



2023 ANNUAL REPORT

THE LUTHERAN CAMPING CORPORATION OF CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA
KIRCHENWALD, NAWAKWA AND THE WITTEL FARM



LUTHERANCAMPING.ORG

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”
--Revelation 22:13

**2023 SUMMER BIBLE STUDY
& WORSHIP THEME
HOLY TRINITY, WHOLLY LOVE**

I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the first and the last, the
beginning and the end.

-- Revelation 22:13



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The Church in a place and time apart where Christ's
love is experienced and faith is renewed.



INTRODUCTION

I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

-Revelation 22:13

The outdoor ministry at Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and the Wittel Farm focuses on God's people from beginning to end. It's about our campers learning about all that God is, what God has done and continues to do in the world and in our lives.

Through our joyful ministry of summer youth camps, family camps, retreat ministry, day camps, retreat facility rental, and outreach, God's abundant love was made known to all who participated in, supported, and was impacted by our ministry in the past year.

All we do at Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and the Wittel Farm is an extension of the ministry of the Lower Susquehanna Synod - ELCA and the Penn Central Conference - United Church of Christ congregations we serve. It is our intent that our campers and retreat guests return to their congregations inspired to be more fully engaged in the life of those congregations. It is also our intent that they return to their homes, communities, schools, and places of employment inspired to share God's love.

We are blessed to have three diverse ministry sites with offerings and facilities that appeal to God's people of all ages, interests, and abilities. Please take a few minutes to read through this annual report to see how we are enriched through ministry at Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and the Wittel Farm. Thank you to all those who give their time, talent, and treasure to strengthen and advance our ministries.

Michael Youse
Executive Director

KIRCHENWALD



One of the first things we do at the start of a camp week is play Name Games. These games are the beginnings of getting to know the rest of the people in your group - their identities. To know someone's name, to know who they are, is a form of being in relationship with that person. This concept was also the central tenet of our Bible Study theme last summer, "Holy Trinity, Wholly Love," where we aspired to better know God as a triune being. Through a greater understanding of the Trinity (at least to the extent our brains can comprehend it...it is referred to as the mystery of faith, after all) we strengthen our relationship with God - Creator Father, Savior Son, and Advocate Spirit.

After a week of exploring the Trinity, our Friday theme culminated with the question, "Who are we?" recognizing that as beloved people of God, we are called into community for the joyful celebration of all creation and Creator. What a fitting way to reflect on the community we had formed over the past days! The camp community in 2023 certainly was something to celebrate, too. We numbered 321 youth and adult campers, plus an additional 36 confirmation campers. Once again Kirchenwald hosted Camp LionHeart, giving 32 youth who live with chronic heart disease a beautiful chance to enjoy a week at the church in the woods. And, of course, camp wouldn't be possible without the generosity of our volunteers (42) and staff (31) who faithfully served the camp community throughout the summer.

Thank you to all who were a part of the Kirchenwald community this past year. Know that when the question is asked of camp, "Who are we?" that you are a part of the answer. We look forward to your continued involvement at camp and anticipate our community growing in numbers and in spirit next year!

Zachary Weiss
Associate Executive Director
Kirchenwald Director



KIRCHENWALD 2023 SUMMER STAFF

Emma Best	Sophia Gilbert
Abigail Brubaker	Lucy Hammer
Luke Brumm	Andrew Kendall
Marissa Brumm	Jonah Lenahan
Rosalie Brunner	Taylor Leonard
Gavin Bush	Nathan Lindsey
Elijah Detter	Hallie McCoy
Logan Dohner	Emmanuel Mchomvu
Albert Domines	Quentin Miller
Priscilla Domines	Ava Morgan

Natalie Mull
Madeline Pelna
Colleen Sites
Levi Sites
Zachary Stapler
Kathryn Szymanski
Zachary Weiss
Laura Willoughby
Conrad Youse
William Youse

KIRCHENWALD SUMMER USE

Summer Campers	283
Family/Adult Campers	33
Confirmation Campers	36
Diacanos Campers	5
Other Summer Use	81
Non Summer Use:	713

DISTRIBUTION OF KIRCHENWALD CONTRIBUTIONS

Unrestricted:	\$12,919.33
Restricted:	\$22,385.00
Campership:	\$0.00

TOTAL KIRCHENWALD CONTRIBUTIONS: \$35,304.33



NAWAKWA



It is always a pleasure to share Nawakwa’s story with the visitors we see throughout the year. Likewise, I enjoy hearing their stories about their times at the “Camp on the Hill.” I hear these stories when people drop in to “see if Nawakwa is the same” as what they remember, and I hear these stories when I visit congregations to promote Nawakwa’s ministry.

