

# ⚡ Camping!

Fall 2011

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

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**SUMMER CAMP.** It conjures up images of campfires, fun songs, piping hot bowls of oatmeal on chilly mornings, swimming, crafts, and Capture the Flag. Many people treasure memories of a particular counselor or camp friend, worship in a woodland chapel, or marvelous camp dogs. The fun stuff and the memories only scratch the surface of all that is going on at camp. Look just a little closer and you will soon see that there is depth and intention behind everything we do at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa.

Camp is a place where people are learning valuable life lessons about friendship, faith, teamwork, responsibility, and service. Our outdoor ministries are more than “summer camp.” Kirchenwald and Nawakwa are truly training grounds for disciples. Everything that we do is designed with the intention that our campers, no matter their age, will return to their homes and congregations ready to serve God and God’s people.



**READ ON** to discover some of the ways the Lutheran Camping Corporation has gone about the work of strengthening the Church in the summer of 2011.

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## KELSEY HLAVAC

Kelsey Hlavac loved camp before she ever set foot at Nawakwa. As a child in Colorado, she attended Rainbow Trail, an ELCA camp in the Rocky Mountains and loved it. When she moved to Central Pennsylvania in 2000 with her mother and older sister, Kelsey's mother wasted no time in enrolling both girls at Nawakwa.

Kelsey attended Nawakwa every summer through her middle school years and found it to be a place where she could always feel God's love. When she entered high school, she continued as an Intermediate camper because her summer schedule did not allow her to attend the Senior High programs. As such, she often found herself in a "helper" position within her cabin group, encouraging younger campers who might be missing home, assisting other campers in the craft hall, and generally acting as a big sister to the girls in her cabin.

Eventually, Kelsey aged out of the Intermediate camps but she never stopped encouraging the children in her congregation of St. Stephen's, New Kingstown, to register for summer camp. "Nawakwa," she repeatedly told her congregation, "is better than Disneyland!"

This summer, one of Kelsey's dreams came true when she accepted a position on Nawakwa's counseling staff. "Rarely has anyone exuded as much joy just to be here as Kelsey," said Marianne Brock, Nawakwa's director. "She gave 100% of her energy to every task assigned. She was



a positive and encouraging influence on her campers and her fellow staff." As well as serving as a cabin counselor, she spent a week in the kitchen and many afternoons lifeguarding at the pool. Her co-workers describe her as "a shining example of God's love" and "an amazing Child of God."

At the end of the summer, Kelsey reflected on her time as a counselor. "This summer is the most wonderful thing I've experienced so far. It's awesome to see the transformations in the campers and the staff. Thank you for letting me be a part of this magnificent place."

Thank YOU Kelsey, for who you are and for sharing your joy at Nawakwa this summer.



# CAMPER SPOTLIGHT

## JACQUELYN GALLO

Sometimes one week of camp just isn't enough. For someone like Jacquelyn Gallo of Tree of Life Lutheran Church, the weeks spent at Kirchenwald are time well spent. "Camp has become a big part of my life, ever since I have started going. I connect with God a lot more when I am there. I make better choices and I go to church a lot more," said Gallo. This summer, Gallo attended X-Camp and Super Adventure. Through the leadership development focus of Super Adventure, she returned to camp as an intern, where she worked directly with counseling staff to instill a love for God's creation in the next generation of campers. She served as a volunteer for her fourth week at camp, recognizing the chance to continue giving of her gifts

to the ministry at Kirchenwald. "I love the camp experience and enjoy being with kind, loving people at camp. I also wanted to see what it was like to work there and it turned out super fun. My experience at Kirchenwald was amazing. Every day was a new, exciting adventure," said Gallo.

## MANOS UNIDAS SPOTLIGHT

Nawakwa primarily serves resident campers and retreat groups from congregations within the Lower Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA. In recent years, several weeks of day camp have been added for a much more local clientele. Working with Amelia Contreras, Executive Director of Manos Unidas Spanish-American Center in Gettysburg, Nawakwa has sought to serve our neighbors in the Hispanic community. This summer, nearly 40 campers, many the children of migrant and settled farmworkers, participated in three weeks of day camp.



Manos Unidas campers enjoy a shorter day, 9:30 AM to 3:00 PM, but they pack a lot into those few hours. Ask the campers about their favorite activities and you'll hear a list similar to the resident campers' answers: swimming, Bible study, crafts, swimming, gaga (a dodge ball game), lunch in the camp's 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.

