

Camping!

Spring 2026
Newsletter



The Lutheran Camping Corporation
of Central Pennsylvania
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa & the Wittel Farm



NEW LOOK! SAME GREAT CAMPS!

As the Lutheran Camping Corporation continues to experience a season of transition and change, some of our printed and online materials may look a bit different. Rest assured that we are still the same ministry you know and love, and we are working hard to continue to be the Church, in a place and time apart, where Christ's love is experienced and faith is renewed. Keep reading to learn more about our upcoming summer season, as well as what's on the horizon for LCC!

A NIGHT FOR NAWAKWA FUNDRAISER

Join us at Nawakwa on Saturday, April 25th, for a night of food, fellowship, and fun! Through a free-will offering, this event will raise funds for the ministry of Camp Nawakwa. An evening meal will be served at 6:00pm, including pig roast, a variety of salads, and s'mores of course! Sign of the Horse Brewery will be there with 21+ beverages. Throughout the evening, enjoy a cornhole tournament, basket raffle, and live entertainment! There is an option to stay overnight for \$50 per person. RSVP on our website today!

LutheranCamping.org/event/a-night-for-nawakwa



A LETTER FROM THE CAMPING BOARD

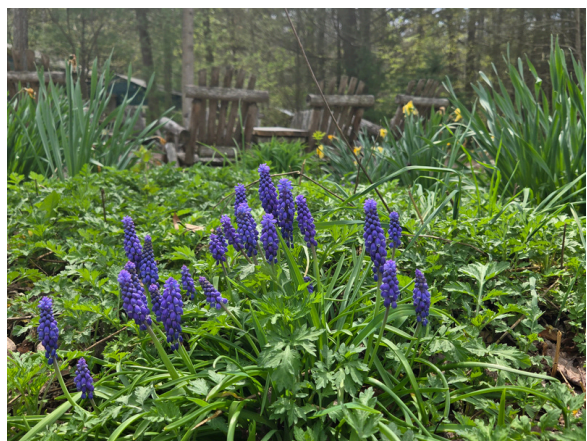
Dear Friends of the Lutheran Camping Corporation,

As spring is upon us, we are preparing for our next program season at Camp Kirchenwald, Camp Nawakwa, and the Wittel Farm. The winter months at LCC were busy and productive, as we navigate staff transitions and look towards the future of the organization with hope and expectation. We hope you will join us in giving thanks for the ministry of Michael Youse during the Summer Camp Kick-Off on Sunday, May 17th at Kirchenwald. We look forward to this day of worship, fellowship, and celebration of Mike's 25 years of ministry as Executive Director of the LCC.

Following Mike's transition, the Board has hired an interim Executive Director, Richard (Dick) Peterson, who brings extensive experience to leading our staff during this liminal time. Dick's background in fundraising, staff development, and program leadership complement his passion for camp as sacred space where lives are changed. We began our work together this January with a board retreat attended by Dick and the full-time staff. This was a meaningful time for fellowship and conversation, as we envision the bright future God has in place for this shared ministry.

In this time of transition, the Board has several task forces and committees who meet regularly to ensure everything is in place for the hiring of a new Executive Director. As a team, we have finalized a job description for this position and have begun a national search. The position is posted within the Lower Susquehanna Synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, and the American Camp Association, and we are accepting applications through May 15. We ask for your prayers through this process, that God will lead the right person to this call - one who has the gifts and inspiring vision for this wonderful ministry we all share and love.

With the coming of spring, new life is sprouting all around us. It is an exciting reminder to us that God is always making things new. The Board is excited about the new chapter ahead for the Lutheran Camping Corporation, and we are grateful for your investment and continued support of this beloved ministry. Whether it's your prayers, your continued generous financial support, your time and talents shared across different sites, or your enthusiasm for spreading the word about LCC, all these things help our ministry spring forward, grow, and thrive. Thank you!



In Christ's Peace,
The Board of the Lutheran Camping Corporation

Rev. Drahomir Oslík, Chair; Mr. Christopher Rahn, Ed.D., Vice Chair; Mr. Jason Pringle, Treasurer; Rev. Matthew Pensinger, Secretary; Rev. Scott Brubaker, Ms. Karen Daubert, Mr. Andrew Heaton, Mr. Eric Huth, Ms. Kate Martin, Rev. Amy Northridge, Mr. Charlie Roberts, Bishop's Representative; Rev. Kevin Shively, Mr. Bill Steinhart, Rev. George Scott, Synod Council Liaison (non-voting member)



GET TO KNOW OUR INTERIM DIRECTOR

I was lucky enough as a boy to attend Camp Augustana in Lake Geneva, WI. In the summer after 6th, 7th and 8th grade, I was a part of the annual Lutheran Music camp for 200-300 campers. I fell in love with camp and dreamed about being a camp staff member one year. That summer came in 1970 when I was a camp counselor in northern Minnesota. That is now 56 summers ago, and my love for camp has taken me to camps in Pennsylvania, Indiana, Michigan, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. I am glad to be back in Pennsylvania since January working as the Interim Executive Director for the Lutheran Camping



