

"Highly recommend, my daughter kept saying it was the best weekend ever! It was great to get time together away to reconnect."



# LakeViews

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



LAKEVIEW  
MINISTRIES

Winter 2025

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# GENERATIONS





Dear Lakeview Family,

As we approach the incredible milestone of Lakeview's 60th anniversary, I find myself reflecting on the many ways God has shown His faithfulness over the years. At its core, the story of camp is a story of God's amazing provision. It's a story of how He has continually opened doors for children and families to encounter the complete and restoring love of Jesus in this special place.

So many lives have been touched during their time here—whether during a Tiny Tykes weekend, a week of summer camp, or a quiet spiritual retreat. It's humbling to see the legacy of faith being passed down, as we now welcome the third generation of Lakeview campers—children following in the footsteps of their parents and grandparents, experiencing a tradition that has been cherished throughout the years.

The story of Lakeview is also a story of your generosity. I recently came across a vintage camp picture from 1964. It featured a truck outfitted with folding chairs and wooden rails, giving tours of the property that would eventually become Camp Lakeview. To me, that photo encapsulates what I love about Lakeview. From the very beginning, people like yourself have seen a need for outdoor Christian ministry and pitched in to make it happen.

So, as we celebrate all that Lakeview has been, I hope you'll join me in giving generously to support all that Lakeview is yet to be, so that future generations can look back to our generation as an example of people living out the faithfulness of God at camp.

Thank you for being part of this story. Thank you for sharing in this mission. And thank you for helping to ensure that Lakeview remains a place of renewal and transformation for generations yet to come.

In Christ's love,  
David Vandercar, Executive Director

**"ONE GENERATION SHALL COMMEND YOUR WORKS TO ANOTHER, AND SHALL DECLARE YOUR MIGHTY ACTS."  
- EXODUS 23:20**



# DINNER AUCTION "REVEALS" HUGE SUPPORT!

What a joy it was to gather with over 500 of you at our annual Dinner Auction on November 23 - the biggest turnout ever! Both longtime supporters and new faces came together to celebrate all God is doing through this life-changing ministry.

And drum roll, please...together, you helped us raise an amazing \$125,691! (Yes, we're counting every single dollar because every single one counts.) A huge thank you to everyone who donated, bid, volunteered, or simply cheered us on. Your generosity truly

keeps the campfires glowing and the mission moving strong for another year.

Missed out? It's not too late to make your mark! Go to [LVauction24.givesmart.com](http://LVauction24.givesmart.com) and contribute. Whether it's \$5 or \$5,000, your support ensures Lakeview stays a place where lives are transformed for years to come.

Thank you, Lakeview family, for your big hearts and even bigger love for camp. Here's to more unforgettable nights ahead!

# GENERATIONS UNITED BY CAMP TRADITION



Although much has changed at camp over the past 60 years, one thing has remained constant: the deep love for this special place shared by generations of families. The following stories beautifully illustrate this legacy, from the camp's early beginnings to the present day.

## LAYING THE FOUNDATION: MARSHALL KIEL'S STORY

When Camp Lakeview was first built, Marshall Kiel's family played a pivotal role in introducing potential supporters to the property. "My dad used his work truck," Marshall said, "and we filled the back with folding chairs so people could tour the property and catch a vision for what a Lutheran camp could become."

Marshall's father, Carl, was instrumental in securing the land for the camp. "My dad was a fuel oil jobber," he said. "One of his customers owned the 120 acres where Camp Lakeview now sits. He said to my dad, 'I heard you guys are wanting to start a camp. Why don't you buy my ground?'"

Since those early days, Marshall and his extended family have remained deeply involved in Lakeview's mission. "There's a unique

dynamic when you draw people away from their homes and into an outdoor setting, allowing both children and adults to have their spiritual eyes opened," he said.

Thanks to the vision and faith of Marshall's family and others, Camp Lakeview became a reality, and its impact has only grown. "The people who were there when that truck was driving around could never imagine what is there today, plus Lakeview Villages and Lakeview Springs. All of it came together with God's hand behind it."



## THE TRADITION CONTINUES: SARAH EDWARDS'S STORY

Sarah Edwards represents the ongoing legacy of families experiencing camp's transformative ministry. "I grew up Lutheran in a town near Lakeview Ministries," she shared. "My sister and I attended what was then called Camp Lakeview. As a parent, I've attended Tiny Tykes programs with my boys and sent my son, Alex, to his first week of camp this past summer."

Alex couldn't stop talking about his incredible experience. "He loved the many activities like

canoeing, swimming, archery, and tug of war," Sarah said. "He and his cabin mates enjoyed their counselors so much. He still talks about them."

