

# ⌘ Camping!

Spring 2025

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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 [www.LutheranCamping.org](http://www.LutheranCamping.org)

## WHY COME TO SUMMER CAMP?

Campers experience significant growth in self-identity, self-worth, self-esteem, leadership, and faith at Christian summer camps. Parents consistently observe their children returning home more caring, understanding, responsible, and with a renewed interest in their faith. What makes this transformation possible? The answer lies in camp's unique environment, community, and activities. The technology-free setting allows for a different, more reflective engagement with the world. The camp community provides a safe haven for campers to be their authentic selves, embracing both challenges and victories. Activities, from hikes and Bible studies to ropes courses and recreational time, are designed to build character. This growth isn't exclusive to youth; adult campers also experience profound transformation.

**Come and allow the Spirit to move you and nurture your growth at camp this summer!**



## 2025 SUMMER BIBLE STUDY & WORSHIP THEME: GOD'S WORD COMES NEAR

This summer, as always, God's Word Comes Near at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa. But in 2025, it's also the theme of our camp Bible Study! Words are powerful. God speaks things into existence. Jesus's words guide our faith lives today. And the book of John states, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." Words, written and spoken, shape our lives

and tell the stories of God's unconditional love for God's people. With a unique Bible story each day, campers will discover the wonder of ways that the word of God touched the lives of the ancient people. But importantly, we will also continue to listen for God's word in our lives today.

*The word of God is near to you –  
on your lips and in your heart.  
Romans 10:8*



# WHY WORK AT CAMP? YOUR BEST SUMMER JOB AWAITS

Working at camp will possibly be the best summer job you ever have! Working at summer camp is a fun summer job! You get to hike, bike, canoe, and even zip-line! And through working at summer camp, you will make friendships that could last a lifetime! If all of these reasons aren't enough for you to put in your application, there are more benefits to working at summer camp. Summer camp employment gives you skills and tools for the job-world. Skills such as critical thinking, leadership, flexibility, communication, and activity-specific certifications such as first-aid. These skills are desired by employers and by having the summer to learn

and grow in these skills you jump ahead in the job market. Finally, working at a Christian Summer Camp is faith-formative and can transform how you see God activating in your life. Are you ready to work at camp? We can't wait to get your application!



## KIRCHENWALD AND NAWAKWA MASTER SITE PLAN UPDATES UNDER WAY



Have you ever thought about what Kirchenwald or Nawakwa will look like in 10, 30, or even 50 years? Have you even said to yourself, or to a friend, "Wouldn't it be great if camp would build - *insert your idea here?*"

In essence, that's what master site planning is all about. The process started in September with a design team composed of LCC staff and architects Christina Kincaid and Donald Main. The team assessed the facilities and features of each camp to get a complete and accurate understanding of them and their condition. The team identified immediate, medium term, and longer term maintenance needs and concerns for existing facilities. A constituent survey was conducted in December to learn what our guests and users think about the camp sites, their facilities, and what facilities are desired for future ministry. The team wrestled with this information and with priorities set forth in the recently completed Strategic Plan to begin shaping what facilities the camps will need to conduct ministry well into the future. Most recently, five constituent

town hall meetings were conducted to share these ideas, answer questions, gather more input, and find out which projects people feel are most important.

Visit the LCC website to view a pdf of the master site plans and capital projects shared in the recent town hall meetings. Please remember, this remains a work in progress.

The process will continue into the spring, with further refinements. A report, including master site plans, project drawings, and project cost estimates, will be presented to the board of directors at the June meeting. Once the master site plans are adopted by the board, a new process will begin to raise funds needed to achieve project improvements, renovations, and new construction, as prioritized by the board. As one town hall meeting attendee said, "This is really exciting work that will make a difference well into the future!"

## CAMP STAFF SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED

Long-time family campers, Daryl and Maggie Ackerman, know very well that the experiences summer camp staff gain working at camp will benefit them throughout the rest of their lives. They know that those who work on summer camp staff at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa gain all sorts of valuable skills and experiences. Summer staff are critical to the faith-based camp experiences of our campers, and research shows that working in a faith-based camp has often led to future work in church ministry.

