



Luther Park Bible Camp

Where FAITH is nurtured through holy play

Camper Handbook

Welcome!

Welcome to Luther Park Bible Camp Summer 2017!

We are excited your child is coming to camp this summer! We have a wonderful program planned that will make this an unforgettable camp experience for all who attend!

This handbook is designed to familiarize you to Luther Park, to answer any questions, and share with you the expectation of life at camp during the summer.

Many people from around the world come together to make camp happen each summer. Our staff is a big family from all around the world bringing new culture and their love for outdoor ministry to Luther Park each summer. Many of our staff and volunteers are behind the scenes working and praying to make each summer camp experience memorable.

If you have any questions about camp after reading the handbook, please contact our office. We are happy to answer any questions about camp and share with you more about the camping experience at Luther Park.

Blessings

Jacquie Scoates

Program Director

The Jesus Way

This year's theme, ***The Jesus Way***, we will learn how to be like Jesus and develop in our identity as followers of Jesus. The theme will be incorporated into morning devotion, Bible study, evening worship and campfire with lively skits, songs and messages led by staff and local pastors.



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Meet the Staff

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Summer Staff

Each summer Luther Park hires 35+ program and support staff. These young people are dedicated to the ministry at Luther Park. All counselors are 18 years old and complete two weeks of intensive training. Luther Park staff are chosen because of their commitment to following Christ and to caring for and teaching campers.



Arrival and Departure

Arrival

Check-in is between 3:00-5:00pm on Sunday at the Chapel. Please bring your camper health form, medications, canteen money and final payment to check-in. Then you can move into your cabin and meet your counselors.

If your start date is on Wednesday check-in will be at 9:30am in the Welcome Center.

Day Camp

Day Camp check-in begins daily at the Welcome Center at 8:00am. Check-out is at 5:00pm at the Welcome Center. Lunch and Snacks are provided with day camp.

Departure

All persons picking up a child at camp will be required to show a picture ID and be verified as an authorized pickup on the campers account.

For programs ending on Friday the departure time is 12:00pm. We invite you to join us for closing worship in the chapel at 11:00am.

If your end date is Tuesday your departure time is 5:00pm. We invite you to join us in a closing sing-a-long at 4:45pm at the courtyard campfire ring.

Passion Play

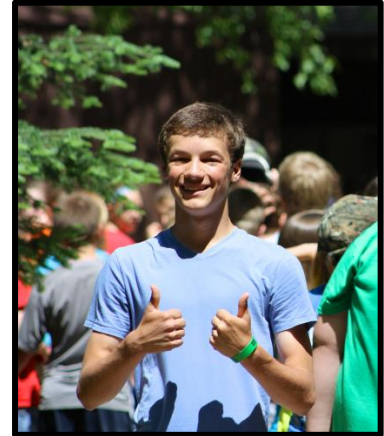
Join the staff and campers for the Passion Play every Thursday evening during camp. The passion play depicts the last week of Jesus life performed by camp staff and begins promptly at 8:30pm at the New Amphitheater

MADD Camp Performance

The MADD Camp performance will take place on Thursday evening at 7:00pm. Family and friends are invited to the final performance.

Camper Expectations and Guidelines

At Luther Park it is our Priority to take care of the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of both the individual campers, as well as the group. To make this possible we have established basic guidelines and expectations for our campers.



Camper Expectations:

- Explore your faith
- Try new things and learn new skills
- Be an active part of the Christian camp community

Camper Guidelines:

- Respect others with appropriate language, actions, clothing , and physical contact
- Respect the privacy, personal space, and possessions of your cabin mates
- Respect and care for the facilities and natural environment at camp
- Respect your safety by staying within camp boundaries, staying with your group, and telling a staff member if, at any time, you feel unsafe
- Respect the rules shared with you, posted around camp, and given for specific activities areas during your time at camp

Camper Consequences:

Luther Park staff practice positive behavior management and work with the campers to build cooperation and communication within the group. If a camper breaks a rule or does not follow the camper guidelines, our staff will work with the camper to define what the appropriate behavior would have been and to determine the appropriate consequences for their actions.

If a camper continues to break rules or is disruptive to the program, he or she will meet with the Program Director or Executive Director to develop a written agreement on appropriate behavior. Parents will be notified of the written agreement for appropriate behavior. If the agreement is broken, parents may be asked to pick up their camper.

