

Stretch Your Tent Curtains Wide!
 Lutherhaven's Diamond Jubilee
 May 26-29, 2006
 Celebrating 60 Years of Outdoor Ministry!

*Enlarge the place of your tent; stretch your tent curtains wide!
 Do not hold back!
 Lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes!
 Isaiah 54:2*

From Vision to Reality

In the 1940's, a group of men from Spokane area Lutheran churches—representing five Lutheran denominations—organized themselves into the *Spokane Lutheran Men's Club*, united for the purpose of "working together, singing, eating, and enjoying Christian fellowship." Howard Fetz, a club member, presented the Club with an opportunity to purchase property on Lake Coeur d'Alene. The committee formed to look over the parcel gave the nod, and since the location was central to so many communities, it was decided to sound out the interest of all the Lutheran churches within the Inland Empire as a way to broaden the Club's base of support.



Members of the *Interim Board of Trustees* who made the preliminary plans were Howard Fetz and the Rev. A.L. Hillmann of the Missouri Synod; Edward Florine, the Rev. Carl V. Benson, Byron Swanson, and Elmer Hix of the Augustana Synod; Ernest Gulsrud of the Evangelical Lutheran Church; Dr. Henry Ernst of the American Lutheran Church; and Harold Sontag of the United Lutheran Church.

In 1945, sixteen acres of wooded hillside overlooking Mica Bay on Lake Coeur d'Alene were purchased, and a group called the *Inland Empire Lutheran Men's Association* was formed from members of the *Spokane Lutheran Men's Club*. Ed Florine from Grace Lutheran Church of Spokane was named President of the organization. With Ed, early members of this group included Ernest Gulsrud, Byron Swanson, Dr. Henry Ernst, C. E. Gilman, John Hall, C. F. Patrick, and Pastors Hillmann, Benson, E. E. Ostroot, Ed Wagner, Ted Dorpat, and Emil Jaeck.

Carl P. Lang, the Association's legal advisor, gave Camp Lutherhaven its name, and Howard Fetz accepted the great responsibility of becoming director of a camp that did not exist outside of the minds of a dedicated group of men.

The vision of these pioneers in Lutheran Outdoor Ministry was to establish a summer camp for the use of servicemen returning from World War II and for the use of Lutheran families from the Spokane area. Years ahead of their time, it would be decades before their dream of a family camp would become a reality.

Guardian Angels

Along with the property on Lake Coeur d'Alene, eight buildings from a 1930's-era Civilian Conservation Corps camp beyond Avery, Idaho, were purchased for \$500. The structures then had to be moved 150 miles and reassembled at Lutherhaven, without suitable roads over which the building materials could be hauled and onto land that was heavily timbered. All through the snowy winter of 1945-46, a logging contractor and four stalwart young men from Fairfield, Washington labored to clear roads, move buildings, and perform preliminary ground work.



One day, as one of the men came down the slick mountainous incline in his loaded truck, it slid out of control and came to a jarring stop—one wheel hanging over the road edge, with nothing but a deep canyon below! From its beginning, Lutherhaven was never without guardian angels, and by the time spring came, great quantities of lumber, logs, fixtures, and sections of framed buildings were piled high on the hillside overlooking Mica Bay.

With the spring of 1946 came the critical period for construction. Volunteers—everyday office workers, teachers, pastors, farmers, servicemen, doctors, lawyers, housewives, dentists, and children of all sizes—found themselves as unpaid laborers. Great work was accomplished, and on the beautiful Sunday afternoon of May 26, 1946, Lutherhaven was officially

dedicated, with over a thousand people in attendance. The first camp was scheduled to begin the end of June, just a month away!

Lutherhaven was now a *dedicated* camp, but it was by no means a *completed* camp: none of the buildings were ready for use. H. O. "Doc" Nevdahl, supervisor for the earlier work, gathered a small group of carpenters and worked with them on a sunrise-until-dark schedule. Yet even as the buildings rapidly approached completion, the Association's treasury became further and further depleted. Dr. Henry Ernst and Carl Lang were forced to tell Doc that work would have to stop.