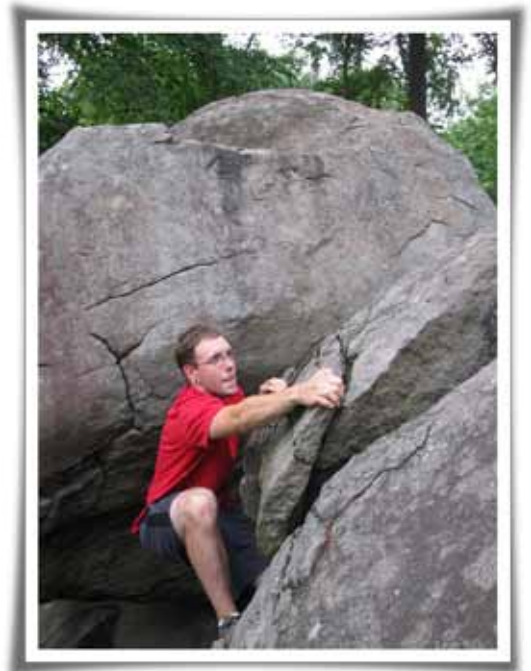
The campers celebrated the last days of the program by inviting families of the participating children to Nawakwa for a covered dish picnic and overnight experience. "Many of the children have been coming to Nawakwa for several summers," said Amelia Contreras, Executive Director of Manos Unidas. "It was so nice for the parents and siblings to be able to see camp and all that the children have been talking about." Following the cookout, Manos Unidas campers and their families joined in Nawakwa's evening activities before enjoying a campfire and marshmallow roast. Most families spent the night in Nawakwa's Upper Camp cabins and participated in the camp schedule until departure time on Friday.

Nawakwa staff attending the closing picnic remarked at the wonderful hospitality of the families (and HUGE spread of food). A Manos Unidas parent answered, "Nawakwa welcomed our children, now we welcome you."

## DIACONOS SPOTLIGHT

With twice as many groups as last summer, the Diaconos program continues to grow at Kirchenwald. And with it grow the opportunities for youth to take the lessons they learn in church and put them into practice. "We provided simple works of loving service and received a renewed understanding of our role in Christian living," said David Bowman of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in York. Bowman helped to lead a group from the York Catechetics Program through a week of camping adventures, with time spent at Spang Crest Manor and the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey. "Our aim was to encourage the youth to begin to see outside of themselves. We believe that the camp experience had a holistic and profound change in our youth's perspective in life. We

hope that the growth from service and camping will lead the youth to encounter the world through a different lens," said Bowman. Back at camp, Bowman and his group enjoyed growing together through specially-designed activities and recreational opportunities like mountain biking, archery, and canoeing. "The flexibility of schedule and the variety of activities made Camp Kirchenwald the ideal place to have a service camp like Diaconos. Our group was able to experience the fullness of both outdoor ministries and Christian service. Diaconos is creating a firm foundation by shaping the lives of the youth through the total camp experience," said Bowman. To sign up your youth group for Diaconos, please contact Zach at Kirchenwald.



