



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

THE LUTHERAN CAMPING CORPORATION OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA  
KIRCHENWALD, NAWAKWA AND THE WITTEL FARM



[LUTHERANCAMPING.ORG](http://LUTHERANCAMPING.ORG)

"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works;  
that I know very well."

--Psalm 139:14

**2024 SUMMER BIBLE STUDY  
& WORSHIP THEME  
CREATED TO BE**

I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.

-- Psalm 139:14



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The Church in a place and time apart  
where Christ’s love is experienced and faith is renewed.



# INTRODUCTION

*Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do, be done in love.*

1 Corinthians: 16: 13-14

In 2024 Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm celebrated 55, 95, and 34 years of ministry, respectively. The foundation of the ministry at the camps and farm go back to 1929 when the first campers were welcomed to the Lutheran Leadership Training Camp on the site which the following year was formally named Nawakwa. For 55 years, 95 years, and 34 years, the ministry at Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm has been about faith formation, exploring God's creation, spiritual renewal, living in Christian community, and then leaving camp to put those lessons into practice in the world.

While we acknowledge that our ministry stands on that strong historical foundation, we also look toward what this ministry will be like in the future. In 2024, LCC adopted a strategic plan, with ministry priorities to guide us through the coming years. The strategic plan can be viewed at the LCC website.

This strategic plan has already moved the Board of Directors to begin master site plan updates for Kirchenwald and Nawakwa, assuring that the sites and facilities are up- to-date and appropriate for meeting the strategic plan goals. The master site plan updates should be completed in early summer of 2025.

The 2024 worship and Bible theme was "Created to Be." Our campers explored what it means to be created in the image of a loving God who knows and loves us completely, wants the best for us, and calls us to share that same love and care with others. Last summer, all who spent time at Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm were immersed in these lessons and encouraged to courageously return to their homes, schools, churches, neighborhoods, and jobs ready to put those lessons into practice in the real world. All we do at Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm is an extension of the ministry of the Lower Susquehanna Synod - ELCA and the Penn Central Conference - UCC congregations we serve.

As you read this report, take a few moments to remember your camping or retreat experiences. Give thanks for the inspiration and renewal you experienced in the fresh smell of a pine forest, a spectacular sunset, or the majesty of the night sky. Praise God for the pastors, counselors, and other camp leaders who walked with you and our campers in journeys of faith.

Thank you for helping to create a lifetime of memories in the lives of children, youth, and adults. Thank you for your support of this wonderful ministry.

Michael Youse  
Executive Director



# KIRCHENWALD



I remember, in the spring of 2024, reading through the summer camp Bible Study curriculum and needing to take a pause when I got to the content for the last day. You see, the overarching theme was “Created To Be” and each day finished that phrase with words like “free,” “brave,” and “authentic.” These words carry an association of goodness, justice, and idealism to them - understandable words to which we should aspire. But the last day, Friday, was titled, “Created To Be Disruptive”. I feared that, on its surface, this theme would invite campers to act out, interrupt, or incite chaos. Visions of riotous campers from old comedy movie classics filled my head and I wondered, ‘why THAT word?’

Sure, being disruptive has some negative connotations. But it’s also biblically important. Respectfully, Jesus was an agent of disruption- challenging expectations and social norms. He was a revolutionary. Even within our own denomination, Martin Luther rocked the boat so hard that he helped start the Reformation! The fine print for our Friday theme read, “Our faith is not silent, passive, or solitary. Our actions and advocacy are guided by the Spirit and love for our neighbor in the church, society, and the world.” The reality is, it is countercultural to live like we do at camp. We are a community that works to follow the teachings of Jesus, to love and forgive unconditionally, and to care for all that God has made as partners in creation. In 2024, there were 323 youth and adult campers at Kirchenwald who exercised their identities as free, authentic, brave, and disruptive disciples. 19 confirmation campers. And 31 campers from Camp LionHeart. To bring it all to fruition, Kirchenwald was blessed with the dedication of 33 staff and 59 volunteers who worked throughout the summer to make camp a safe and loving space for all.

As the psalmist writes in chapter 139, we are “fearfully and wonderfully made.” We are made to do great things, including using our gifts to be disruptive in the best ways possible. Thank you to everyone who committed to shaking things up by participating in the radical experience that is summer camp at Kirchenwald.

