

⚡ Camping!

Spring 2024

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

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WHERE FAITH, FRIENDSHIP, AND ADVENTURE UNITE: THE SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE

It was the last week of summer camp in 2023. The family campers at Kirchenwald were walking back from a morning of play at Buzzard's Rocks and Anne Confer Martens was enjoying a conversation with another parent when she realized her two sons were no longer walking beside her. But her realization was not a moment of panic, rather one of great appreciation. In her words, "I knew they were fine. They had just run ahead in excitement. But you don't worry about that stuff when you're at camp because you know there are other families and great counselors that you trust who genuinely care about your kids. They care about everyone. It's one of the things that has always stood out to me at camp."

Anne, her husband Eric, and their sons Andrew and Timmy have been family

campers for years now. "Camp is a safe environment in so many ways," Eric said. "Physically safe, but also a place that's safe to explore and take kids outside their comfort zones. They can grow and learn about the world, about nature, about God, their friends, and themselves." An emphasis on both community and personal growth has always been central to the camp experience at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa. It's why we continue a practice of small group living, free from distractions like technology. In these settings, campers come to more fully experience life together and are afforded time and space for reflection. "One of the things we talk about at my school is



what's being called the epidemic of loneliness," said Anne. "Coming out of the COVID years everyone was so separated. But the atmosphere at camp is all about being in community together. It's a core value there. So we choose to be together."

Continued on page 3

2024 SUMMER BIBLE STUDY & WORSHIP THEME

We are loved and accepted by God even before we enter this world. The fact that God knows our innermost selves is mind-boggling at the very least. Even when we feel

alone and unseen, God sees us and knows us, never leaving our side. Maybe even more brain-bending is that we need not do anything or prove one single thing to receive God's free gift of grace.



Each of our five days gives us an opportunity to explore more deeply the authentic selves God has created us to be. We will learn what it means to be siblings in Christ—humans who are brave enough to encourage and stand up for each other, sharing burdens as well as joys. We grow and learn more about ourselves while listening to and sharing with each other.

"I PRAISE YOU, FOR
I AM FEARFULLY AND
WONDERFULLY MADE.
WONDERFUL ARE
YOUR WORKS; THAT
I KNOW VERY WELL."
-PSALM 139:14

LEGACY AND REMEMBRANCES OF FAITHFUL SERVICE

What do Beth Fogleman, Ron and Kathy Kerr, and Pr. Conrad and Winnie Youse have in common? All have blessed LCC with a history and legacy of faithful, committed, and generous service. And, although Beth, Kathy, Ron, Winnie, and Pastor are no longer the fixtures at camp which they once were, they remain committed to the ministry and also remain beloved for all they have given over their many years at the camps. Each has truly been a blessing to LCC ministry!

After being a Nawakwa camper in her youth, Beth served at Nawakwa, Kirchenwald, and Wittel Farm for 39 summers from 1974 through 2022, taking several summers away from camp to raise children. She served in various roles, including kitchen staff, counselor, Nawakwa head cook, Kirchenwald head cook and Wittel Farm Summer Day Program director.

Kathy worked alongside Beth in Nawakwa's kitchen from 1991 - 1994 before becoming the head cook and food service manager in 1995, serving in that role through 2023. That's 31 years of service!

Ron, a Nawakwa camper in his youth, served on summer camp staff as a counselor. In 1994 he joined the year-round staff as Nawakwa's maintenance director, a position he held into 2022 before taking a more part-time role. Ron served Nawakwa for over 28 years!

From 1969 - 1976, Pr. Youse was Kirchenwald's first director. From 1976 - 2000 he was LCC's first Executive Director. In 2021 he transitioned into the role of Kirchenwald maintenance director, a position he held into 2023. That's 54 years of service!

Winnie developed and led Kirchenwald's nature craft program from 1969 - 2022 while also running the summer camp office. She occasionally cooked for retreat groups, cared for the camp goats, and tended the camp garden. That's 53 years of service!

We wanted to know:

What is your favorite memory from camp?

Ron: "I have too many to pick just one, but I'd say it is the people I got to know and share time with."

Kathy: "Having 5 grandchildren working in camp with us last summer."

Beth: "Riding with Matt (her husband) in the golf cart turned 'ice cream truck' complete with music playing, to deliver hand-cranked ice cream to campers after Capture the Flag."

Pr. Youse: "The first day Kirchenwald's newly-constructed

pool opened in the summer of 1979."

Winnie: "Seeing campers smile when they complete a craft from natural materials."

