



Luther Heights

BIBLE CAMP

August 18, 2020

Dear Luther Heights Campers, Friends, and Congregations,

As you know, this has not been a typical summer at Luther Heights Bible Camp. We miss people venturing up the mountain on Sunday and Friday afternoons to experience God's grace in the mountains. We miss the shouts of joy as staff and campers run through the woods playing Sock-Em. We miss the many songs and faith stories shared at campfire worship. And yet, despite all we are missing, it is with true joy we share that God has made God's presence known in the Sawtooth Mountains and through this ministry.

Early in the summer we faced a significant financial shortfall of approximately \$45,000 because we had to cancel our traditional programs. We are pleased to share that *God has worked through you to vastly limit our financial shortfall*. At this time we are forecasting only a \$5,000 deficit this fiscal year. This is because so many friends of Luther Heights stepped forward to help. Here is a list of ways God worked through you to financially support camp this summer:

- Eighty percent of those registered for the summer 2020 programming chose to either donate their registration fees or hold those fees until next year.
- In addition, we had 65 donors, including 12 new donors, contribute \$35,150 in response to May's appeal letter.
- Nine of our 19 owner congregations gave an additional gift.
- HODIA, our key partner, provided us with a very generous donation so we could focus on some much needed property upgrades.

For all of these generous gifts, we say Thanks be to God!!

Through your partnership, Luther Heights has been able to continue to live into its call to share the Good News of God's love and grace in unique ways this summer. Thank you for helping us

1. Connect TODAY 2. Prepare for the FUTURE and 3. Praise our Loving God ALWAYS.

You can see more details on how this was accomplished on the reverse side of this letter. Through your effort, and the efforts of so many, we continue to strengthen God's ministry through Luther Heights now and for future years to come.

This summer experience has reminded us that we worship a God who guides us, encourages us, loves us, and calls us to be creative in how we connect with one another. Again, thank you for your continued faithfulness and partnership, especially during this unique season, through prayer, service, ministry, and financial stewardship.

Grace abounds,

Kelly Preboski
Executive Director

Ken Carrothers
Board President

LUTHER HEIGHTS BIBLE CAMP 2020 MINISTRY

As we lived into the realities that gathering together at Luther Heights Bible Camp this season in traditional ways was not possible, we are thankful for a God who still shows up in surprising ways. Here are some of the ministry moments we have experienced in the past several months.

Connections TODAY

- Mountain Top Messages shared every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday via social media have received positive feedback.
- People of all ages continue to engage with this ministry for an uplifting, Christ-centered message.
- We have tripled the typical engagement on our social media platforms and created a YouTube channel.
- We sent a postcard to all campers and donors and have another one scheduled for the end of season.
- Our Leader-in Training program launched with 15 high school youth actively engaged in bible study, leadership discussions, and camp activities through video conference.
- We sent almost 60 Camp-In-A-Box programs to campers all over the country. The boxes included bible studies, camp craft and nature activities, and favorite recipes.

Prepare for the FUTURE

We have spent great efforts focusing on some needed property improvements. Our staff and volunteers have accomplished over 60 different projects around camp that include: new exteriors doors on five sleeping cabins, new paint and flooring in Clive bathhouse, and repairs and new stain to our small and large fire pit benches and outdoor chapel. In addition, the director's cabin remodel was completed in early June, and we will complete the Sawtooth Lodge final punch list by the end of the season.



Praise our Loving God ALWAYS

We created a virtual worship experience and shared it with all owner congregations. The worship included gifts and leadership from campers, families, and alumni staff from four states. We will be posting the worship on our social media sites soon. We will also have a virtual campfire experience to share on social media Labor Day weekend for all to enjoy. We are grateful these virtual worships have helped bring our community together.



Follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@LutherHeights), subscribe to our YouTube channel (Luther Heights Bible Camp LHBC) and check out our Virtual Ministry page on our website www.lutherheights.org for continued updates and ministry opportunities.