

⚡ Camping!

Fall 2010

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News about the Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm

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2010 Annual Quilt Auction

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2010

TO BE HELD AT
CAMP NAWAKWA
1033 NAWAKWA ROAD, BIGLERVILLE, PA 17307



The Sixth Annual Quilt Auction will be held on November 7th at Camp Nawakwa. All proceeds from the day will benefit the LCC's Endowment Fund, which will help to make our camping ministry available for future generations.

The Auction this year will emphasize participation by whole families, including all ages. We will have special opportunities for children, including games and special silent auction items that they will enjoy. We will offer hayrides (a great way to IMAGINE all of the new opportunities presented by the new 221 acres) and horse and buggy rides. We hope to have several antique cars on display. We will again have some favorite traditional activities, including the opportunity for children to make camp-related squares that will be

combined into a unique, one-of-a-kind quilt that will be available at the 2011 event.

The silent auction, featuring hand-crafted items, specialty baskets, carved and painted items, and other treasures, will take place between 2:00 and 3:00 p.m. in Zinn-Tozer Lodge.

The quilts (which can be viewed ahead of time at lutherancamping.org/quiltauction) will be on display in the Assembly Hall up until the live auction, which will begin at 3:00 p.m. (Continued on page 2)

GRACE, LANCASTER GIVES MYERS RETREAT TO LCC

In 1974, a unique partnership began between Grace Lutheran Church, Lancaster and Camp Kirchenwald, when Grace built the Myers Retreat Center



A group cooking out in front of Myers Retreat Center

there. Grace built Myers to broaden its ministry to the congregation's youth and families through building relationships and strengthening Christian formation. From the beginning, a core of enthusiastic members embraced Myers and participated in the nearly monthly retreats, many led by Rev. George Yoder, associate pastor at the time. Pastor Steve Verkouw, Grace's present pastor said, "Grace and the Camp have enjoyed a fine collaboration, with the camp using Myers for summer camp purposes and facilitating its use by other groups. Grace has also sent many campers to Kirchenwald's summer camp programs,

often providing them financial assistance and transportation."

Recently, the leadership at Grace concluded the stewardship of Myers could be better handled by the camp than by the congregation from a distance. That realization led Grace to generously give Myers to the Lutheran Camping Corporation. Verkouw noted the mutual benefits of this decision, saying that, "Grace will maintain its connection to Myers on a pay-as-we-go basis, while allowing the camp to move ahead with its own vision for Myers integrated with the larger vision for camping ministry at Kirchenwald." (Continued on page 7)

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

GOLF TOURNAMENT

This past summer, 76 golfers participated in the 11th Annual Golf Tournament. We had an increased number of sponsors this year, donating a total of \$9,007 to support the effort. After expenses were paid and we added the matching funds from various local chapters of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, we achieved a net result of \$13,260.00, which was added to the Campership Fund. This more than doubled our results from the 10th Annual Tournament in 2009! We greatly appreciate the support of the Thrivent chapters of Adams, Franklin/Fulton, Lebanon,



North Lancaster, North York, Perry, South Lancaster, and West Cumberland. Next year's event will be held again on the second Monday of July, which will be the 11th.

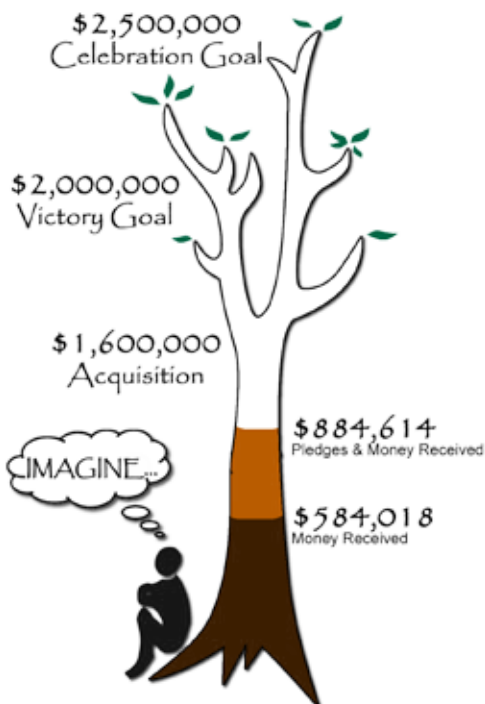
IMAGINE...

Have you heard about Richard Louv's book, Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder, the recipient of the 2008 Audubon Medal? Louv directly links the lack of nature in the lives of today's wired generation—he calls it nature-deficit—to some of the most disturbing childhood trends, such as the rises in obesity, attention disorders, and depression. Last Child in the Woods is the first book to bring together a new and growing body of research indicating that direct exposure to nature is essential for healthy childhood development and for the physical and emotional health of children and adults.

