



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Indiana-Kentucky

Our synod camps

Lutheran Hills, Lutherwald & Lake Luther

Mark Radloff arrived in 1992 from North Carolina to serve as assistant to the bishop of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod for outdoor ministries and youth. He shares some thoughts on how far Lutheran Outdoor Ministries-Indiana/Kentucky has come and where it is today:

How have our camps changed in 17 years?

I recall that when I arrived in 1992 our camps had good numbers of summer camp and retreat participation from our synod congregations. But there was a history of financial problems. Maintenance had been deferred, the camps looked rundown and we carried debt.

Turning that around didn't happen overnight, but we retired our last camp mortgage (at Lutherwald) in 1996 and established an endowment fund to make sure all three camps could be properly cared for.

We also have taken special care to place good people in key positions—full-time employees, summer staff and board members—to lead programs, keep our mission focus and give vision to this ministry.

Our programs have driven the development of our sites in terms of new construction and refurbishment of facilities. We have been blessed in having grant monies available from multiple sources for new construction and programs.

So how are Lutheran Hills, Lutherwald and Lake Luther doing these days?

From my vantage point I'd say very well. The level of support from friends of the camp

has never been better. True, financial support from the synod has been reduced a bit. But that's a reflection of the general situation most congregations find themselves in.

Our summer camp numbers can fluctuate from year to year, but overall they remain steady. And year-round retreat numbers have grown modestly at all three camps.

The real program growth lately has come from families using our facilities, so we need to continue to offer more in that area.

Volunteerism is good, we continue to improve our sites and facilities and all three camps are able to live and grow within our budget.

What makes camps relevant today?

With fewer spiritual growth opportunities in American life today, camp remains important to families. Many lives are not grounded in Christian community as they once were, our families are less familiar with the Scriptures and children need role-models and mentoring more than ever.

Because the good news of Jesus Christ remains our focus, our synod camps provide an environment where these good and needed things can happen.

What does the future hold?

Good things. I could say a lot, but the bottom line is this—the abundance of God's blessings has been demonstrated at Lutherwald, Lutheran Hills and Lake Luther in the past 50 years. Why would we think him any less faithful in the next 50? □



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Indiana-Kentucky



Reading camp in its 4th summer

Investing in our youth makes a difference

THE NEED.

There are children everywhere who are in danger of becoming “at-risk” children with “at-risk futures” because they are unable to read at a proficient level. The educational resources of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod are poised to make a difference in the lives of these children.

We have begun to identify educators, reading specialists and curriculum consultants from synod congregations to help plan and implement Reading Camp. The camp will create an innovative and fun atmosphere, use only materials that are new and fresh to the campers, and provide an exceptional teacher for every three campers.

THE PROGRAM. For three hours each morning (Monday-Friday)



campers will rotate through six reading centers where one particular reading skill is practiced. Each lesson is tailored to particular campers based on test scores provided

by the public school.

As the week progresses, teachers will retool the lesson plans to better match the need of each camper. Over the course of the week, campers will have 15 contact hours with teachers in concentrated caring through literacy tutoring.

READING CAMP IS NOT ... an educational “boot camp” but a true Christian camp experience with swimming, boating, arts and crafts, Bible study, hiking, games, campfire programs and a chance to make new friends.

Also woven into the week are special events, including a visit from a local children’s author.

ELIGIBILITY. Campers are “learning-abled” children entering fourth or fifth grade in fall 2009 who lag behind their peers in basic reading skills. They need to be recommended by a teacher or parent who believe such extra attention would be beneficial. Campers attend at no cost.

RECOMMEND A CHILD—OR VOLUNTEER. If you know of a child who would benefit from a week of Reading Camp, contact Cleo Swager, camp director, at 260-456-3168. We are also looking for professional teachers, older high school and college education majors to volunteer.

Reading Camp takes place at Luther Hills, June 21-26, and at Lutherwald, July 5-10.

Confirmation Camp at Lutheran Hills, Lutherwald & Lake Luther

Pastors value this camp week

Last summer nearly 300 campers from 41 congregations attended Confirmation Camp—a Sunday afternoon to Friday afternoon camp experience offered at all three camps most every week in June.

Pastors attend with their confirmation youth and teach two hours each morning.