Camper may be sent home at any time, even for a first offence or without a written behavior agreement, if the Program Director or Executive Director determine that the camper poses a safety concern to themselves, other camper or staff.

Health and Wellness

Each camper is required to have a signed Camper health, Emergency, and Authorized Information Form each year. This form can be completed online with online registration. If you choose to complete a paper copy please bring this form with you to check in on your first day of camp or send it to Luther Park two weeks before your camp start date.

All medications will be collected by the Nurse at check-in. Please bring medication in its original container with original label with only the amount of medication your camper will need during their stay at camp.

A doctor is available on call. The health and safety of each camper is a primary concern of our staff. Safety rules are enforced.

The doctor has signed a Health Care Plan that allows us to give your child over-the-counter medications such as Tylenol, cough syrup, tums, etc. for certain symptoms. This plan also gives instructions on treatments of injuries and illness. All campers are treated according to the Health Care Plan.

A member of the Health Care Team makes every attempt to notify parents of health issues promptly. You will be notified of everything but “bandaid” type injuries and/or illnesses as per the protocol below.

- **NON-EMERGENCY (Minor Illness, Minor Injury)**
 - After treating according to the Health Care plan, contact parent/guardian for every injury and/or illness requiring more than just “bandaid-type treatment”. This includes possible strains, sprains, and/or large bruises. Some parents may want to come pick up their child and take them to the doctor. Parents will also be notified of any injury sustained as a result of safety rules not being followed.
- **URGENT (Non-Life Threatening)**
 - The Health Care Coordinator will use their best judgment in calling 911 or parents first. LPBC prefers all transportation be done by ambulance or parent.
 - Contact parents/guardian as soon as possible
- **EMERGENCY (Life-Threatening)**
 - Call 911 for ambulance service
 - Contact parents/guardian as soon as possible



Preventing Homesickness

Twelve million kids go away to camp each summer. For most summer campers it is an opportunity to be independent, learn self-reliance and experience adventure. However, with so many children going to camp, some will become homesick. While homesickness is usually mild and temporary, it's not fun for your child – or for you. Fortunately, you can help prevent homesickness with these steps:

Help set your child up or success!

DO's

- **Help your child learn about Luther Park before they get here:** Look at pictures on the website and on [Facebook](#).
- **Do a practice run:** Let your child stay at grandma's house or attend a friend's sleepover to practice being away from home.
- **Tour Camp:** Come to the Open House held in May or call and make arrangements to tour the camp.
- **Save the date:** Mark a calendar with the camp dates so that your child can visualize the beginning and ending of the trip.
- **Pack together:** Encourage your child to pack a picture, stuffed animal or other comforting memories. Send along paper and stamped, addressed envelopes so that your child can write home.
- **Send a picture of you with your camper:** This helps the camper be less homesick when they can still "see" you.
- **Have a Heart-to-Heart:** Explain that everyone gets homesick sometimes. Be positive and enthusiastic about your child's independence. If you have your own separation anxiety, keep it a secret.

Don't's

- **Don't promise an early pickup if your child is homesick:** This puts your child's focus on getting home – and it sends the message that the experience won't be a success.
- **Discuss ahead of time what to do if your child starts feeling homesick:** Write down your ideas and pack it in their suitcase. Some ideas might be: talk to a friend or counselor, do something fun or new, look at a picture from home, think about something good that happened that day, or write a letter home to share your camp experience.
- **Don't let your child worry about you while he/she is at camp:** Reassure your child that you will be fine while they are away. Send them encouraging, happy notes.
- **Don't talk about what they will miss at home while at camp.**

HOMESICK CAMPER POLICY

- The camper's counselor informs the Program Coordinator of the camper's homesickness. The counselor also encourages the camper to become actively involved in activities and to have fun.
- If homesickness continues, the Program Coordinator calls the parents to inform them of their camper's homesickness and consult with the parents about the next steps.
- We, as the Luther Park Staff, do our best to include everyone in our camp community. We want campers to feel as comfortable as possible, especially when it may be the first time away from their family. Yet, for some campers it is still not easy to be away from home. We feel it is best for the parents to decide whether it's appropriate for the camper to be encouraged to stay at camp or go home and try another year. At the same time, when a camper is extremely homesick it's not only difficult for the camper, but also for the camper's counselor and the community of the cabin. We hope that together we can find the best solution for everyone involved.