"Last Child in the Woods has spurred a national dialogue among educators, health professionals, parents, developers and conservationists. This is a book that will change the way you think about your future and the future of your children."

Can you IMAGINE...how much difference it makes in the lives of our campers, regardless of age, to be able to roam the 336 acres of God's

creation that we call Nawakwa? Many lives have been and will be enriched by the opportunity to explore and discover the work of God's hands, while living in a community of faith committed to sharing the love of Christ.



GETTYSBURG AUTO AUCTION

When you decide to donate cars/trucks/boats/etc. to the LCC, you now have a choice of two different auto auctions that will handle all of the details, including picking up the donated vehicle, selling it, all the paper work involved, and passing along the net proceeds to the LCC as a charitable gift. You can choose between the York Springs Auto Auction and the Gettysburg Auto Auction. Since there are a few minor differences between the two services, you may want to call Pastor Dave Clark, Director of Development, to discuss the donation before you call the auction to arrange the actual gift.



A camper making pottery on the kick wheel

Top 10 Congregations Sending Campers to Kirchenwald Summer Camp

Congregation	# Campers
Holy Trinity, Lebanon	26
Grace, Camp Hill	22
Tree of Life, Hbg	15
Trinity, Robesonia	14
Advent, York	13
Holy Trinity, York Springs	10
Palm, Palmyra	9
Hill, Lebanon	9
St. Luke, Schaefferstown	9
Christ, Elizabethtown	8
Trinity, Mount Joy	8

Snap Shots from Summer Camp



Family Campers at Nawakwa: 268
Elder Campers at Nawakwa: 11



Congregation Sending the Most
Campers to Nawakwa:
Tree of Life, Hbg - 48



Summer Campers
at Nawakwa: 570



Summer Campers
at Kirchenwald: 440



Congregation Sending the Most
Campers to Kirchenwald:
Holy Trinity, Lebanon - 26



Register Your Youth Group Today
for the Diaconos Program in 2011
LutheranCamping.org/diaconos



Most Popular Specialty Camp
Kirchenwald: High Adventure - 39
Nawakwa: Survivor Nawakwa - 26



Number of Blankets and Sweatshirts
Collected at Nawakwa for the Fruitbelt
Farmworker Christian Ministry: 128

UNDER CONSTRUCTION; NEW & IMPROVED

The costly job of caring for and improving the grounds and facilities at Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and Wittel never ends. We continually strive to keep the camps and farm looking attractive and functioning efficiently. To that end, there have been numerous recent improvements and additions.

The Wittel Farm barn, which collapsed under the weight of last winter's snow, has been rebuilt and looks great. Give the camping office a call if you would be interested in using it for a congregational "barn party."

At Nawakwa, the bridge at the lower entrance was rebuilt this summer, at a cost of \$28,000. It had become unsafe due to erosion. Grove Lodge now has a new roof, to the tune of \$12,000. Porches were added to two upper camp cabins at a cost of about \$2,500 each, and the stone work walls around the courts, at Upper Temple and at Council Circle were re-pointed.

At Kirchenwald, a new 28'x14' maintenance shed was added, providing badly-needed indoor work and equipment storage space. Also added was a new staff cabin to help ease overcrowded summer staff housing issues. Cost of these two improvements totaled \$14,665. Kirchenwald also needed a new ice machine and a new compressor for the walk-in freezer, costing \$8,755. Two Adirondack shelters received new roofs, at \$600 each. The Nature Center yurt, which was badly damaged by a falling tree, was repaired and back in service in time for summer camp.

Finally, a new camper living area at Kirchenwald was under construction throughout the summer. The campers who saw Fort Kirchenwald being built were very excited to know it would be ready for next summer. One camper even suggested it would be a great place to do a sleep-over birthday party. Construction costs for Fort K are expected to be about \$13,500.

Maintaining and improving the farm and camps is expensive. Your contributions help make repairing and improving our facilities and grounds possible.



Fort K Under Construction

CAMP MATTERS!

By Michael Youse, Executive Director, LCC

There were many great moments at Nawakwa and Kirchenwald this summer. My favorite happened one evening when I was talking with a junior camp group about their day when one of the boys excitedly exclaimed, "This was the best day at

camp of my entire life and I've lived ten whole years and come to camp every one of them." His excitement was echoed by others in the group as they told me about how they planted tulip poplar tree seeds as part of their Bible study activities. They laughed as they talked about the fun they had playing Ga Ga. They grew serious as they described the golden brown crust on the cherry cobbler they cooked over a fire (cookout deserts are serious business at camp). They spoke with eager anticipation about the sleep-out they were going on that evening and how they planned to watch for

shooting stars, tell stories, and sing songs around a campfire. It may not seem like a remarkable moment. In fact, it is a common occurrence that speaks volumes about why Nawakwa and Kirchenwald camp experiences matter. Camp matters because it helps kids grow in their faith as they explore what it means to be young Christians. Camp matters because kids gain confidence as they try adventurous, new activities in emotionally and physically safe settings. Camp matters because it raises up the future leaders of the church. Camp matters because it teaches kids productive and appropriate ways to use their leisure time. Camp matters because kids learn to live and work together in Christian community.