But instead of halting the work, Nevdahl laid the matter before God in prayer and redoubled his efforts to get the camp ready. After he had exhausted all of his personal resources to pay for labor and materials, he continued to write checks, trusting somehow that funds could be secured to honor them.

Checks were written, but the bank account did not diminish! Months later Nevdahl learned the story. Workers and businessmen, learning of Lutherhaven's dire financial straights, held their checks until funds were available to cover them. The guardian angels continued to hover over Lutherhaven!

And the money did become available. Each congregation furnished mailing lists of their members, who were solicited for donations and memberships. Various benefit projects were undertaken. A golf tournament was underwritten by the *Athletic Round Table of Spokane*. Churches sponsored concerts and other entertainment. The Sons of Norway held benefit lutefisk dinners for the camp, and also furnished equipment for the kitchen. (The use of funds from slot machines in the Sons of Norway Hall created quite a stir— especially among the Finns, Swedes and Germans—and a few pastors and their congregations called off their support.)

The First Camp: June, 1946 Those Were The Good Old Days!



From Pastor William A. Foege, Chewelah

"We arrived toward evening—our two oldest daughters and myself. Had we misunderstood? We had no sleeping bags or bed-rolls! I guess we had assumed they were being furnished. We had never been to a Bible Camp before!

"There was the lodge for the girls, but the mattresses had not arrived in time, so young bodies had to sleep on just plain

boards on the floor. There was no lodge for the boys, but they did have a few tents. The faculty lodge was not nearly completed. The 2x4's indicated the outline of the rooms and also where the restrooms were to be, but nothing was enclosed. Plumbing and water had not been connected.

"Pastor Ed Wagner from Reardan, Washington, did a marvelous job as that first camp's manager and leader. Other faculty included Pastors E.R. Pflueger of Odessa; F. Ahrendt of Ritzville; Ed Baseler of Kellogg; and Ted Breuckner of Mullan.

"A good program had been arranged. We had three sessions each morning in the dining room. One of the pastors taught lessons from Luther's Catechism, another gave a study on Ephesians, and a third led discussions on some practical problems and questions. My assignment for the week was to give the evening devotions, which we had either in the dining room or at the beach, depending on the weather.

"A couple of hours each afternoon were devoted to work. Each faculty member would have a crew assigned to him, and boys and girls with shovels, spades, rakes and wheelbarrows leveled the ground. A place was cleared for softball, another area for volleyball. Dead limbs were gathered for evening bonfires on the beach, rocks were hauled to definite places, walks and paths were cleared. There was real co-operation on everyone's part, and a great deal was accomplished. Oh yes! About the middle of that week a truckload of mattresses did arrive. That was a pleasant task, carrying them all to their proper places, and our weary bones rested a bit better that night."



From Pastor Edward Wagner

"That week it rained hard every night, and sometimes during the mornings, but the afternoons and evenings were always clear and sunny. We had our morning class sessions in the dining hall, since the basement was not enclosed yet. The carpenters were nailing on the roofing above while we held classes down below. The softball field was a sea of mud. We took off our shoes, rolled up our pantlegs, sank down to our ankles, and had lots of fun!

"We had Sadie Hawkins Day one afternoon. The boys got a head start and then the girls went after them. Julius Wilder, a very shy boy, climbed up a tree. The girls got a tall ladder and went up after him. Another boy hid in the boy's outdoor toilet,

(that's all there was,) and the girls went in after him, too. The girls would bring their catch down to the camp fire area and Pastor Eddie Marryin' Sam Baseler would perform a one dollar or five dollar ceremony. For ten dollars they could get their toe nails trimmed as part of the ceremony, too.

Everyone—faculty and campers—got into the spirit of the camp, and what a great time we had! Over eighty campers attended that first week, and it wasn't hard after that to get young people to come to camp.”