What is something at camp that you have seen endure the test of time?

Pr. Youse: "Camp is a place where God is always present for everyone."

Winnie: "The craft cabin always being a happy place for the campers."

Ron: "There is always something that needs attention or needs to be fixed."

Kathy: "Campers know what day of the week it is by the breakfast menu."

Beth: "Friday night worship is so meaningful."

What surprised you?

Winnie: "We never ran out of the clay, which we dug out of the stream bank, and used for pottery."

Pr. Youse: "How the weather has become hotter and wetter and seeing the forest change because of it."

Kathy: "Seeing campers develop a liking for roasted vegetables in recent years."

Ron: "How much campers changed and matured as they came back to camp year after year."

Beth: "How much fun it was having my own children working for me in the kitchen."

What are your favorite 3 camp foods?"

Beth: "Baked oatmeal, grilled cheese sandwich and tomato soup, chicken Kiev."

Kathy: "Chili and rice, peanut butter cake, zucchini quiche."

Ron: "Chicken cheese steak, turkey and filling, meatloaf."

Winnie: "Baked oatmeal, sticky buns, pit dinner."

Pr. Youse: "Home-made ice cream, campfire hot dogs, grilled cheese sandwich and tomato soup."

Those who wish to honor the faithful ministry of Ron & Kathy, Beth, or Pr. Youse & Winnie may do so by sending a gift using the gift response coupon on page 6.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE FALL

Capture the Flag Spectacular at
Kirchenwald - October 6

Fall Foliage Day at
Kirchenwald & Nawakwa
October 27

Adult Book Study retreat at
Nawakwa - October 1-3

Annual Quilt Auction
at Nawakwa - November 3

Women's Craft Retreat at Nawakwa
November 8-10

REGISTER TODAY AT LUTHERANCAMPING.ORG

LOOKING FOR A PERSONAL GET-A-WAY?



The Cottage at Kirchenwald

Perfect for 1-2 people, enjoy a heated, cozy getaway. Comfortable double bed in the bedroom, full bath, living room, kitchenette, and an outside fire circle. Also includes television and DVD player.

See more photos and learn about all the facilities on our website.

THE SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE

"I hope that my kids find a connection to their identity at camp," said Eric. "It's a place to explore that with staff who are role models for them. To try new things. Maybe even try a new food," he added, with a smile.

In addition to the fun activities, the camp experience at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa is grounded in a Christian faith. Through regular worships, Bible studies, and devotions, messages of God's love are incorporated into every part of the camp experience. "Faith formation doesn't just happen on Sundays at church," said Anne. "At camp my kids live in a place where Christ is the center of everything

that happens. They get to see faith practices in all aspects of life - not being siloed off on their own. It's woven into everything. I remember when I was a camper I knew I was about to have Bible study when we'd randomly sit down in the middle of the woods after playing a game. It was just part of the routine of the day. And it connected to everything else we were doing."

Andrew and Timmy have reached the age where, in addition to Family Camp, they now also come to other weeks of camp, apart from their parents. "I really like Sunday night worship," said Andrew. "You walk out to the lake and it's so chill and peaceful. On the first night it helps

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)
me feel really welcome. And the chocolate chip cookies are really good," he added. Memories like these stand out for many kids who get some of their first tastes of independence at camp. "Eric and I love camp," said Anne. "And while we don't want to force our kids to love it, we want to respect their boundaries, we believe so deeply that camp is important. It meets kids where they are and it's a place where you learn that God loves you. There aren't many places in the world like that - places where you can be radically welcomed just as you are." Wanting to make sure his voice was heard, too, Timmy added, "And capture the flag is really fun."

MORE THAN YOUR TYPICAL SUMMER JOB

Getting a summer job is a right-of-passage for most high school and college young people. Most hope to earn some spending money. Few consider what more they could get from their summer job. Working on the summer ministry teams at Kirchenwald or Nawakwa meet the first priority – earning spending money. In fact, wages for working in our camps has increased rather considerably over the past couple of years. So what else does working at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa offer that other summer jobs don't? The list is long:

- Lodging and meals all summer long. The food is good...really good!!
- Leadership skill development from working as part of a team.
- Real responsibilities. There is no greater responsibility than to be entrusted with the care of other people's children.
- An encouraging, supportive, exciting outdoor work environment.
- First aid, CPR, and Life Guarding certifications and other skill trainings.
- Opportunities to grow in faith and to share faith in the intentional Christian community present at camp.
- Learn new and exciting skills of all kinds – ropes courses, rock climbing, mountain biking, canoeing/kayaking, group facilitation, behavior management, and many more.

