

⚡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 LutheranCamping.org

Fall 2025

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LutheranCamping.org

CAMP THROUGH THEIR EYES: FAMILIES SHARE THEIR STORIES

Survey highlights reveal the life-changing impact of LCC camps this summer.

They say that 90% of people read customer reviews before buying a product. Similarly, families want to know what others think about a summer camp before sending their children there. At the Lutheran Camping Corporation, we have been gathering data for years through camper and parent/guardian surveys. We are incredibly grateful for the families who take the time to complete these surveys and give us an important perspective on how we carry out the mission of the camps. We celebrated at the end of this summer after reading your overwhelmingly positive stories from summer camp. Here are just some of the comments we received at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa this year:

“Camp is the highlight of my daughter’s summer and we are so grateful for a wonderful Christian camp atmosphere.”

“This was my son’s first overnight camp experience and he had a blast. He raved about his counselors and the overall experience.”

“The first thing she said at pick-up was ‘I’m definitely coming back next year’.”

We strive to make camp a place where all people are welcome and have a chance to grow into the best versions of themselves.

“My 13-year-old found a place to really be himself.

He grew in confidence and personally so much that multiple people have commented on how he blossomed this summer.”

“My 9-year-old has high functioning autism and has trouble making friends. He told me it was the best camp. He told me all the people he talked to and their names. He was so excited to make friends for the first time.”



Safety is a top priority at camp.

“They talked non-stop on the way home about their week. It was amazing to know they had such a great time in a place where they feel safe and loved.”

“From the moment we met her counselor, you could feel the love and care our daughter would have for the week.”

At its core, camp is a ministry for learning and sharing God’s love in the world.

“Your camp is a sacred space for my son where he is open to God, creation, others, and himself in deeply formative ways.”

“Thank you for giving our kids the opportunity to live in God’s creation in a safe, welcoming, and loving environment.”



WHAT’S INSIDE - FALL 2025

Living Out Faith Through Service

Discover how mission teams, congregations, and youth groups put their faith into action at Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and beyond.

Camp for Every Brain

From fidget tools to quiet spaces, our camps help neurodivergent campers feel safe and included.

Donor Generosity Celebrated!!!

Friends of LCC gather to celebrate the donors whose gifts make camp ministry possible.

Harvesting Hope

Learn how the Wittel Farm Growing Project blends faith, ecology, and service to fight hunger.

CAMP FOR EVERY BRAIN

The Lutheran Camping Corporation wants everyone to experience camp, including those who are neurodivergent. Neurodivergent is a term to describe people whose brains work differently. This includes ADHD, autism, anxiety, sensory processing, and learning differences. Both Kirchenwald and Nawakwa had summer campers who needed extra resources to enjoy camp. Kirchenwald has pop bracelets and fidget spinners available for campers to use, and they make sure to have printed schedules available for those campers who are visual learners. Nawakwa also provides ear plugs for campers who are overstimulated with noise. This summer, the camps have seen campers who are neurodivergent have a great connection with their cabin group, lead song grace, and ask questions during Bible study. A handful of campers at Nawakwa this summer were overstimulated in the dining hall with all the noise and movement during songs. They were able to step onto the porch outside, grab some earplugs, and even enjoyed some of the dancing with us on the porch! We pray a week at camp blurs, if not erases, the space between “normal” and neurodivergent so it is just God’s people. Everyone should have the opportunity to experience and participate in God’s community at camp.



DONOR GENEROSITY CELEBRATED!!!

On Friday, September 5, the Friends of the Lutheran Camping Corporation came together for the Donor Appreciation Banquet at Englewood Brewing near Hershey to celebrate the generosity which advances LCC ministry. Mike Youse, LCC Executive Director greeted and thanked those in attendance and highlighted the many connections among those gathered and how together they advance ministry through their generous support. After enjoying a delicious meal along with joyful fellowship and conversation, Mike reflected on the ministry at Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and the Wittel Farm, and the impact it has upon the campers and retreat guests, and how support from generous donors makes a difference in that ministry.



The 2025 Cornerstone Award was presented to Steve and Linda Rose for their long and generous connection to and support of the Lutheran Camping Corporation.

Previous Cornerstone Award recipients include:

- Rev. Conrad & Winifred Youse, 2013
- Ronald & Kathleen Kerr, 2014
- Rev. Glenn & Stella Ludwig, 2015
- Robert & Kathryn Schweizer Family, 2016
- Rev. Brenda Kiser, 2017
- Jane English, 2018
- Mark & Hazel Nestleroth, 2019
- Tom & Colleen Sites, 2023
- Matthew & Stacy Schroeder, 2024

ANNUAL QUILT & CRAFT AUCTION

The LCC Annual Quilt Auction isn’t just for people who love quilts — it’s for everyone who loves camp! While the highlight of the afternoon is the live quilt auction, you can also bid on handcrafted silent auction items, explore camp, and enjoy a delicious meal with friends.