From Ted and Marge (Wegner) Biermann, Lind

“We were campers at the first camp held at Lutherhaven, held for high school and older Luther Leaguers by the Big Bend Federation of the Northwestern District of the old American Lutheran Church. Things were pretty rustic and primitive. The girls dorm was up, but the mattresses for the bunks had not arrived, so we piled all of the springs together and slept on them.

It was almost like sleeping in one big bed. There were only the outdoor bathrooms, and we brushed our teeth and washed at a cold water faucet in front of the girl's dorm. The boy's dorm wasn't completed, so the boys slept under the west end of the dining room, “open air” then, but they stuck their camp cots under there anyway. All the boys and girls were busy during their free-time hauling and raking sand to make the beach.

“Even with the primitive conditions, no one ever complained. We were the pioneers of Lutherhaven Bible Camp. The meals were great. Erna Kirby was the cook and we took turns helping with the dishes after each meal. It rained a lot and we would play baseball in the mud in our bare feet. The bases kept disappearing in the mud and we had to keep pulling them up so we could see them.”

From Roberta (Schoessler) Falk

“I attended that first camp at Lutherhaven. Besides the organized programs the pastors presented, we acted out Bible stories. I remember Pastor Wagner's league from Reardan presented Sampson and Delilah, with Helen Mann tearing down the temple. We cleared the volleyball court, raked the beach, hauled gravel for the restrooms that were under construction, and cleared trails. (I know who treed Julius on Sadie Hawkins Day!) On the last night we had a banquet—a dress up affair, with

sport coats for the guys and high heels for the girls. The friendships that began at camp lasted a long time, with even some marriages, like Marge and Ted Biermann's. Bible camp gave our faith a chance to grow and developed our love for our church.”

**The First Decade: 1946-1956
Growing Pains**

In 1946, six hundred and fifty campers enjoyed time at Lutherhaven. Only two years later that number had more than doubled. Along with the tremendous growth came growing pains. Interest in expanding and improving the facility grew. Plumbing was installed by Mr. E. E. McCament. Electricity, sanitation systems, water, knotty pine interiors, and heating systems were installed. The bell tower, a gift of the Troy, Idaho, congregation, became not only the symbol for Lutherhaven, but also a call to two great Lutheran traditions: meals, the food for our bodies; and worship, the food for our souls. The bells were donated by Gunder Reierson of Troy. One had been purchased at auction from the old *Yellow Rose School*, and the second was from the family farm.



As 1952 dawned, Director Howard Fetz and the Lutherhaven Board become fearful that the camp could face closure: they needed money! This time the guardian angels were the members of the *Lutherhaven Ladies Auxiliary*, who rallied to pull this men's

group out of serious difficulty. It was a man's world, (the original charter allowed women membership rights, but no voting rights,) or was it?

\$5,700 was in place by 1954 for a chapel/activity building, and with that vision, plenty of faith, several loans, and help from Zion Lutheran Church of Fairfield and Architect Paul Sandstrom, Lutherhaven signed a \$19,000 contract for a new chapel building.

In 1955, the original *Inland Empire Lutheran Men's Association*, subject to heavy taxation as a "foreign corporation" in the eyes of the state, was disbanded and reorganized as the *Inland Empire Lutheran Association*. Most of the faces were the same, with one key addition: the new name better reflected the interest of Lutheran women and their key role in supporting the camp, satisfying Idaho's tax laws.

The end of Lutherhaven's first decade brought with it an opportunity to expand land holdings. Twenty acres north to the county road were annexed, allowing more elbow room for campers and providing direct access to the county road.

The Second Decade: 1956-1966 A Roller Coaster Ride

The beginning of Lutherhaven's second decade was marked with disaster. A fire burned the "Cache" containing all the camp's tools and supplies. The fire truck couldn't find its way to the fire, but the wet November prevented the fire's spread and confined the damage to one building. The "Cache" was replaced with special assistance from the Ritzville and Genesee congregations.