Working at Kirchenwald or Nawakwa is an experience that offers skills and experiences which will serve our summer ministry team members throughout their lives! Few other summer jobs can match those benefits. Positions are still available. Apply today at lutherancamping.org



CELEBRATING KIRCHENWALD'S VOLUNTEER CORPS: STORIES OF DEDICATION, COMMUNITY, AND SERVICE



On the morning of Saturday, February 10, members of the Kirchenwald Volunteer Corps gathered in the SchreiberHaus Lodge to be recognized for their contributions to the camp. Stories were shared, speeches were given, and good food was consumed!

With so much land and so many facilities at our camps, the hard work and dedication of our site volunteers is invaluable. From splitting firewood to mowing fields to rewiring electric lines to raising building, and everything else required to make camp run, we are grateful for the commitment made to Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and the Wittel Farm by people with an abundance of love in their hearts.

If you'd like to be a part of the site teams at any of our locations, please contact us to add your gifts to the community. In addition to the site and facility volunteers that help keep camp operational, the Lutheran Camping Corporation regularly seeks out volunteer nurses, chaplains, gardeners, and people to serve in a variety of other roles.

GROWING PROJECT SET TO BEGIN ITS NINTH SEASON

“Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.” Genesis 2:9.

“On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.” Revelation 22:2.

From beginning to end, trees are a present symbol of life and renewal in the Bible. Even the cross itself reveals to us that our path includes both death and resurrection, symbolized by the seasonal and annual rhythm of the trees. This year, we will contemplate the significance of trees at the farm, in our lives, and for the earth. We will be planting some native trees this spring, too!

The winter is coming to an end and spring buds and leaves are just around the corner. At the Wittel Farm that means plans and preparations for another growing season are underway! So, what can you anticipate in 2024?

The season will officially kick off this year with a special Earth Day Planting Day on April 20th with a blessing of the seeds, soils, trees, plants, birds, and insects. Join us at 9:00 am for a short service of blessing followed by some planting time.

Volunteers can sign up for Saturdays in March, April, and May. The spring season involves a lot of planting, both seeds and plants. Starting the week of June 9th, a regular weekly rhythm of Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays will begin again for volunteers. Each day, we will have farm chores, education, and fun in community. We begin at 9:00 am and end each day



by 3:00 pm. Volunteers may determine their arrival and departure times between 9:00 and 3:00. Please, as always, wear appropriate closed-toed footwear. Gloves, hats, and water bottles are recommended. Annual waivers are available on the website and SignUp Genius.

This year, we are offering three special events on the farm called Summer Eco-Education Days (SEED). On June 8, July 6, and August 10 from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm we will hold lunch-and-learn events for kids and adults. We will learn about the various practices of regenerative agriculture and explore the impact they are having on the farm. We will learn about soil health, composting, cover cropping, biodiversity, and the ways we are implementing a model of ecological farming to protect the earth and grow healthy food to share. We may even learn how to process our elderberries into jam and wine! Lunch will be provided and the cost is \$10.00.

We continue to expand both crop diversity and distribution partners. We hope to grow more volunteers this season, too! We look forward to seeing you on the farm in 2024.



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 27, 9am, Nawakwa || May 4, 9am, Kirchenwald

RSVP at LutheranCamping.org so we can prepare enough jobs & lunch.



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 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:

- Annual Fund In Honor of Beth Fogleman
 In Honor of Ron & Kathy Kerr
 In Honor of Pr. Conrad & Winnie Youse

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 "My Legacy" folder

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

24Spring

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, or sending the coupon on page 6 to LCC, PO Box 459, Arendtsville PA 17303. 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.

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† Deceased





The Lutheran Camping Corporation
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Spring 2024

- April 20 Earth Day Planting Day at
The Wittel Farm Growing Project
- April 21 Earth Day Celebration
at Kirchenwald
- April 27 Work Day
at Nawakwa
- May 4 Work Day
at Kirchenwald
- May 19 Summer Camp Kick-off
Worship & Picnic at Kirchenwald

*Check out 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

**First Sunday of the Month (except Sept 8) -
Dinner Church**

**June 8, July 6, Aug 10 -
Summer Eco-Education Days**

More info at WittelFarm.org

Summer Camp Kick-off Worship & Picnic

at Kirchenwald

Sunday, May 19

Worship Begins at 3:30 pm, Picnic to follow

RSVP at LutheranCamping.org