Knowing all this, Daryl and Maggie established the Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central PA Camp Staff Scholarship Fund at the Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) as a way to encourage Kirchenwald and Nawakwa summer camp staff members in their continuing education. Presently one scholarship of \$1000 is awarded annually to an individual who served the previous summer at either Kirchenwald or Nawakwa. Growing the scholarship fund at TEFC could eventually allow multiple awards to be

made. To help grow the scholarship fund, go to the TEFC website, hover your cursor over donors, scroll down and click List of Funds, then scroll down and click on the Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pa Camp Staff Scholarship Fund. Use the donate button near the bottom of that page. Your donation will be to this scholarship fund, not to the Lutheran Camping Corporation.



## LOOKING AHEAD TO THE FALL



**Party with a Purpose at Kirchenwald - September 27**  
**Capture the Flag Spectacular at Kirchenwald -**  
**October 5**

## Adult Book Study Retreat at Nawakwa - October 7-9

## Fall Foliage Day at Nawakwa - October 19

## Fall Foliage Day at Kirchenwald - October 26

## Women's Craft Retreat at Nawakwa - November 7-9

## REGISTER TODAY AT

**LUTHERANCAMPING.ORG**

# DEITZ LODGE: PERFECT FOR YOUR NEXT SMALL GROUP RETREAT



Planning a small group getaway? Consider Deitz Lodge at Camp Nawakwa. This lodge comfortably accommodates 12-15 individuals. Each room features three single beds and a full-size bunk, providing flexible sleeping arrangements. Deitz Lodge offers essential amenities, including a large living/dining space, a full kitchen, and handicap-accessible bathrooms. This makes it an excellent choice for church groups, family gatherings, or any small group seeking a peaceful retreat.

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

## YOUR EVENT, CAMP'S EXPERTISE: RENTALS AND TAILORED PROGRAMS

You probably already know that outside of the summer season, the facilities at Kirchenwald and Nawakwa are available to rent for your youth group, family retreat, adult retreat, quilting guild, work event, club, reunion, wedding, or just about anything else you can think of. But did you know you can also take advantage of camp's diverse program offerings, led by our enthusiastic staff? With in-camp activities like **high ropes and zip lining, swimming pool, mountain biking, or low ropes team building**, camp can fill your event with fun and memorable moments that you'll be talking about for years to come. Or maybe you want to enjoy some adventure opportunities off-site like **rock climbing, caving, mountain biking, or a canoe trip**. All of these services can be adapted to best fit the ages and the needs

of your group. Additionally, camp staff are happy to lead your group through a **nature hike/activity or Bible study**, sharing the Good News of God's love through word and creation. And don't forget the one-of-a-kind **escape room** at Kirchenwald, designed to challenge any group through teamwork, communication, and problem solving. Let us help you to run an event that will have people eager to come back year after year. Arrangements for special program support should be made at the time of reservation. We can't wait to see you at camp!

# DON'T MISS OUT ON CAMP NEWS! CHECK YOUR SPAM FOLDER!

Do you feel like you've been missing out on camp news? Have you ever been talking with someone about camp and thought, "I had no idea that was happening"? If so, our emails might be landing in your spam folder!

After some of our camp family reported missing updates about the master plan surveys, we discovered that many of our emails were getting caught in spam or junk filters. We've since switched to a new email provider, but we still encourage you to check your spam folder—just in case. If you find us there, updating your email settings will ensure our updates reach your inbox in the future.

Now you're in the know!



## EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT CAMP: EMBRACING ALL IN GOD'S LOVE

At the Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania, we believe that God is the maker of all good things and that all people are beautifully made and deeply loved by God. Our ministry welcomes, affirms, and embraces people of all identities and backgrounds, including differences in race, ethnicity, origin, religion, creed, ability, economic status, orientation, and gender identity and expression.

We are committed to inclusivity and hospitality, striving to create a space where all campers feel safe, valued, and loved. Where human society may fall short in recognizing or protecting different identities, we commit to making accommodations to meet people's needs as we are able—so that all might experience God's wondrous love.

Join us for a summer of faith, fun, and friendship—we hope to see EVERYONE at camp!

We also believe every child should experience camp—regardless of financial circumstances. Our Campership Fund provides scholarships to help families with the cost of camp.

- **Need Assistance?** Apply for a Campership to reduce or cover camp costs. Applications are simple and confidential: [LutheranCamping.org/camperships](https://LutheranCamping.org/camperships)
- **Want to Help?** Donate to the Campership Fund and give the gift of camp: [LutheranCamping.org/give](https://LutheranCamping.org/give)

# WITTEL FARM GROWING PROJECT'S TENTH SEASON: PLANTING, GROWING, AND SHARING AS ACTS OF DISCIPLESHIP

In 2016, we launched the growing project to respond to a need for fresh, locally grown food in our community. We partnered with the Lancaster County Food Hub to distribute thousands of pounds of vegetables to food-insecure households. Over nine growing seasons, we have shared more than 133,000 pounds of vegetables and collaborated with a dozen local food relief distributors. Our harvest serves thousands of families in Lancaster and Lebanon counties.