After years of negotiation, the first of three transactions to add precious waterfront footage was closed. Rocketing prices for lake property made each purchase more and more costly per inch gained, but the Board was unanimous in its desire to acquire the valuable cove in its entirety for waterfront activities.

At the close of 1966, Elmer Hix, one of the original visionaries, wrote,

"The enthusiasm died down and money became harder to come by, but not before several small buildings, roads, and a Chapel were built and dedicated. The camp was rented to outside groups to help keep it open, but the idea of family camping and the servicemen's retreat never did materialize."

Lutherhaven's second decade ushered in better camping concepts. Work was underway on cabins to house 8-12 campers each. The first of these was dedicated to L. P. Larson as a memorial to his ceaseless efforts on behalf of Lutherhaven. The second cabin was built with *Evangelical Lutheran Church Brotherhood* funds, while the third cabin was constructed from monies received from *Aid Association for Lutherans*. The decade closed with construction of a bath house near the beach with materials donated by Halvorson Construction Company.

The Third Decade: 1966-1976 The Honeymoon Is Over

The honeymoon indeed seemed to have ended. Fundraising was down, expenses were up and the camp clearly needed an infusion of some sort if it was to survive beyond its 25th Anniversary. Jerry Manlove, *Director of the Youth Division* of the American Lutheran Church, suggested that Lutherhaven move into year-round programming with an emphasis on family camping. The original dream once again emerged. Manlove advised the board to winterize Lutherhaven's facilities, find the best

possible year-round camp director, and convince him to come to the "most beautiful church camp in the United States."



To a group of board members facing a serious financial crunch, this was truly an adventure in faith. The camp was witness to spiraling insurance premiums, increasing property taxes, and higher maintenance costs, and now they were being asked to go even further out on a limb.

In 1970 the board decided to sell the timber on the grounds for an estimated \$32,000. The Lutheran congregations of the Inland Empire were canvassed for a hoped-for \$25,000, and the push was on with preparations for Lutherhaven's 25th Anniversary. Ted Barry, a retiree from AAL, was hired as Director of Development. Barry would oversee the camp's winterization and the expansion of the administration building into a year-round retreat center. A note for \$150,000 was signed to cover those costs, the Pinecrest Lodge Retreat Center was put into operation in the summer of 1971, and a new Master Plan was adopted the next year. After a nationwide search, Rev. Bob Newcomb was hired in 1973 as Lutherhaven's first year-round Executive Director. Later that year an office at Trinity Lutheran Church in Coeur d'Alene replaced the camp office operated out of Newcomb's kitchen.

Family camping as a full-fledged program—with land cleared and tent and trailer sites built—began in the summer of 1973. The original dream of Lutherhaven as a family camp finally became a reality! That original group of men from the early '40's were just thirty-three years ahead of their time!



New programs were implemented, including backpacking adventures to Glacier National Park in Montana and White Pass in Canada, canoe voyages on the Coeur d'Alene River, bike trips to Canada, and year-round retreats.

The Ambassador program was born during this decade, and the organization's bylaws were once again reformed, creating *IELOM—Inland Empire Lutheran Outdoor Ministries*.

The 25th Anniversary Celebration pumped new life into Lutherhaven. Money, as always, was a major concern, but new ideas and creative fundraising were implemented. In 1975, *Castaway Fair* was inaugurated as a fellowship and fundraising endeavor. Elizabeth Shadwick masterminded this popular and highly successful event that reigned for 21 years. Several 30-mile Bike-a-Thon's were also conducted over the decade to raise funds.

The twenty-five acres purchased above the county road in 1974 saw their first use in 1975 as the site of Tipi Village.

Lutherhaven's third decade ended on a note of tragedy. Steve Nelson, a camp counselor, and Carl and Lou Sinclair, Lutherhaven Ambassadors, were killed doing work for the Bike-a-thon near Walla Walla, Washington. Blessedly, John Cornelius, another counselor critically injured in the accident, recovered.

The Fourth Decade: 1976-1986 **Stretching the Boundaries**

1976 was *Burn the Mortgage Year* for the Pinecrest Retreat Center. By then, *Castaway Fair* had become a Lutherhaven institution, a tradition that would endure for over two decades.