Most quilts are lovingly donated by friends of the Lutheran Camping Corporation and made especially for this event. Each year’s collection also includes antique quilts or favorites from past auctions. Some of the most memorable pieces have featured old camp t-shirts or camper-designed patches.

You can preview quilts and silent auction items online starting October 25 at LutheranCamping.org. Online bidding will close October 30, and the highest online bids will become the starting bids at the in-person auction.

Join us in person for this year’s auction on Sunday, November 2, at Camp Nawakwa. The silent auction begins at 2 PM, and the live auction starts at 3 PM. All proceeds benefit the LCC Endowment Fund, ensuring strong and vibrant outdoor ministries for years to come.

This event is free and open to all. RSVPs are requested — please call the Camping Office at 717-677-8211 or visit LutheranCamping.org to reserve your spot.

2025

Annual Quilt Auction

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2

TO BE HELD AT

CAMP NAWAKWA

1033 NAWAKWA ROAD, BIGLERVILLE, PA



Bid Online

October 25-30

lutherancamping.org/quiltauction

Bid In-Person

November 2

at Nawakwa

Giving Spree

November 6, 2025

ACCFGivingSpree.org

EXTRA GIVE

NOV 21

ADAMS COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

HIGH FOUNDATION

MURRY FOUNDATION

CAMPPERSON MEETINGS

Jan 18 - Kirchenwald & Nawakwa - 2:00pm
Jan 20 - Online Meeting - 7:00pm
The self-paced online training will be available January 15-31.

Be sure your congregation plans to send a representative to one of the 2026 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!**

LIVING OUT FAITH THROUGH SERVICE

There are numerous references in the Bible to service and volunteering of time and talents. Paul advises to the church in Galatia that we ought to use our freedom to serve one another humbly. And Jesus teaches that loving our neighbor is a form of loving God. At camp, we both coach our campers to be service-minded and are blessed to be the recipient of the service of others.

Once again, the Lebanon Lutheran Mission Team committed a week at Kirchenwald doing a variety of projects from the ecological (removing invasive plants) to skilled labor (roof work, electrical systems, and retaining walls) to beautification and cleaning. Their generosity helps to advance the ministry of summer camp and beyond. Similarly, volunteers from Evangelical Lutheran Church in Waynesboro made the trip to Nawakwa - renovating cabins in lower camp to make them more welcoming and functional by painting, cleaning, and renovating the bathrooms. Opportunities like these will continue for groups at all LCC locations, moving forward.

Three congregations also joined in on service work through the Diaconos program (one as far away as Wisconsin!). With an array of sites and organizations to help, these youth groups and their advisors touched the lives of horse riders with special needs in therapeutic riding lessons, individuals with health needs through the medical clinic in Harrisburg, residents of retirement communities by leading worship and playing games, and single mothers with housing insecurities by preparing a week's worth of meals.

We are grateful for the giving spirit of all those who contribute to the camp community, and we celebrate the opportunity to lift up service and generosity as a core value for our campers and their families.



FALL FOLIAGE DAY

Kirchenwald - October 26, 1-6pm
Nawakwa - October 19, 1-6pm

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



HARVESTING HOPE - WITTEL FARM GROWING PROJECT CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

The Wittel Farm Growing Project is celebrating 10 years of planting, growing, and sharing fresh vegetables with our neighbors. Just as important as the food we share is the connection we experience with God the Creator and the good creation that sustains us. This land, entrusted to the Lutheran Camping Corporation and the Lower Susquehanna Synod, answers God's call to feed the hungry and care for creation.

As an ecological and educational farm, Wittel Farm welcomes hundreds of volunteers and learners each year—from campers at Kirchenwald to youth groups from as far away as Wisconsin. In 2025 alone, more than 320 volunteers, including 120 youth, joined us for hands-on service and learning.

This summer we also increased biodiversity, adding flowers to attract pollinators and planting our most diverse crop ever—over 25 different vegetables. Despite challenging weather, we began harvesting in late May and will continue through October, donating most of our produce to local food networks in Lancaster and Lebanon Counties.

Please join us on the farm for spiritual retreats, ecological learning, and volunteer opportunities that feed our neighbors and care for God's creation.

Visit wittelfarm.org or contact wfgp@wittelfarm.org to get involved.

Upcoming Events at The Wittel Farm

October Harvest Festival - October 18
Celebrate the bounty of the season at The Wittel Farm's October Harvest Festival!

Dinner Church - November 2
Worship. Community. Shared Meal.

Advent Day Apart - December 6
In the busyness and bustle of this season, we invite you to take time for reflection, contemplation, silence, and stillness.

Advent/Christmas in the Barn - December 21
Join us for an intimate evening of scripture, hymns and songs, prayers, and joyful music.