# Snap Shots from Summer Camp



**Summer Campers at  
Kirchenwald: 436**



**Congregation Sending the  
Most Campers to Nawakwa:  
St. Matthew, York and  
Tree of Life, Harrisburg  
Tied - 23**

**Summer Campers at Nawakwa: 580**



**Most Popular Specialty Camp  
Kirchenwald: High Adventure - 34  
Nawakwa: Ten-Day Camp - 49**



**Family Campers at Nawakwa: 232  
Elder Campers at Nawakwa: 14  
Diaconos Campers at Kirchenwald: 20**



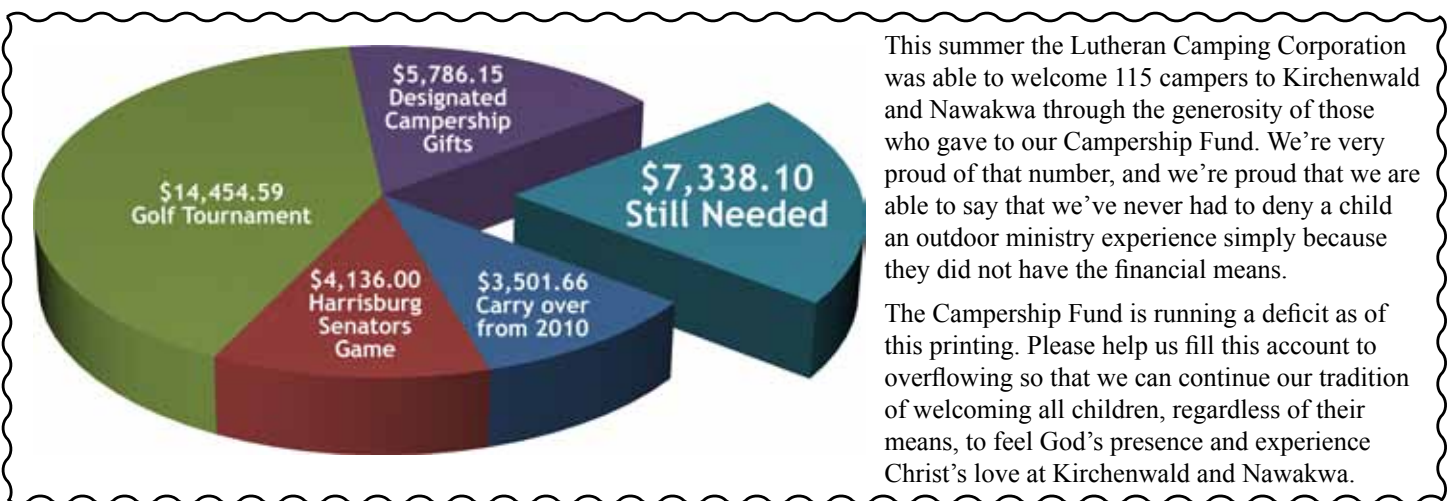
**Congregation Sending the  
Most Campers to Kirchenwald:  
Grace, Camp Hill and  
Trinity, Mount Joy  
Tied: 19**

# CAMPERSHIP GIVING CAN BE FUN

Children are just naturally curious and eager to learn, especially when they are in grade school. This is the perfect time for them to attend summer camp because they will learn not only about bugs and the environment and swimming, but because they will also discover that God loves them and that they have a lot to contribute to a loving community.


This “lesson” applies to financial support of outdoor ministry as well – it too can be a lot of fun! Ask any of the 750+ people who attended the Harrisburg Senators’ game this past May. This is the number who enjoyed a fun Friday evening at City Island on Lutheran Night at the Ball Park and raised \$4,136 toward the Campership Fund of the Lutheran Camping Corporation. In addition to the actual game, they also loved that ball-park menu of hot dogs, pretzels, and ice cream. The Senators feature interesting contests for young and old, including giving away a free television at the end of each inning, and spectacular fireworks at the end of the game. Be sure to mark your calendar for the Senators at home, Friday, May 18th next year!

What about playing some Golf? Another way to have fun while supporting our efforts to train the next generation of Christian leaders is to support our annual Golf Tournament. We had a good tournament this past summer, even though the weather was really **hot!** Perhaps because of the temperature, we did see our attendance drop from 2010, but sponsorships increased, so the \$14,455 we raised surpassed the net results from last year by more than \$1,000.



This summer the Lutheran Camping Corporation was able to welcome 115 campers to Kirchenwald and Nawakwa through the generosity of those who gave to our Campership Fund. We’re very proud of that number, and we’re proud that we are able to say that we’ve never had to deny a child an outdoor ministry experience simply because they did not have the financial means.

The Campership Fund is running a deficit as of this printing. Please help us fill this account to overflowing so that we can continue our tradition of welcoming all children, regardless of their means, to feel God’s presence and experience Christ’s love at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa.



Snap this QR code with your smart phone to make a difference today!

If you do not have a QR code reader on your smart phone, go to the app store & search “QR Reader.”

**I / We are pleased to make a gift to the Campership Fund of the Lutheran Camping Corporation in the amount of:**

\_\_\_\$25 \_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\$205 \_\_\_\$405 (one week) Other \$\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Send my gift receipt by email

I would like information about creating a Campership Endowment Fund.

Mail gift and this commitment card to:

The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central PA, PO Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303

**Plan Now to Attend  
2012 Family Camp at Nawakwa!  
July 18-24 or August 8-14**

Games  
Crafts  
Field Trips  
Swimming  
Adult Bible Studies  
Quiet Time  
Campfires  
Evening Activities  
Worship  
Singing  
Upper Temple  
New Friends  
Teddy Bear Tea Party  
High Ropes Course  
Creek Hikes  
Family  
Softball  
Peanut Butter Pie  
Skit Night



This year's Quilt Auction will once again support the Lutheran Camping Corporation's Endowment Fund. This important reserve is still relatively small, but the Board of Directors sees it as an important investment in the future of our outdoor ministry, providing a steady source of supplemental income.