IELOM had acquired Tollgate-Luthercrest Camp in northeastern Oregon in a 1973-74 merger, and in 1979, the board authorized the exchange of that property for a parcel along the Columbia River. Tollgate-Luthercrest Camp had been for sale for some time. The buildings were run down, and the property was on U.S. Forest Service land, with numerous restrictions on its use. The thought was that the Columbia River property would be more saleable, and the piece could be used to provide retreat programming in the Richland-Pasco-Kennewick area.

The kitchen walk-in refrigerator/freezer was remodeled in 1980, a gift from Ray Bisterfeldt in honor of his wife.

Bob Newcomb accepted a pastoral call to St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Hayden, Idaho, and returned to parish ministry in 1980, leaving Lutherhaven after eight years at the helm. 1980 was also the year of unscheduled clean-up activities that canceled *Castaway Fair* at the last minute, thanks to the generous dusting of ash from Mount St. Helens.

1981 saw another tragic accident: Frank Clouse was killed while helping to put in the new road in preparation for that season's *Castaway Fair*.

While costs soared, camperships, donations and fundraising went down. It seemed as if Lutherhaven was approaching a "mid-life" crisis. Faced with a debt of over \$50,000, the board decided in December, 1982, to close the camp for 90 days. All full-time staff were terminated.

During those 90 days, plans were made to hire a nine-month interim director and a part-time secretary. The board was firm in its belief that Lutherhaven should remain open. In 1983, Margie Fiedler was hired as Executive Director, the first woman director of a Lutheran Outdoor Ministry in the nation. Lutherhaven was kept alive. Intensive fundraising was begun. The Adopt-a-Cabin program was instituted, allowing congregations to take responsibility for their "adopted" building. The Lutherhaven Foundation and an Endowment Fund were established as a necessity to ensure the continuation of Lutherhaven, and once again the ministry was on the track toward getting out of debt.

Lutherhaven launched several new programs, including environmental education, year-round retreats, and Frontier Experience on the old Tipi Village site. Ernie Zoerb graced the camp with his presence, becoming the official summer *Resident Builder of Things*. Lutherhaven expanded off-site, as well, conducting summer Day Camps at congregations in the Inland Empire and sponsoring white water rafting, sailing in the San Juan Islands, canoeing on Lake Coeur d'Alene, and biking in Canada. The decade closed with much anticipation and joy, as Lutherhaven celebrated its 40th Birthday.

The Fifth Decade: 1986-1996 **Expanding Horizons**

The late 1980's found the IELOM Board searching for ways for Lutherhaven to become a more responsible steward of its resources while more effectively meeting the multi-purpose needs of a rapidly changing population. Paul Fjare, a nationally-known Lutheran camp planner, was hired to provide the direction in developing a new Master Plan. A dedicated and visionary planning committee was headed by Dr. Donald Guenther, and the new Master Plan was adopted by the Board in 1989.

Margie Fiedler accepted a call to serve as Executive Director of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio, and, after a lengthy vacancy at IELOM, Rev. Karl Petzke was called to fill the Executive slot in 1990. Petzke was particularly directed to implement the Master Plan. A special task force, including Rev. Bob Newcomb, Marjorie Anderson, Cheri Caswell, Rev. Michael Wisner and Gordon Longwell, reviewed and affirmed the 1989 Master Plan with few revisions.

The board decided in 1992 to commit to a major capital funding program, and a feasibility study for the campaign was conducted by the firm Gronlund, Sayther & Brunkow late in 1993. At its 1993 retreat, the board chose *Expanding Horizons* as the name for the appeal, and David Brunkow was hired as the campaign's consultant. *Expanding Horizons* had its first organizational meeting in February, 1994.

