

⚓ Camping!

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

PO Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303-0459
717-677-8211 (voice) / 717-677-7597 (fax)
www.LutheranCamping.org

Fall 2023

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CAMP CONNECTIONS: A TALE OF FRIENDSHIP AND FAITH

It was Isabelle's second summer at camp. Last year she came with her best friend Maggie, but this summer Maggie had a family vacation, so Isabelle came without her. As her group finished collecting sticks for their hot dog cookout on Tuesday afternoon, Isabelle sat down at the picnic table wondering if she had made a mistake in coming to camp "alone." Her counselor noticed the expression on her face and sat down next to her to check in. Isabelle confessed that she was feeling a little sad to be at camp without Maggie and worried that she wouldn't make any friends that week. As she said this, one of the boys in her group, Caleb, walked past the table and overheard her comment. Without missing a beat, he announced, "We'll be your friend, right guys?" He

called over some of the other kids in the group and they rearranged their seats so they could sit next to Isabelle for lunch.

Later that evening the group gathered down by the stream for Bible Study. The theme for the day was "Who is Jesus?" with an emphasis on the relationships that Jesus forms and friendships that are made. When asked for examples of friendships grounded in the love of Christ, Isabelle had only to think back a few hours to share her story from lunch.

One of the beautiful realities of the camp experience is the opportunity to see our faith lived out in our day-to-day activities. It's a place where the love of God inspires us to love one another and where scripture isn't just words on a page. Rather, we embody the word on both a personal and communal level. While it is the mission of Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and the Wittel Farm to be "a place and time apart," we certainly hope that this ministry extends beyond our acreage. And that the lessons learned here and the relationships formed give glory to God in the world at large.



GENEROSITY = MINISTRY ADVANCEMENTS, IMPROVEMENTS, UPGRADES...

FACILITIES

Serving our campers and retreat guests well requires constant attention and effort to keep facilities at Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and the Wittel Farm attractive, comfortable, and in good repair while also adding new features. Some recent, significant improvements, repairs, and new additions, while necessary, may have gone un-noticed,

like the new paint on Nawakwa's Assembly Hall, woodchips under low ropes course elements, a new washer and dryer in Kirchenwald's kitchen, several new well pumps at Nawakwa, the major repairs to the swimming pools at both camps, new lights at Nawakwa's meeting pavilion, new shower heads and control knobs in Nawakwa's Lower Camp shower house,

Continued on page 7



WELCOMING PASTOR MARK RUSSELL: OUR NEW KIRCHENWALD AND WITTEL FARM PROPERTY MANAGER

The Lutheran Camping Corporation is pleased to introduce Pastor Mark Russel as the new Property Manager to Kirchenwald and the Wittel Farm, starting this November. Pastor Russell has been coming to camp for over fifty years as the son of a camp pastor, camper, pastor, and volunteer. He previously served as the lead pastor at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Lancaster and is excited to answer a new calling in camp ministry. Pastor Russell and his wife Denise live in a log house near Speedwell Forge Lake. They enjoy boating, fishing, hiking, and generally spending time in the outdoors. They also always make it a priority to spend time with their three adult children and families.



Pastor Russell is eager to support the mission of camp and looks forward to working with the dedicated team of staff and volunteers in this educational and inspiring setting. Say hi to him around camp as he takes on this new role in our camping family.

A CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION...

...SEEDING THE FUTURE MORTGAGE FULLY RETIRED!

It is now wonderful to announce the news that the mortgage has been fully retired.

In 2007, after much prayer and discussion, the LCC Board of Directors made the faithful and courageous decision to spend \$1.588 million to expand the Nawakwa ministry site by purchasing 221 acres of land adjacent to the camp. To do so, a 25 year mortgage was secured from the Mission investment Fund of the ELCA. This decision came with excitement and apprehension. The excitement came from knowing the importance of expanding Nawakwa and the many opportunities this would create. The apprehension came from not knowing what the response would be from the many people who care about Nawakwa and the LCC's ministry, and if they would generously come forward to pay for the land so that financial resources for ministry operations would not be adversely impacted.