The Wittel Farm has become the most significant provider of freshly grown local food within the county's food relief system. We are the only nonprofit, farm-based ministry that produces a diverse vegetable crop to combat food insecurity as a practice of discipleship. We give away our harvest because we believe that food is a gift to share, a blessing from the earth and our Creator, meant to nourish our neighbors.

We view this ministry and the practice of agriculture as a vital and unique expression of faith within Lutheran outdoor ministry. Jesus was an agrarian teacher, using parables of sowing seeds, harvesting crops, and feeding the hungry to reveal deeper truths. These parables come to life in a tangible way when we cast seeds into the soil, harvest food to share, or take part in distributing the harvest.

Our work is also informed by the emerging field of ecotheology, which recognizes the God of the Bible as one who is in covenant with God's people through the land. With campers, families, youth groups, and congregations, we provide enriching experiences that connect faith with action. Through monthly dinner church worship and campfires, we bring the farm to the table, seeing it as a blessing from God—a sacrament of the earth.

Since 2021, more than 500 volunteers have joined us each summer, allowing us to expand production while also recognizing the natural limits of the land. A relationship with the land requires attentiveness and respect. We ask: What does the land need from us now? We acknowledge that a sabbath rhythm is essential to maintaining a healthy ecosystem—honoring limits, fostering rest, and respecting the seasons.

We are also mindful of those who came before us on this land—the Wittel family, who entrusted us with this gift, and the Indigenous peoples who inhabited and carefully stewarded it for centuries. Gratitude for their legacy reminds us to consider how our actions today will impact future generations. What we do now must be for the sake of

the grandchildren who will inherit this land.

Along the way, we have adopted sustainable and regenerative gardening practices to protect the soil and the farm's ecology. This year, we are establishing several permanent garden beds to better manage weeds, water, and harvesting. We are also planting forty additional native trees and a wildflower meadow. Our summer farm manager intern, Alex, will be starting raised beds and a Three Sisters garden—featuring corn, beans, and squash—as a demonstration of gardening techniques that can be used at home or in congregations.

Discipleship calls us to follow Christ in service to the land and to our neighbors, both human and non-human. By learning gardening skills and cultivating food to share, we participate in the abundant generosity of creation.

The Wittel Farm Pavilion is a special gathering place where we cultivate community. Our well-equipped kitchen is available for use by congregations and families.

We are currently in our planting season and will continue through the fall. Visit the Wittel Farm website for information about events and pavilion rentals.

Looking ahead, we are excited to introduce three new features to the farm:

- A dedicated irrigation well and system to improve water management
- A 20' x 48' high tunnel greenhouse to extend our growing season
- A portable chicken coop to house 20 laying hens, providing eggs for distribution and manure to enrich the soil

We believe the Wittel Farm is a gift that the Lutheran Camping Corporation is called to share through agricultural faith formation. As we enter our tenth growing season, we look forward to planting, growing, and sharing with you!



**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 26, 9am, Nawakwa || May 3, 8:30am, Kirchenwald**

*Please note the start time, different from originally published*

RSVP at [LutheranCamping.org](http://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 members to support Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, or The Wittel Farm. These member-led projects—such as fundraisers or one-time service initiatives—help meet specific needs at our ministry sites.

Any Thrivent member can identify a project, apply online for up to \$250 in seed money, and, if approved, gather friends and family to make it happen. It's that simple!

Want to raise funds for Camperships? Plant trees? Build a bridge over a camp stream?  
Paint a cabin? Form an Action Team and get started!

**thrivent**®

Need inspiration? Call the Camping Office at 717-677-8211 for ideas and more information.

## 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 its charitable outreach funds.

In 2024, LCC received over \$9,700 in Choice Dollars!

Thrivent members can direct Choice Dollars to LCC by visiting [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice), calling 800-847-4836, or contacting their local Thrivent Financial representative.