Often, these stories are about lifelong friends made at camp, s’mores, the brisk and silent walk to Upper Temple worship, the cairn service, or how cold the pool always was. Another common theme of the stories people share is how time spent at Nawakwa helped them experience Christian fellowship and supported their faith formation. Yes, faith formation, fellowship, and service learning remain at the core of Nawakwa’s ministry to this day!

In 2023, through worship, Bible study, exploring God’s creation, and by living in Nawakwa’s intentional Christian community, our campers came to a deeper understanding of God’s love, as together they explored the Holy Trinity and made lifelong memories that will become their own Nawakwa stories to tell.

Michael Youse
Executive Director



NAWAKWA 2023 SUMMER STAFF

Ian Anderson
 Kerstin Anderson
 Carter Anstine
 Kristopher Baptiste
 Lynsey Brinkley
 Garazi Catalan
 Anthony Diaz
 April Diaz
 Jacob Fleury
 Jacklyn Glass
 Mellisa Hernandez Gualteros

Merelin Jimenez Guerrero
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 Jason Pringle
 Roberto Valverde
 Laura Rodriguez Guzman
 Paula Ruiz Guiot
 Leo Scolforo
 Simona Secanska
 Zachary Tipton
 Lesli Willoughby
 Eli Wright

NAWAKWA USE

Summer Campers	338
Family/Elder Campers	276
Confirmation Campers	257
Off-Site Congregational Day Camps:	68
Other Summer Use:	114
Non Summer Use:	2582

DISTRIBUTION OF NAWAKWA CONTRIBUTIONS

Unrestricted:	\$28,360.13
Restricted:	\$9,725.30
Campship:	\$6,558.39
Land - Seeding the Future:	\$15,573.40
TOTAL NAWAKWA CONTRIBUTIONS:	\$60,217.22



THE WITTEL FARM



And God, who supplies seed for the sower and bread to eat, will also supply you with all the seed you need and will make it grow and produce a rich harvest from your generosity. - 2 Corinthians 9:10

The ministry at the Wittel Farm is all about planting and nurturing seeds of faith, and harvesting and sharing the fruits of God's love.

Many who visit the Wittel Farm enjoy and appreciate its peaceful atmosphere and tell us that they feel spiritually renewed by their time here. Those seeds of faith and spiritual renewal may have been planted and nurtured in conversation, Bible study, and prayer at the Lenten or Advent Day Apart retreats. They may have been planted and nurtured while attending the Christmas Worship in the barn or at Dinner Church. Or they could have been planted practicing discipleship while working beside others in the Wittel Farm Growing Project (WFGP) – our ministry of growing nutritious vegetables which are donated into the food relief system as a way to share God's love with others and to help alleviate food insecurity.

The Wittel Farm is truly blessed by the generosity of congregations, individuals, and other organizations who provide the seeds of financial support, physical effort, creativity, and enthusiasm, which makes for a rich harvest. Thanks to this generosity, WFGP had one of its most successful years to date. 477 volunteers helped plant, tend, and harvest 27,000 pounds of vegetables (including 15 different varieties) which were donated to food insecure families through 10 food distribution partners. 10 congregations and community groups also partnered with us in these efforts. Another wonderful blessing accomplished was the construction of a meeting pavilion which will greatly advance our efforts and provide increased opportunities for various groups.

Great thanks to all who give to and support this wonderful ministry and the rich harvest it yields.