Yes, in just 16 years the mortgage has been fully paid, off thereby saving considerable money on interest!

Yes, this calls for celebration. Let's celebrate the generosity of everyone who made donations to this very good cause, everyone who gave their time and talent in the fundraising campaigns, everyone who prayed for the success of this venture, and to God who guides and inspires LCC ministries. Join us at Nawakwa's Fall Foliage Day on October 22, 2023 to celebrate retiring the debt with a mortgage burning during worship at that event. The day will also be filled with many fun autumn activities and a meal. Please register at the LCC web site or by calling the camping office at 717-677-8211.



2023 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.

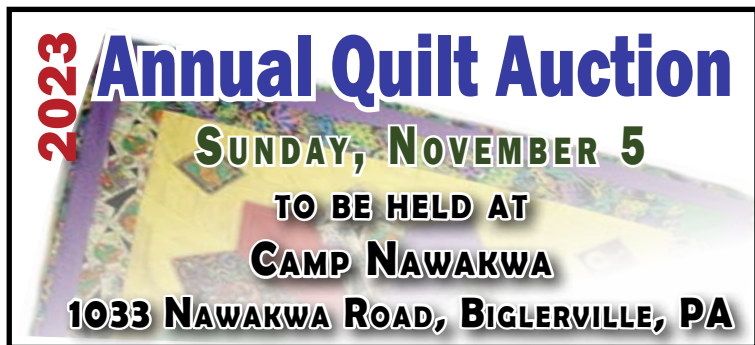
You will be able to view quilts and other items on our website and **bid online** starting on October 28. Online bidding will close on November 2 and the high bids will become starting bids at the in-person event.

This year's **in-person** auction will be held on Sunday, November 5, 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.

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 staff 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.



CAMP PERSON MEETINGS

Jan 14 - Kirchenwald & Nawakwa - 2:00pm

Jan 16 - ZOOM - 7:00pm

Online training will be available from January 14-31.

Be sure your congregation plans to send a representative to one of the 2024 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

Nawakwa - October 22, 1-6pm

Kirchenwald - October 29, 1-6pm

Return to camp for a wonderful afternoon!
Evening meal is included. \$15 per person.

INTERNATIONAL COUNSELORS ENHANCE CAMP, ADD CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Working with the ELCA, GEC Camp USA and Interexchange, LCC employed 11 International Counselors between Kirchenwald and Nawakwa this past summer. Pastor Drahus Oslík, Vice Chair of the Board of Directors and a former international counselor at Nawakwa, played an important role coordinating the recruiting process and arranging host families for each international counselor.

Serving at Nawakwa were Vinicius Pinto from Brazil, Matej Kolik and Simi Secanska from Slovakia, Roberto Valverde from Mexico, Anita Ogbozor from Ireland, Laura Rodriguez, Mellisa Hernandez Galteros and Paula Carolina Ruiz Guiot from Columbia, Merelin Guerrero from Ecuador, and Garazi Arenaza from Spain. This is the most international staff ever employed at Nawakwa.

Pastor Emmanuel Mchomvu from the Kondi Diocese in Tanzania

returned to Kirchenwald for his third summer.

Having international staff at camp was a positive experience for staff and campers alike. Numerous lifelong friendships developed among the staff members. Campers enjoyed learning about the international counselors' countries, some of their language, and especially enjoyed when the menu included food from those countries. Likewise, the international staff were excited to experience American culture. International staff members were part of a worship team. They worked with their worship teammates incorporating aspects of their culture, including language and songs, into the camp worship experience, creating a lasting impression for the campers and the entire camp staff.

Campers returning for a second week or a Family Camp week excitedly greeted the international counselors with smiles and hugs. Campers and their parents shared how much they enjoyed and appreciated the diversity which international counselors added to the camp experience.

