camp in the hopes to help you understand why we do what we do at Camp Luther. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact our staff.*

*In Christ,*

*Susan "Scrappy" Schmidt  
Program Director*

## **GENERAL PHILOSOPHY**

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Camp Luther was created in 1946, when the North Wisconsin District – Lutheran Church Missouri Synod purchased a beautiful tract of land just north of Three Lakes, WI. Camp Luther exists today as a ministry of the church providing Christ-centered programs, facilities, and activities for all people in the uniqueness of God's creation. We are not a church, but our ministry supports the church and its ministry.

Our winter camp program is small-group based. We strive to enhance the faith development of children and youth through the mentoring of a Christian counselor, the fellowship of other Christian youth, and most importantly the teaching of God's Word. Just as Jesus spent time in nature with his disciples, we strive to disciple young people in God's creation through instruction and mentorship.

The Gospel message is at the heart of our ministry. We are all sinful and in need of God's grace. We strive to give each child love, encouragement and hope. We do not attempt to convert campers to Lutheranism, but will gladly connect anyone who is interested to a Lutheran pastor and congregation.

## **OUR STAFF**

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Camp Luther has a dedicated, professional year-round staff.

"Woody"	Gary Vought	Director of Outdoor Ministry	Administration, Donations, Staffing/Special Programs
"Dodger"	Roger Michelson	Executive Director	Business Manager, Human Resources
"Mutt"	Mike Rieck	Director of Guest Services	Family Programs, Group Bookings
"Scrappy"	Susan Schmidt	Program Director	Children's Camps
"Rescue"	Rick Campbell	Caretaker	Grounds, Facilities
"Welcome"	Mary Ann Watt	Administrative Assistant	Registrations, Office Management
"Beads"	Becky Eades	Food Service Director	Kitchen

"Camp names" are a long-standing tradition at Camp Luther. We find that these silly names help break the ice, promote a fun atmosphere and provide camaraderie as campers attempt to guess real names.

Our counselor staff consists of college age adults who spend their entire summer as part of the youth and family ministry at Camp Luther. They apply from the Concordia Universities and other colleges around the country. Many are former campers themselves! These counselors have a complete summer of counseling under their belt, and are excited to be back here for more Camp Luther fun...only colder.

## **WILL MY CHILD BE SUPERVISED EVERY WAKING HOUR?**

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Absolutely! We strive to maintain a low camper to counselor ratio. Campers will stay in the Retreat Center under the careful supervision of our counselors. Counselors sleep in separate rooms from the campers, but are considered 'on call' even during sleeping hours.

### **WHAT IF MY CHILD IS HOMESICK?**

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Homesickness can be a difficult situation for campers, counselors and parents. It can affect the experience of the entire camper group. PLEASE spend time talking to your child about what a Camp Luther experience is like so that they are mentally prepared before they arrive. If homesickness does occur, our staff will do all they can to comfort and enable the child to overcome their fears. Phone calls home are discouraged because they usually seem to make the homesickness worse! If the situation gets to the point where the child can no longer function as part of the group, our staff will contact you to discuss options. Campers are sent home only as a last resort. Those who leave often regret it and feel as if they have failed. We don't want any child to miss out on the fun of Camp Luther! Refunds are not provided for homesickness.

### **CAN I VISIT?**

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We discourage parents from visiting campers during their stay at camp. Camp provides an opportunity to develop independence and personal responsibility. Sometimes interruptions from family members can detract from the experience and even increase homesickness. We have found that the separation is usually harder on the parents than on the campers!

### **WHAT IS THE CANTEEN?**

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The Canteen is our camp store. It's filled with clothing, souvenirs, and food items. Campers generally have two canteen times per day when they may purchase snacks. In order to make purchases you must buy prepaid Canteen Cards for your child during the registration process on your check-in day. As your child makes purchases from the Canteen during the weekend, the card will be punched accordingly. Cards will be kept securely in the Canteen and will be distributed prior to each Canteen time. You may cash in your Canteen Card at the end of your stay or donate the balance to our mission project.