Canteen

- Parents and/or campers “deposit” their money into their account on Sunday during registration. You may also deposit canteen money on-line when registering for camp
- Campers can then visit the canteen and make purchases throughout the week that will be subtracted from the amount deposited in their account. No need to worry about campers losing canteen cards as their account cards stay at the canteen.
- On Friday following closing worship when campers return to their cabins to collect their belongings, their counselor will have a sealed envelope returning their unspent money. The canteen will be open after closing worship if you want to swing by and spend your cash on a treat on the way home or some Luther Park attire.
- Items in the Canteen included snacks, Luther Park merchandise and apparel.
 - Snacks:** Candy, ice cream, chips, pretzels, soda, juice....fruit is available for no charge. Snack purchases are limited to one drink, one ice cream, and one snack item during each Canteen opening. Snacks range in price from \$0.50-\$2.00
 - Luther Park Apparel :** T-shirts, sweatshirts, long sleeved, vests, hats, sweat pants, and more ranging in price from \$8.00-\$40.00
 - Luther Park Merchandise:** Water bottles, Frisbees, and trinkets \$2.00-\$12.00



Communication

Mail: Luther Park Bible Camp
Attn: Your camper Name
944 24 ¼ Street
Chetek, WI 54728

Mail received at Luther Park on Friday of your child’s week at camp may be too late for distribution. Therefore, this mail will be forwarded to the Camper’s home address.

Email: Campers can be emailed at campers@lutherpark.org

Emails will be printed and distributed to the camper with the mail each day

Phone Call Policy: In most cases, we request that campers do not talk with their parents over the phone. Please do not arrange a certain time to call your camper or for your camper to call you. Often times talking with parents in the middle of the week makes campers feel homesick. If you have special concerns, feel free to call 715-859-2215 to speak with the Program Director about your camper.

What to Bring

Resident camp

Clothing

- Long pants/jeans
- Shorts
- Swimsuit (modest one piece suits or dark colored t-shirts to cover two pieces)
- Closed toes shoes/tennis shoes
- Sandals with back strap
- Socks and undergarments
- T-shirts
- Sleepwear
- Jacket, Sweater, or sweatshirt
- Rain coat or poncho
- Hat & sunglasses

Personal Items

- Bath towel & wash cloth
- Beach towel
- Soap & Shampoo
- Toothbrush & Toothpaste
- Comb/Hair brush
- Insect repellent
- Sunscreen
- Dirty Clothes bag

Bedding

- Pillow & pillow case
- Sheets and blanket **OR**
- Sleeping bag

Other

- Health Form & Camp fee
- Money for Canteen
- Flashlight
- Medication
- Bible
- Writing paper & pencil
- Stamps & Envelopes
- Reading book
- Small daypack for carrying items
- Camera
- Water bottle

Day Camp

- Health Form & Camp Fee
- Towel
- Swimsuit
- Sunscreen
- Insect Repellent
- Tennis Shoes
- Casual Clothing
- Jacket or Sweatshirt
- Water bottle
- Bible
- Hat or Sunglasses
- Camera
- Small Backpack
- Change of clothes

Please Do NOT Bring

- Food
- Music players-radios, iPods, mp3 players
- Cell phones
- Electronic games or devices-IPads, kindles, Nooks, DVD, laptops
- Knives, weapons, drugs and tobacco products
- Jewelry or other valuables

Dress Code

All clothing should be appropriate for church camp setting. Please do not bring clothing with messages with double meaning or advertisement for adult themed products.

Shirts-must cover the entire stomach and may not be strapless, spaghetti strapped or split sides. Modest tank tops are acceptable.

Shorts- must be an appropriate length, no shorter than the finger tips with arms and hands extended down a the sides

Bathing Suits-must be modest, tankinis and one piece bathing suits are recommended. No string bikinis or speedos. The shirts may be worn over swim suits

Frequently Asked Questions

What will I be doing at Luther Park?

A typical day includes many of the following:

Experiencing God - FUN - Games - Bible Study - Worship- Crafts - Swimming - Making New Friends - Discovering New Things - Singing - Food! - FUN - Hanging out with counselors - Skits - Rest time

HEALTH AND SAFETY ANSWERS:

Do I need a physical by a physician? We recommend one every two years but it is not required.

