

# ⚡ Camping!

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

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www.LutheranCamping.org

## LCC WELCOMES ALL!

Trying something new can be intimidating - especially when that thing is a week at camp away from your family. Knowing this and knowing that we typically see over 200 first-year campers at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa each summer, establishing a welcoming community is a top priority. "My son had a wonderful first week of camp. I couldn't have asked for more. Thanks to the staff for showing him God's love," said one camper mom.

Through the Total Inclusion initiative, the Lutheran Camping Corporation has explicitly committed itself to welcoming persons of all ages, genders, races, nationalities, creeds, sexualities, gender identities, and abilities, however possible. We strive for inclusivity so that all might know God's wondrous love.



## "AND WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?"

This question, posed to Jesus, is one our world still wrestles with today. Jesus responds by sharing a story about a man who receives care from an unlikely ally. At camp we are reminded that loving your neighbor is a call to action and that, much like our Bible study theme of 'Boundless' in 2022, there can be no limits placed on it.

Campers practice neighborly love while living in community with one another for a week. But the values we live by in camp are not confined to the geography of our properties. Christ's messages are for all people and for all times. Appropriately, a week at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa gives us time and space to consider our contributions to the world at large.

*Continue reading on page 4*

Fall 2022

Stay up-to-date at  
[LutheranCamping.org](http://LutheranCamping.org)

"My child has autism," one camper parent shared. "I think I was just as nervous as he was about camp. He had never really been away from home before. I was fully expecting to get a call to come pick him up on the first night. But he had such a good week that it was hard to get him to leave on Saturday morning. He talked the whole way home about the friends he made and how much he learned."

While the staff at camp are trained on our organizational values, the returning campers are just as important in building a culture of hospitality. "One of my favorite things about camp is meeting new people," one camper wrote in her survey. "I remember what it was like to be new at camp so I want to make other new kids feel happy when they're here."

Some first-year campers have such a good time, they come back again later in the summer. "My son loved all three weeks and had amazing experiences," wrote a camper mom. "He definitely had the spiritual growth I was looking for. I'm so glad I found your camp. We look forward to next summer!"



# THE CHURCH IS THE WHOLE BODY OF CHRIST

The Lutheran Camping Corporation has a long history of working with the ELCA to employ International Counselors. When COVID put a pause to that program last summer and left us uncertain about what to expect moving forward, Pastor Drahus Oslík, Vice Chair of the board of directors for the Lutheran Camping Corporation, and former international counselor from Slovakia, offered to help ensure we could continue the rich cultural diversity that comes with having international counselors on a summer staff. On Nawakwa's Summer 2022 staff, we welcomed Simi Secanska, Petra Sochorova, and Filip Berky from Slovakia and Kasper Sorensen from Denmark. Kirchenwald welcomed Miriam Gregova from Slovakia and Emmanuel Mchomvu from Tanzania. Emmanuel, who spent his first summer at camp in 2010, then a student, returned for another summer in 2022, this time as a Pastor. Their presence with us had a profound impact on our ministry, from learning worship songs in Slovak and Swahili to Danish cuisine. Campers enjoyed asking questions and learning about the counselors' home countries and the wide world beyond Pennsylvania. The Reverend Beth Martini, pastor in the Lower Susquehanna Synod, and parent of a Kirchenwald camper, shared that having an international counselor made a lasting impression on her daughter. She expressed that "the Church is not just our individual congregations but the whole body of Christ across all times and places. Camp brings back into focus the things that are essential – relationships with God and one another. The experience of an international counselor

deepens our understanding of the Church and helps us grow together as children of God." She further noted that having international counselors from the Konde Diocese, for example, with whom our synod has a long-standing relationship, helps our youngest disciples form connections and relationships across the globe.

As the international counselors reflected on their summer, it was clear that the ministry of the Lutheran Camping Corporation had a profound impact on them as well. Each commented on how welcome they were made to feel, by the rest of the summer staff, by the campers, and by families. They also recognized the importance of stepping out of their comfort zone and trying new experiences and how leadership opportunities were significant to their personal growth. They built relationships with staff members, some of which will be lifelong, no doubt. Simi Secanska, who spent her third summer on Nawakwa's staff this summer, and is currently studying at Seminary in Slovakia said, "I never leave camp the same (as) when I arrived. God's love travels all around the world. If one only stays within their own community, they cannot experience the boundless love of God in other parts of the world. "

Thanks be to God for the gift of the international counselors and for the ministry of the Lutheran Camping Corporation in building up leaders, not just in Central Pennsylvania, but throughout the world!





