

“Our daughter hasn’t stopped talking about camp since she left. She is definitely making core memories, and continues to build confidence each year she attends.”



Fall 2025



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LAKEVIEW
MINISTRIES

Dear Lakeview Family,

This year, as we celebrate our 60th anniversary, I've been reflecting on the heritage of this place. Consider the definition of heritage: "valued objects and qualities passed down from previous generations." That sounds like a perfect description of Lakeview, doesn't it?

Not long ago, I spoke with some parents who had driven nearly ten hours to drop off a child for summer camp. Why? Because they had been a camper here themselves. They wanted their child to encounter those same experiences—campfire devotions under the stars, cabin time without phones, the joy of new friendships, and the quiet nudging of the Holy Spirit. "Camp is still camp," they told me. "We know Lakeview. We trust it. It's worth the drive."

Across the decades, some things around this place have certainly changed—new cabins, new activities, new staff members. But all these years later, the heart of camp has stayed the same. Lakeview has remained a place where people unplug, step away from the distractions of daily life, and encounter God in a deeply personal way. That consistency is powerful. It ties generations together. Parents, children, and now even grandchildren are sharing the same sacred rhythms of camp life.

With campers coming to Lakeview from 20 states this summer—many from families who've moved away but still make the annual trek to this place—Lakeview's legacy continues to grow. This heritage is something we've inherited, something we cherish, and something we're committed to passing on.

Thank you for being part of this story. It's one that's worth preserving. And yes—it's absolutely worth the drive.

In Christ's Love,

David Vandercar

Executive Director, Lakeview Ministries

**"YOUR STATUTES ARE MY
HERITAGE FOREVER. THEY
ARE THE JOY OF MY HEART."
— PSALM 119:111**



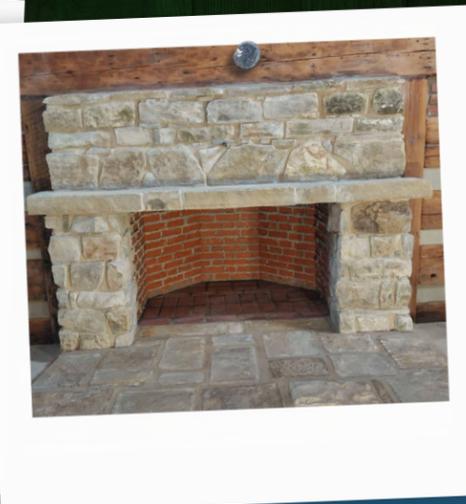
A VIEW FROM THE FIRST MOUNTAIN PEAK: CAMPAIGN MOMENTUM BUILD

Lakeview Ministries is on the move! This summer, we were thrilled to welcome campers into Alpine Village, the sixth and final cabin cluster at Lakeview Villages—marking a significant milestone in our For Generations to Come capital campaign. The cabins at Alpine Village were completed just in time for Night Owl Camp, allowing us to serve more campers than ever before.

That's not all—momentum continues to grow thanks to a recent \$150,000 grant awarded by Lilly Endowment Inc. This Phase I funding will help us take the next big steps in the campaign by creating a new full-time role: Director of Capital Development.

If you subscribe to the Lakeview Insider, our monthly e-newsletter, you've already met the person filling this role: Bill Finke. Bill will serve as a project manager, helping guide our plans, oversee engineering work, and coordinate with contractors as projects move forward. The remaining grant funds will support critical engineering consulting, including infrastructure planning for future projects.

We've already raised over \$3 million in pledges for the campaign, with more exciting phases on the horizon. There's still a long trail ahead, but the view is already incredible. Thank you for helping us climb this mountain—for generations to come.



Work continues down at Lakeview Springs, our beautiful site in Lanesville, IN. The Lodge is nearing completion, with a stunning new stone chimney and fireplace, creating what is sure to be a new favorite gathering place for families and staff alike.

CAMP MATTERS, NOW MORE THAN EVER.

In a world where screens glow late into the night and schedules leave little room for rest or reflection, Lakeview Ministries continues to offer something young people—and families—desperately need: space to slow down, unplug, and grow deeper in their faith.

For 60 summers, Lakeview has been a place where campers can step away from all the distractions and step into something that leads to eternal significance. And this year, more than 2,400 people—including 1,872 youth campers and 543 family campers—discovered again why camp matters.

“Camp gives kids a rare chance to just be kids—but in a way that’s focused on Jesus,” said Danny Frastaci, Lakeview’s Director of Operations. “It’s one of the few places left where they can set aside their phones, fears, and pressure, and simply grow in who God made them to be.”

AND GROW THEY DID.