Thanks be to God for the gift of the international staff and for the ministry of camp that we all shared this past summer. Lutheran Camping Corporation is nurturing the faith of future church leaders here and throughout the world.



THE WITTEL FARM GROWING PROJECT - ABUNDANCE & GRATITUDE!

Abundance. This is the best word to describe the Wittel Farm Growing Project in 2023. By the numbers, it was clearly a season of abundance. From April through August, we saw close to 500 volunteers visit the farm and serve our neighbors by planting, growing, and sharing fresh vegetables. Over 90 campers came to the Wittel Farm from Kirchenwald as part of their outdoor ministry experience, many coming to the farm for the first time.

From June through September, the farm produced over 26,000 pounds of vegetables, our eighth growing season and second most productive season on record. We grew 5 types of tomatoes, 3 types of peppers, watermelon, cantaloupe, zucchini, cucumbers, sweet corn, green beans, two types of potatoes, lettuce, kale, sugar snap peas, Swiss chard, pumpkins, spaghetti squash, and sunflowers. We harvested elderberries and plums from our fruit trees. We tried some new things and, despite early summer drought conditions, the farm thrived. We saw over a dozen different song birds, many types of insects, and lots of pollinating bees and butterflies, all indicators that the farm is a healthy ecosystem.

We partnered with nine food distribution partners, including four new ones: Spanish American Civic Association, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, and Lebanon County Christian Ministries. We served thousands of people throughout Lancaster and Lebanon counties. Central PA Food bank services 27 counties and we sent about 10,000 pounds of food to them.

We continue to learn how to responsibly care for the land, grow healthy food, and create community committed to agriculture as a faithful part of outdoor ministry.

Next year, we will expand our educational experiences for groups and congregations and invite you to find ways to be part of the abundance and experience God's love as shared by the wonderful ministry of the Wittel Farm.

With so much **Abundance**, the fruit that is produced in me is **Gratitude**.

Thanks to the congregations that supported our ministry this year with volunteers: Epiphany, Harrisburg; Christ, Elizabethtown; Christ UCC, Elizabethtown; St. Peter's, Mechanicsburg; St. Mark's, Harrisburg. Lancaster County Confirmation Camp also participated again this season. Congregation Shaarai Shomayim, the reformed Jewish synagogue in Lancaster, planted spaghetti squash in June as part of Shavuot, the first fruits harvest festival. They

returned in late September to harvest that squash as part of Sukkot, the end of the harvest season. The Elizabethtown Ward of the Latter day Saints comes out several times during the season to harvest together. The Elizabethtown Rotary Club is an annual partner, coming with enthusiasm to work every year.

The farm does not operate without amazing, dedicated volunteer staff. Thank you, Christ Eurich, Tim Ainsley, Richard Marshall, and the Smoker family who come every week and do difficult chores to keep the farm maintained, beautiful, and productive. Thanks to our two student summer staff, Will Stover and Henry Hammer, for their commitment to the Growing Project's success.

Thanks to God the creator and the beauty of the earth for giving us this place, these people, and the ability to grow and share together.

Thanks to all those who generously give donations supporting this wonderful ministry. WFGP accomplishes all this good work using only the financial gifts given specifically to this purpose. These donations allow us to buy seeds and plants, equipment and supplies, diesel fuel for the tractor, and all the resources needed for this very good cause. Please consider giving a gift to help WFGP share God's love and provide nutritious vegetables with food-insecure people.

We hope to see you in 2024!



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

If you or a family member are 70 ½ 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 73 and older who are required to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) that would otherwise be taxable.

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

Required Minimum Distributions

Persons holding IRA accounts and are aged 59½ may begin withdrawing money from their account without penalty. These withdrawals are taxable to the account holder. Additionally, account holders who are 73 years of age and older are required to withdraw a minimum distribution annually from their account (RMD). 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.

A recent bill increased the age to 73 for those born between 1951 and 1959 and to 75 for those born after 1960, at which an IRA account holder is required to take their RMD, but it still allows for charitable gift rollover designation beginning at the age of 70 ½ .