### **HOW ARE LOST ITEMS HANDLED?**

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We highly recommend all of your child's belongings are marked with their name. This will make it more possible to return items to their owners. At the end of each camp session, all lost and found items will be gathered and displayed in the main courtyard or placed in the Lost and Found box. Valuable items may be found in the camp office. Please take a few moments to look over the lost and found items. Camp Luther will gather and date lost and found items and have them available through May. After that time they will be donated to a charity. If you would like any items sent to you, we ask that you pre-pay for the mailing costs either with check or credit card (\$5.00 minimum charge).

### **WHAT IF MY CHILD IS INJURED OR ILL WHILE AT CAMP?**

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Every effort is made to provide a safe environment for campers. All counselors are first aid and CPR certified. We will not hesitate to call emergency medical personnel if warranted. We will make every effort to contact parents/guardians immediately if any serious injuries or illness occur. In cases of prolonged illness parents will be asked to take their child home.

### **HOW DOES CAMP LUTHER HANDLE DISRUPTIVE CAMPERS?**

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Our counselors are trained in behavior management and positive reinforcement to proactively prevent disruptive behavior. We attempt to keep campers too busy having fun to think about misbehaving! Our full-time staff will step in if any serious infractions occur. Campers will be sent home if they are a disruption or danger to other children.

# Winter Youth Camp Information

Hello from Camp Luther! We have received your Winter Youth Camp registration and are eager to share our winter with you! The following is essential information; please read it carefully.

## **ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE**

***Check-in is on Friday between 3:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.*** (No early check-ins, please!) **If you plan on arriving after 5:00 p.m., you must make special arrangements with us ahead of time** so we can make provisions to accommodate you. For the sake of your child and our staff, please make plans to arrive on time.

***Winter Youth Camp ends on Sunday at 11:00 a.m.*** Please make arrangements to pick up your child no later than noon. You are invited to join us for closing devotions at 10:00. Lunch is not available.

## **CANCELLATIONS**

A full refund minus the \$25 processing fee will be provided up to 30 days before the camp begins. No refunds will be granted within 30 days except in cases of family death or illness.

***All requests for refunds must be made in written form.***

## **THE CANTEEN AND SPENDING MONEY**

Campers visit the Camp Luther Canteen twice a day for snacks and souvenirs. Campers are allowed to purchase two food and one drink item at each Canteen session. Snacks and drinks are \$1.00. Clothing and souvenir prices range from \$.50 - \$40.00. No cash is taken in the Canteen, instead you must purchase a Canteen Card during registration. Canteen Cards are available in \$5 increments. The cards are kept in the Canteen and punched each time a purchase is made.

## **FORMS**

***All forms are due by February 15.***

Parents or guardians are to complete and mail the *Camper Information Form* and the *Emergency Medical Form* (which are enclosed in this mailing) **BY FEBRUARY 15**. A copy of both the front and back of your family's insurance card should be attached to the emergency medical form. State law mandates that all prescription medication brought to camp must be in its original container.

## **PAYMENTS**

***Full payment is required by February 15.*** Payment of your balance can be made by check or credit card, via postal mail or submitting a credit card payment at [www.campluther.com](http://www.campluther.com). If you register after Dec. 20th, payment is due in full.

## **CAMPER EXPECTATIONS**

Camp Luther provides opportunities for spiritual growth, social development, and outdoor activity. We would like to provide a Christian environment for all who visit. We ask that each camper's behavior, speech and clothing are appropriate for the Christian atmosphere we try to model.

## **PLEASE HELP CAMP LUTHER MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

While at camp you will have an opportunity to donate to the Camp Luther Mission project. Our 2012 project is the Lutheran Malaria Initiative. LMI is raising funds to eradicate malaria from the continent of Africa. Last summer we raised over \$3000. Our goal for Summer 2012 is \$5000! Help us reach this goal. Every \$10 purchases a net to protect a child from this deadly disease while they sleep.