

⚡ Camping!

Fall 2024

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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 (voice) / 717-677-7597 (fax)
www.LutheranCamping.org

BREAKING BARRIERS: SYRIAN BROTHERS FIND FRIENDSHIP AND FAITH AT SUMMER CAMP

Have you ever found yourself in a foreign place where you don't speak the language, aren't familiar with the culture, and are thrust into a group of strangers, absent from your family? That's exactly the situation three young Syrian boys found themselves in when they accepted an invitation to attend camp this summer. On paper, there were many reasons they could have given to turn down the offer (the fact that they are Muslim, not being the least of these), but they bravely ventured into the woods at Kirchenwald with open minds and a positive attitude where they were welcomed whole-heartedly.

The camp staff anticipated that there would be challenges in having the three brothers, who didn't speak English, fully participate in the camp program. But with the help of some creative gesturing and the use of a translator app, it wasn't long before they were running around; smiling, laughing, and starting to make new friends. Fortunately some things, like tag and soccer, are pretty universal and helped to make the boys feel at home.

As we work to be a more diverse and inclusive version of the church, camp sits in a unique position to balance the practices and perspectives of a Lutheran tradition with the varied backgrounds of our campers. This was perhaps no more obvious than in the learning and respect that was shared between our staff-led Christian Bible studies and the time set aside each morning for the brothers to engage in Fajr prayer. In a world where our differences are so often used to divide us, campers in our LCC camps get to live out a ministry of loving our neighbor abundantly and joyfully. Period.

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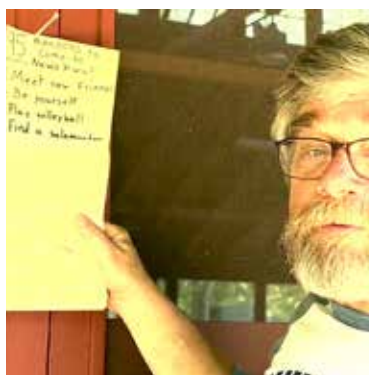


95 - MORE THAN JUST A NUMBER AT NAWAKWA

What would you give to someone on their 95th birthday? This summer, in the case of Nawakwa, it was more of what can Nawakwa give to you, as the camp celebrated its 95th birthday.

On Monday, June 24th, the day that campers first arrived in 1929, the campers of 2024 were served a birthday cake. At the end of each week, the anniversary was observed by giving each camper a small 95th anniversary token to take home. There was a t-shirt noting the anniversary. And since the number 95 is important in the Lutheran tradition, a special video was produced stating the 95 reasons to come to Nawakwa.

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VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

The 2024 summer ministry season at Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, and the Wittel Farm was once again greatly impacted by the wonderful volunteers who shared their time and talents to advance ministry at each site. "We are so blessed to have such a generous and diverse group of volunteers. The impact and difference they make is truly amazing. Volunteers are active in virtually every aspect of our ministry," said Mike Youse, Executive Director of the LCC.

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NAWAKWA WELCOMES KELSEY TOMLINSON AS NEW CAMP DIRECTOR

Kelsey Tomlinson has had a long history and love for Nawakwa, from attending as a camper to working on staff. She grew-up in Mechanicsburg area and went to Augsburg University for her bachelors in youth and family ministry. After graduating, she became the Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry at an ELCA congregation in Royersford, PA. During her time there, she adopted a lab-corgi mix, Potter. Throughout her 10 years in that position, she graduated with her Masters of Arts from Luther Seminary in youth and family ministry. In 2020, she married her husband, Jordon, at Upper Temple. In 2022, Jordon and Kelsey welcomed their first child, Thea. Currently, she is working on her doctorate of ministry from Fuller Seminary in, you guessed it, youth and family ministry! Kelsey is excited for ministry alongside the people who love Nawakwa as much as she and hopes her family grow in their love for this place, where God is always moving.



CELEBRATING GENEROSITY!!!

On Friday, September 6, 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. Guests gathered to listen to live music provided by Pr. Tim and Kim Craven. After enjoying a delicious meal along with joyful fellowship and conversation, Mike Youse, LCC executive director, 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 2024 Cornerstone Award was presented to Matt and Stacy Schroeder for their long and generous connection to and support of the Lutheran Camping Corporation.

