



Lutheridge + Lutherock Ministries, Inc.

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... a place apart

Lutheranch Program Vision

Mission Focus

Lutheranch will be an easily accessible, multi-purpose outdoor camp and retreat ministry that will welcome and connect diverse communities and people of all ages.

The focus is based on the LLMI mission statement which includes four components: 1) a time and place apart, 2) experiencing Christ-centered community, 3) being transformed in faith through encounter with God and God's creation, and 4) being equipped for ministry.

Purpose

- Lutheranch will be a gathering and destination place for people throughout the southeast. It will become a “hub of the wheel” for life in the Southeastern Synod.
- Lutheranch will have a strong Lutheran identity and emphasize God's grace and mercy. There will be intentional outreach to non-Lutherans and non-Christians.
- Lutheranch will be a place to strengthen faith, for spiritual renewal and to be equipped for ministry.
- Lutheranch will be environmentally friendly in care of land and design of facilities, and promote living “green” with campers and guests.
- Lutheranch will embrace cross-culturalism and will be intentionally inclusive of diverse cultures, and ethnic and racial groups.

Why Choose Lutheranch?

While the convenience of location and proximity makes Lutheranch attractive, it is the quality of programming, leaders, and facilities like Lutheridge and Lutherock that will make people want to return.

RV/Tent Camping

The site should offer tent camping. (The plan is for volunteers to install temporary tent sites this summer). A R.V. campground of 20 sites, with an accompanying bathhouse and pavilion, should be included in the master site plan. The priority of installing the RV campground still needs to be determined.

Programs

The following programs should be offered at Lutheranch. An outline of facility capacity is listed, with specific design of facilities to be included in the next stage of the master site planning process.

- Retreat Places for the following groups are envisioned:
 - Adult Groups – typical size of 20 to 25 persons;
 - Youth Groups – typical size of 5 to 25 persons;

- Church Councils – typical size of 15 to 20 persons;
 - Programs – specific topics to be determined; size of 50 to 150 persons;
 - Professional Leaders (SE Synod) – 150 persons; and
 - Via de Cristo and TEC – 80 to 100 persons
- Family Camping Programs should be offered. Retreat facilities as outlined above will provide adequate accommodations for family camping.
 - Summer Youth camp programs for all ages should be offered. It is recommended the initial focus be on younger youth and confirmation camp, however, opportunities for all ages of youth are considered to be important. The utilization of horses needs to be determined, but would be considered a plus.
 - Community Groups. There should be intentional outreach to serve groups that are not inconsistent with LLMI’s mission and Lutheranch’s purpose, with a specific focus on the Haralson County area community and adjacent urban areas.
 - Resources. Synod training events are envisioned, both for day and overnight groups.
 - It is recommended that the partnership with Lutheran Disaster Relief be pursued and that facilities as requested by “All Things New” (LDR) should be included in the master plan, assuming that the usage agreement and ownership are mutually beneficial to both parties.
 - Senior Adults. It is recommended there be a specific emphasis on reaching out to those 55 and older. We want Lutheranch to serve those seeking to “leave a legacy,” and those on the spiritual journey of moving from “success to significance.”
 - Other Groups. There should be a place for church picnics and worship services, along with adequate parking for day groups.

Total occupancy of 250 persons is recommended, which is an increase from the 150 capacity contained in the proforma approved by the Board of Trustees in November 2006. Total occupancy would likely take 12-15 years to reach, unless funding is available sooner. The following configurations are suggested to serve either 150 adults and 100 youth at one time, or 200 youth and 50 adults at any one time. (Note some of the facilities are youth only or adult only, but some are multi-use.

- 70 adults in 35 double occupancy rooms (likely similar to Kohnjoy Inn or Crows Nest),
- 25 adults in a Retreat Center, where small groups could cook their own meals,
- 80 youth in 8 cabins, five bunk beds each (like Lutheridge or Lutherock cabins); and
- 40 adults in 10 cabins, similar to Lake Cabins at Lutheridge, that could also serve 20 families or 80 youth.

Food Service

There should be at least one retreat center with a kitchen for small groups to cook their own meals. For the most part it is envisioned that guests will want meals prepared for them. It is also suggested that seasonally some foods should be grown on site and it is suggested there be a specific emphasis on whole fresh foods.

Theme

It is recommended the overall theme focus be an experience in nature, with a ranch emphasis that will include horses, perhaps some farm animals, and an on-site garden. The “experience in nature” emphasis will include outdoor activities, recreation and intentionally being “environmentally friendly.” The theme should be flexible and adaptable to different constituencies.

It is suggested there be a specific way to honor participants from around the globe, perhaps through the use of flags, a wall of flags or rock garden.

Other Suggestions

- All buildings need to be air-conditioned.
- Lutheranch needs to be intentionally inclusive from the outset with Spanish language (and other languages as needed) signs and literature.
- There should be numerous worship locations, including a place for congregations to come for Sunday morning worship.
- There should be a prayer labyrinth.
- It is recommended there be a resource center and Lutheran interpretative mission center.
- Some thought was given to the possibility of the Holy Trinity House being expanded to meet the needs of “All Things New” (Lutheran Disaster Relief.) By expanding the Holy Trinity House it could also serve as the small group retreat center that is recommended for groups to prepare their own meals.