Zachary Weiss  
Associate Executive Director  
Kirchenwald Director



### KIRCHENWALD 2024 SUMMER STAFF

Emma Best	Miriam Gregova	Natalie Mull
Abigail Brubaker	Owen Horvath	Subilaga Mwakitalima
Luke Brumm	Andrew Kendall	Allison Parker
Gavin Bush	Evelyn Kopp	Colleen Sites
Elijah Detter	Skyler Kriss	Leah Sites
Logan Dohner	Jonah Lenahan	Levi Sites
Albert Domines	Luke Lenahan	Philip Supeck
Priscilla Domines	Jenna Leonard	Roger Wehr
Kenidee Gilbert	Tayler Leonard	Zachary Weiss
Sophia Gilbert	Nathan Lindsey	
Thadeous Gilbert	Ava Morgan	

### KIRCHENWALD SUMMER USE

Summer Campers	282
Family/Adult Campers	33
Confirmation Campers	19
Diacanos Campers	8
Other Summer Use	87
Non Summer Use:	1,171

### DISTRIBUTION OF KIRCHENWALD CONTRIBUTIONS

Unrestricted:	\$15,830.99
Restricted:	\$20,614.56
Campership:	\$1,450.00
<b>TOTAL KIRCHENWALD CONTRIBUTIONS:</b>	<b>\$37,895.55</b>





# NAWAKWA



In 2024, Nawakwa celebrated its 95th year of ministry! We are so thankful for all the ways in which God has worked through the campers of Nawakwa to make 95 years possible! This year brought a lot of change for Nawakwa, specifically in leadership. Amid these transitions, the campers of Nawakwa have continued to love this place through their support, including prayers, attendance, volunteering, and contributions. Thank you for loving this place where God is present.

This past summer, the theme and Bible Study was “Created To Be,” where campers explored how they were created to be free, authentic, brave, disciples, and disruptive. Not only did campers get to learn about being created to be all these things but they got to live them out throughout their week among activities such as skit nights, crafts, and even low or high ropes courses. Camp is a hands-on learning experience with God’s word and its application to our lives.

Blessings and see you soon.

Kelsey Tomlinson  
Nawakwa Director



## NAWAKWA 2024 SUMMER STAFF

Paul Askey  
Austin Batcheler  
Jennifer Biddle  
Brady Domingos  
Addison Dunlop  
Clifton Eshbach  
Jacob Fleury  
Jacklyn Glass  
Jaden Glass  
Jana Gregova

Weston Groff  
Carson Hooven Irwin  
Amina Huey  
Avery Huey  
Caroline Keefer  
Emilia Klimszova  
Alfie Koenig  
Douglas Lawver  
Jake Meyer  
Nina Piliarkinova

Shanda Robinson  
Tierney Roedel  
Leo Scolforo  
Simona Secanska  
David Sedlacek  
Terezia Volentierova  
Eli Wright  
Chelsea Zimmann

## NAWAKWA USE

Summer Campers	326
Family/Elder Campers	247
Confirmation Campers	252
Off-Site Congregational Day Camps:	14
Other Summer Use:	142
Non Summer Use:	2,967

## DISTRIBUTION OF NAWAKWA CONTRIBUTIONS

Unrestricted:	\$28,660.66
Restricted:	\$41,148.75
Campership:	\$1,060.00

**TOTAL NAWAKWA CONTRIBUTIONS: \$70,869.41**





# THE WITTEL FARM



The Wittel Farm continues to serve as a space of connection - linking communities across generations, denominations, and regions to a sacred place of purpose. The farm connects fresh produce with food-insecure households and integrates outdoor ministry with regenerative agriculture, helping foster an understanding of ecological systems and humanity's relationship with the land.

In 2024, the Wittel Farm hosted 527 volunteers over 31 workdays, harvesting and donating just over 11,000 pounds of food in partnership with six local food distribution organizations. Permanent no-till beds were established, producing strong yields of lettuce, kale, and broccoli.

Infrastructure at the farm expanded with the addition of a new pavilion, including a fully equipped kitchen, two bathrooms, and a shower. The farm also welcomed a youth group from Grandview Church Lancaster for a two-night service retreat focused on harvest and distribution efforts.

Two new seasonal staff members joined the project: Eli Lenahan and Alex Chism, a Millersville University student who plans to return for the 2025 season. Eli will transition to Camp Kirchenwald's kitchen staff. In addition, key volunteer leadership included Chris Eurich, Tim Ainsley, Richard Marshall, Dave Bushnell, and Christina and Brian Smoker, whose ongoing support remains essential to farm operations.

