



September 2015

Dear Friends,

This past summer has been amazing and very busy! We have had so much activity over the summer, the ground is still warm from the many feet running over it! It is getting harder to find an open week at Lahti Retreat Center (LRC) than ever before....and 2016 will be no different. We have received many reservations in June through August already. We praise God for this success!

During 2015 we had many great camps and retreats that were all a huge success, thanks be to God! We started the season with our Sunday school picnic, Confirmation Camp and then Kids Camp. All of these functions were well attended. LRC saw two large weddings and five family reunions. We held an Adult retreat and a few Work Bees. We even had a few Sauna Nights! There have not been many empty weeks at camp.

Judy and I lived at LRC for the summer and that has been a huge help. Our time seems to be more wisely spent being there on weekends and evenings. There is so much more to running LRC than just opening doors! We find our time is spent cleaning, repairing, managing and showing property to future users.

During the year there has been many improvements made. Several roofs have been replaced and repairs done. We have added a 32 X 60 pavilion off of the chapel which will later be our new chapel when complete. We have updated many plumbing fixtures. We have built a separate small building outside the kitchen for a cook's pantry. The farmhouse is getting updates. The blessing in all of this is we have not borrowed a penny for any of it! Praise God! We could not have done this without those who give and support LRC. Thank you!

Our goal for 2016 is to expand the kitchen and add a dishwasher to cut down on waste from paper/Styrofoam products. This will be a large project that will start as soon as we have the funds. We are hoping to complete the kitchen project for under \$10,000. If you feel this is important to your family or church, would you help? If so please consider giving to this project.

Believe it or not, we need to consider more housing at LRC. We have the dream of adding four family sleeping cabins this coming spring. They would be 12 X 12 with bunks and power and large enough for four adults. The cost of these cabins would be \$2,500/each and they would greatly help with family housing at LBF and other camps. Maybe your family or church could raise the funds for one? If all the funds are given from a church for a complete cabin, LRC will name the cabin after the church.

We praise God for another successful year and we know that He is to be glorified!

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." (Rev 7:12 ESV)

Thank you Brothers and Sisters in Christ for your Love, Support and Prayers!

In His peace,

*Pastor Jesse Aho
LRC Director*

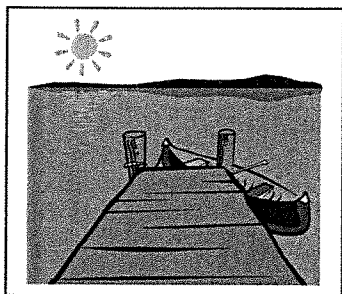
P.S. Coming soon...a new website. We are revamping our current website to include more rental info. Stay tuned!

**Zion Lutheran Church
400 Ingot Street
Hancock, MI 49930**

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PRESORTED STANDARD
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



You gotta see it!!

LAHTI RETREAT CENTER:
Nearly 100 acres of land on the shores of Lake Superior gifted to Zion Lutheran Church by Alfred & Estelle Lahti for the purpose of being a place where youth and their families can grow in their faith in Jesus Christ.

LRC CONTACT INFO:
Rental: Call (906) 482-1945
Or email zionsec@pasty.net
Website:
zionhancock.org/camplahti
[Facebook.com/camplahti](https://www.facebook.com/camplahti)
Camp phone (summer only)
(906) 296-0643



As we look forward to the summer of 2016, possibly you could help with our *needs/wants* list or with our *upcoming summer projects*.

Needs & Requests

Lawn games
30 gallon trash cans (4)
Kayaks
New swings (5-6)
~~Yard pickup truck~~ DONE-thanks!
Paint brushes, rollers, pans
~~Golf cart/four-wheeler~~ DONE-thanks!
Solar Lights
Cleaning products (Windex, Clorox wipes, all purpose cleaning spray)
Monthly contributors
Prayers

Summer Projects

Expand Kitchen
Sleeping cabins (4)
Insulate dorms
Make outdoor games
Building hard-surface walkways between dorms & bathhouse
Building large sign over entrance
Design new entrance gate system
Re-clear trees on trail
Lay trail markers
Cut & split firewood
Landscaping & mowing
General cleaning

**THE 2016 CALENDAR IS FILLING UP QUICKLY!
CALL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION!!**