- Previous Cornerstone Award recipients include:
- Pr. Conrad & Winnie Youse, 2013
 - Ron & Kathy Kerr, 2014
 - Pr. Glenn & Stella Ludwig, 2015
 - The Robert H. Schweizer Family, 2016
 - Pr. Brenda Kiser, 2017
 - Jane English, 2018
 - Mark & Hazel Nestleroth and family, 2019
 - Tom & Colleen Sites, 2023

20TH ANNUAL QUILT & CRAFT AUCTION

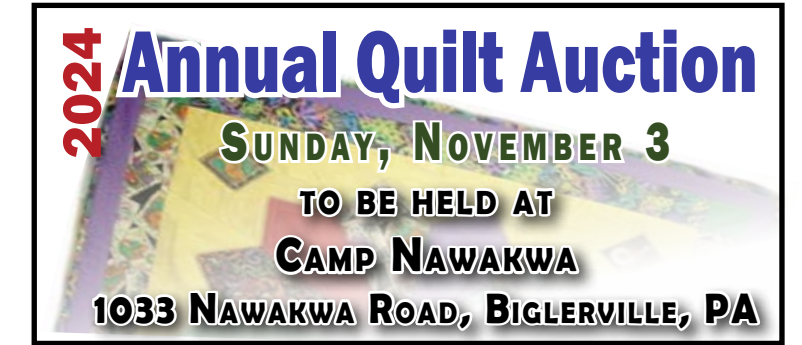
The LCC Annual Quilt Auction is not just for folks who love quilts. It's for folks who love camp! While the "Big Event" of the afternoon is the live quilt auction, you can also bid on handcrafted silent auction items, explore camp, and enjoy a meal.

Most quilts, donated by friends of the Lutheran Camping Corporation, are made just for this event, however, we also see antique quilts or quilts from past auctions in the collection. Past favorites have included quilts made from old camp t-shirts or with patches designed by campers.

You will be able to view quilts and other items on our website and **bid online** starting on October 26. Online bidding will close on October 30 and the high bids will become starting bids at the in-person event.

This year's **in-person** auction will be held on Sunday, November 3, at Nawakwa. The silent auction will begin at 2 PM and the live auction will begin at 3 PM. All proceeds benefit the LCC Endowment Fund to ensure outdoor ministries for the future.

There is no cost for this event, however an RSVP is requested. Please RSVP to the Camping Office at 717-677-8211 or at LutheranCamping.org.



Bid Online
October 26-30

lutherancamping.org/quiltauction

Bid In-Person
November 3

at Nawakwa

Giving Spree
November 7, 2024
Online Giving Event
Supports Camp Nawakwa
Make donations at ACCFGivingSpree.org



EXTRA Give
November 22, 2024
Online Giving Event
Supports Wittel Farm Growing Project
Make donations at EXTRAGive.org



CAMPPERSON MEETINGS

Jan 19 - Kirchenwald & Nawakwa - 2:00pm
Jan 21 - ZOOM - 7:00pm

Online training will be available from January 15-31.

Be sure your congregation plans to send a representative to one of the 2025 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!**

PLANNING FOR A STRONG MINISTRY FUTURE

It can be challenging to get where you hope to go, without knowing the precise destination, and without having a plan to get you there. Similar motivation was behind the efforts to develop the Lutheran Camping Corporation's current strategic plan. Approved by the LCC Board of Directors earlier this year, the strategic plan outlines ministry priorities for the next three to five years regarding camp programming, staffing, outreach, facilities, and financial development.

The nearly year-long strategic planning process engaged a broad cross-section of the LCC constituency to determine the next ministry destinations. LCC staff and the board of directors are working to live into a plan to reach those destinations. A summary of the Strategic Plan can be found at the LCC web site, LutheranCamping.org on the About tab.

A significant next step in moving forward with strategic plan implementation

is updating the master site plans for Kirchenwald and Nawakwa. This 6 to 7 month process is now underway with the help of architects from the firm of Marotta / Main. This multi-step process includes documenting the existing facilities and their condition, determining improvements to existing facilities, and casting a vision for new facilities. An important early part of the process includes conducting surveys with the constituency regarding both ministry sites, opinions on existing facilities, and dreams for improving and expanding existing facilities as well as possible new facilities. Your help and input is needed. Please keep an eye out for the survey, complete it, and submit your responses. The survey is now being created and should be distributed in October. Watch for email inviting you to take the survey!!! This will be your opportunity to let us know what you want in your camps and what you want them to look like.



A SACRED BLESSING: STEWARDING THE LAND AT THE WITTEL FARM

At the Wittel Farm, we believe the land is a sacred blessing, and with it comes the privilege and responsibility to serve and care for creation. This year, we've had the opportunity to watch children, youth, and adults connect with the land in a special way, experiencing the abundance it provides firsthand. We are thrilled to share that this past summer marked an incredible ninth growing season!

