



Board Chairman, Curtis Boehne; LCFS President and CEO, Mike Bertrand; Reverend Merritt Demski and Bob Polansky

Higher Ground

Reverend Merritt Demski was our guest speaker on March 5th at our annual Higher Ground dinner, which was held at Gallagher's Restaurant in Waterloo.

Rev. Demski shared a different view with our donors, as he was not a "camp" guy and had not experienced camp until he came to Immanuel in Waterloo and became involved with Camp Wartburg. He shared his experiences over the years with our small group leaders and with some of the kids at Camp. He even wore his favorite camp shirt under his clerical collar.

While the shirt had no connection to camp in the first place, it has become his camp shirt. It was actually given to him by a family at his congregation, whose child always called him Pastor America rather than Pastor Merritt. He continues to wear the shirt when he comes out to camp as something fun,

but also so kids know he's the pastor when he's wandering around camp making himself available to those who would like to chat.

Rev. Demski shared a couple of conversations he's had with kids in the past. In one instance, he was called because of a child asking big questions and the counselors wanted some pastoral assistance in providing answers. Pastor Demski came out and started hanging out with the group. During his visit with the campers, the student looked at him and said, "You're here because of me, aren't you?"

If you would like to support Camp Wartburg at this important level, please consider a donation of \$500 or more between now and January 31, 2021. You will have the opportunity to join us at next year's Higher Ground dinner and you will make a lasting impact on the lives of our campers and staff.



Remembering Georgia

The first time I [Bob Polansky] met Georgia Frierdich, she had already been a mainstay at Camp Wartburg for nearly ten years. She had started working as a cook at Camp following Royce's passing (her husband). I was visiting Camp for the first time and was down enjoying the summer with some youth from Lutherbrook. We were going to attend the groundbreaking for the Lindenberg Village buildings. Georgia initially was somewhat reserved but helped provide the meals to our group. After officially taking over as Camp Manager, Georgia and I built a strong relationship. We both cared deeply for the campers and their safety and nurturance were of the utmost priority. Her sense of humor was contagious and she seemed

to always have a smile on her face. During the early years, we did a lot of dishes together, as many of you will remember that the old kitchen in Thorburg Hall was so small that you had to do all of the dishes prior to beginning work on the next meal. So, I would often help out after breakfast and lunch.

When we moved into The Negwer Family Center, she had decided that it was time for her to stop working at Camp. It was a tough decision for her, but we were cooking for many more campers and the kitchen was so much larger. I would stop by every once in a while to share a glass of ice tea at her home in Wartburg, in her garden and talk about families and Camp. I know that she was a faithful woman who prayed for Camp and the staff often. I and we were all blessed by her service to the Camp.



A Fond Farewell to Lauren Kreienkamp

Hi. My name is Lauren “Trixta” Thorburg Kreienkamp and I have been working at Camp Wartburg in different capacities since the summer of 2007. Prior to working at Camp, I was a camper and Junior Counselor.

I have a multitude of memories from my time at Camp. As a camper, I remember feeling free. I remember feeling loved by fellow campers and by my Small Group Leaders. I remember feeling loved by God.

As a Junior Counselor and Small Group Leader, I wanted to provide the same experience I had as a camper to each child who attended Camp. My favorite memory was sitting by a dying campfire with Tim Nummela and Eric Funke (known by most as Captain). We had just finished leading a devotion for Shepherding Sheep when a camper, who had been coming to Camp for years and was non-verbal, sang “Jesus Loves Me.” Tim, Eric, and I sat by the fire and cried tears of love and joy until the final embers extinguished.

As the Program Coordinator, my job has been much more behind-the-scenes. The moments I cherished as a child and young adult fueled my desire to organize and plan so the next generation of campers, Junior Counselors, and Small Group Leaders could experience God in his creation.

Many things at Camp have changed since I started as a camper. Lindenberg Village was built. A high ropes course was added. Negwer became the dining hall. The Craft Cabin moved from, what is now, Cabin K, to the “Craft Cave” in the basement of Thorburg, and then to a brand new building. The pool house was replaced (praise Jesus!), and a recreation building was recently added. Yes, many things at Camp have changed since I started as a camper, but the message of Camp Wartburg – the message of Jesus life, death, and resurrection – remains the same. I praise God for the time I spent at Camp as a child and as an adult, and I look forward to returning as a camper parent in the future.

