

# ⚡ Camping!

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

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Spring 2023

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

## IGNITING THE FIRE: BECOMING MODERN DAY DISCIPLES AT KIRCHENWALD AND NAWAKWA

In the Great Commission, Jesus sends his disciples into the world, taking all that they've learned, to spread the good news to all God's people. It's a moment described (with some variation) in all four of the New Testament Gospels. But Lutherans understand this instruction to extend beyond this one instant in time. Today, we too are called to be messengers of God's love throughout our communities. Camp is a place that helps to prepare us for that work. It's a place where we learn and practice what it means to be people of faith. And it's a place that nurtures the gifts necessary to be modern day disciples.

Imagine a camp fire. You can place a log into the fire and, after a few minutes, take that log out, hot from its

time surrounded by flames, and use it to ignite another fire in a new place. That's what happens when campers leave their weeks at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa. New fires are lit or stoked to grow stronger. We know because church leaders tell us that campers are more active in their home congregations after their time at camp. Applicants for summer camp staff regularly cite their positive experiences as campers as a reason to want to minister to a new generation. Our synod council is populated with campers, including the role of youth representative. Campers have gone on to seminary, to serve congregations as pastors and deacons, and even in the role of Bishop. "I would not be a pastor if it were not for camp. That's where I felt my call to ministry," said Rev. Alex Martini.

Not every camper will become ordained, of course, but, as Paul describes in his letter to the Corinthians, we have been given a variety of spiritual gifts. Gifts that are for the good of all. So when an experience digging potatoes at the Wittel Farm is presented



through the lens of ministry, campers grow to see how their gift and interest in agriculture can be of service to God. When Diaconos groups learn bicycle repair with an understanding of how the work can benefit struggling families in Lebanon, they can recreate a similar community event in their hometown (which happened this past summer), knowing it's responding to the command to love your neighbor.

So come to camp. Learn, practice, and grow. But then leave. Go in peace. Serve the Lord.



# NAKUPENDA. MILUJEM T'A. JEG ELSKER DIG. I LOVE YOU.

For generations, people of all places have learned about God's love through these words. Last summer at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa, you may have heard some of these languages (Swahili, Slovak, Danish, English) spoken by our various international staff. Camp is a place that brings people together. It is a community of diverse experiences and cultures, strengthened by the relationships built with other church bodies around the world. For years, the Lutheran Camping Corporation has been blessed with staff through the ELCA's International Camp Counselor Program. More recently, our camps have also worked with other organizations to identify international staff for the summer. The benefits to having these international perspectives in the camp program are numerous.

Campers learned about the "boundless"-ness of God's love last summer from people beyond the boundaries of our country and our language. The friendships formed among the staff, international and domestic, are bonds that bring our corners of the world a little closer together, and will shape the perceptions of an upcoming generation of leaders. The lives of the international counselors are positively impacted, too, giving them skills and knowledge to take back to their home countries and share with their local communities.

Sometimes the impact is so meaningful that even 12 years later a counselor will make the effort to return to the woods in Pennsylvania, as was the case for Emmanuel Mchomvu in 2022. Emmanuel first came to the

Kirchenwald staff as a university student. In the passing years, he started a family and became a pastor in the Konde Diocese in Tanzania. When the opportunity to return for a second summer arose, he was quick to jump on it. Supported by our synod's Konde Diocese committee, Emmanuel brought knowledge and energy to every group he counseled last year. On Sundays, he traveled to a number of local churches as a guest preacher. In 2023, Emmanuel will return to Pennsylvania to continue his studies at United Lutheran Seminary, starting with one more summer working at camp. He will be joined by a handful of new international staff who will share their gifts and knowledge with campers this summer through the barrier-free language of God's love.