# 2022 QUILT & CRAFT AUCTION

The LCC Annual Quilt Auction is not just for folks who love quilts. It's for folks who love camp! While the "Big Event" of the afternoon is the live quilt auction, you can also bid on handcrafted silent auction items, explore camp, and enjoy a meal.

Most quilts, donated by friends of the Lutheran Camping Corporation, are made just for this event, however, we also see antique quilts or quilts from past auctions in the collection. Past favorites have included quilts made from old camp t-shirts or with patches designed by campers.

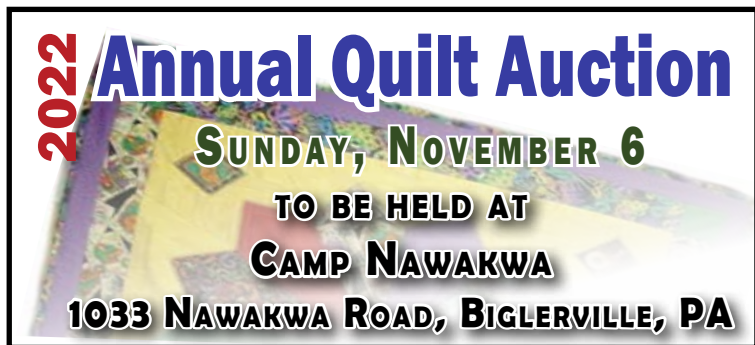
You will be able to view quilts and other items on our website and bid online starting on October 29. Online bidding will close on November 3 and the high bids will become starting bids at the in-person event.

This year's in-person auction will be held on Sunday, November 6, at Nawakwa. The silent auction will begin at 2 PM and the live auction will begin at 3 PM. All proceeds benefit the LCC Endowment Fund to ensure outdoor ministries for the future.

There is no cost for this event, however an RSVP is requested. Please call the Camping Office at 717-677-8211 or at [LutheranCamping.org](http://LutheranCamping.org).

## CAMPS AND FARM OFFER FALL, WINTER AND SPRING RETREAT PROGRAM SUPPORT

Most people know about the summer camp offerings at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa, and many know about the Wittel Farm Growing Project. But did you know that our directors are available and eager to assist youth groups, family groups, school groups, or sports teams with retreat programming and activities? Want help planning your overnight or single day event? We can do that. Need ideas? We offer group building activities, the high ropes course, activities to learn about God's creation, a canoe outing, service projects, and escape room activities, to name a few. Call the camping office to schedule your retreat and to talk to us about how we can help.



## CAMPPERSON MEETINGS

Jan 15 - Kirchenwald & Nawakwa - 2:00pm

Jan 17 - ZOOM - 7:00pm

*Online training will be available from January 15-31.*

Be sure your congregation plans to send a representative to one of the 2023 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 \$20 discount on their summer camp registration!**



**FALL FOLIAGE DAY**  
at Kirchenwald & Nawakwa  
October 23, 1-6pm  
Return to camp for a wonderful afternoon!  
Evening meal is included. \$15 per person.



*Kirchenwald Director Zach dropping off completed kits to Church World Services*

## “AND WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?”

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

Through another season of growing, the Nawakwa garden grew and donated over 2,000 pounds of produce to the food relief efforts in Adams County. Campers helped to tend and harvest the land, gaining an appreciation for God's creation and for hunger justice efforts.

At Kirchenwald, campers donated supplies and assembled kits to welcome refugee families to a new life in Central Pennsylvania. With over 140 kits packaged and given to Church World Services, many individuals and families will receive a token of love that represents God's love during a significant time of transition in their lives.

We are grateful for the efforts of our campers this summer and rejoice that the lessons of Jesus are being lived out at camp every day.

## NAWAKWA TO BE RECOGNIZED AS A SIGNIFICANT LUTHERAN HISTORICAL SITE

On October 23, 2022, at Nawakwa's annual Fall Foliage Day, the Lutheran Historical Society of the Mid Atlantic will recognize the impact of Nawakwa's rich 90+ history of faith formation through summer camp and retreat ministry, and for developing leaders who serve in south central Pennsylvania and around the world. Following an afternoon of fun fall activities, beginning at 1:00pm, the Reverend Paul Tomkiel will lead a worship service beginning at 4:00pm, during which the Lutheran Historical Society will recognize Nawakwa. Please consider joining us on October 23rd as we celebrate the rich and diverse ministry Nawakwa continues to be!





