

# Camping!

Spring 2022

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

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## PLANS FOR A HEALTHY SUMMER CAMP SEASON



Last summer, Kirchenwald and Nawakwa took unprecedented steps to protect campers and staff in light of the global pandemic. Gratefully, our efforts resulted in a safe and memorable summer that, for many of us, was the most “normal” thing we had done in a long time. As we prepare for the summer of 2022, camp continues to prioritize the well-being of all people. Guided by advice from the CDC, state regulations, and in consultation with our own COVID Task Force, the Lutheran Camping Corporation is eager to strengthen the faith of our community this summer in a fun and healthy way.

*Continue reading on page 4*

## ATTENDING KIRCHENWALD AND NAWAKWA MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

As gentle glow of the fireflies was beginning to surround the pavilion, a group of twelve elementary-aged campers lined up for snack. They carried their stickie buns and milk cartons to their table to eat after a long hike. Just as his friends were starting to take their first bites, a young camper named Brodie looked over to his counselor and asked, “Do you think we should pray before we eat snack? We pray before our other meals at camp.” This started a conversation at the table about what it means to talk with God and how our lives are enriched through that relationship. Brodie offered a simple prayer that night, reflecting on the day’s activities, the food, and the people in his group. For the rest of the week, the whole group waited to start their snack until Brodie led them all in a prayer.

When staff were asked to share stories of meaningful moments during the summer, this one was almost overlooked. Brodie’s counselor commented, “Yeah, it was a cool thing, but stuff like that happened all the time this summer.” We always enjoy hearing the story of a challenged camper who turns things around by the end of the week and makes their first real friend. We are inspired

by stories of pastors who first felt their call to ministry at camp, or the homesick child who clings to their counselor at the end of the week because they don’t want to leave camp. Yes, all those things certainly happen at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa. It’s also important to recognize those little moments that capture what it means to be a Christ-centered community, like random acts of kindness, cheering on a new friend at the zip line, offering to cook someone’s hotdog over the fire for them, or volunteering to pray. These things truly do happen all the time at camp, and not by accident. The camp experience is designed to encourage us to be our best selves. Kirchenwald and Nawakwa are places where goodness is celebrated, and Christ’s teachings inspire our actions and our conversations. Going to camp is

important because it nurtures us to be better versions of ourselves in all aspects of our lives, surrounded by others working toward that same aim. Yes, there’s a good chance that some of the children who attended Kirchenwald and Nawakwa last summer will grow up to be pastors, noting their time at camp as formative in their faith journey. There’s no doubt that God’s love was revealed over and over in a multitude of those little moments - moments that ultimately make us better people and make the world a better place.



# WELCOME TO NAWAKWA STAFF, PAUL ASKEY!

In November, Nawakwa welcomed Paul Askey as the camp's new Maintenance Manager. Paul has a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Penn State Harrisburg, and has experience as a Project Manager for Enginuity, LLC. Paul served on Nawakwa's summer staff from 1998 to 2002 and again in 2011. Paul, his wife Meredith, their daughter Penelope, and son Max, live in Mechanicsburg. Paul is excited to use his years of experience to continue and expand the mission of the Lutheran Camping Corporation.

We're grateful for the many years of service that Ron Kerr has given to Nawakwa and the Lutheran Camping Corporation. We're also grateful that Ron continues to provide maintenance support at Nawakwa and is helping Paul transition into this new role.



## EXPLORING GOD'S IMMEASURABLE LOVE AT CAMP



Through this summer's Bible study and worship curriculum, titled *Boundless: God Beyond Measure*, we'll explore our God, whose creative, loving, and faithful mercy is beyond our measure. We'll walk through the stories of God and God's people discovering a God who knows no boundaries, a God whose goodness, love, welcome, forgiveness, and generosity far surpasses our understanding. Through Bible Study, worship, and devotions, we'll discover a boundless God who created us and remains with us always, while also equipping us to go out into the world to nurture and flourish, doing "far more than we dare ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:21 CEV).

A week at camp is full of questions and wonderings. We discover things about God's creation like, "How old is the tall pine tree?" or, "How many crayfish can we find in the stream today?"

