

Luther Park



Bible Camp

CAMPER HANDBOOK

Luther Park invites people of all ages to explore and experience the life changing love of God.

Welcome to Luther Park Bible Camp Summer 2024!

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

Peace be yours,

Luther Park Staff



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Meet the Staff

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Summer Staff

Each summer Luther Park hires 25+ program and support staff. These young people are dedicated to the ministry at Luther Park. All counselors are at least 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 & Departure

Arrival

Check-in is between 3:00-5:00pm on Sunday at the Ministry Center. 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.

Check-in for Discovery Camp starting Wednesday will be at 9:30am in the Welcome Center.

Day Camp

Day Camp check-in begins daily at the Welcome Center at 8:30 am. Check-out is at 4:30 pm at the Welcome Center. Friday Day Camp goes from 8:30am to 12:00pm. 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 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 campfire ring behind the Chapel.

We require that **NO** pets are brought onsite for arrival or departure times

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 8:30 pm at the New Amphitheater.

MADD Camp Performance

The MADD Camp performance will take place on Friday morning at 10:30. 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 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, they will meet with the Program 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 determines that the camper poses a safety concern to themselves, other camper or staff.

Health & 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 chose 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 Health Care Staff 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 acceptable 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 "Band-Aid" type injuries and/or illnesses as per the protocol below. For these reasons please have names and phone numbers updated on the camper registration form.

- 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 "Band-Aid-type treatment". This includes possible strains, sprains, and/or large bruises. Some parents may want to 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 Staff 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:

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 a grandparent's house or attend a friend's sleepover to practice being away from home.
- **Save the date:** Mark a calendar with the camp dates so that your child can visualize the beginning and ending of the trip.
- **Practice limiting cellphone and technology use prior to camp:** This assists campers with their separation from technology at camp, where the focus is put on building connections.
- **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'ts

- **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 or use the words "I miss you".**

HOMESICK CAMPER POLICY

- The camper's counselor informs the Program Director of the camper's homesickness. The counselor also encourages the camper to become actively involved in activities and to have fun.
- The Health Care Staff will also evaluate and encourage. Frequently Pastors are on site at Luther Park and act as a support for your camper.
- If homesickness continues, the Program Director 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 during registration. You may also deposit canteen money through registration online at any time.
- Campers can then visit the canteen and make purchases throughout the week that will be subtracted from the amount deposited in their account.
- 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 for 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-\$45.00

Luther Park Merchandise: Water bottles, Frisbees, sunglasses, and trinkets \$2.00-\$12.00

Communication

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

We receive mail at Luther Park in the late afternoons. Mail received will be handed out to the counselors to distribute to their groups at active points of the day. If we do not receive the mail while the camper is at LPBC the mail will be “returned to sender”.

Facebook: We encourage you to “like” us on our Facebook page, [lutherpark.chetek](https://www.facebook.com/lutherpark.chetek). We will post pictures, weather updates, and schedule changes.

Email: Campers can be emailed at campers@lutherpark.org. Emails will be printed in the morning and passed to the campers daily.

Phone Call Policy: In almost all 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 one of the Program Directors about your camper.

Packing List

Resident Camp

Clothing

- Long pants/jeans
- Shorts
- Swimsuit
- 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
- Sleeping bag

Other

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

**Turn in items during check-in

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

- Cell Phones!!
- Food
- Music players
- Other electronic devices (laptop, video games, e-readers, smart watch)
- Weapons of any kind
- Drugs or tobacco products
- Jewelry or other valuables

Apparel Guidelines

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 torso. Modest tank tops are acceptable, but avoid the custom cut shirts with large arm holes or split sides. Keep straps/shoulders at least an inch wide.

Shorts must be appropriate length (fingertip length or longer is great) worn at the waist/hips, and must cover undergarments.

Bathing Suits must be modest, tankinis and one piece bathing suits are recommended. No string bikinis or speedos. 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. On-line is the preferred method.

What if I have medications? We have trained Health Care Staff 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 that includes 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. If a camper brings their cellphone it will be checked in during registration and locked in the office for the duration of the week.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE:

My start date is Sunday. What time do I come to camp? Check-in is in the Ministry Center from 3:00-5:00pm. Discovery Camp on Wednesday is at 9:30a.m at the Welcome Center.

What will happen when I arrive? Staff will greet you and show you where to park. Parents and Campers will check in at the Ministry Center with health forms, medication, canteen money and final payment. Then the camper will meet their counselors and join in on games with other campers from their program.