This summer, 99% of campers reported growing in their faith, and 97% said they made a new friend—people who were cabinmates, game partners, bunkmates, and prayer buddies. Many of those friendships will last a lifetime, anchored by shared memories around the campfire, in the lake, or during quiet moments at evening worship.

But rest assured, at Lakeview, camp is more than just fun and games. It’s also about challenge and growth. Whether it’s reaching new heights on the climbing tower, going down the zip line for the first time, or sharing their faith with others for the first time, camp creates opportunities for campers to build courage, confidence, and Christ-centered leadership.

That kind of transformation doesn’t happen by accident. Behind every campfire song and silly skit, there’s a team of faithful leaders. This summer, 53 summer staff, 115 junior staff, and 41 volunteers—including 22 alumni returning to give back—poured their time, energy, and hearts into making each week count.

“Our staff don’t just lead activities—they invest in lives,” said Danny. “They help campers see that they’re known, loved, and called by God.”

Parents took notice. “My daughter came home from camp more confident in her faith and more joyful in her spirit,” said Sarah. “I’ve never seen her so excited to read her Bible or pray before bed. That week made a lasting impact.”

And while campers left changed, they weren’t the only ones. Staff members often say that a summer at Lakeview is more than a job—it’s a life-shaping experience. They learn what it means to serve, to lead, and to walk alongside others in community. For many, it’s a launching pad into ministry or a deeper walk with Christ.

As Lakeview looks ahead to the next generation, its mission remains as vital as ever: creating a space where Christ is at the center and campers are given the freedom to explore, play, worship, and grow. Because in a culture that’s moving faster every day, a week at camp is more than a break—it’s a lifeline.

AT LAKEVIEW, CAMP STILL MATTERS. NOW MORE THAN EVER.





60 YEARS OF SUMMERS, AND CAMP STILL FEELS LIKE HOME.

60 BEST THINGS ABOUT CAMP

Because One or Two Just Wouldn't Cut It

What makes Lakeview Ministries so special? After 60 summers of campfires, cannonballs, and Christ-centered moments, we thought it was time to try to name the best things about camp. We couldn't stop at just a few—so here's our list of 60 of the very best things about Lakeview.

How many do you recognize?

1. No phones. No distractions. Just real connection.
2. Singing at the top of your lungs at campfire devotions.
3. The sacred silence before the first note of "The Benediction Song."
4. No-hands spaghetti. (Why use a fork when you have a face?)
5. Driving down the hill to get to camp
6. Getting mail from Grandma...even if she wrote it before you left.
7. Grown-ups being silly for the sake of the Gospel.
8. Camp names that stick for life. (Yes, even "Broha.")
9. Your cabin cheering for you like you're in the Olympics.
10. Sunsets over Lutheran Lake.

Camp at Lakeview is 60 years young, and still going strong. Thank you for being part of the story—and here's to 60 more.

CHECK OUT THE FULL LIST HERE!



LAKEVIEW'S BENEDICTION SONG:

When a Melody Becomes a Legacy

When Pastor Dan Hauser wrote a simple benediction song to close out a retreat in 1993, he never imagined it would echo through the hills of Lakeview Ministries for more than 30 years after he created the melody. "I just wanted people to feel the words of the Aaronic blessing—and hold on to them," he said.

Then a DCE student at Concordia Chicago, Hauser put those sacred words to music and recorded the song with his ministry group, Living Water. It quickly spread across campus and beyond, but he had no idea it had traveled all the way to Lakeview Ministries. "I didn't even know they were singing the song I wrote until I brought my kids to camp five years ago," said Hauser, now pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Indianapolis. "Lakeview has blessed so many people here at Holy Cross through the years," he said. "I love how God has woven this song into Lakeview's heritage."

Since 1996, every Lakeview camper has heard that benediction song, a blessing sung over them at the close of their week. It's been sung at staff weddings, funerals, and across countless campfire circles. What began as a functional way to end a retreat service has become a sacred tradition, a melody of blessing passed down through generations—reminding each camper, year after year, that the Lord is with them wherever they go.



Camp Lakeview Alumni singing camp benediction song for the 60th Anniversary Celebration.



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WE'RE TAKING OVER THE INDIANA DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GATHERING!

BRING YOUR YOUTH GROUP TO CAMP NOV. 7-9

For the first time this year, camp is putting on a retreat for high school youth throughout the Indiana District. The name of this high school retreat is AMPLIFY, an apt name, as the weekend will amplify the ministry and growth that is already happening in our churches with students. Unlike our summer camp programs, this retreat is for high school youth groups to attend as a group – not individual sign-ups. Make sure to let your church's pastor, DCE, or youth leader know about this awesome opportunity to boost the faith growth happening with high school students in the church.

For more details and to sign up your group for the retreat go to lakeview.camp/amplify.

LAKEVIEW.CAMP/AMPLIFY