Do I have to complete the Camper Health, Emergency and Authorized Information Form you sent me? Yes. Children cannot stay at camp without a current form filled out and signed by his/her legal guardian/parent. This form can be completed online with registration or a paper copy can be downloaded.

When is the form due? Fill it out online, mail it two weeks before your start date, or bring the signed form with you to camp at check-in time.

What if I have medications? We have trained medics who will collect all medications when you check in. Each camper is given his/her medications according to the directions given to us by the physician. Medications must be in original labeled container which should contain only the amount needed during your child's camp stay.

May I send over-the-counter (OTC) meds? Only if you have a signed doctor's order and they are in their original packaging. We provide many OTC meds such as: Tylenol, ASA, decongestant, etc.

May I send just one or two pills in a baggie? No you may not. According to state law, each medication brought by the camper must be clearly labeled by a pharmacy with the doctor's name, directions and name of medication. Any non-labeled medications will be sent home.

Will my child be safe? The staff is highly trained. There are trained nurses and staff trained in first aid available 24 hours a day no matter where your child is. There are certified lifeguards at the pool. Counselors go through two weeks of training including First Aid and CPR.

What about insurance? Each camper is covered primarily by their own insurance and secondarily by Luther Park's Accident Insurance Policy.

PARENT AND CAMPER HOMESICKNESS AND COMMUNICATION:

May I come see my camper? We discourage this because camp is an opportunity for the camper to learn to meet new friends and to "break out of their shell". We will call if your child is ill or if your child is too homesick. In this case, "no news—really is good news!" Our practice is to encourage the camper by keeping them involved in all the fun of camp.

How can I communicate with my camper? We recommend the US Mail (camper's name, Luther Park Bible Camp, 944 24 1/4 St, Chetek, WI 54728). Campers love to get real mail from home. It makes them feel very special. You can also visit www.LutherPark.org to send an email to your camper

Please, No Cell Phones: We have a “no-cell phone” policy at camp. Aside from the fact that cell phones are expensive and can get lost or stolen and that the physical camp environment is not kind to such items, there is a fundamental problem with campers having cell phones at camp, and that is trust. When children come to camp they—and you—are making a leap of faith, transferring their primary care from you as their parents to us as camp staff and counselors.

Arrival and Departure:

My start date is Sunday. What time do I come to camp? Check-in is in the Chapel from 3:00-5:00pm

What will happen when I arrive? Staff will greet you and show you where to park. Parents and Campers will check in at the Chapel with health forms, medication, canteen money and final payment. Then you will move into your cabins where you will meet your counselor. After moving in all week long programs will stop by the pool for a swim test.

My end date is Friday. What time do I pick up my camper? Departure time is 12pm. We invite you to a closing worship at 11 am in the Chapel.

My end date is Tuesday. What time do I pick up my camper? 5 pm. We invite you to a closing sing-a-long at 4:45 pm at the courtyard campfire ring. It is a great time to see what your camper has been learning.

What if I want someone else to pick up my camper? We must have a signed authorization for anyone other than the legal guardian/parent to pick up the camper. You can add a person to the authorized pickup list online in your account, call our office, or add a person at check in.

What if I leave something at Luther Park? Please check for Lost and Found items on display at the Dining Hall during departure times. We only keep items until the end of the summer.

Money Answers:

If I cancel, will my deposit be refunded? The required deposit is non-refundable and non-transferable after May 1. If the cancelation occurs prior to May 1 the deposit will be refunded less a \$25 processing fee

When is my final payment due? The final payment for camp is due on the first day of the camp session. You can pay this online before you arrive or with one of the Luther Park staff when you check in.