Corporation. Winter is starting to leave our three camp sites, and each day camper registrations come in for the coming summer. It takes a whole year of preparation to deliver a great summer season each June, July, and August. We give thanks for all the friends of camp who donate items and resources to support our sites and programs. We thank the Lower Susquehanna Synod and all its congregations for a partnership that started in 1929! We work hard each day to be ready for all the campers whose families trust us for their children's safety and happiness during their week at camp. Each summer we

spread the love of Christ to each person who joins us in these beautiful outdoor settings. We will soon be counting the days until we welcome our staff teams to Camp Nawakwa, Camp Kirchenwald, and Wittel Farm. Their training will be held during the last two weeks of May. We are thankful for these leaders who will give their summer to lead our campers. They each follow the path I started in 1970, and I wish for them and all of our campers, the very best summer of their lives as we heed God's call to make a difference in our world every day.

Richard "Dick" Peterson
Interim Executive Director

WELCOME NEW STAFF!

At the beginning of February, the Lutheran Camping Corporation received news that Thomas Reddinger, who has served faithfully as our Marketing and IT Coordinator, has accepted a new call to serve as Executive Director at Agapé † Kure Beach Ministries in North Carolina. We are profoundly grateful for Tom's commitment to the ministry of LCC, and we wish him Godspeed on this exciting new journey. Following Tom's transition, Deacon Amy Mambu has come on board as the registrar for the LCC. Sharing her time between the LCC and her call to St John's Lutheran Church in Abbottstown, Amy will manage all registrations for spring events and, importantly, for the 2026 summer camping season. Amy's resume also includes extensive experience in



outdoor ministry including as a summer staff member at Nawakwa and as the Associate Director at Mar-Lu-Ridge in Jefferson, Maryland. Join us in welcoming Amy to the team!

Zach Weiss
LCC Associate Executive Director
Kirchenwald Director



NEW PROGRAMS FOR SUMMER 2026!

Some things at camp have been around since day one. Waterways, some trees, even some of the buildings are original. But when it comes to programs, we're always innovating! New activities and opportunities keep things fresh for returning campers and might just be the thing that draws someone new into the community. That's why all three of our sites are excited to offer new programs this summer!

INTERMEDIATE TREK at Kirchenwald

Intermediate Trek campers will challenge themselves with exciting day hikes through some of central PA's best trails- including an overnight trip to round out a memorable week of trekking.

JUNIORS STAR GAZERS at Kirchenwald

For junior campers, Star Gazers will travel around the camp property each day, finding new and exciting sleep out locations to marvel at the beauty of God's night sky.

FAMILY CAMP ADVENTURE at Kirchenwald

After over a decade of Family Camp-K-tion, the kids are growing up. And camp is growing up with them. This program is perfect for experienced and brand new camp families alike. Spend the week traveling the scenic Pine Creek Rail Trail on bike with side trips to hike, swim in the creek, and visit local towns. As always, "family" is defined however it makes the most sense for you. With options for two different weeks during the summer, we hope to see 6-12 total campers each week to make the most of the experience.



SERVANT WORKS at Nawakwa

Senior High campers who view their faith as a call to serve, spend a week putting that faith in action at camp and in the community. At the end of the week, you will have completed 20 hours of service which can help meet requirements for National Honor Society, graduation, etc.

MAGIC CAMPS at Nawakwa

For both Juniors and Intermediate campers, enjoy a week of mystery and tricks, and master some tricks for yourself. Perform in a magic show at Friday's closing worship, and leave families and campers in awe of your magical abilities!

FARM DAY CAMPS at Wittel Farm

Youth are invited to the farm for a morning of hands-on learning, exploration, and fun farm activities. After lunch you'll head over to Camp Kirchenwald for an afternoon of games and pool time.

June 22-26 is for Juniors

July 20-24 is for Intermediates



SUMMER 2026 THEME

The Bible study theme for camp this summer is Wear Love! You might be wondering, what does that even mean? How can you wear or put on love? This summer, we'll explore exactly that! You'll see how God's love shapes who you are and how it shows up in your everyday life. We're invited to wear love - not just on our sleeves, but in how we act, speak, and connect with others. During your week, you'll discover God's love in kindness, humbleness, calmness, steadfastness, and forgiveness. By the end, you won't just leave with a new camp t-shirt, you'll leave with a fresh perspective on how to live out the love God calls us to share, every single day! I can't wait to "Wear Love" with you at camp this summer!

Kelsey Tomlinson
Nawakwa Director



KIRCHENWALD CROSSING

The satisfying sound of chains is echoing through the woods at Kirchenwald thanks to the new disc golf course, completed this January. The process of realizing Kirchenwald Crossing took over a year of planning, fundraising, and hard work. In 2024, at Kirchenwald's Party With A Purpose, it was announced that money raised through that event would support the construction of a premier disc golf course on the property. As one of the fastest growing recreational sports in the United States, UDisc (the ubiquitous application that records players' rounds and scores) estimates that over 6 million people in the United States played disc golf last year, with its popularity surging 76% in the past 5 years.



