

County Beat

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries to mark 15 years

The Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center will celebrate its 15th year in Oregon on Sunday, Oct. 15, with Autumn Fest '89.

The annual festival draws about 1,000 people from across northern Illinois and the Chicagoland area. It will be held on the grounds located two miles south of Oregon on Ill. 2. The activities begin with a morning worship service at 9 a.m.

Highlighting the day's activities are performances by three swing choir groups and a theater arts group. The groups are composed of young

people who spent a week or more this past summer at L.O.M.C. While learning song and dance routines, the swing choir campers experienced the outdoor setting of the center's 650 acre site.

One group spent a week on tour performing in several communities across northern Illinois. The theater arts group also took advantage of the outdoor setting while developing their dramatic skills, and a short tour was made to several communities in west central Illinois.

The swing choir groups will

perform in the LOMC Dining Hall at noon, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. The drama group performance is scheduled for 2 p.m.

Other activities include horseback riding, a pumpkin carving contest, pressing apples for cider, tours of the center, nature hikes, and a variety of games and activities for people of all ages. A bratwurst luncheon is planned with serving beginning at 11:30 a.m. and continuing until 3 p.m.

The day's activities conclude with a festive outdoor service at 4 p.m.

followed by coffee, punch, and cake celebrating LOMC's 15th anniversary! Guest speaker is the Rev. Eldeon DeWeerth, Executive Director of the Division for Congregational Life of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Pastor DeWeerth is a native Illinoisan, having grown up on a farm near Bradford. His responsibilities include oversight of outdoor ministry programming by the ELCA throughout the country.

"Autumn Fest is our way of

saying 'thank you!' to the many people who help make the program at LOMC what it is," said the Rev. John E. Swanson, Executive Director of the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center. "Included are volunteers, summer staff, campers, parents, and supporters from many communities who look to LOMC to be not only an outdoor camp, but a place apart where people can look at themselves and their world through the Cross of Jesus Christ."

The Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center is a year round camp and

conference facility serving ELCA congregations throughout Illinois and the eastern part of Missouri. Construction of facilities at its Oregon location began in the fall of

1974 when Lutheran camping programs at Lake Geneva, Wis., and Richmond were phased out. Programming began the following spring.

The public is invited to share in the activities.