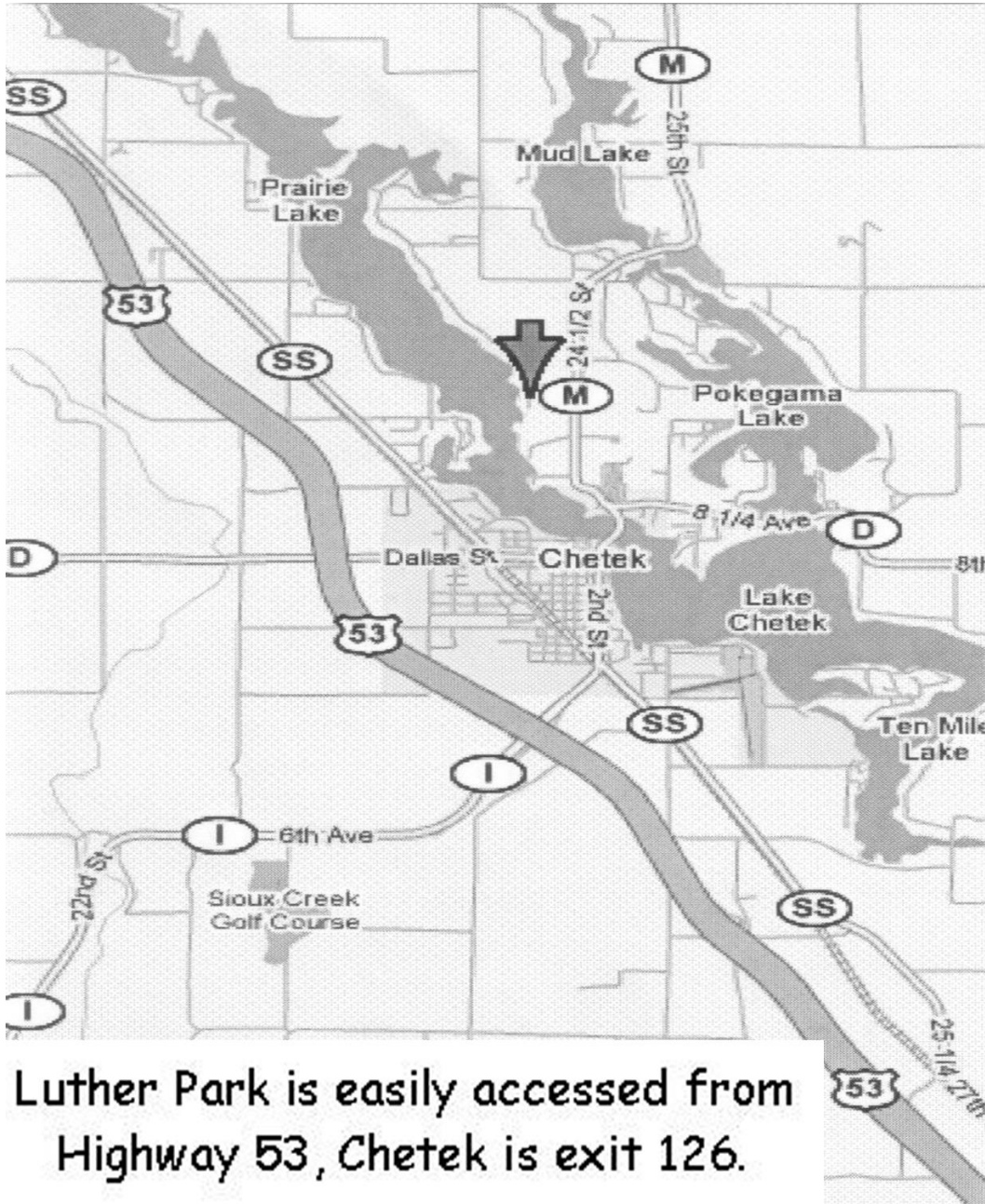
What if my friend or I can't afford to come to Luther Park? If you need a campership, please download a form at lutherrpark.org or call our office. We make every effort to ensure that no one is turned away from Luther Park because of the inability to pay. We are very grateful to all the people who make it possible for kids and families to come to camp through their generous financial gifts.

What will happen to my spending money? All money that your camper brings will be recorded in their Canteen account. Campers will be able to purchase items from the canteen and their purchases will be recorded on their account. Any money that is not spent will be reimbursed after closing worship.

When is the Canteen open? The canteen is open at check-in and departure times, every afternoon and once in the evening while campers are at camp.

Is there an offering? An offering will be taken at closing worship to support the Luther Park Scholarship Fund. Campers will be invited to give an offering from their canteen accounts during their time at Luther Park.

Directions to Luther Park



Luther Park Bible Camp

944 24 ¼ Street
Chetek, WI 54728

Phone: 715.859.2215

Fax: 715.859.6474

E-mail: info@lutherpark.org
www.lutherpark.org



Upcoming and Year Round Events

Heart for Luther Park Quilt Auction

August 6, 2017

Recharge Youth Events

2017: January 6-7, March 3-4

October 20-21, November 3-4

Quilt Retreats

2017: February 2-5, March 9-12

September 14-17, October 26-29, November 16-19