Lutherhaven's ministry prospered in many ways through this exciting decade. The Day Camp program grew to include week-long programs at sixteen Lutheran congregations throughout the Inland Northwest. The Homestead program was expanded and included a return of Tipi Village at a new mountainside site. Off-site adventure programming grew to include mountain biking, sailing, backpacking, and white water canoeing, to such destinations as British Columbia, Glacier National Park, and the North Cascades.

Frontier Experience became an annual spring mid-week event for over 1,000 Coeur d'Alene and Spokane grade school children, and Lutherhaven's excellence in adventure and challenge course programming brought many public school and private sector groups to the site for retreats, conferences and other events. Mid-winter confirmation retreats filled the camp for six successive weekends, and other Lutherhaven-sponsored events hosted pastors, women, high school youth, church leadership, and other groups throughout the year.

A Master Plan of Development was established during this decade. The *Partner's* program—recognizing the ministry's financial allies—flourished, and annual Spaghetti Dinners in Spokane, Coeur d'Alene, Lewiston-Clarkston, and Moscow-Pullman raised money for Camperships to send needy kids to camp. Castaway Fair continued to be a big fund-raiser through its 21st birthday, and then passed the torch in 1996 to the *Million Dollar Hole-In-One* golf shootout. *Touch of Elegance* events—special socials, luncheons, and excursions—brought support from area constituents. Greater organization and strategies related to endowment and planned giving programs were put into place as Karl Petzke moved into the position of year-round *Director of Development* in 1995.

Facility and site improvements received major attention in the 1990's. A new maintenance building relieved many needs for work and storage space. Metal roofs replaced old shingles on several buildings. The dining hall received a much-needed face-lift with the addition of a deck, recycling and storage area, and new propane heating system. (Gone were the days when the building was heated by the hungry, giant old wood burner in the basement!) Fire nearly destroyed Wolf Lodge, but quick action by the staff saved the building, paving the way for a \$40,000 remodel to that staff home. The old *Sunrise Boys Dorm* on the east side of camp underwent improvements, and plans began for a major reconstruction of Good Earth Lodge—the original *Sunset Girls Dorm* that fifty years ago, with no mattresses in sight, housed the pioneers of Lutherhaven.

From another name change, in 1993, to *Inland Northwest Lutheran Outdoor Ministries*; to the addition of the camp's on-site Youth Ministry Team, providing direction for youth programs in as many as six Lutheran congregations in the Spokane/Coeur d'Alene area as well as needed on-site staff; to the installation of Bob Baker in 1996 as the new Executive Director on the camp's 50th Anniversary, Lutherhaven's fifth decade found the ministry growing to become one of the largest Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in the nation.

The Sixth Decade: 1996-2006 To The Next Century and Beyond

Lutherhaven's Golden Jubilee celebration in 1996 marked the beginning of the camp's second half-century, and not even in their wildest dreams could the founders have envisioned what they were creating. Lutherhaven was built by people of great faith and vision; through the early years those two characteristics were vital to the ministry's survival and growth.

That same faith and vision marked the ministry as it began its second half-century, as well, launched in 1996 with the construction and dedication of the camp's new \$750,000 *Welcoming Center*. The building enabled the *Big Move* of the office from town back to camp after a 25-year absence and included awesome new meeting spaces for groups, apartments for year-round staff, and the camp's health care center. A team from *Laborers for Christ* directed by Mert Hendricks of Bremerton, Washington, headed up the construction project, saving the camp considerable dollars in labor costs.

A \$250,000 renovation of *Good Earth Lodge* was completed in 1998, again utilizing the services of *Laborers for Christ*, headed by Doral Schmidt of Bethalto, Illinois, as well as a great number of volunteers.

The INLOM Board of Directors redefined Lutherhaven's statement of mission, charting her course into the next millennium:

*Lutherhaven is a Christ-centered ministry of
Lutheran congregations, sharing the love
of Christ Jesus in the midst of God's creation.*

Late in the summer of 1997, Lutherhaven's staff stumbled upon the availability of the US Forest Service's former Shoshone Work Center on the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River in the Bitterroot Mountains on the Idaho-Montana border. The center, empty for fifteen years, included some nine buildings on twenty acres, and the Forest Service was seeking proposals from eligible groups wishing to operate the camp under a Special Use Permit.