The Wittel Farm also participated in the inaugural year of the Elizabethtown Farmers Market, connecting with the broader community through shared produce and outreach.

Despite strong volunteer support, production was affected by severe drought conditions in July, impacting yields of summer crops such as tomatoes, melons, cucumbers, and peppers. The farm currently lacks a dedicated irrigation well, and the rain catchment system was insufficient during the drought.

Looking ahead to 2025, the Wittel Farm Growing Project enters its 10th growing season, committed to expanding its impact through community engagement, sustainable practices, and increased food production.

Pr. Matt Lenahan  
Wittel Farm Growing Project Director





### THE WITTEL FARM 2024 SUMMER STAFF

Matthew Lenahan, The Wittel Farm Growing Project Director  
 Alexandria Chism  
 Elijah Lenahan

### THE WITTEL FARM USE

Non Summer Use: 80

### DISTRIBUTION OF THE WITTEL FARM CONTRIBUTIONS

Restricted:	\$4,250.00
The Wittel Farm Growing Project	\$17,569.74

**TOTAL WITTEL FARM CONTRIBUTIONS: \$21,819.74**



# DEVELOPMENT

*You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion and through us, your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.*  
2 Corinthians 9:11

St. Paul assured the Christians at Corinth that God would provide for their every need with abundant grace beyond mere necessities. In turn, God's economy encourages and enables his people to share with others, both within and beyond the Christian family. This generosity proclaims God's good news of God's love and grace.



Every year the Lutheran Camping Corporation's ministry is supported and enriched by the generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure of countless partners who "give back" in so very many ways. 2024 was no exception. Thank you to our generous donors who help make our successful ministry happen.

In 2024...

- 70 congregations and 567 individuals made monetary contributions in support of LCC ministries.
- 37 individuals and 13 churches donated quilts or craft items to make the Quilt and Craft auction a success, raising \$16,424. Others helped the Kirchenwald Party with a Purpose raise \$19,203. While still others helped the Night for Nawakwa raise \$8,093.
- Lower Susquehanna Synod provided \$65,000 in financial support. UCC-PCC provided \$4,583.26 in financial support.
- Volunteers gave time, energy, and expertise in various capacities, including as camp nurses, musicians, chaplains, kitchen helpers, vegetable growers, and maintenance workers.
- Thanks to Thrivent, a generous ministry partner, 101 Thrivent members directed \$9,750 to LCC through Thrivent Choice. Other Thrivent members created Action Teams with supporting projects benefitting the ministry.

Notable accomplishments thanks to generous financial support also include:

- \$22,365.50 in Campership donations helped 62 children attend camp who would otherwise have been unable to attend this joyful and faith-building ministry due to financial hardship.
- Facilities were maintained, kept attractive, safe, and user-friendly.
- Roofs were replaced on every building at Kirchenwald, Nawakwa's Upper Camp Director's Cabin, and several pavilions.
- Rafter height was raised in Nawakwa Lower Camp cabins.
- Nawakwa main camp kitchen's cooking area was air-conditioned.
- 15,000 pounds of vegetables were harvested and distributed to food-insecure families across Lancaster and Lebanon Counties.

I hope that the stories, images, donor lists, and figures in this report inspire you to become intimately involved in the ministry happening at Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm.

Michael Youse  
Executive Director



# 2024 FINANCIAL STATISTICS

*This summary has been audited, and is a reflection of the financial status of the Lutheran Camping Corporation as of December 31, 2024. A complete 2024 financial audit is available upon request.*

## ASSETS:

### Current Assests:

Checking / Savings . . . . .	\$500,062.29
Other . . . . .	\$791,206.49
Fixed Assets . . . . .	\$3,803,619.29

**Total Assets. . . . . \$5,094,888.07**

## LIABILITY & EQUITY:

Current Liabilities . . . . .	\$635.58
Long Term Liabilities . . . . .	(\$34)
Equity . . . . .	\$5,094,252.83

**Total Liabilities & Equity . . . . . \$5,094,888.07**

## INCOME:

Camper Fees . . . . .	\$355,142.08
Contributions. . . . .	\$680,290.99
Program & Rentals. . . . .	\$440,639.19
Timbering . . . . .	\$9,809.78
Other . . . . .	\$72,877.22