Other questions like, "How much does God love us?" or, "How do we respond to God's boundless love?" are much deeper. Join us at camp this summer and explore all that "is called wide or long or high or deep...to know all about Christ's love, although it is too wonderful to be measured." (Ephesians 3:18-19 CEV)

## LCC READY TO HELP CONGREGATION YOUTH GROUPS PIVOT

By now, we're all familiar with the concept of "the pivot". When circumstances change, we need to be ready to adapt and continue pursuing our goals through other avenues. When news broke that the national youth gathering was being canceled this summer, it hit hard. Tens of thousands of Lutheran youth, many from our own synod, have had their plans upended. Kirchenwald and Nawakwa, we hope to support our youth in a pivot by offering a variety of alternative service, learning, and faith formation opportunities.

In addition to offering our regular summer camp programs for those youth who were registered for the gathering (programs that continue to be offered in non-gathering years, too), the Lutheran

Camping Corporation is making special arrangements for groups and individuals to come together locally. If you're looking for that "big event" feel, Nawakwa is cooperating with the leadership of the Lower Susquehanna Synod to run the "Boundless Celebration and Retreat." Attendees will take part in worship, community building, faith conversations, and an opportunity for community service. Plus, the camp will be energized with music from a live band and messages from powerful speakers. This retreat will take place over the week of July 24, the same week as the scheduled national gathering.

If service and strengthening relationships are priorities for your congregation, the Diaconos program at Kirchenwald is the

perfect week for your youth. Sign up as a group (you can even partner with other congregations) to blend all the favorites of summer camp with daily local service excursions. With a focus on physically expressing the ministry of Christ, your week can be tailored to fit the interests and gifts of your group. Registrations are flexibly accepted for any week of the summer program to best suit your needs.

While we mourn the loss of the national gathering, we are optimistic that good and meaningful opportunities are available. We look forward to seeing many of you in these programs at camp!

# WHAT'S NEW AT WITTEL, FOR SPRING AND BEYOND


Planting seeds, tilling soil, making compost, listening to native ground nesting bees, watching blue birds, and enjoying the wonder of resurrection is what happens this spring at the Wittel Farm. Come to the farm this spring to connect with creation, the Creator, and community. Participate in earth renewal. Feed hungry neighbors.

This year, an extended harvest season will go from June to October. We are working hard to restore soil and grow good food to share. We will work with many more food distribution partners this growing season. The new walk-in cooler in our barn will allow us to store the summer's harvest to offer both delivery and pick up options for distribution partners. Interested in becoming a food sharing partner? Contact pastor Matt Lenahan at [mmlenahan74@gmail.com](mailto:mmlenahan74@gmail.com).

Through new partnerships with Zest cooking school and Lancaster Local Provisions, we will offer farm-to-table cooking demonstrations in 2022!

Learning opportunities will be offered throughout the growing season for people of all ages to connect with the farm and our regenerative agricultural practices. A summer camp called Stewards, at Kirchenwald this July, will be an entire week of agriculture and food production learning fun!

Public planting days are scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 14, and 21. Weekly volunteer opportunities for individuals, families, and groups begin in April. Volunteers are welcome on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays throughout the growing season. Go to [WittelFarm.org](http://WittelFarm.org) and click on the volunteer button.



**The Wittel Farm  
Growing Project  
Planting Day**  
May 7, 14, & 21, 9am



## ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, LITITZ, ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, AKRON, AND THE WITTEL FARM WELCOME AFGHAN REFUGEES

They arrived from Kabul, Afghanistan in late August. The eldest son, an interpreter in the Afghan army, worked with the Americans, which led to his family's relocation to the U.S. as refugees. Members of the extended Amiri family were scattered widely across the US from New Jersey, to Virginia, and to Florida. The family spent four months apart praying to be reunited.

When Stan Sneegass, a member of St. Paul, Lititz, learned about the opportunity to help with Afghan refugee resettlement through Church World Service, a welcome team of about 20 people from St. Paul and Zion, Akron eagerly joined the effort, in spite of the quickly approaching busy holiday season.

On December 18, CWS notified the welcome team to expect three small

families, but provided few details. Caught by surprise, housing, food, and other needs had not yet been secured. Finding temporary housing was the top priority.

Knowing that the LCC and the Wittel Farm are places set apart for the mission of God, to welcome people and provide space for rest and spiritual renewal, the welcome team inquired about using the Wittel Farm House, which was fortunately available.

