



Partnership FAQ

A Partnership Between Pathways/Camp Emmaus and Luther Crest Bible Camp

This handout shares a few common questions and clear, current answers as we prayerfully discern a potential partnership in outdoor ministry.

Key Questions

Why are Pathways/Camp Emmaus and Luther Crest exploring a partnership?

The landscape of the church is changing, and outdoor ministry must continue to evolve to meet the needs of today's congregations, children, youth, and families. Together, Pathways/Camp Emmaus and Luther Crest have the opportunity to become a **Bold Witness** for Christ by strengthening outdoor ministry across the Northwestern Minnesota Synod—combining strengths, resources, leadership, and vision to expand our impact for generations to come.

We're exploring a partnership so outdoor ministry can remain strong and responsive for today's children, youth, families, and congregations

By working together, we can steward resources well and expand our shared witness for Christ across the Northwestern Minnesota Synod.

Has a decision already been made?

No. **No final decision has been made.**

Both Boards have agreed to keep discerning and gathering feedback, and your questions, ideas, and prayers are an important part of this process.

Why is this partnership important?

As the Synod's support for Children, Youth, and Family Ministry has shifted over time, we believe outdoor ministry can be an even stronger partner in faith formation.

More ministry impact — reaching and serving more kids, youth, and families.

Stronger support for congregations — deeper collaboration and shared leadership development.

Healthier sustainability — coordinated planning and wise stewardship for the future.

Continuity & Operations

Are we losing the history or identity of either camp?

No. This partnership is built on honoring the rich histories of both Pathways/Camp Emmaus and Luther Crest. We celebrate the faithful ministry that has taken place at each site for decades while embracing the opportunity to move forward with renewed energy, shared leadership, and a common mission.

Guiding principle: Our goal is **strategic unity, not uniformity**.

Will both camp properties remain open?

Yes. The intention is to preserve **both ministry sites**. Summer camp programming will continue at both locations while leadership carefully discerns the unique strengths and ministry opportunities each site offers. Each property has gifts that can serve the church in different and complementary ways.

What will leadership look like?

A unified Board of Directors will be formed with representation from both ministries. The goal is one shared governance structure that brings together the experience, wisdom, and passion of leaders from both organizations—focused on the future of outdoor ministry.

Is there a strategic plan?

If this partnership moves forward, it will include:

- A comprehensive business plan.
- Long-term financial planning.
- Sustainable organizational structure.
- Unified governance.
- Strategic ministry planning.
- Operational efficiencies.
- A shared vision and mission.

Our commitment is to build **one strong, sustainable organization** that serves the church for decades to come.

Impact & Next Steps

How does this benefit the Northwestern Minnesota Synod?

This partnership positions outdoor ministry as a **core faith formation partner** of the Synod. Together we can:

- Reach more children and youth.
- Strengthen congregational partnerships.
- Expand leadership development.
- Increase year-round programming.
- Support pastors, congregations, and families.
- Provide stronger stewardship of resources.
- Become a greater witness than either organization could accomplish alone.

Why call this a “Bold Witness”?

Because we believe God is calling us to think beyond preserving what has been and instead faithfully embrace what can be—courage, collaboration, and trusting God to lead us into a future where outdoor ministry continues changing lives through Jesus Christ.

How can I be part of this journey?

Your voice matters. We invite you to:

- Ask honest questions.
- Share your hopes and concerns.
- Pray with us.
- Participate in the discernment process.
- Continue supporting camp ministry.

Next Steps for You

Pray — Ask God to guide our discernment, provide wisdom for our leaders, and reveal His vision for a Bold Witness in outdoor ministry.

Attend — Please attend your organization’s Annual Meeting or Special Meeting when this proposal is presented. Your participation and questions are an important part of the discernment process.

Meeting Date & Time

Luther Crest Annual Meeting October 10, 2026 at 10:00 am Pathways/Camp
Emmaus Oct. 4th at 3:00pm at Camp Emmaus.

Support — Financial support is more important than ever. Both camps have immediate ministry needs as we finish the year strong and prepare for potential start-up costs. Every gift—large or small—is an investment in the faith formation of children, youth, families, and future generations.

Stay engaged: Continue to share your ideas, ask questions, and encourage others to participate. Together, we trust God is leading us toward a future that honors our past while boldly embracing the opportunities ahead.