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 (myouse@lutherancamping.org)
 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:

Annual Fund Wittel Farm Growing Project

- 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

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

23Fall

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

Kathy Baker and Joel Petruschke	Bob and Judy Hoover	Ruth Reuning †
Freda J. Benner †	Robert and Kathryn Horst †	Lea Ridenhour
George and Mary Bennett	Marie Hoshell †	Joseph and Alice Savastio †
Matthew and Abby Best	Ronald and Kathleen Kerr	Richard D. Schreiber †
Alice Boeshore	Lynn and Dawn Kinard	Kevin and Sue Shively
Sandra Brandt	Kevin and Shannon Kincaid	Betty Sidebottom
Kathleen S. Brenneman	Brenda Kiser	William and Tammy Steinhart
Marianne Brock	Ed and Sue Kulakowski	Donald and Edna Sterner
Donald Clapper †	Philip Leer	Doris Straw-Maisack
Rudyard and Doris Crider	Elaine F. Ludwig	Ruth Summers †
Peter Dohner and BethAnn D'Agostino	Glenn and Stella Ludwig	Vincent Tassia Jr. †
Mary Drehs	Alex and Beth Martini	Paul and Dorothy Weirick †
Shirley Ernst	Carl and Rose Ann Mease	Frederick and Marion Wentz †
Andrea Faber	Miriam Miller †	Jere and Dottie † Wissler
Jessica Felici	Mark and Hazel Nestleroth	Charles and Katie Wittel †
Kent and Sharon Hardel	Elaine H. Newhart †	Edward and Jeanette † Yewdall
	D. Mark † and Susan Potter	
	Jane Reinhard	



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

† Deceased

MINISTRY ADVANCEMENTS, IMPROVEMENTS, UPGRADES... (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

...a new and much more attractive ceiling in Nawakwa's dining hall, and Nawakwa's new phone system. Others, like 120 new bunk bed with 240 new mattresses in Nawakwa's lower camp cabins, the new meeting pavilion at the Wittel Farm, the expanded/remodeled bathroom at Kirchenwald's athletic field, and the new mountain bike trails at Kirchenwald, are hard to miss.

These improvements and additions represent considerable investment in the ministry sites and are possible only through the support of generous individuals, congregations, and foundations giving donations to help advance ministry. With three ministry sites, there's always a lot to attend to. Please consider making an annual fund donation to help.

PROGRAMMING AND OPERATIONS

Offering high quality summer camp and retreat experiences for youth and adults takes more than just nice facilities. It requires hiring mature, faithful young adults working to share God's love through experiential Bible studies, engaging worship, exciting and fun-filled activities. It requires vast amounts of supplies, equipment, tools, training – everything from craft supplies to tents, from athletic equipment to Bible study curriculum and worship resources, from infirmary supplies to vegetable plants and seeds, from first aid, CPR, and lifeguarding certifications to lawn mowers and chain saws. Donor support provide all these resources and more, so that Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and the Wittel Farm can continue the outstanding outdoor ministry described throughout this newsletter. Please consider making an annual fund gift to help keep the ministry strong.





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

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Fall 2023

- Oct 22 Fall Foliage Day at Nawakwa
- Oct 29 Fall Foliage Day at Kirchenwald
- Oct 29 Campfire Worship at The Wittel Farm
- Nov 5 Annual Quilt & Craft Auction at Nawakwa
- Nov 10-12 Women's Craft Retreat at Nawakwa
- Dec 9 Advent Day Apart at The Wittel Farm
- Dec 17 Advent/Christmas Night in the Barn at The Wittel Farm
- Jan 5-7, 2024 Winter Youth Retreat at Kirchenwald



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 5-7, 2024 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 5-7, 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. Return it with payment to: Lutheran Camping Corporation; P.O. Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303. Cost is only \$170. Registration deadline is December 15, 2023. Additional information at (717) 677-8211 or (717) 964-3121.