The Amiri family, eight adults and one toddler, arrived on December 21.

For the next month, the Wittel Farm was their home, with food, hospitality, and other necessities provided by members of Zion and St. Paul Lutheran Churches. Finally, on January 22, the Amiri family, with help from the welcome team, moved into their new home in downtown Lancaster.

This Christmas season we were invited and challenged to make room for unexpected guests, who needed refuge and shelter. They had survived decades of war, family separation, arduous travel, and much uncertainty. Through God's grace we offered them peace, hospitality, and shelter.

The Wittel Farm, Nawakwa, and Kirchenwald are places of sanctuary, shelter, and welcome. Making room for God to come to us in unexpected ways and places is the Christmas message. Making room for strangers to be our guests is the ministry of hospitality we offer. The Amiri family and Zion / St. Paul welcome team are grateful for the Wittel Farm and the LCC for providing a refuge for weary seekers of asylum.

# PLANS FOR A HEALTHY SUMMER CAMP SEASON (CONT.)

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Once again, a form will be provided to document camper health for the two weeks prior to arriving at camp. We ask all campers and families to be mindful of their activities during that window, avoiding places with higher risk of exposure. Additionally, campers may wish to present a negative COVID test at registration (administered the same day as their arrival). We encourage COVID vaccination for all campers who are eligible and are pleased that all staff will be fully vaccinated - another safeguard in our strategy. Implementation of these practices will greatly reduce the chances of the virus coming into camp at all.

Throughout the camp week, all campers and staff will be monitored for symptoms of COVID and we will be prepared to manage any case or potential case that may arise. As we've learned over the past two years, there is a significantly higher risk of transmission when indoors, as opposed to being outside. We recognize that camp naturally puts us in the expanse of God's creation, but ask that campers still pack a few masks for times when the weather may force us indoors.

It is with great joy that we prepare to welcome campers back to Kirchenwald and Nawakwa this summer. We will continue to observe

trends in the virus and advisements by health experts as the summer draws nearer. Thanks be to God for another summer at camp.



## YOU CAN DO IT, THRIVENT CAN HELP

The Thrivent Action Team program is a great way for its members to make a difference at Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, or The Wittel Farm. Thrivent Action Teams are member-led projects like fundraisers or one-time service projects. Any Thrivent member can identify an unmet need at one of the ministry sites or the LCC in general, can apply on-line for resources (up to \$250) to jumpstart the project, and if approved, can put together friends, family, and others on an Action Team to address that need. It's easy. Want to hold a fundraiser for Camperships? Want to plant trees at camp? Want to build a bridge over a camp stream or to help paint a cabin? Form an action team and help out. Want to help out but need an idea?

Call the Camping Office at 717-677-8211 for more information and ideas.



## SUPPORT LCC THROUGH THRIVENT CHOICE

Eligible Thrivent members can use Thrivent Choice, a member-advised charitable grant program, to support LCC ministries by directing where Thrivent distributes some of its charitable outreach funds. Over the past three years, LCC has received over \$30,000 in Choice Dollars. Thrivent members can direct Choice Dollars to LCC by visiting [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice) or by calling 800-847-4836 or by contacting your local Thrivent Financial representative.

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

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

\_\_\_ Campership Fund      \_\_\_ Annual Fund

Please send me information about:

- \_\_\_ Heritage Society
- \_\_\_ Including LCC in my legacy giving
- \_\_\_ I have included LCC in my legacy giving plans
- \_\_\_ Please send me a copy of the folder "My Legacy"

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 <http://www.lutherancamping.org/giving>

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

22Spring

# Do You Need A Will?

It's likely that some supporters of Lutheran Camping Corporation do not have a will. Others may have wills that have not been updated for a number of years and, therefore, the will no longer reflects their present wishes and circumstances.

**Do you need a will? Is it important that it is current?** The answer is a definite "Yes". You need a will if you want what you have accumulated distributed as you desire, not as someone else, usually the state, determines. The answer is also a definite "Yes" if you want your heirs to avoid problems and to save on costs.

The answer is definitely "Yes" if you want to include a bequest, which we hope you do, to help The Lutheran Camping Corporation or another favorite charity.