# THE WITTEL FARM GROWING PROJECT 2022

*“The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing.” Psalm 145*

With the support of over 300 volunteers this summer, over 10,000 pounds of fresh vegetables were harvested and shared with our food insecure neighbors in our seventh growing season! This season’s harvest also included sugar snap peas, potatoes, kale, peppers, tomatoes, cantaloupe, watermelon, zucchini, green beans, cucumbers, pumpkins, and winter squash.



Elderberries were harvested for the first time this year and jamming, preserving, and salsa-making experiences are anticipated in future seasons! Harvesting will continue through October.

challenging conditions for vegetable production. Controlling weeds was also challenging. Growing vegetables chemically free, with a reduced tillage system, and utilizing on-site produced compost produced help maintain soil health.

A 2021 Central PA Food Bank grant of \$50,000 allowed for the installation of a large walk-in cooler in the barn, which kept vegetables fresh, and created harvest and distribution flexibility.

Two youth support staff worked tirelessly supporting volunteers, planting, tending, harvesting, and delivering produce. Their service was truly a blessing!

In partnership with Zest Cooking School and Chef Diana Smedley, the Wittel Farm was featured in an August cooking class! She created several delicious recipes using our melons, tomatoes, and peppers. This was the first of, hopefully, many future opportunities to partner in the farm-to-table cooking movement. Diana is a professional chef and the founder of Lancaster Local Provisions, with her husband Gabriel.



The Wittel Farm provides a unique experience as a place of service learning that involves food sharing, active discipleship, and ecological principles of creation care. The WFGP offers programming for school groups and colleges, for congregations, and others.

Congregations and interested friends of the Camping Corporation are invited to connect with Pastor Matthew Lenahan, director of the growing project, to learn how you can experience this ministry. Join us on December 18th at 7:00 pm for our annual Advent/Christmas Night in the Barn!



*Millersville University summer scholars harvest over 1,100 pounds of tomatoes in 2 hours.*

# THE IRA ROLLOVER - A GREAT TAX-WISE GIFT TO SUPPORT THE LUTHERAN CAMPING CORPORATION

If you or a family member are 71½ or older and have an IRA, the IRA Rollover is a great option to support The Lutheran Camping Corporation. It can also remove the tax liability for donors age 72 and older who are required to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) that would otherwise be taxable.

The specifics for this option are summarize below. Please consult your financial advisor to arrange your RMD Rollover.

## Required Minimum Distributions

Persons holding IRA accounts and are age 59½ may begin withdrawing money from their account without penalty. These withdrawals are taxable to the account holder. Additionally, account holders who are 72 years of age and older are required to withdraw a minimum distribution annually from their account. Those distributions are taxable to the account holder.

## The Charitable IRA Rollover Option

In December 2015, the “Path Act” made permanent the law allowing donors 70½ and older to withdraw up to \$100,000 each year from the total of all their IRA accounts tax-free if they designate the distribution directly to a charitable cause(s). Any distribution to charity (up to \$100,000) counts towards the donor’s required minimum distribution (RMD) from their IRA even though the charity, and not the donor, is the recipient.

While a 2019 bill increased the age to 72 at which an IRA account holder is required to take their RMD, it still allows for charitable gift rollover designation beginning at the age of 70½.

The account holder must designate their Rollover to the charity and the distribution must be made directly to the charity, not the account holder. In this case, the account holder will have no tax liability for the distribution but will receive no tax deduction for the distribution.

What a great way to make a great gift with great tax savings!

Please use the coupon below to send for a free brochure, “How The Charitable IRA Rollover Works.”

Please send me, without cost of obligation, a copy of your folder “How The Charitable IRA Rollover Works.”