Under the direction of Mike Dunkle and Charlie Greco, the "godfathers of disc golf" in Lebanon County, the design for the Kirchenwald Crossing disc golf course explores part of the camp property where few people have traveled before. A highlight of the course is hole 9 that sends players down a steep hill to aim for a basket nestled in the center of picturesque boulder field.

With its official public opening on January 10th, 2026, early reviews are incredibly positive with comments including, "One of Pennsylvania's top courses without a doubt" and "Instant gem" and "Going to be one of my favorites for sure". The course will be enjoyed by summer campers,

retreat groups, and is open to the public outside of the summer camp season. Local clubs are already organizing tournaments and other events. The LCC is excited to show off the course on **May 3 with the first annual Kirchenwald Crossing Disc Golf Tournament of Champions**, an event for all skill levels. Register on our website today to participate in this fun event!

A sincere thank you to everyone who helped bring this course to life. Sponsorship opportunities still exist to get your name or business displayed in the course.

Zach Weiss
Kirchenwald Director



MAKING ALL THINGS NEW AT WITTEL FARM!

Every year as spring approaches, the Wittel Farm comes alive with seeds and soil. There is nothing more hopeful than the planting of seeds - a practice that reminds us that life is persistent. Even the tiniest of seeds will produce an abundant harvest of food, flower, or fiber. Planting seeds reminds me of God's love: Generous, abundant, constant, and unending. God's newness is all around us!



The Wittel Farm is a unique outdoor ministry site where seeds are planted, food is grown and shared with our neighbors, and faith is renewed through the practices of regenerative agriculture. We welcome hundreds of volunteers on the farm from April thru October: to learn about ecological farming, and to grow a high quality, diverse, mixed vegetable and fruit crop. The 2026 growing season will be the most biodiverse we have ever had. We anticipate an abundant harvest beginning in May.

The Farm is a place for spiritual renewal with special gatherings to honor the rhythms of the seasons, to enjoy the gift of food, and to draw closer to the Creator. Regeneration sustains God's creation with

new life emerging from death all the time. You are warmly invited to be part of the new growing season through a series of events offered on the Farm. I hope to see you there!

Rev. Matt Lenahan

Director of the Wittel Farm Growing Project

EARTH DAY AT THE FARM (Sat. April 25th)

Honor the Earth with us on this service-learning day full of tree-planting, a community composting workshop, and some basic botany education from our farm educator. Lunch is provided!

SPRING DINNER CHURCH (Sun. April 26th)

Rooted in the tradition of the early Christian movement, Dinner Church invites us to gather at a common table to remember Jesus through radical hospitality and community. All are welcome - come as you are and bring a dish to share.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOME

Volunteers are welcome on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays throughout the season. Public planting days will be offered every Saturday in May - help us plant thousands of vegetable seeds, starter plants, fruit bushes, and trees!

BLESSING OF SEEDS AND SOIL (Sat. May 2nd)

We gather for an annual ritual of prayer, sacred text, and song - an invitation to reconnect with Creation, Creator, and community.

MEET THE CHICKS! (Saturday, May 16th)

NEW this year, we are starting sixty egg laying hens! Join us to Meet the Chicks, learn about the ways they will contribute to the farm, and how we can nurture them from day-old chicks to mature, egg-laying hens.



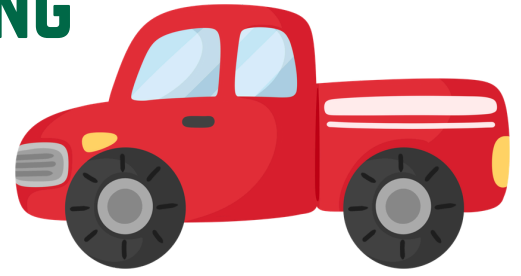
Go to www.wittelfarm.org to register for events and to volunteer. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram. Watch for our new Wittel Weekly Video podcast starting soon!



HELP KEEP NAWAKWA ROLLING

Beep Beep! We need your help! Nawakwa is on the lookout for a reliable truck to help haul supplies, support programs, and keep camp running strong all year long. We are looking for a truck that can keep up with camp life, including Towing capacity of at least 7,000 lbs., 7-blade trailer hookup with brake controller, and a Class IV hitch. Trucks like a Ford F-150, Chevy Silverado

1500, or Ram 1500 are great examples, but we'll gladly welcome anything bigger that meets or exceeds these specs. Have a truck or know someone who does? Reach out to Camp Nawakwa and together we can put God's love in motion - one mile at a time!



UPCOMING EVENTS AT LCC

Sat. April 25 A Night for Nawakwa

Sun. May 3 Disc Golf Tournament
at Kirchenwald

Fri. May 8 Lutheran Camping Night
at the Harrisburg Senators

Sun. May 17 Summer Camp Kick-off
at Kirchenwald

Register for events
and stay up-to-date at
LutheranCamping.org



WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU AT CAMP!