**Total Income . . . . . \$1,558,759.26**

## EXPENSES:

Insurance. . . . .	\$74,356.24
Maintenance . . . . .	\$227,120.46
Payroll . . . . .	\$715,963.78
EE Benefits. . . . .	\$134,721.20
Professional Fees . . . . .	\$30,489.87
Program . . . . .	\$230,370.41
Resource and Development . . . . .	\$26,941.04
Utilities. . . . .	\$82,662.47
Interest . . . . .	\$1,425.97
Real Estate Tax, Misc . . . . .	\$3,650.61
Depreciation Expense . . . . .	\$139,093.00

**Total Expense . . . . . \$1,666,795.05**

**Net Income . . . . . (\$108,035.79)**

# CONTRIBUTIONS

*These donors made contributions of record between January 1 and December 31, 2024. Contributions included all Annual Fund, Campership Fund, Endowment Fund, special and matching gifts, and those contributions made at the Party with a Purpose, Night for Nawakwa, and/or quilt auction for which goods and services may have been rendered.*

*\* denotes new donor in 2024*

*^ denotes increase in giving from last year of contribution.*

## FRIENDS OF THE LUTHERAN CAMPING CORPORATION GIVING SOCIETY

*The "Friends of the Lutheran Camping Corporation (LCC)" is a society of individuals, families, businesses and organizations who underwrite the continuation of the Christ-centered programs of the LCC. These donors, who are truly the friends of all of our campers, contribute \$250 or more annually. They want to ensure that these campers will have the uplifting experience of being in a community where God's presence is acknowledged and Christ's love is felt.*

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(\$5,000 or more)

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(\$2,500-\$4,999)

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# CONTRIBUTIONS

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*Donors listed here made in-kind contributions or monetary gifts totaling up to \$249 during 2024.*

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 Anonymous ^  
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*These caring and generous people help assure a strong and vibrant ministry through the creation of planned gifts during their lifetime or gifted through their estate.*

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*To learn more about the LCC Heritage Society or to inform us that you have already included the LCC in your estate plans, please contact Mike Youse at 717-677-8211 or [myouse@lutherancamping.org](mailto:myouse@lutherancamping.org).*



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*Eligible benefit members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans can recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes a portion of its charitable funds through Choice Dollars, part of the Thrivent Choice charitable grant program.*

*The Lutheran Camping Corporation received a total of \$9,750 in 2024 designated by the following Thrivent Members. For more info, please contact the Camping Office.*

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*We acknowledge these partners in ministry who made contributions or pledges of record between January 1 and December 31, 2024. Gifts made by these congregations include general operating support, Campership Fund gifts, as well as other special gifts.*

## LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD - ELCA

### CHAMBERSBURG CONFERENCE

Evangelical Lutheran Church, Greencastle  
Memorial Lutheran Church, Shippensburg  
St. Luke (Scotland) Lutheran Church, Chambersburg  
St. Stephen (Upton) Lutheran Church, Greencastle  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Chambersburg

### CUMBERLAND CONFERENCE

Grace Lutheran Church, Camp Hill  
St. Mark Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg  
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, New  
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St. Paul Lutheran Church, Carlisle  
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Trinity Lutheran Church, Camp Hill  
Zion Lutheran Church, Enola

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Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Harrisburg  
Shells Lutheran Church, Grantville  
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Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lancaster  
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# CONGREGATIONS

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*We gratefully acknowledge all gifts to the glory of God, as well as those listed here in honor and memory of family, friends, and special events.*

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Given in memory of Charles Reddinger by

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Given in honor of Steve Hynicka by Mr. & Mrs. Thomas  
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*These individuals made contributions of their time and skill during the 2024 year. In order to provide the high quality of programming at our camps, we are dependent on a large number of volunteers who provide program, food service, maintenance, and clerical support, and connections with congregations as CampPersons.*

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*As members of Lutheran congregations throughout the Lower Susquehanna Synod, pastors and lay-persons have given of their time, talents, and treasures to help direct and support the camps through their involvement on the Board and/or Committees. We give thanks to all who have made the Lutheran Camping Corporation a part of their purpose through service this way.*

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- Pr. Scott Brubaker  
Swamp, Reinholds
- Mrs. Karen Daubert  
St. John, Abbottstown
- Pr. Nora Foust  
Christ United Church of Christ, Elizabethtown
- Pr. Stephen Herr  
Christ, Gettysburg
- Deacon Emily Myallis  
St. Paul, Lititz
- Pr. Amy Northridge  
Mt. Zion United Church of Christ, York
- Pr. Drahomir Oslik  
Evangelical, Waynesboro
- Mr. Jason Pringle  
Grace, Camp Hill
- Mr. Charles Roberts  
St. Matthew, York
- Pr. George M. Schneider  
St. John, New Freedom
- Pr. Kevin Shively  
St. Matthew, York
- Mr. Thomas Sites  
Christ, Elizabethtown