## Looking Ahead to the Fall

Capture the Flag Spectacular at Kirchenwald - October 1

Fall Foliage Day at Kirchenwald & Nawakwa October 22

Adult Book Study retreat at Nawakwa - October 3-5

Annual Quilt Auction at Nawakwa - November 5

Women's Craft Retreat at Nawakwa November 10-12

**REGISTER TODAY AT [LUTHERANCAMPING.ORG](http://LUTHERANCAMPING.ORG)**



## EXPLORING THE MYSTERY OF THE HOLY TRINITY: HOLY TRINITY, WHOLLY LOVE



Only in our faith, it seems, can we break the basic laws of mathematics and claim that 3=1 and 1=3. It's the "great mystery" of our faith that we call the Holy Trinity. God in three Persons. It's a central statement in our Lutheran creeds, but one that still may cause us to struggle for words when asked to explain it. This summer, with the theme "Holy Trinity, Wholly Love," campers at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa will dig deeper into this mystery and explore the different expressions of God and God's love. Grounded in our theme verse from the book

of Revelation, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end," we'll recognize the totality of God's love which extends beyond any mathematical equation.

As the modern-day communion of saints, we are recipients of God's love, through all means of conveyance, but are also charged with being conveyors of that love to others. Join us at camp this summer where we will share in practicing God's radically inclusive love for all people and creation. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen!

# NAWAKWA DEBT DWINDLING

**\$16,543 REMAINING AS OF 3/1/2023**

In 2008, the Nawakwa ministry site expanded through the purchase of 221 acres of adjacent land. The Board of Directors made the bold decision to pursue this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to allow for future ministry growth and to provide a secure buffer around the existing site.

A \$1,550,522 loan was secured from the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA, the land was purchased, and a capital campaign effort was launched to address the debt. Many gifts from generous individuals, congregations, and other sources have been received through the ensuing years and continue to be received in 2023.

With the debt now down to \$16,543, a mortgage burning celebration is now within reach! A surge in gifts, now in 2023, will enable retirement of the debt. The coupon in this newsletter may be used to send a special gift to make the mortgage burning possible soon! We'll keep you updated so you can attend the celebration...



## VOLUNTEER CORPS NOW FORMING AT NAWAKWA, EXPANDING AT KIRCHENWALD

**WANTED:  
HANDYPEOPLE, PAINTERS,  
GARDENERS, CARPENTERS,  
PLUMBERS, ELECTRICIANS...**



Have you got some time on your hands, a desire to help, and maybe even a few skills? We want your help! Following the successful establishment of Kirchenwald's volunteer corps, one is now forming at Nawakwa. The volunteer corps help keep the camp looking good and operating well. Volunteers can come to the camp one day a week, once a month, or whatever works.

For information about Nawakwa volunteer day contact Paul Askey at 717-677-8211 or at [paskey@lutherancamping.org](mailto:paskey@lutherancamping.org).

Wednesdays are volunteer days at Kirchenwald. Contact Zach Weiss at 717-964-3121 or [zweiss@lutherancamping.org](mailto:zweiss@lutherancamping.org) for information.

# WITTEL FARM GROWING PROJECT

## NEWS AND UPDATES

2023 is The Wittel Farm Growing Project's 8th year of ministry planting, growing, and sharing fresh vegetables in Lancaster County. In 2022, over 300 volunteers, including about 80 from Millersville University, Franklin and Marshall College, and Elizabethtown College, helped harvest over 11,000 pounds of vegetables for food relief. Several congregations came to the farm for learning and service days, including the Elizabethtown Ward of the Church of Latter-Day Saints, Shaarai Shomayim reformed Jewish Synagogue from Lancaster, and Christ United Church of Christ in Elizabethtown. Lancaster County Food Hub, Power Packs, Manheim Food Bank, Elizabethtown Community Cupboard, and Central Pennsylvania Food Bank distributed our fresh vegetables to food insecure people throughout Lancaster. Kirchenwald and Nawakwa campers participated in farming activity, practiced discipleship, and learned about environmental stewardship during their visits to the farm. The new walk-in cooler kept the vegetables fresh after harvest making distribution more efficient.

