



# Camp Chronicles

LAHTI RETREAT CENTER

Year End 2017

December 2017

Dear Friends,

We have been very blessed with your support over the last few years. Lahti Retreat Center (LRC) has continued to grow and improve. The changes at LRC are amazing, and we highly recommend that you come out and visit in 2018 to see God's blessings!

Unfortunately, LRC faced a bit of a setback this fall as it took a beating by Lake Superior. A large storm blew in and changed the grounds to what seems like a "battle zone." There were rocks as large as 100lbs. tossed 50 yards inland. The equivalent of truckloads of sand was washed up past the driveway exposing many "hidden treasures." We lost many trees and the docks took a hard beating. As bad as the grounds look, there were no buildings damaged. I would say overall we are blessed! It will take many days to clean up for sure but, we have made great progress so far. Spring will definitely be very busy in order to get the grounds back to "normal" at LRC but we are up for the challenge! As soon as the Lord allows the coming of spring, we will continue working on the cleanup. Since our summer is full, we need to get rolling early! We know God will provide, Thank you Father!

As stated in our fall newsletter, we are looking to 2018 with the same theme, "Year of Completion." Even though we accomplished so much in 2017, there are still many projects to complete. Our goal for 2018 is to focus on the new chapel addition. It is our desire and prayer to complete this project in the summer. This past summer we were able to do more than we imagined we could on the chapel. All the doors and windows have been installed but heating, electrical, drywall, insulation, and flooring is still needed. Raising the funds needed to complete the chapel will be a great undertaking for sure, but God has blessed us this fall with a start! We received a gift to use for the chapel and are going forward in faith believing God will continue to bless LRC. If you are interested in investing in the future of LRC, please consider a year-end gift for the chapel project. It is such an exciting project! We have seen many services take place in the unfinished chapel already! I am personally very excited and thankful for this new place of worship on the beautiful shores of Lake Superior! May God receive all honor and glory for this project and may we all pray that 2018 will be bountiful and productive! May all of His laborers be blessed. As we focus on this large project, there is a Hymn that echoes my feelings about it. Here is the first part of it.



**Lyrics from ...."Let Us Build a House"**

*Let us build a house where love can dwell  
and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell  
how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,  
rock of faith and vault of grace;  
here the love of Christ shall end divisions.  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.*

Thank you for your prayers, support and encouragement! On behalf of me and the LRC Executive Board, Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year!

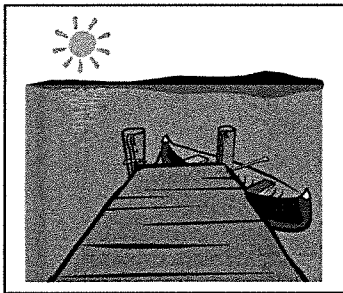
Thank you and God's peace,  
Pastor Jesse Aho

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

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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:**  
[www.lahtiretreatcenter.com](http://www.lahtiretreatcenter.com)  
Rental: Call (906) 482-1945  
Or email [zionsec@pasty.net](mailto:zionsec@pasty.net)  
[Facebook.com/camplahti](https://www.facebook.com/camplahti)  
Camp phone (summer only)  
(906) 296-0643



**On-going Projects**

Complete Chapel addition  
Painting & Staining  
Make outdoor games  
Build hard-surface walkways  
    between dorms & bathhouse  
Build large sign over entrance  
Design new entrance gate system  
Re-clear trees on trail  
Lay trail markers  
Landscaping & mowing

**Needs & Requests**

13 gallon trash cans (6)  
New swings (5-6)  
Volleyballs, basketballs, softballs  
Paint brushes, rollers, pans  
Cleaning products (Windex, Clorox  
wipes, all-purpose cleaning spray)  
Monthly contributors  
Prayers

**LRC EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Pastor Jesse Aho

Dan Foote

Cheryl Hendrickson

David Jukuri

Joe Pelkola

Arlene Silkowski

Noel Walters