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.

My end date is Tuesday. What time do I pick up my camper? 5pm. We invite you to a closing sing-a-long at 4:45 pm at the campfire ring behind the Chapel. 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 cancellation 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.

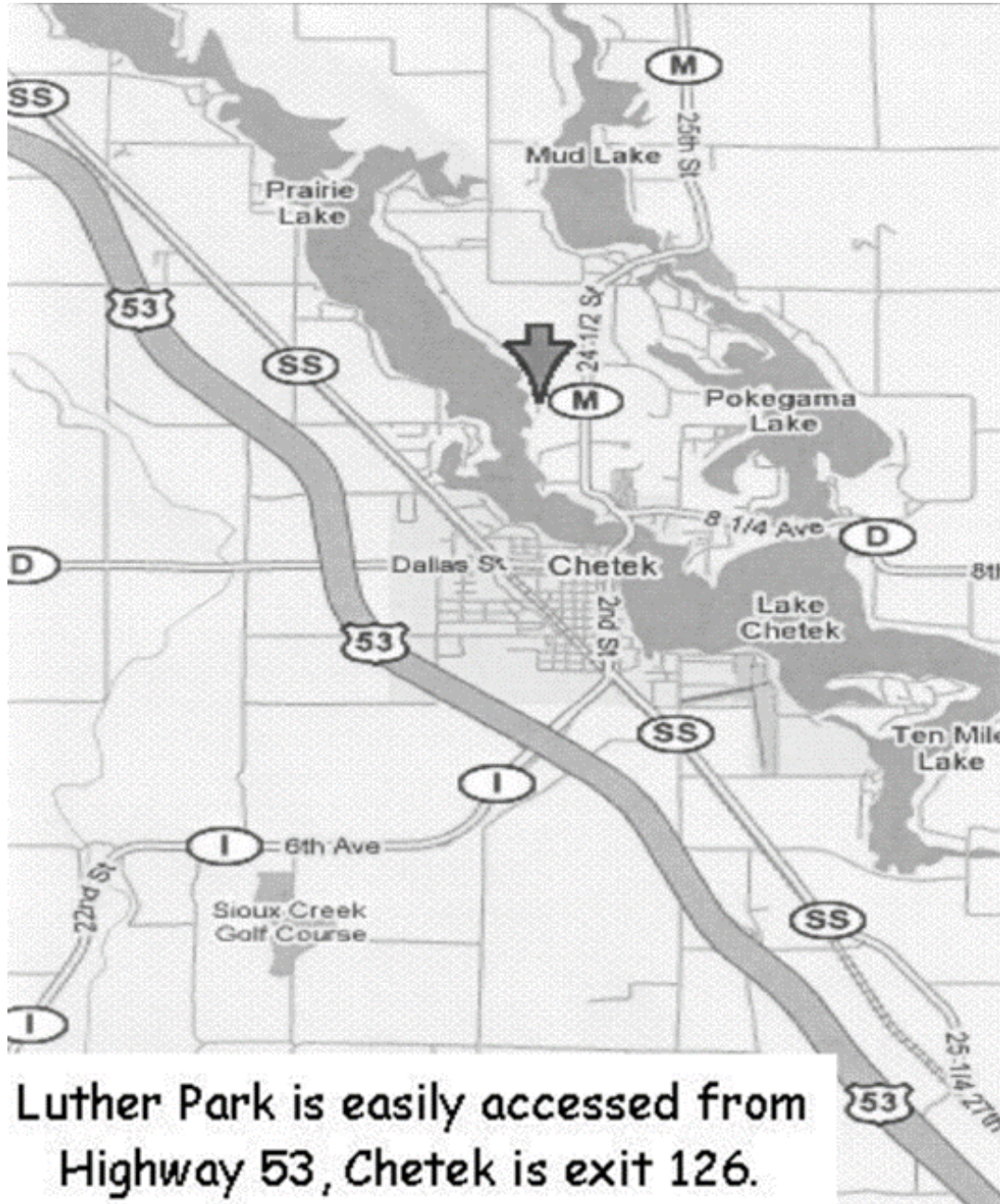
What if my friend or I can't afford to come to Luther Park? If you need a campership, please download a form at lutherpark.org or call our office. We make every effort to ensure that no one is turned away from Luther Park because of financial constraints. We are very grateful to all the people who make 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 is easily accessed from Highway 53, Chetek is exit 126.