**A bequest has been rightly called "The Final Act of Stewardship."** It is a final opportunity to express thanks to a good and loving God for God's many gifts.

Because it is important for everyone to have a current will, whether a bequest is included for LCC or not, we are offering, without cost or obligation, an excellent little leaflet entitled "My Legacy." This very readable folder will answer many of

your questions about wills. It also offers guidance about the process of having a will written - a process that need not be difficult or costly.

You can obtain your free copy of this helpful folder on Wills by calling Mike Youse at 717-677-8211, by emailing him at [myouse@lutherancamping.org](mailto:myouse@lutherancamping.org), or sending the coupon on the left, to LCC, PO Box 459, Arendtville PA17303. Request your free copy today! You will be glad you did!

## LCC HERITAGE SOCIETY

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).

LCC Heritage Society includes:

Kathy Baker & Joel Petruschke  
 Freda J. Benner †  
 George & Mary Bennett  
 Matthew & Abby Best  
 Alice Boeshore  
 Sandra Brandt  
 Kathleen S. Brennehan  
 Marianne Brock  
 Donald Clapper †  
 Rudyard & Doris Crider  
 Peter Dohner & BethAnn D'Agostino  
 Mary Drehs  
 Shirley Ernst  
 Andrea Faber  
 Jessica Felici  
 Kent & Sharon Hardel  
 Bob & Judy Hoover  
 Robert & Kathryn Horst †  
 Marie Hoshell †  
 Ronald & Kathleen Kerr  
 Lynn & Dawn Kinard  
 Kevin and Shannon Kincaid  
 Brenda Kiser  
 Ed & Sue Kulakowski  
 Elaine F. Ludwig  
 Glenn & Stella Ludwig  
 Alex & Beth Martini  
 Carol & Rose Ann Mease  
 Miriam Miller †  
 Mark & Hazel Nestleroth

Elaine H. Newhart †  
 D. Mark † & Susan Potter  
 Jane Reinhard  
 Ruth Reuning †  
 Lea Ridenhour  
 Joseph A. & Alice K Savastio †  
 Richard D. Schreiber †  
 Kevin & Sue Shively  
 Betty Sidebottom  
 William & Tammy Steinhart  
 Donald & Edna Sterner  
 Ruth Summers †  
 Vincent Tassia Jr. †  
 Paul & Dorothy Weirick †  
 Frederick & Marion Wentz †  
 Jere & Dottie † Wissler  
 Charles & Katie Wittel †  
 Edward & Jeanette † Yewdall  
 Conrad & Winifred Youse  
 Carl & Lillian Youse †  
 Earl † and Arlene Zellers



## WORK DAYS

The Spring Work Days are great for volunteers of all skills, ages, and abilities to come help get the camps ready for the upcoming summer season. We will have lots of jobs for folks of all work abilities. Be a part of making the camps a beautiful place for campers and families this summer by helping at the Spring Work Day!

**April 30, 9am, Nawakwa**  
**May 7, 9am, Kirchenwald**

RSVP at  
[LutheranCamping.org](http://LutheranCamping.org)





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

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## Spring 2022

- April 24 Earth Day Celebration at Kirchenwald
- April 30 Work Day at Nawakwa
- May 7 Work Day at Kirchenwald
- May 7,14,21 Planting Day at The Wittel Farm Growing Project
- May 15 Summer Camp Kick-off Worship & Picnic at Kirchenwald

*Check out [LutheranCamping.org](http://LutheranCamping.org) for an up-to-date calendar of events.*



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.



We're busy planning for an  
**AWESOME** summer camp experience.  
Register today and we'll see you at **CAMP!**

# Summer Camp

**KIRCHENWALD**

**NAWAKWA**

**Lebanon, PA**

**Arendtsville, PA**

## **Nawakwa Garden Project Planting Days**

**May 14 & May 21, 9am-12pm**

**Wednesday Volunteer Days:  
June 1 - August 31, 9-11am**

*RSVP at [LutheranCamping.org](http://LutheranCamping.org)*

## **Summer Camp Kick-off Worship & Picnic**

**at Kirchenwald**

**Sunday, May 15**

**Worship Begins at 3:30 pm, Picnic to follow**

*RSVP at [LutheranCamping.org](http://LutheranCamping.org)*