Over the course of the summer, hundreds of campers joined us to plant, nurture, harvest, and share the fruits of our labor. Through our growing project, we offer a unique outdoor ministry that emphasizes stewardship of the land. We not only produce fresh vegetables for food relief in Lancaster and Lebanon counties, but also educate our guests on the importance of regenerative agriculture—a practice that helps heal creation. Campers learn about everything from pollinators and composting to root exudates and cover crops, gaining a deeper understanding of sustainable farming.

Our season began in the greenhouse, where thousands of seedlings were planted in new, permanent compost-mulched beds. Thanks to these efforts, we enjoyed one of our best—and earliest—harvests of cool-weather crops, including vibrant lettuces, kale, Swiss chard, and broccoli. We also planted cucumbers, several varieties of tomatoes and peppers, potatoes, green beans, and all kinds of leafy greens. However, like many farmers, we faced challenges in 2024 due to difficult growing conditions.

In early June, day campers from Congregation Shaarai Shomayim, a Jewish synagogue in Lancaster, helped kick off our camp season by planting and harvesting at the farm. Throughout the summer, campers from Kirchenwald and Nawakwa participated, with several groups staying overnight to work directly on the farm. Each week brought new faces and eager hands, including a youth group from Grandview Church in Lancaster, who spent two nights with us on a summer mission trip. Whether through confirmation camps, Diaconos groups, or adventure campers, participants were immersed in the practices of regenerative farming and learned firsthand about the challenges and limits of food production. Together, we explored how ecologically focused agriculture can play a critical role in addressing climate change and promoting creation care.

This summer, we were tested by drought and excessive heat, which significantly reduced our crop yield. Growing healthy vegetables requires substantial water, and during

several weeks in June and July, we struggled to irrigate our crops sufficiently. When plants become stressed, they divert energy toward early fruit production rather than growth, often leading to reduced survival rates during prolonged droughts. In response, we are actively working to secure the necessary funding for a dedicated well and hydrant system to ensure proper irrigation for future growing seasons.

Beyond the growing project, our farm's new pavilion has become a gathering space for the community. We now host a monthly Dinner Church on the first Sunday of each month at 5:00 p.m., and we look forward to welcoming guests for our Advent Day Apart and Advent/Christmas Night in the Barn this December.

As the season winds down and we prepare to plant winter cover crops, we give thanks for the abundance we've received and shared this year. We are especially grateful for the dedicated volunteers and farm team whose hard work has been essential in caring for the land. Now, we look ahead with excitement to planning for 2025 and beginning another season in April.

Thank you for being part of this journey with us!



95 YEARS AT NAWAKWA

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But the most important recognition of this birthday was done by the campers themselves at the weekly Cairn Service, which occurs on the last day of the camp week. Here campers expressed what Nawakwa means to them. They talked about how they experienced God at Nawakwa, and how they hope to remember what they learned and experienced as they return home.

It was significant and fun to celebrate this birthday. It was a foretaste of what's next. Circle your calendar for June 24, 2029, when Nawakwa will celebrate its 100th birthday!

SMART GIVING FROM YOUR IRA

A TAX-SAVING WAY TO SUPPORT KIRCHENWALD, NAWAKWA, & THE WITTEL FARM

Make a difference and save on your taxes. It's possible when you support LCC through your IRA.

Those 70.5 years old and older can give any amount (up to a maximum of \$105,000) this year from their IRA directly to a qualified charity such as the Lutheran Camping Corporation without having to pay income tax on the money. Donations of any value \$105,000 or less are eligible for this benefit and donors can feel good knowing that they are making a difference to LCC ministries. This gift option is known by either of two names - the IRA charitable rollover or a qualified charitable distribution, QDC for short.

Traditional IRAs require you to make a Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) once you reach 70.5. Because you did not pay federal tax when you contributed money to your account, you need to pay tax when you withdraw it. However, you can avoid the tax on that distribution by making a donation directly from your IRA to the LCC. Rather than simply taking an IRA withdrawal this year, you direct your IRA administrator to distribute a gift from your IRA directly to LCC. You will pay no income taxes on the gift as it doesn't count as income and the donated amount also counts toward your RMD. With the popularity of the IRA rollover, most administrators provide forms and a procedure to help you make a rollover gift.

This is a great way to make a great gift with great tax savings!

Please use the coupon to the right to send for a free brochure, "How the Charitable IRA Rollover Works."

Please send me, without cost or obligation, a copy of the folder "How the Charitable IRA Rollover Works."

