



December 2014

Year End 2014

Dear Friends,

Christmas is coming again! To me it is amazing how fast Christmas seems to sneak up on us. The fact is, Christmas is the same day every year, December 25. We know it comes every year, yet most of us are still caught off guard when December comes. With that in mind, I am also reminded that we need to get busy with the Lahti Retreat Center (LRC) annual fund-raiser because April will soon be here too!

*We have been brainstorming for "fresh" ideas for the 2015 LRC fund-raiser. The date is set! We will have the 2015 LRC fund-raiser dinner event on Saturday, **April 11th** at Zion. We are planning a turkey dinner with all the fixings which will be served from 4:30-7:30PM. This dinner will be a nice change from our traditional spaghetti dinner. It will be a wonderful time of dining and fellowship. We will have the renowned **Dessert Auction** as well! Our plans are to start the dessert auction earlier this year; it will start at 6:30PM. Yum!!*

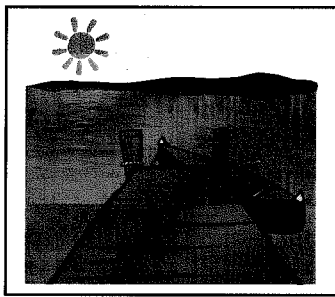
*Instead of a "typical" silent auction as years past, we will be featuring **LAHTI CARPENTER products!** We are asking our handy members and friends to showcase their talents and build shelves, bookcases, tables, benches or any other usable hand-crafted household items! LRC is proud of the gifted hands God has blessed us with and we want to showcase their talents! If you have a workshop and tools, please consider helping us! If you are a baker, we ask you to consider helping us with the dessert auction! If you are hungry for a home cooked meal made by our well-known "Lahti cooks," come dine with us on April 11th.*

As I write this update I am watching the snow fall outside my window, and I can only imagine how clean and quiet it is at LRC. I will be heading out there soon to burn brush. As quiet and clean as it may be, I enjoy it even more when it is busy with campers and workers. There are many roofs to be fixed and replaced and sheds to build. We are thoughtfully praying to move slowly forward with a larger project in the spring of 2015. If the project gets approval and budgets are met, we will announce it in the Spring Opening letter!

In the meantime, we are asking for something specific in this letter. There are a few buildings at LRC that need roofs replaced. The Alfred and Estella dorms need roofs as they are starting to leak. The cost for those roofs will be \$1,000 each. The Chapel/ Dining Hall will need a roof soon also. We are looking for families to "Fund a Roof." We will divide the Chapel roof project into four separate pledges. So to put it plainly, we need a total of six \$1,000 pledges. Recently we received a pledge from a family for the Estella dorm roof, so all we need is five more pledges of \$1,000 each. Would you pray about it and see if your family, youth group, or any other group can help? Possibly it would be good fundraiser for your confirmation group.

We THANK YOU for helping in any capacity that you can and ask you continue to lift LRC in prayer. Heading out to LRC this coming week with its blanket of fresh snow makes me think how blessed we are in Christ! He makes us "whiter than snow." Our God is so GOOD! I personally want to thank all of you who support LRC. Your gifts of love and continued prayer made 2014 a great year! I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year

*In His Service,
Pastor Jesse Aho
LRC Director*



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
Zionhancock.org/camplahti
Facebook.com/camplahti
Camp phone (summer only)
(906) 296-0643



As we look forward to the summer of 2015, 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
- Paint brushes, rollers, pans
- Golf cart/four wheeler
- Solar Lights
- Cleaning products (Windex, Clorox wipes, all purpose cleaning spray)
- Monthly contributors
- Prayers

Summer Projects

- Roofing
- Finish dorms; insulation
- 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
- Clean grease traps, windows, outhouses, etc.
- Landscaping & mowing
- General cleaning

**THE 2015 CALENDAR IS FILLING UP QUICKLY!
CALL AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION!!**