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

Enclosed is a gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for:

\_\_\_ Annual Fund

\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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 Gift of Life Insurance Leaflet

\_\_\_ Please send me Donating Retirement Plan Assets Leaflet

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

25Spring

# TWO CREATIVE OPTIONS TO INCLUDE LCC IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING

Retirement and pension plans are critical elements of one's financial plan. They can also be substantial elements of a legacy gift plan (sometimes referred to as an estate plan). Well-executed retirement plans, which may include a 401k, 403b, or a traditional or Roth IRA, allow people to live comfortably once they've stopped working. They can also be used to make a significant charitable gift to support LCC ministries.

Giving from a retirement fund is easy. You simply make the LCC a beneficiary of the plan. A beneficiary designation form can be obtained from your retirement plan custodian. You can give the entire amount held in a specific account or a percentage of it. Making a charity, like LCC, a beneficiary of a retirement account doesn't impact one's retirement

income, as the charity receives the donation after the donor passes. Your legacy lives on when the designated portion of the funds are paid to the LCC.

A gift of life insurance is also easy. Doing so provides benefits to both you and our joyful and faith building outdoor ministry. There are a number of ways you can make such a gift.

One way is to assign ownership of an existing policy you no longer need to LCC. You receive a charitable deduction for the present value of the policy and LCC ministries benefit from the full proceeds of the policy at your death.

A second way is to take out a new policy with LCC as the owner and beneficiary. You then make an annual, tax-deductible gift to LCC to pay the

premium. The gift is fully protected in the event of an early death, and you never have to pay as much in premiums as LCC receives from the policy.

A third way to make a one-time deductible gift to the LCC is to purchase a single premium life insurance policy. The cost would be less to you by doing this and you would not have the trouble of paying premiums monthly, quarterly, or annually.

If you're interested in making a legacy gift to Lutheran Camping Corporation through life insurance or retirement funds, request the leaflets Gifts of Life Insurance and Donating Retirement Plan Assets using the form on page 6 or by emailing Michael Youse at [myouse@lutherancamping.org](mailto:myouse@lutherancamping.org).

## 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 Michael Youse at 717-677-8211 or [myouse@lutherancamping.org](mailto:myouse@lutherancamping.org).

Maggie Ackerman	Shirley Ernst	Miriam Miller †	Doris Straw-Maisack
Clare Archer	Andrea Faber	Jessica Neiswender	Ruth Summers †
Kathy Baker & Joel	Jessica Felici	Mark & Hazel Nestleroth	Vincent Tassia Jr. †
Petruschke	Edward & Judith Garber	Elaine H. Newhart †	Paul & Dorothy
Freda J. Benner †	Kent & Sharon Hardel	D. Mark & Susan	Weirick †
George & Mary Bennett	Bob & Judy Hoover	Potter †	Frederick & Marion Wentz †
Matthew & Abby Best	Robert & Kathryn	Jane Reinhard	Jere & Dottie † Wissler
Alice Boeshore	Horst †	Ruth Reuning †	Charles & Katie
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Rudyard & Doris Crider	Ed & Sue Kulakowski	Kevin & Sue Shively	Earl † & Arlene Zellers
Greg & Abby Davis	Philip Leer	Betty Sidebottom	
Carol Dittoe	Elaine F. Ludwig	William & Patricia Snyder	
Peter Dohner & BethAnn	Glenn & Stella Ludwig	William & Tammy	† Deceased
D'Agostino	Alex & Beth Martini	Steinhart	
Mary Drehs	Carol & Rose Ann Mease	Donald & Edna Sterner	



The Lutheran Camping Corporation  
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[LutheranCamping.org](http://LutheranCamping.org)

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## Spring 2025

- April 26 Work Day  
at Nawakwa
- April 27 Earth Day Celebration  
at Kirchenwald
- May 3 Work Day  
at Kirchenwald (8:30am)
- May 9 Lutheran Camping Night at  
the Harrisburg Senators
- May 18 Summer Camp Kick-off  
Worship & Picnic at Nawakwa

*Check out [LutheranCamping.org](http://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**

**Lebanon, PA**

**NAWAKWA**

**Arendtsville, PA**

## Wittel Farm Growing Project

**Volunteer Work Days**

**Saturdays in April & May**

*More info at [WittelFarm.org](http://WittelFarm.org)*

## Summer Camp Kick-off Worship & Picnic

**at Nawakwa**

**Sunday, May 18**

**Worship Begins at 3:30 pm, Picnic to follow**

*RSVP at [LutheranCamping.org](http://LutheranCamping.org)*