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and return to:  
**Michael Youse**  
**Lutheran Camping Corporation**  
**P.O. Box 459**  
**Arendtsville, PA 17303**

## YES! WE WANT TO CONTINUE OUR SUPPORT TO THE CAMPING CORPORATION

Enclosed is a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for:

- \_\_\_ Seeding the Future      \_\_\_ Annual Fund  
 \_\_\_ Campership Fund

- I would like to learn more about including LCC in my estate plans.  
 I have already included the LCC in my estate plans.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Send my gift acknowledgement by email

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation City \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: **Lutheran Camping Corporation**, or give online with a credit card at [LutheranCamping.org/giving](http://LutheranCamping.org/giving)

Return to  
 Lutheran Camping Corporation,  
 PO Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303

22Fall

# HERITAGE SOCIETY MEMBERS

LCC Heritage Society is a caring and committed group of people who help ensure the financial stability of the LCC for future generations. They do so by including the LCC in their thoughtful estate plans. To learn more about the LCC Heritage Society or to inform us that you have already included the LCC in your legacy giving plans, please contact Mike Youse at 717-677-8211 or [myouse@lutherancamping.org](mailto:myouse@lutherancamping.org)

Kathy Baker and Joel Petruschke  
 Freda J. Benner †  
 George & Mary Bennett  
 Matthew and Abby Best  
 Alice Boeshore  
 Sandra Brandt  
 Kathleen S. Brenneman  
 Marianne Brock  
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 Paul and Dorothy Weirick †  
 Frederick and Marion Wentz †  
 Jere and Dottie † Wissler  
 Charles and Katie Wittel †  
 Edward and Jeanette † Yewdall



Conrad and Winifred Youse  
 Carl and Lillian Youse †  
 Earl † and Arlene Zellers

† Deceased

## THE WITTEL FARM AWARDED BIG DREAM GRANT

The Wittel Farm received an ELCA World Hunger Big Dream Grant this year! \$98,000 was granted to install a pavilion classroom with kitchen and bathroom facilities. It will be a space where volunteers and other guests gather to learn about and help alleviate food insecurity. It will be a place to host workshops about preparing and preserving fruits and vegetables, eco-theology, and faith-rooted farming. It will be a place where Christian fellowship is experienced, a place for worship, and a place of retreat experiences for faith communities.

Construction begins later this fall. The pavilion will be ready for use by spring 2023. Final construction cost will be \$173,133 which means **you can join this exciting project by making a financial donation designated to WFGP Pavilion Project.**

We are very grateful to ELCA World Hunger for its generous support and for making this project possible.

## DONOR GENEROSITY KEEPS MINISTRY STRONG!

LCC ministry thrives for many reasons – high quality, exciting summer camp programs for youth, adults, and families, attractive retreat facilities, engaging and uplifting worship experiences, helping to develop church leaders of the future, and the generous financial support provided by donors who care deeply about this ministry.

Donor support touches all aspects of LCC ministry. Contributions help purchase program equipment like tents, craft supplies, soccer balls, and more. They help

pay down the Seeding the Future mortgage (\$29,523 to become debt free). Donations help us hire mature, thoughtful summer camp ministry teams, and help us operate swimming pools. Contributions provide Camperships. They help us maintain attractive retreat facilities, and replace expensive equipment when things like the 43 year-old griddle in Nawakwa's Dining Hall break down, as it did in the spring. Yes, donor generosity makes a difference! **Please help advance LCC ministry through your support.**





The Lutheran Camping Corporation  
of Central Pennsylvania  
PO Box 459  
Arendtsville, PA 17303  
LutheranCamping.org

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## Fall 2022

- Oct 23 Fall Foliage Day at Kirchenwald & Nawakwa
- Nov 6 Annual Quilt & Craft Auction at Nawakwa
- Nov 11-13 Women's Craft Retreat at Nawakwa
- Dec 3 Advent Day Apart at The Wittel Farm
- Dec 18 Advent/Christmas Night in the Barn at The Wittel Farm
- Jan 6-8 Winter Youth Retreat at Kirchenwald
- Jan 15 Winter Fun Day at Kirchenwald
- Jan 15 Chicken & Waffles at Nawakwa



The LCC is a Reconciling In Christ Organization and holds to the belief that God is the maker of all good things. We acknowledge that we, God's people, are made in many different ways, but all are beautifully made and loved by God.

**WINTER YOUTH RETREAT  
REGISTRATION FORM  
JANUARY 6-8, 2023 AT KIRCHENWALD**

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

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

Parent or guardian: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 *Send my confirmation materials by email*

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Current 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 [LutheranCamping.org](http://LutheranCamping.org). Return it with payment to: Lutheran Camping Corporation; P.O. Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303. Cost is only \$150. Registration deadline is December 15, 2022. Additional information at (717) 677-8211 or (717) 964-3121.