### And for 2023...

This season, a new outdoor classroom pavilion, equipped with a kitchen and bathroom will be a wonderful gathering place for groups, congregations, and volunteers. Also new this year are farm to table cooking demos with local chefs. Guests will learn how to make elderberry jam, Wittel Farm salsa, and more! Back by popular demand, monthly dinner church worship, featuring farm fresh veggies, returns to the event schedule this season.



### Join us...

The growing season begins in May with public planting days every Saturday from 9:00-noon. Come out and help plant over 6,000 vegetable plants: tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, melons, lettuces, green beans, sugar snap peas, potatoes, and more. WFGP is an education farm and welcomes you to learn with us as we practice regenerative farming, which protects the soil by using compost, cover crops, reduced tillage, and zero chemicals to grow nutritious produce.

We are excited to welcome new distribution partners this season, like Ebenezer Baptist Church in downtown Lancaster, which will receive and distribute WFGP vegetables weekly. If you are part of a food ministry that would like to partner with us, reach out to WFGP director, Pr. Matt Lenahan at [mlenahan74@gmail.com](mailto:mlenahan74@gmail.com)

To volunteer or sign up for one of our farm to table experiences, go to [WittelFarm.org](http://WittelFarm.org). The sign-up page includes all the volunteer dates for the season. See you at the farm!



**SCAN ME FOR MORE  
INFORMATION  
ABOUT THE WITTEL  
FARM GROWING  
PROJECT**

## 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 29, 9am, Nawakwa || May 6, 9am, Kirchenwald**

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



## 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.

## RECEIVE AN INCOME YOU CANNOT OUTLIVE THROUGH A GIFT TO THE LUTHERAN CAMPING CORPORATION

Did you know you can make a gift to The Lutheran Camping Corporation (LCC) and receive an income from that gift for the rest of your life? Moreover, the income will be fixed and guaranteed, partially tax-free, and there will

be other tax savings as well. Additionally, the income from your gift may be higher than you are presently earning on savings or other investments.

Sound too good to be true? Well, it's not. This method has been employed by millions of donors to help charities and, at the same time, receive needed income. It is called the Charitable Gift Annuity and has been in use for more than 150 years.

## 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).

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Gift Annuities may be written on one or two lives. Rates are based on the age of the donor at the time of the gift. They range from 5.4% at age 65, to 6.6% at age 75, to 7.6% at age 80, to 9.7% at age 90 and above. (Rates for Two Life Annuities are slightly lower because the income is paid over two lives.)

Would you like to learn more about this wonderful method of receiving a life income through making a gift supporting LCC's ministry? Our free booklet entitled "The Charitable Gift Annuity" will provide specific information about the many benefits of this gift option.

To receive your free copy of this helpful and interesting booklet, return the coupon on page 6 to The Lutheran Camping Corporation, P.O. Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303 or contact Mike Youse, Executive director (717-677-8211 or [myouse@lutherancamping.org](mailto:myouse@lutherancamping.org)) to request your copy. There is no cost or obligation.



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

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

- Campership Fund       Annual Fund  
 Seeding the Future - debt retirement!

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 "The Charitable Gift Annuity" booklet

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  
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23Spring



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## Spring 2023

- April 23 Earth Day Celebration at Kirchenwald
- April 29 Work Day at Nawakwa
- May 6 Work Day at Kirchenwald
- May 13,20 Planting Day at The Wittel Farm Growing Project
- May 21 Summer Camp Kick-off Worship & Picnic at Nawakwa

*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**

## Wittel Farm Growing Project

**May 13 & May 20 - Public Planting Days**

**June 25, July 30, & Aug. 27 -  
Dinner Church**

**Sept. 24 & Oct 29 - Campfire Worship**

*More info at [WittelFarm.org](http://WittelFarm.org)*

## Summer Camp Kick-off Worship & Picnic

**at Nawakwa**

**Sunday, May 21**

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

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