For Sarah, camp is more than just fun; it's a tradition of faith. "Lakeview is a great camp that offers a variety of experiences through activities while also giving the children a good Christian experience. It's a family tradition we plan to continue with our daughter, Quinn."

## A LEGACY OF FAITH ACROSS GENERATIONS

Marshall's family laid the groundwork for Lakeview, and Sarah's family reflects the fruit of that vision—a family growing in faith and connection through camp. What a powerful reminder of how camp creates shared experiences of faith and growth across generations. Praise God for His continued work through Lakeview Ministries!



# FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

## WE'RE LAUNCHING A NEW CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Lakeview Ministries celebrates 60 years of outdoor ministry in 2025 – six decades made possible by the unwavering generosity of those who believed in its mission and gave so others could experience it, too. To honor this incredible legacy and prepare for the next 60 years at camp, we are thrilled to launch a new capital campaign in 2025: For Generations to Come.

### CAMPAIGN THEME

This campaign builds on the foundation laid by past supporters and reflects the heart of camp: a place where lives are transformed and faith is passed on from one generation to the next.

For decades, families have come to Lakeview to grow closer to God and to one another. This campaign will ensure that Lakeview remains a place of life-changing ministry, equipped to meet the needs of today's campers and future generations.

With exciting improvements planned for Camp Lakeview, Lakeview Villages, and Lakeview Springs, this campaign will provide enhanced opportunities for current campers while laying the groundwork for even greater impact in the years ahead.



### COMING SOON: YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SHAPE THE FUTURE

Our campaign leadership team is working hard to bring this vision to life, and we can't wait to share the details in the months ahead. For now, know this: just as the first supporters dreamed big and stepped forward in faith, this campaign is your chance to join that legacy. Together, we'll ensure Lakeview's mission thrives For Generations to Come.

Your invitation to join this transformational effort is coming soon. Until then, we ask for your prayers, passion, and belief in the God who has guided this ministry for more than half a century. Let's dream big, step forward in faith, and give God all the glory as He works through us to bring this vision to life.

Stay tuned for exciting updates, and thank you for being part of this journey!

### FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

CAMPAIGN GOAL:

**\$7 MILLION**

**NEARLY \$2 MILLION  
COMMITTED ALREADY**

OFFICIAL LAUNCH:

**MAY 2025**

CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR:  
**TIM KURTH**



Tim Kurth serves as the Vice-President of Ministry Solutions for the Lutheran Church Extension

Fund, providing organizations with guidance in the areas of donor relations, governance, and capital fundraising. Tim also serves on the Lakeview board and is a huge believer in camp ministry. We are tremendously blessed to have Tim directing this campaign!

### THE CAMPAIGNS OF GENERATIONS PAST (HOW WE GOT HERE)



1998 – 2001

- Raised over \$1.5 million
- Re-envisioned camp as a year-round ministry for people of all ages
- Quadrupled summer camp numbers
- Launched year-round retreats



2009 – 2012

- Raised \$2.5 million
- Created Lakeview Villages
  - 400+ additional summer camp spots
  - Expanded year-round retreat opportunities
  - Expanded family camp ministry.



2019 – 2020

- Raised \$1.5 million (pre COVID)
- Purchased Lakeview Springs
  - Began renovations on the Lodge
  - Constructed main sewer line to the property
- Retired all debt
- Built Outback Village
- Established Welcome Center and Entrance Security





**SOUTH CENTRAL LUTHERAN CAMP ASSOC.**

13500 W. Lake Road,  
Seymour, IN 47274

812-342-4815

[www.lakeview.camp](http://www.lakeview.camp)  
[office@lakeview.camp](mailto:office@lakeview.camp)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

# UPCOMING DATES

**ADD THESE FEBRUARY DATES TO YOUR CALENDAR**

## **February 1: Initial Deadline for Junior Staff Applications -**

For high school students in 9-12th grade. This program is FREE. Apply at [lakeview.camp/juniorstaff](http://lakeview.camp/juniorstaff).

## **February 3-4: Pre-Register for Full-Week Sessions -**

Sign up at **ANY** point during these dates for Classic, Village, Night Owl, and Senior High sessions.

## **February 10: Open Registration -**

For ALL camp programs (including Explorer, Tiny Tykes, Fun Days, Family Camps, Women's Retreat, and remaining full-week session spots), opening at 9:00 am on a first-come, first-served basis.

## **February 14: Initial Deadline for Summer Staff Applications -**

For college-age summer staff. (We need 54!). Go to [lakeview.camp/summerstaff](http://lakeview.camp/summerstaff) to see roles and apply.



**[HTTPS://LAKEVIEW.CAMP](https://lakeview.camp)**