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Drahomir Oslik, Chair
- George Schneider, Vice-Chair
- Emily Myallis, Secretary
- Daryl Ackerman, Treasurer

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Daryl Ackerman
- Ronald Anstine
- Meredith Askey
- Peter Dohner
- James Dunlop
- Lyle Hosler
- Robert Walton

## 2024 ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

- Michael Youse, Executive Director
- Zachary Weiss, Associate Executive Director /  
Kirchenwald Camp Director
- Kelsey Tomlinson, Nawakwa Camp Director
- Clifton Eshbach, Nawakwa Interim Camp Director
- Matthew Lenahan, Wittel Farm Growing Project Director
- Marilyn Dolly, Office Manager
- Thomas Reddinger, Marketing & IT Coordinator

## 2024 YEAR-ROUND STAFF

- Paul Askey
- Jennifer Biddle
- Helen Book
- Kristina Drechsler
- Mark Russell
- Veronica Schreiber

# DIRECTORY

## The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm

PO Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303  
717-677-8211  
LutheranCamping.org

Michael Youse, Executive Director  
myouse@lutherancamping.org

Zach Weiss, Associate Executive Director / Kirchenwald Camp Director  
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Kelsey Tomlinson, Nawakwa Camp Director  
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Marilyn Dolly, Office Manager  
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Pastor Mark Russell, Kirchenwald Site Manager  
mrussell@lutherancamping.org

Paul Askey, Nawakwa Site Manager  
paskey@lutherancamping.org

Pastor Matt Lenahan, Wittel Farm Growing Project Director  
wfgp@wittelfarm.org

Thomas Reddinger, Marketing & IT Coordinator / Registrar  
treddinger@lutherancamping.org

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*For directional use only:*

Kirchenwald	1 Cut Off Road, Lebanon, PA 17042	717-964-3121
Nawakwa	1033 Nawakwa Road, Biglerville, PA 17307	717-677-8211
The Wittel Farm	1753 Mill Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022	717-677-8211

*If your name is missing or incorrectly displayed in this publication, please contact the Camping Office.  
For information regarding reservations, please speak with the Office Manager at 717-677-8211.*

# 2025 UPCOMING EVENTS

Events schedule as of printing. Please check out website ([lutherancamping.org](http://lutherancamping.org)) and social media pages for up-to-date event information. To register or for more information: [LutheranCamping.org](http://LutheranCamping.org) or 717-677-8211

## JUNE

- 1 Dinner Church at The Wittel Farm
- 3 Tuesday Morning Work Day at Nawakwa
- 15 Summer Camp begins at Kirchenwald & Nawakwa

## JULY

- 1 Tuesday Morning Work Day at Nawakwa
- 6 Dinner Church at The Wittel Farm
- 6-11 Elder Camp at Nawakwa
- 13-18 Family Camp at Nawakwa

## AUGUST

- 3 Dinner Church at The Wittel Farm
- 3-8 Family Camp-K-tion (Family Camp) at Kirchenwald
- 3-8 Family Camp at Nawakwa
- 5 Tuesday Morning Work Day at Nawakwa

## SEPTEMBER

- 2 Tuesday Morning Work Day at Nawakwa
- 7 Dinner Church at The Wittel Farm
- 9-11 Adult Study Retreat at Nawakwa
- 27 Party with a Purpose at Kirchenwald

## OCTOBER

- 5 Capture the Flag Spectacular at Kirchenwald
- 5 Dinner Church at The Wittel Farm
- 7 Tuesday Morning Work Day at Nawakwa
- 19 Fall Foliage Day at Nawakwa
- 26 Fall Foliage Day at Kirchenwald

## NOVEMBER

- 2 Annual Quilt Auction at Nawakwa
- 2 Dinner Church at The Wittel Farm
- 4 Tuesday Morning Work Day at Nawakwa
- 7-9 Women's Craft Retreat at Nawakwa

## DECEMBER

- 2 Tuesday Morning Work Day at Nawakwa
- 6 Advent Day Apart at The Wittel Farm
- 7 Dinner Church at The Wittel Farm
- 21 Advent / Christmas Night in the Barn at The Wittel Farm

## JANUARY 2026

- 2-4 Winter Youth Retreat at Kirchenwald