Pr. Matt Lenahan
Wittel Farm Growing Project Director



THE WITTEL FARM 2023 SUMMER STAFF

Matthew Lenahan, The Wittel Farm Growing Project Director
 Henry Hammer
 John Stover

THE WITTEL FARM USE

Non Summer Use: 60

DISTRIBUTION OF THE WITTEL FARM CONTRIBUTIONS

Unrestricted: \$700.00
 The Wittel Farm Growing Project \$15,627.29

TOTAL WITTEL FARM CONTRIBUTIONS: \$16,327.29



DEVELOPMENT

God is able to give you more than you need, so that you will always have all you need for yourselves and more than enough for every good cause. - 2 Corinthians 9:8

As we reflect on the ministry at Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and the Wittel Farm throughout 2023, we clearly recognize the principal that Paul expressed to the Corinthians – that God gives so generously that we, in turn, can give, and what is given grows into fully-formed lives that are rich in God.

Such is the case with our ministries at the camps and the farm. All that the ministry is, and all it accomplishes could not happen without the generous support of many congregations and many generous and talented individuals. The gifts given result in enthusiastic and energetic Christian living, and those who spend time at our ministry sites go out into the world taking God’s love along to share wherever they go. This ministry is truly blessed by those who give their time, energy, enthusiasm, talent, and money to help us grow our campers’ faith and share God’s love.



A very significant accomplishment in 2023 was the retirement of the 25-year, \$1,588,000 mortgage taken out in 2007 to purchase land for the expansion of Nawakwa. Thanks to the great generosity of many individuals and congregations, the mortgage was retired in only 16 years, greatly reducing interest expenses.

Also in 2023...

- 69 congregations and 607 individuals made monetary contributions in support of LCC ministries.
- 37 individuals and 25 churches donated quilts or craft items to make the Quilt and Craft auction a success, raising \$15,973. Others helped the Kirchenwald Party with a Purpose raise \$21,430. While still others helped the Night for Nawakwa raise \$2,000.
- Lower Susquehanna Synod provided \$66,500 in financial support.
- Volunteers gave time, energy, and expertise in various capacities, including as camp nurses, musicians, chaplains, kitchen helpers, vegetable growers, and maintenance workers.
- Thanks to Thrivent, a generous ministry partner, 99 Thrivent members directed \$11,286 to LCC through Thrivent Choice. Other Thrivent members created Action Teams with supporting projects benefitting the ministry.

Notable accomplishments thanks to generous financial support also include:

- \$16,977 in Campership donations helped 43 children attend camp who would otherwise have been unable to attend this joyful and faith-building ministry due to financial hardship.
- Facilities were maintained and kept attractive, safe, and user-friendly.
- Significant ministry site improvements were accomplished, including construction of a meeting pavilion at the Wittel Farm, renovation and expansion of the restrooms in Kirchenwald’s athletic field, and replacement of bunk beds and mattresses in Nawakwa’s lower camp cabins.

I hope that the stories, images, donor lists, and figures in this report inspire you to become intimately involved in the ministry happening at Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and The Wittel Farm.

Michael Youse
Executive Director

2023 FINANCIAL STATISTICS

This summary has been audited, and is a reflection of the financial status of the Lutheran Camping Corporation as of December 31, 2023. A complete 2023 financial audit is available upon request.

ASSETS:

Current Assests:

Checking / Savings	\$914,173.20
Other	\$722,615.19
Fixed Assets	\$3,578,084.47

Total Assets \$5,214,872.86

LIABILITY & EQUITY:

Current Liabilities	\$176.09
Long Term Liabilities	\$66.66
Equity	\$5,214,630.11

Total Liabilities & Equity \$5,214,872.86

INCOME:

Camper Fees	\$361,516.96
Contributions.	\$559,973.71
Program & Rentals.	\$434,444.92
Timbering	\$20,155.89
Other	\$107,895.89

Total Income \$1,483,987.37

EXPENSES:

Insurance.	\$74,202.19
Maintenance	\$158,140.10
Payroll	\$614,300.68
EE Benefits.	\$128,443.44
Professional Fees	\$20,005.10
Program	\$216,091.74
Resource and Development	\$28,211.08
Utilities.	\$89,785.95
Interest	\$1,652.12
Real Estate Tax, Misc	\$3,319.81
Depreciation Expense	\$131,676.00

Total Expense \$1,465,828.21

Net Income \$18,159.16

CONTRIBUTIONS

These donors made contributions of record between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Contributions included all Annual Fund, Campership Fund, Endowment Fund, Imagine Campaign, Seeding the Future Campaign, special and matching gifts, and those contributions made at the Party with a Purpose and/or quilt auction for which goods and services may have been rendered.