RECEIVE AN INCOME FOR LIFE WHILE SUPPORTING THE LUTHERAN CAMPING CORPORATION

Have you ever said, “I would like to support the Lutheran Camping Corporation more but most of my funds are invested and I need the income to live on?”

If you have, we want you to know you can make a gift to help LCC and at the same time receive an income for life from that gift!

Moreover, your income will be fixed and guaranteed. You will save on taxes because you will receive a charitable deduction for a portion of your gift and the income itself will be partially tax-free. There may also be capital gains, gift, estate, and inheritance tax savings. And you will be freed from all management and reinvestment worries.

This intriguing gift method is the Charitable Gift Annuity. For over one hundred fifty years it has been a safe and wonderful way to help others while receiving the income needed for life.

Rates are set according to your age at the time of the gift and range from (5.7%) at age 65, to (7.0%) at age 75, to (9.1%) at age 85 to (10.1%) at age 90 and over. Gift Annuities may be written on one or two lives. (Rates listed are for One-Life Annuities. Two-Life rates are slightly lower because a second life is involved.)

To provide you with more information about this marvelous gift method, LCC is making available, free of charge, an interesting little folder entitled “The Charitable Gift Annuity.” It will tell you more about the Charitable Gift Annuity and the many benefits it can provide you.

You can receive your free copy of this helpful booklet by mailing the coupon to the right to LCC, P.O. Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303 or by emailing Mike Youse at myouse@lutherancamping.org or calling him at 717-677-8211.

Please send me, without cost or obligation, a copy of your folder “The Charitable Gift Annuity.”

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 an Annual Fund gift of \$

- ☐ 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

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](https://lutherancamping.org/giving)

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

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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

Maggie Ackerman	Shirley Ernst	Mark and Hazel Nestleroth
Clare Archer	Andrea Faber	Elaine H. Newhart †
Kathy Baker and Joel Petruschke	Jessica Felici	D. Mark and Susan Potter †
Freda J. Benner †	Edward and Judith Garber	Jane Reinhard
George and Mary Bennett	Kent and Sharon Hardel	Ruth Reuning †
Matthew and Abby Best	Bob and Judy Hoover	Lea Ridenhour
Alice Boeshore	Robert and Kathryn Horst †	Corene A. Rohrer
David Bomboy †	Marie Hoshell †	Joseph and Alice Savastio †
Sandra Brandt	Ronald and Kathleen Kerr	Richard D. Schreiber †
Kathleen S. Brenneman	Lynn and Dawn Kinard	Kevin and Sue Shively
Marianne Brock	Kevin and Shannon Kincaid	Betty Sidebottom
Jarred and Tiffany Cahan	Brenda Kiser	William & Patricia Snyder
Donald Clapper †	Ed and Sue Kulakowski	William and Tammy Steinhart
Rudyard and Doris Crider	Philip Leer	Donald and Edna Sterner
Greg and Abby Davis	Elaine F. Ludwig	Doris Straw-Maisack
Carol Dittoe	Glenn and Stella Ludwig	Ruth Summers †
Peter Dohner and BethAnn D’Agostino	Alex and Beth Martini	Vincent Tassia Jr. †
Mary Drehs	Carl and Rose Ann Mease	Paul and Dorothy Weirick †
	Miriam Miller †	Frederick and Marion Wentz †
	Jessica Neiswender	



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

ANNUAL FUND FUELS ALL MINISTRY AT OUR CAMPS

The generosity of those who give Annual Fund donations makes a huge difference! Those gifts help us hire and train mature, thoughtful, Christian young people who serve on the summer camp ministry teams as counselors, craft instructors, lifeguards, and kitchen and maintenance workers. Those gifts help purchase worship and Bible study resources, program equipment, craft supplies, maintenance equipment and supplies, and more. Donations help us maintain facilities, operate swimming pools, keep our kitchen equipment functioning, and keep our vehicles safe for transporting campers. And MUCH, MUCH MORE...

Your support makes a difference in our camper’s lives and helps them grow in faith!!!

Please consider giving an Annual Fund Gift **NOW** to help LCC ministry remain strong, vibrant, and in good financial condition as we proceed through the fall of the year.





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

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Fall 2025

- Oct 18 Harvest Festival at The Wittel Farm
Oct 19 Fall Foliage Day at Nawakwa
Oct 26 Fall Foliage Day at Kirchenwald
Nov 2 Dinner Church at The Wittel Farm
Nov 2 Annual Quilt & Craft Auction at Nawakwa
Nov 7-9 Women's Craft Retreat at Nawakwa
Dec 6 Advent Day Apart at The Wittel Farm
Dec 21 Advent/Christmas in the Barn at The Wittel Farm
Jan 2-4, 2026 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 2-4, 2026 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 2-4, 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, 2025. Additional information at (717) 677-8211 or (717) 964-3121.