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

BREAKING BARRIERS

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When the brothers requested a night back home to see their family and recharge in the middle of the week, they returned to smiles and high-fives from their cabin mates, excited to see their new friends again. And the smiles of the faces of the camp staff were equally big when the boys' parents delivered a homemade, traditional Syrian dinner as a sign of their gratitude on Friday evening. We are continually blessed at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa to follow a path that aligns with the teachings of Jesus- a directive that loves, supports, welcomes, and includes all of God's people.

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

Enclosed is a gift of \$ _____ for:

___ Annual Fund ___ Wittel Farm Growing Project

- 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 _____ 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 LutheranCamping.org/giving

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

24Fall

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

Clare Archer

Kathy Baker and Joel

Petruschke

Freda J. Benner †

George and Mary Bennett

Matthew and Abby Best

Alice Boeshore

Sandra Brandt

Kathleen S. Brenneman

Marianne Brock

Jarred and Tiffany Cahan

Donald Clapper †

Rudyard and Doris Crider

Carol Dittoe

Peter Dohner and BethAnn

D'Agostino

Mary Drehs

Shirley Ernst

Andrea Faber

Jessica Felici

Edward & Judith Garber

Kent and Sharon Hardel

Bob and Judy Hoover

Robert and Kathryn Horst †

Marie Hoshell †

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Paul and Dorothy Weirick †

Frederick and Marion Wentz †

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

VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE! THANK YOU!!

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This summer, Nawakwa and Kirchenwald saw pastors serving as camp chaplains for each of the youth camp weeks, and as Bible study leaders and worship leaders for Family Camps and Elder Camp. There were nurses, EMT's, and others with first aid, CPR, and medical training serving as health officers. Numerous people shared their talents in carpentry, landscaping, plumbing, painting, and other trades helping maintain and improve the grounds and facilities. Other talented people with gifts in music, sports, arts, mountain biking, and other program activities shared their knowledge and skills with our campers, enhancing their camp experiences. Other volunteers helped in the kitchens. At Wittel Farm Growing Project, over 450 volunteers helped plant, tend, and harvest vegetables that were distributed into the food relief system to alleviate food insecurity.

Additionally, volunteers from the Lebanon Lutheran Mission Team (LLMT) spent a week at Camp Kirchenwald tackling numerous projects there and at the Wittel Farm. At the Wittel Farm, they installed a new roof on the farmhouse dining room, spackled and painted the water-damaged ceiling of that same dining room, ground up stumps and distributed the resulting mulch on the labyrinth, stained numerous picnic tables and benches, and ran electric to the basement of the barn. At Kirchenwald, they erected

a cart port (made possible by a generous gift from Zion, Jonestown), replaced and widened the sidewalk into the SchreiberHaus meeting room, modified a donated shed (courtesy of Friedens, Myerstown) to become a woodshed, rebuilt and stained the storage shed at the pool, deep cleaned the two main retreat spaces (SchreiberHaus and Myers), tended to young trees planted throughout camp, pulled out invasive Asian Knotweed, weeded flower beds and the camp's garden, and stained picnic tables, benches, and lifeguard chairs. A lot, right?! They accomplished all this while experiencing the joys of Christian community. This group plans to return the week of June, 22, 2025 to make a similar impact on the facilities and ministries of Kirchenwald and the Wittel Farm. If you want to learn more, or would have an interest in either supporting, or working alongside, them, please contact Pastor Mark Russell at mrussell@lutherancamping.org.

Similarly, if you are interested in volunteering in any of the roles described above, let us know. To volunteer at Kirchenwald contact Zach Weiss at zweiss@lutherancamping.org. To Volunteer at Nawakwa, contact Kelsey Tomlinson at ktomlinson@lutherancamping.org. To volunteer at the Wittel Farm Growing Project, contact Pr. Matt Lenahan at pastormatt@dejazzd.com.



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

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Fall 2024

- Oct 27 Fall Foliage Day at Nawakwa
- Oct 27 Fall Foliage Day at Kirchenwald
- Nov 3 Dinner Church at The Wittel Farm
- Nov 3 Annual Quilt & Craft Auction at Nawakwa
- Nov 8-10 Women's Craft Retreat at Nawakwa
- Dec 7 Advent Day Apart at The Wittel Farm
- Dec 22 Advent/Christmas Night in the Barn at The Wittel Farm
- Jan 3-5, 2025 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 3-5, 2025 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 3-5, 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, 2024. Additional information at (717) 677-8211 or (717) 964-3121.