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[Innovation: The driving force for new and expanded ministry](#)

At the heart of what we do at Lutherdale is the mission of building lives in Christ. It is the driving force that sustains the honored history of those who sat on a log back in 1944 and prayed Lutherdale into being. A history of providing a summer camp ministry for kids that has grown over time to far exceed that humble beginning.

Last year, over 11,000 people participated in one of our many programs. Over 7,100 were adults, far and above the 4,600 youth. The increasing demands for adult programs, as well as the challenges of youth participation, has inspired exciting innovations in our ministry.

[Travel Ministry Expands](#)

Our Travel Ministry program for senior adults has grown from sharing half a motor coach with another group to filling two motor coaches. We traditionally did only two trips a year, one in the spring and one in the fall. In 2016, we have expanded the program to ten different trips, offering a variety of one-day trips, three- to five-day trips, and longer trips.

[New Summer Program](#)

The summer months bring opportunity for kids to come and enjoy time outdoors, learning and growing in faith. This summer's programs offer exciting and innovative options. One big change is that the camp will be in full operation seven days a week. Most youth camps run Sunday to Friday, but this summer we will be offering weekend programs as well. There are a variety of weekend options, such as a Mother-Daughter weekend, Father-Son Weekend, and Elementary and Junior High weekend camps.

[A New Sign](#)

Thanks to a generous donation, we now have a beautiful new sign at the highway entrance. It is illuminated at night and stands as a beacon of welcome to all. The sign is much more visible and noticeable to those traveling past the camp on Highway 12.

[New Sports Field](#)

Another great gift and improvement to the camp recently is the addition of a baseball diamond and a soccer field. The field will provide more recreation opportunities for our summer campers and will also provide more options for connections with our local community.

[Effective Camp Research Project](#)

Lutherdale was one of three camps to participate in a camper research study during the summer of 2015. The research project was underwritten by a matching grant from the Siebert Foundation. A researcher came and spent a day doing interviews with campers and staff. When the campers returned home, the researcher did a follow-up study with their parents. The outcome of the study has been extremely positive and the research team is in the process of compiling a report that will be made public later this year. Here are a few findings from the study:

- ◆ Camp is a unique experience and a place for discovery
- ◆ Camp provides emotional safety, where campers can feel loved and be their authentic selves
- ◆ Campers are good at Biblical application and recall; they learned Biblical concepts and were able to apply them to a situation
- ◆ Camp is youth focused and youth approved
- ◆ Camp is a hiatus from technology and the hectic pace of scheduled lives, campers like that
- ◆ Campers feel more confident at the end of the week; personality development is happening

[Share the Adventure Appeal](#)

Lutherdale is preparing to go public with a capital campaign to raise the funds needed to build a new adult lodge and conference center. Over the past year, leadership gifts and advanced gifts have been received in excess of \$1.1 million. Our goal is \$2.5 million. With the growing number of adult participants in our programs, a new adult-friendly lodge is needed. The public phase of the campaign is scheduled to start this spring.

[The Best Things](#)

One of the best things about Lutherdale is that we do ministry together with you. Lutherdale boldly provides a ministry of hospitality to all. It is an adventure that changes lives, builds faith, and provides a much-needed sacred space to retreat from life's hectic demands.

Thank you for the important part you play in making this vital ministry possible.