A proposal was put together and submitted in three weeks—before the Lutherhaven Board of Directors even had a chance to hear about it—and a short thirty days later a call came in from the Idaho Panhandle National Forest: Shoshone Camp was “ours!” A Board meeting was hastily called that November at Shoshone in order for Board members to see first hand what they were perhaps getting themselves—and the ministry—into. While the Board enthusiastically supported the acquisition of Shoshone as a “Christ-centered outdoor recreation and education arm” of the ministry, it was decided that the decision to take on a second facility should better be left to the Corporation and member congregations. In December a Corporation meeting was called, and the vote was made to take on the camp as a sister-site to Lutherhaven. Reinhold Leitz, Board member and President for years during Lutherhaven’s early days, couldn’t make the meeting for health reasons, but phoned in to voice his support for the acquisition, equating it to the step in faith taken by the ministry’s early visionaries in 1945-46.

Work began in earnest in early 1998 to get Shoshone repaired, cleaned, and open by that summer, and in May, 1998, a crowd gathered on the lawn at Lutherhaven’s new Shoshone Base Camp to dedicate the facility to the glory of God! In all, more than 3,000 volunteer hours went in to scrubbing, cleaning, repairing and painting 15 years of neglect to get the camp up and running.

Luke Syverson was Shoshone’s first full-time Director. Early on, fortuitous contracts with the Coeur d’Alene Schools for outdoor education and Camp Fun-in-the-Sun for children with diabetes sustained Shoshone financially.

The Lutherhaven Endowment Fund received an amazing and unforeseen boost from the estate of Henry and Alma Treede, early Lutherhaven leaders from Fairfield, Washington, when a check for nearly \$450,000 arrived in the Monday mail in 1999. The Board wisely placed the funds into Lutherhaven’s permanent Endowment, now a major, perpetual fund to finance the camps’ future needs.

In 2000 the estate of Laura Fritz, a lifetime partner of Lutherhaven, provided a major gift to the ministry that funded the construction of a beautiful new Director’s home on the upper part of camp, work that was coordinated by Steve Meyer, Lutherhaven’s Associate Director (and new tenant in the home.) Soon after, a beautiful \$500,000 renovation of the Lutherhaven Dining Hall was completed in 2004 by volunteer crews, thanks to major funding from the estate of 102 year-old Meta Malzacher and a generous \$150,000 grant from the MJ Murdock Charitable Trust of Vancouver, Washington. *Laborers for Christ* once again contributed their expertise to the building, directed by Al Kelly of Pasco, Washington. (Full meal service amazingly continued throughout the construction during the height of summer camp, despite the fact that for a good share of the dining hall and kitchen remodel there was no roof overhead and just yellow caution flagging for the perimeter walls!) Truly,

Lutherhaven’s founders not only established this vibrant ministry, but were helping to guarantee its future with their gracious and eternal trust.

The old beach Bath House was beautifully renovated in 2002 by a passel of high school servants from St. Louis, Missouri, and the three original camper cabins on Lutherhaven’s east side—Morning Star, Rainbow, and Big Thunder—were crafted into stunning new lodges in 2004-05. Volunteer labor, coordinated by Steve Meyer, completed most of the cabin work, enabling the ministry to construct the cabins at a value of \$4 for every dollar donated. Much of the financial support for the project came from the new *Thrivent Financial for Lutherans*, a merger of the old *Lutheran Brotherhood* and *Aid Associations for Lutherans*, two organizations that historically played a strong role in building the original cabins.

Lutherhaven’s Day Camp program continued to boom through the decade, with upwards of 35 congregations and communities from Bonners Ferry to Issaquah to Lewiston to Yakima participating. Indeed, in 2005 Day Camper numbers surpassed onsite numbers for the first time, with more than 1,800 children attending one of these week-long camp programs. And for the first time, Lutherhaven will premiere on-site Day Camp in 2006, bussing kids to Mica Bay from the local community through the summer for daytime programming.

