

LUTHERANS OUTDOORS IN SOUTH DAKOTA



2023

CONGREGATIONAL REPORT

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you, to all of the individuals and congregations that supported the ministry of Lutherans Outdoors(LO) with financial gifts. Also, thank you to all of the individuals who attended summer camps, retreats, and travel experiences. LO cannot be the ministry that welcomes all to explore and experience Christ's love in community and creation without you!

REIMAGINING LUTHERANS OUTDOORS

The Board of Lutherans Outdoors emphasis in 2023 was the **REIMAGINING** of Lutherans Outdoors. Eight Task Forces have met, and continue to meet, diving into eight audits of the ministry. These eight areas are Philosophy, Finance, Financial Development, Marketing, Governance, Facility, Program, and Staffing. Results so far include the development of new Core Values where we promise to **EXPLORE FAITH, WELCOME ALL, BUILD LEADERS, and CARE FOR ALL CREATION.**

There are nearly 100 recommendations that have resulted from these eight audits. The recommendations will provide guidance for the Strategic process LO will develop for the next several years. The final results of the **REIMAGINING** will be presented to the Board of Directors at their January meeting, with a presentation to the voting members at the LO 2023 Annual Meeting in June 2024.

STAFF UPDATES

During 2023, Lutherans Outdoors said goodbye to Teri Gayer, who served many roles with LO during the past 30-plus years, most recently as the Director of Klein Ranch. During the celebration of 50 years of ministry at Klein Ranch last July, Teri was recognized for her ministry.

In May, LO said hello to Skylar Schwab, who assumed the Program Director position at Outlaw Ranch. Klaire Hudson resigned earlier in the spring from this position after serving in this role. Skylar jumped right into a busy summer and we are very excited she has joined the LO family!

SUMMER 2023 | SUMMER 2024

Our summer camper attendance increased by 15% as a whole in 2023. Outlaw Ranch saw a 22% increase boosted by nearly 100 more Family Campers. Klein Ranch saw a 19% increase. NeSoDak saw a 4% decrease in campers. The total camper number was nearly 1,350.

Our Adult Travel Experiences had over 60 participants to our two destinations: Holden Village and Branson. In 2024, Experiences will be to Minneapolis for a theatre event in April, to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan in September, to the Smokie Mountains and Dollywood in October, and a return to Branson in November.

The new Horse Corral at Outlaw Ranch was completed in 2023. This great addition provides a wonderful place to care for the horses and a safe place for campers to begin their horse care education and rides each week.

**Join Lutherans Outdoors for Summer 2024 "Created To Be!" Register at losd.org.
"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well" Psalm 139:14**

In the Hills. On the Prairie. At the Water.