** denotes new donor in 2023*

^ denotes increase in giving from last year of contribution.

FRIENDS OF THE LUTHERAN CAMPING CORPORATION GIVING SOCIETY

The "Friends of the Lutheran Camping Corporation (LCC)" is a society of individuals, families, businesses and organizations who underwrite the continuation of the Christ-centered programs of the LCC. These donors, who are truly the friends of all of our campers, contribute \$250 or more annually. They want to ensure that these campers will have the uplifting experience of being in a community where God's presence is acknowledged and Christ's love is felt.

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Donors listed here made in-kind contributions or monetary gifts totaling up to \$249 during 2023.

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These caring and generous people help assure a strong and vibrant ministry through the creation of planned gifts during their lifetime or gifted through their estate.

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To learn more about the LCC Heritage Society or to inform us that you have already included the LCC in your estate plans, please contact Mike Youse at 717-677-8211 or myouse@lutherancamping.org.

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Eligible benefit members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans can recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes a portion of its charitable funds through Choice Dollars, part of the Thrivent Choice charitable grant program.

The Lutheran Camping Corporation received a total of \$11,286 in 2023 designated by the following Thrivent Members. For more info, please contact the Camping Office.

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We acknowledge these partners in ministry who made contributions or pledges of record between January 1 and December 31, 2023. Gifts made by these congregations include general operating support, Imagine Campaign gifts, Seeding the Future campaign gifts, Campership Fund gifts, as well as other special gifts.

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We gratefully acknowledge all gifts to the glory of God, as well as those listed here in honor and memory of family, friends, and special events.

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These individuals made contributions of their time and skill during the 2023 year. In order to provide the high quality of programming at our camps, we are dependent on a large number of volunteers who provide program, food service, maintenance, and clerical support, and connections with congregations as CampPersons.

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DIRECTORY

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

PO Box 459, Arendtsville, PA 17303

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LutheranCamping.org

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Thomas Reddinger, Marketing & IT Coordinator / Registrar
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Kirchenwald	1 Cut Off Road, Lebanon, PA 17042	717-964-3121
Nawakwa	1033 Nawakwa Road, Biglerville, PA 17307	717-677-8211
The Wittel Farm	1753 Mill Road, Elizabethtown, PA 17022	717-367-2001

*If your name is missing or incorrectly displayed in this publication, please contact the Camping Office.
For information regarding reservations, please speak with the Office Manager at 717-677-8211.*

2024 UPCOMING EVENTS

Events schedule as of printing. Please check out website (lutherancamping.org) and social media pages for up-to-date event information.

JUNE

- 2 Dinner Church at The Wittel Farm
- 8 Summer Eco-Days at The Wittel Farm
- 16 Summer Camp begins at Kirchenwald & Nawakwa

JULY

- 6 Summer Eco-Days at The Wittel Farm
- 7-12 Elder Camp at Nawakwa
- 7 Dinner Church at The Wittel Farm
- 14-19 Family Camp I at Nawakwa

AUGUST

- 4 Dinner Church at The Wittel Farm
- 4-9 Family Camp-K-tion (Family Camp) at Kirchenwald
- 4-9 Family Camp II at Nawakwa
- 10 Summer Eco-Days at The Wittel Farm

SEPTEMBER

- 8 Dinner Church at The Wittel Farm

OCTOBER

- 1-3 Adult Study Retreat at Nawakwa
- 5 Party with a Purpose at Kirchenwald
- 6 Capture the Flag Spectacular at Kirchenwald
- 6 Dinner Church at The Wittel Farm
- 27 Fall Foliage Day at Nawakwa
- 27 Fall Foliage Day at Kirchenwald

NOVEMBER

- 3 Annual Quilt Auction at Nawakwa
- 3 Dinner Church at The Wittel Farm
- 8-10 Women's Craft Retreat at Nawakwa

DECEMBER

- 7 Advent Day Apart at The Wittel Farm
- 22 Advent / Christmas Night in the Barn at The Wittel Farm

JANUARY 2025

- 3-5 Winter Youth Retreat at Kirchenwald

To register or for more information: LutheranCamping.org or 717-677-8211