In 2004 the firm of Gronlund, Sayther & Brunkow was contracted by the Board to walk the ministry through another Strategic Planning process, and out of that work came yet one more name change, the ministry’s sixth, to *Lutherhaven Ministries*, taking advantage of the positive brand identification the camp had established throughout the region through six decades of operations, as well as signifying the multitude of ways the camps served the communities of the Inland Northwest and around the nation. The new mission: *Encounter creation...create community...commune with Christ!*

Lutherhaven Ministries had truly become national in scope, reflected in our vision to *nurture faith as a regional and national resource for powerful programs that equip leaders, strengthen communities, and celebrate creation.*

In 2005, the year just prior to the ministry’s 60th Birthday, more than 14,000 campers of all ages, shapes, sizes and colors participated in Lutherhaven-sponsored programs. Those campers came from 37 states, plus Canada and Mexico, to Camp Lutherhaven, Shoshone Base Camp, and Lutherhaven Day Camps.

As the decade closed, legislation passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bush, coupled with negotiations with the U.S. Forest Service, move the ministry closer and closer to purchasing Shoshone Base Camp as a permanent site of Lutherhaven Ministries. Major grants from *Thrivent Financial* totaling more than \$350,000 provided seed money for the Shoshone purchase, funded a *Habitat for*

Humanity House that Lutherhaven and Shoshone campers built in 2005, founded a new youth Servant-Leadership program of the ministry, and helped to spread the word to supporters throughout the region about Charitable Gifting options to ensure the future of Lutherhaven Ministries for generations to come.

Who would have imagined sixty years ago when that group of supporters put up \$50 a piece to make the down payment for what would become Camp Lutherhaven, that the ministry would grow to its regional, national, and even international place today.

Truly those words from Isaiah 54 ring true! All glory to God for *enlarging the place of our tent!* Thanks to hundreds upon hundreds (upon hundreds) of unnamed volunteers, who toiled (and continue to toil) in love to *stretch our tent curtains wide!* Thanks to sixty years of amazingly dedicated staff, who gave camp their all and *did not hold back!* Kudos to six decades of faithful, generous financial partners, who sacrificially gave of their hearts to *lengthen our cords and strengthen our stakes!*

Happy 60th Birthday, Lutherhaven Ministries!



Caretakers at Lutherhaven

Mr. Richardson
The Bert Maynards
The Norman Hildahls
The Joneses
The Ericksons
Marge & Lyle Prieniger
Brad & Robin Worley
Bill & Kit Matthews
Mike & Sharon Beaver
Ken & Ardie Marshall
Ed Brown
Doug Stoering

Camp Directors at Lutherhaven

Howard Fetz
Robert Wilson
Paul Helsing
Wayne Conners
Arthur Biehl
Ken Moore

Fu11-Time Executive Directors

Rev. Bob Newcomb 1973-1980
Rev . Mike Zolonosky 1980-1982
Margie P. Fiedler 1983-1989
Rev. Karl Petzke 1990-1995
Bob Baker 1996

Program Directors

Arnie Knudsen
Colleen Purcell
Sharon Kick
John Strand
Roger Lee
Tim Berdahl
Bob Knutsen
Diane Burgh
Beth (Peterson) Marsan
Steve Meyer
Rebecca Smith
Stephen Smith

2006 Year-Round Staff

Bob Baker, *Executive Director*
Steve Meyer, *Director of Operations*
Rebecca Smith, *Director of Programs*
Clint Kunze, *Shoshone Base Camp Site Manager*
Stephen Smith, *Program Manager*
Dave Houglum, *Program Manager, Outdoor Education*
Elizabeth Hayen , *Guest Services Manager*
Anita McCormick, *Office Manager*
Charlotte Smith, *Finance Manager & Registrar*
Tim Ferguson, *Maintenance Assistant*
Gary Orto, *Housekeeping*