CONGRATULATIONS, TREE OF LIFE!

With a baptized membership of just over 900, Tree of Life cannot be categorized as a small congregation. However, 17 congregations in the Lower Susquehanna Synod report larger memberships and 10 congregations report larger average attendances, so TLC is also not huge.

How is it that a congregation of this size sends more campers to Kirchenwald and Nawakwa than any other congregation in the synod - and more than the combined total of the next two top camper-sending congregations? We believe that it is the concentrated commitment, genuine interest and effort on the part of Pastor Richard Geib, who shares his thoughts below.

LCC: DESCRIBE YOUR CONNECTION WITH THE LUTHERAN CAMPING CORPORATION.

PASTOR GEIB: I was a life-long camper at Nawakwa and served as a counselor for an abbreviated year when the season ended early due to a shigella outbreak. While I only had a short time on staff, I consider Pastor Connie Youse, the former director of the Lutheran Camping Corporation who was my "boss" that summer, to be one of my primary models for ministry. I served on the Board of Directors after I was ordained.

My father was also active at Nawakwa as a staff person and served a term on the Board of Directors as well. Our long family history as campers and staff persons at Nawakwa, but also as pastors whose children, youth and adults have made "camp" an important part of their faith formation, has fostered my interest in and support of the Lutheran Camping Corporation.

THANK YOU HOFFMAN FOUNDATION

The Lutheran Camping Corporation received a grant of \$6,340.00 this year from the Robert C. Hoffman Charitable Endowment Trust for the purpose of expanding the number of camperships given to children from Adams County. Last year we gave camperships to 12 children from Adams County. Our goal for this summer was to increase to 16 the number of children from Adams County that received camperships from our regular Campership Fund. Not only did we achieve this goal, we were able to give 20 more camperships to Adams county residents with the help of the Hoffman grant, for an overall total of 36 camperships to Adams County resident children!

CONGREGATION: TREE OF LIFE, LINGLESTOWN ROAD, HARRISBURG

PASTORS: REVS. RICHARD AND CATHERINE GEIB

BAPTIZED MEMBERSHIP: 932

AVERAGE SUNDAY ATTENDANCE: 343

NUMBER OF SUMMER CAMPERS IN 2010: 61

YEARS AS THE TOP CAMPER-SENDING CONG. IN THE SYNOD: 10 (MAYBE MORE!)

LCC: IN WHAT WAYS HAVE YOU SEEN YOUR CONGREGATION BENEFIT FROM SUCH ACTIVE PARTICIPATION?

PASTOR GEIB: Tree of Life has been active in its support of the Lutheran Camping Corporation from the get go. I have actively promoted summer church camp because of my own personal involvement in camping ministry, but also because I know that our members who attend Nawakwa or Kirchenwald will come back more committed to the local congregation. They will pray better, sing better, smile more often, and be in worship more regularly. They will give more to the mission of the church because they learn, at camp, that the church is more than the local congregation. And, they make a huge pool of new friends from other congregations. In turn, they come back to Tree of Life and become ambassadors for the camps. Beyond that, I am blessed to serve a congregation which understands its mission to be outside its own doors. We encourage children from our neighborhood and from the extended church family to go to camp.



CAMPPERSON MEETINGS

- Jan 23 - Kirchenwald & Nawakwa - 3:00pm
- Jan 25 - Tree of Life Lutheran Church, Harrisburg - 7:30pm
- Jan 27 - Advent Lutheran Church, York - 7:30pm
- Jan 30 - Trinity Lutheran Church, Chambersburg - 3:00pm
St. Peter Lutheran Church, Lancaster - 3:00pm

Be sure your congregation plans to send a representative to one of the 2011 CampPerson meetings in January. The CampPerson actively promotes outdoor ministry throughout the year and serves as a liaison between the congregation and the camps. It's not a difficult task, but it is greatly appreciated. **Remember, all campers from a CampPerson congregation receive a \$10 discount on their summer camp registration!**

GIFT OF MYERS

(Continued from Page 1)

From the very beginning, Myers has been a blessing to Grace, to Kirchenwald, and to other groups who use the retreat center for their own events. The LCC is honored and grateful to Grace for placing the care and stewardship of Myers Retreat Center in our hands.