The Quilt Auction this year will include the usual hand-made quilts in a live auction that always entertains. We will also have a variety of items for the silent auction that usually includes some surprise offerings.

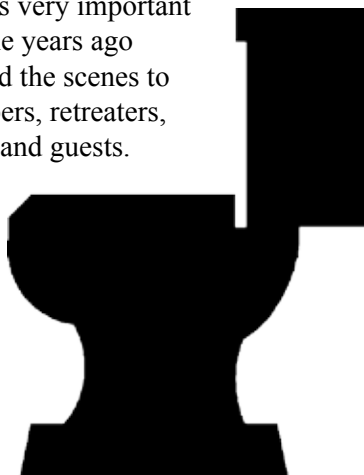
Last year we invited collectors to bring their classic cars for display and we expect most of them to return again this fall. In addition, we will have a display of antique tractors and engines, compliments of the South Mountain Antique Tractors and Engines Club. Moreover, the playground will be available for the younger set, families will be able to participate in a scavenger hunt, and the horse-drawn carriage will be offering rides around the camp. We will all enjoy the usual delicious camp supper provided by the wonderful Nawakwa kitchen staff of Kathy Kerr.

**2011 Annual Quilt Auction**  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2011**  
 TO BE HELD AT  
**CAMP NAWAKWA**  
**1033 NAWAKWA ROAD, BIGLERVILLE, PA 17307**

## FLUSHED!

We are very pleased to be able to announce that we have completed the payments on the Water Treatment Project! This very important improvement from some years ago continues quietly behind the scenes to serve Nawakwa's campers, retreaters, congregational groups, and guests.

Although it is easy to take this system for granted, there have been a small but faithful group that continued to support the efforts to retire this debt. Thank you!



## CAMP PERSON MEETINGS

- Jan 22 - Kirchenwald & Nawakwa - 3:00pm
- Jan 24 - Tree of Life Lutheran Church, Harrisburg - 7:30pm
- Jan 26 - Advent Lutheran Church, York - 7:30pm
- Jan 29 - 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 2012 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!**

# THE SUMMER COTTAGE, NOT JUST FOR SUMMERS ANYMORE



Looking for a romantic weekend getaway? A few days of spiritual rejuvenation? Or maybe just some time away from the demands of work, where you can get back in touch with the peaceful serenity of nature? Kirchenwald has just what you're looking for. Newly remodeled this summer, the Cottage will set you in the right mood with its beautiful log cabin appearance. With a brand new kitchen, living room, bedroom, and bathroom, this cozy cottage is perfect for individuals, couples, or small families. The Cottage is available for rent in the fall, winter, and spring.

Please check out our "Rental Rates & Facilities" link on our website, or call the Camping Office for more information and availability.

**Summer Camp Gift Certificates Available at [LutheranCamping.org](http://LutheranCamping.org)**



**One size fits every size camper!**



## Top 10 Congregations Sending Campers to Kirchenwald Summer Camp

Congregation	# Campers
Grace, Camp Hill	19
Trinity, Mount Joy	19
Tree of Life, Harrisburg	17
Advent, York	13
Holy Trinity, Lebanon	11
Trinity, Colebrook	11
Christ, Elizabethtown	10
Trinity, Robesonia	9
Zion, East Petersburg	9
Hawley Memorial Presb.	8
Hill, Cleona	8



## Top 10 Congregations Sending Campers to Nawakwa Summer Camp

Congregation	# Campers
St. Matthew, York	23
Tree of Life, Harrisburg	23
Advent, York	18
St. John, Shiremanstown	16
St. James, Gettysburg	15
St. Paul, Dillsburg	14
Christ, Harrisburg	14
St. Paul, Hanover	11
Trinity, Camp Hill	9
Epiphany, Harrisburg	9



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## Fall 2011

- Oct 16 Fall Foliage Day at  
Kirchenwald and Nawakwa
- Oct 26 Bishop's Bible Study  
at The Wittel Farm
- Nov 6 Quilt Auction at Nawakwa
- Nov 11-13 Women's Craft Retreat  
at Nawakwa
- Nov 22 Bishop's Bible Study  
at The Wittel Farm
- Dec 3 Advent Day Apart  
at The Wittel Farm
- Jan 6-8 Winter Youth Retreat at  
Kirchenwald

**WINTER YOUTH RETREAT  
REGISTRATION FORM  
JANUARY 6-8, 2012 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 6-8, 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](http://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 9, 2011. Additional information at (717) 677-8211 or (717) 964-3121.