The rest of the program is run by our college-aged summer staff. Asked to comment on their week-long experience, here's what some pastors have shared.

Why do you take a week to come to Confirmation Camp?

- “To build relationships with the kids through intentional time away—it is the time for just hanging out where we really get to know about each other’s life.”
- “They get to know me in a different way. ... I become more approachable for them.”
- “With kids’ schedules what they are, it is easier to give a week in the

summer than an additional 10 Sunday afternoons of instruction.”

- “We cover material in one week that would otherwise take eight to 10 weeks to cover.”

What is the greatest value of Confirmation Camp?

- “The Christian community formed at camp ... and my confirmation kids realizing that there are other Lutheran teenagers out there.”
- “The witness of college-aged counselors, who these kids really look up to, is giving them attention and sharing the gospel. Teenagers think college kids are really cool and when they give them attention and share God’s love, it is really valuable.”
- “It gets kids away from cell phones and video games to have wholesome fun in a loving environment.”



We're coming to your church in 2009

This spring our college-age camp staff will be visiting congregations on Sunday mornings to promote Lutheran Hills, Lutherwald and Lake Luther summer programs with youth and families. They travel in teams at no cost, bring camp music and the message, “Come to camp.”

To schedule a Sunday morning for one of our teams to visit, contact us.

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 260-667-7750



Indiana-Kentucky

Lutheran Hills, Lutherwald & Lake Luther

A rich experience loaded with value

Every day at one of our camps is a day to love. Packed with interactive ways to explore both the outdoors and individual faith, our camps nourish the value of the spirit and the wallet. Canoeing across a lake with new lifelong friends, playing field games on a summer evening, finding geodes while wading through a stream or hearing stories told around the campfire ... these make some of the greatest childhood memories.

But it's the building of self-confidence, friendships and insights into Christian living that really define the Lutheran Hills, Lutherwald and Lake Luther camp experience. And we do it all for less than you'll find at other camps.

This year we have a terrific collection of camp programs. Sign up for a week or two of youth summer camp.

Register for weekends or single days of outdoor fun and fellowship. Be sure to check out these ways to experience our double values:

- **Free Children's Day** (Saturday, June 13th) to introduce families to camp.
- **Value-priced Family Camp Weekends**, including Lake Luther Fest for youth groups and families. With costs only for meals, it's an awesome bargain.
- **Free XYZ Day** (for older adults & guests).

Plan now to fill your summer with camp fun. Join us in our "big backyard"—acres of natural woods and lake settings. It's a welcoming place for both newcomers and old friends. Check out our Web site and download a summer program brochure—www.lomik.org.

Summer Camp 2009

Camp Dates	Lutheran Hills	Lutherwald	Lake Luther
June 14-19	Trailblazer • Confirmation	Confirmation	Confirmation
June 21-26	Reading • Pioneer • Pilgrim	Confirmation	Confirmation
June 28 - July 2	Pioneer • Trailblazer	Confirmation • Pioneer • Trailblazer	AMH Week • Leadership
July 5-10	Senior High Servant • Trailblazer	Pilgrim • Reading	Pioneer • Trailblazer • Guitar
July 12-17	Pioneer • Trailblazer	Senior High Servant • Pioneer • Trailblazer	Pioneer • Trailblazer • Basketball
July 19-24	Pioneer • Trailblazer	Pioneer • Trailblazer	LDO Friendship Camp
July 26-31	Performing Arts • Guitar	Neighborhood	Pioneer • Trailblazer
August 2-7	Pioneer • Pilgrim	Pilgrim • Pioneer	Pilgrim

Camper Age Guide	
Camp	Grade
Pilgrims	1—3
Pioneers	4—6
Reading	4—5
Performing Arts	5—10
Basketball	5—8
Guitar	6—9
Trailblazers	7—9
Senior High	10—12

Special Days	
Children's Day—Open House at all camps	June 13
Lutherwald Hog Roast	July 12
XYZ Day at Lutherwald	July 17
Lake Luther Chicken BBQ	July 19
XYZ Day at Lutheran Hills	July 31
Camp Weekends	
Family Camp Weekend at Lake Luther	July 17-19
Lake Luther Fest	July 24-26
Family Camp Weekend at Lutheran Hills	July 31 - Aug. 2