



LUTHER PARK BYTES: An e-newsletter with news that MUST get out.

HERE'S TO A "GREEN" SUMMER!

Over the course of the spring, camp has been looking into ways to incorporate the message of environmental stewardship and sustainability into the programming and daily functions of camp. Through an internship, counselor Christopher Olson has created a new position of Sustainability Coordinator to address these issues.

Chris will be working on a number of areas throughout camp. Among many things he will be providing materials for counselors to help revamp the God in Nature time. Chris is also working to provide the Pastors and Youth Workers in camp with ideas and resources which can be taken back to their home congregations.

STEWARDSHIP AROUND CAMP

In order to support the local economy and local farmers Chris is working with Beth, Luther Park's cooking expert, to purchase as much of our food as possible from farmers who live within 100 miles of Luther Park. Chris and Beth have already been in contact with some of the local farmers. We are also preparing some land at the Farm Center to have our own organic garden here at Luther Park!

Chris is also working with Dave, Luther Park's hard working properties manager, and Tracy, Luther Park's motivated housekeeper, to utilize safe and natural cleaning products which will be safer for both the campers and the environment.

This summer's Bible Study theme is Justice. As an extension of the Bible Study and for stewardship around camp we are planning on raising awareness about social justice issues around the world through hunger awareness meals and fair trade products.

NEW PROGRAM: Earth Keepers

We are also adding a new Senior High program for this summer. Earth Keepers will be held August 3-8, 2008, the cost of the trip will be just \$250 per camper, including a \$100 deposit. We are taking up to 10 Senior High (9-12 grade) campers. Please contact Becca at the Luther Park office to register or for more information.

Chris will be leading the Earth Keepers along with another Luther Park counselor. They will be traveling to Southern Wisconsin for the week. While they are there they will focus on environmental stewardship through hands-on experiences while learning about faith! They will

work for a morning on a local, organic farm, tour an incredible food co-op, do a service project at the Aldo Leopold Nature Center, hike in Devil's Lake State Park and Parfrey's Glen, visit the nation's *greenest* building and SO MUCH MORE!

** Please note ** this program is NOT advertised in our summer brochure. It is a field trip as part of Chris' internship. Senior High young people need to be made aware. Please help us get the word out. Contact: cgolson@wisconsin.edu

Please refer to the links below to virtually visit some of these places.

-International Crane Foundation

<http://www.savingcranes.org/>

-Troy Gardens

<http://www.troygardens.org>

-Aldo Leopold Nature Center

<http://www.naturenet.com/alnc/>

-Devil's Lake State Park

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/Org/land/parks/specific/devilslake/>

-Parfrey's Glen

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/er/sna/sna1.htm>

-Aldo Leopold Legacy Center

<http://www.aldoleopold.org/>

THRIVENT GRANT: Join Hands Day

In keeping with the "greening" of Luther Park, we have applied for a Thrivent/Join Hands Day Grant. In order to receive grant funds we need to have at least six Thrivent households involved, as well as many others to total at least 200 volunteer hours. Projects that we will include in the grant request are:

- Planting and weeding in the six Luther Park annual and/or perennial flower gardens. Volunteers are needed in the spring for planting as well as throughout the summer for upkeep.
- Prepare, plant, weed and harvest a natural vegetable garden at the Luther Park farm center. Some of the weeding will be done by Luther Park senior high volunteers called P.A.L.S.

- Plant 1,000 + seedling white pine trees on the Luther Park Farm Center site. This planting will take place in early May.
- Return a portion of the Luther Park “meadow” to natural northern prairie foliage and wild flowers. Preparation will begin during the summer of 2008 and continue this fall and next spring.

Please let us know if we can include your family as a Thrivent Household, OR, if you or folks from your congregation would like to be informed when these projects will be worked on. If you'd like to schedule a day to volunteer please call the camp office to arrange that.

Becca at Luther Park Bible Camp * PO Box 153 * Chetek, WI 54728

becca@lutherpark.org or call: (715) 859-2215