Please join us at Kirchenwald on October 17 to celebrate this generous gift in a service of re-dedication and thanksgiving.

The service will take place in front of Myers Retreat at 5:00p.m. This date coincides with Kirchenwald's Fall Foliage Day and many additional family friendly-activities are planned, including hiking, canoeing, games, pumpkin painting, and a picnic dinner.

Top 10 Congregations Sending Campers to Nawakwa Summer Camp

Congregation	# Campers
Tree of Life, Hbg	48
Advent, York	23
Trinity, Camp Hill	22
St. Matthew, York	19
St. James, Gettysburg	14
St. John, Shiremanstown	14
St. Paul, Hanover	11
Zion, York	10
St. Paul, Dillsburg	10
Centerville, Newville	9

MANOS UNIDAS FAMILY NIGHT

Nawakwa has worked with several Adams County organizations serving the Hispanic community to provide day camp experiences for the children of migrant and settled farmworkers living in the area surrounding the camp. The Manos Unidas campers enjoyed a shorter day than resident campers, usually arriving around 9:30 in the morning and leaving after 2pm, but they packed a lot into those few hours. Favorite activities included swimming, Bible study, crafts - where each camper made a tie-dyed t-shirt provided through a grant from the Rotary of Gettysburg - swimming, gaga, lunch at the dining hall, and, of course, swimming. One parent shared with Contreras that her son put his swimsuit on as soon as he woke up each morning of camp.

Grilled chiles, quesadillas, steak tacos, spicy rice, pico de gallo... these are not the typical cookout offerings at Nawakwa, but they rounded out the menu on the final Thursday of summer camp. Manos Unidas Day Camp, a partnership with the Spanish-American center in Gettysburg, celebrated the last days of the program by inviting families of the participating children to Nawakwa for a covered dish picnic and overnight experience. "Many of the children have been coming to Nawakwa for several summers," said

Amelia Contreras, Executive Director of Manos Unidas. "It was so nice for the parents and siblings to be able to see camp and all that the children have been talking about."

Arriving throughout the afternoon, the camper families moved into the Upper Camp cabins, then moved over to the pavilion to prepare the evening meal. Each family brought something to contribute, including watermelon, chips, and some very spicy salsa. Joining the families and

the camp counselors were several Nawakwa staff, Fr. Bernardo Pistone of St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church Gettysburg (a partner of Manos Unidas), and Sharon Kaya, Latino Missioner. Following supper, the families joined the Nawakwa community for a pool party, then returned to Upper Camp for a campfire with s'mores and singing before retiring for the evening. Several parents were able to stay through Friday afternoon, allowing them to see Upper Temple and enjoy meals

at the dining hall. Friday's macaroni and cheese noon meal was augmented by grilled chicken, quesadillas, and the remaining spicy salsas from the previous evening's picnic.



*Manos Unidas Campers
Posing in Their
Tie-dyed Shirts*



The Lutheran Camping Corporation
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Fall 2010

- Oct 17 Fall Foliage Day at
Kirchenwald and Nawakwa
- Oct 21 Bishop's Bible Study
at The Wittel Farm
- Nov 7 Quilt Auction at Nawakwa
- Nov 12-14 Women's Craft Retreat
at Nawakwa
- Nov 19 Bishop's Bible Study
at The Wittel Farm
- Dec 4 Advent Day Apart
at The Wittel Farm
- Jan 7-9 Winter Youth Retreat at
Kirchenwald

**WINTER YOUTH RETREAT
REGISTRATION FORM
JANUARY 7-9, 2011 AT KIRCHENWALD**

Camper Name: _____

Address: _____

Parent or guardian: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Birthdate: _____ Grade: _____

Cabinmate (optional): _____

Special Needs: _____

Your Church: _____

Church City: _____

Office Use Only

Rec'd _____ Ck# _____ Amt _____

REGISTER NOW FOR THE WINTER YOUTH RETREAT

Scheduled for January 7-9, this event is a great way to renew summer camp friendships and see what Kirchenwald offers in the winter.

The retreat, for grades 3-9, features summer camp favorites like Capture the Flag, hiking to Buzzard's rocks, Bible study, worship, and games. We hope for cold, snowy weather for winter activities like sledding, snow soccer, snow fort building, and games like broom hockey or slippery tag on the frozen lake.

Accommodations are in the main camp cabins and Myers Retreat Center.

To register, complete the included form or visit www.LutheranCamping.org. Return it with payment to: Lutheran Camping Corporation; P.O. Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303. Cost is only \$115. Registration deadline is December 10, 2010. Additional information at (717) 677-8211 or (717) 964-3121.