Mission Statement

To provide Christ-centered outdoor ministries where children, adults, and families can experience God and His creation.

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- Clara Lewis, Assistant to the Camp Manager

Contact us at:

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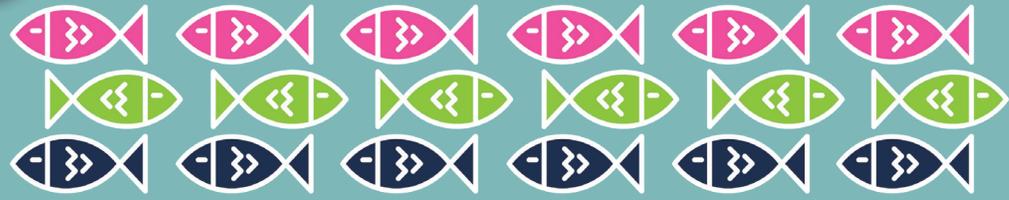
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Fish Stories



And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."
Matthew 4:19

Campers will spend their week studying God's word and applying His lessons to their lives. What can we learn from the fishy situations in the Bible?

CREATION

God's Unique Creation

BELIEVING

Feeding of the 5,000

FOLLOWING

Fishers of Men

LISTENING

Jonah

TRUSTING

Cast your Nets

Growing the AfterCamp Family

The addition of AfterCamp to our programming this school year has proved to be a great way to utilize Camp year-round. After successful winter break sessions, we continued to add campers each week in our before and after school program. The kids in attendance enjoy the activities and the company of their peers while making new friends. Parents get to rest easy knowing their children are in a safe environment, getting outdoors as much as possible, and learning more about God's Word! The midwest winter weather was rough, but our new recreation center, "Penny's Place," provided us with a warm and dry location when fun times outside were not an option.

We utilized one of the rooms in the rec center as a music area, thanks to many instrumental donations. We were fortunate to receive multiple guitars, a piano, and a full drum set. The game room was recently completed. Donations allowed us to add a pool table and ping pong table, which is in addition to our foosball and air hockey tables.

Our indoor rock wall now has a bouldering area where campers can test their endurance, trying to make it all the way around the room. Camp has been blessed with the addition of the rec center.

Campers are excited about more outdoor adventures as the weather improves. It is a privilege to be a part of a ministry with groups of campers year-round. As children navigate the everyday stresses of school, sports, and other extracurricular activities, Camp becomes a safe place, away from external pressures, where they can grow in God's word and be a part of our special Camp family.



Pond Chapel



Thanks to the hard work of Alex "Micro" Voges and Thrivent Action Team dollars, our pond chapel received a much needed face lift.

Micro organized the volunteer project and did much of the work himself during the quieter winter months. Summer campers will enjoy the brand new benches and posts. The additional seating is also a bonus.

If you or someone you know would like to apply for a Thrivent Action Team to benefit Camp Wartburg, please reach out. No ideas? No problem! Our staff is happy to help generate a project that will add to the "Wonders of Wartburg."

COVID-19 Updates

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we have made the unfortunate decision to cancel what would have been the 51st annual Chicken Dinner. We hope you will consider joining us in 2021 for this beloved tradition.

At Camp, we remain committed to serve our clients to the best of our ability, while remaining good stewards of the community. Nice Twice is closed, but is still accepting donations.

The 2020 John Mohl Memorial Golf Classic has a new twist. Golfers who sign up for the tournament will receive a voucher to play a round of golf and enjoy lunch at Acorn's on a later date. The "Virtual Golf Outing" will also include the opportunity to win a Yeti Cooler, valued at \$250.

Please continue to pray for Camp Wartburg during this unprecedented time. We look forward to the day we are able to get back to "business as usual" and hope you and your families are safe and well.

JOHN MOHL MEMORIAL GOLF CLASSIC VIRTUAL OUTING

May 18-Oct 31, 2020

To register or for more information, email Theresa Thorburg at theresa_thorburg@lcsf.org or call 314-504-8373.

CAMP WARTBURG DAY CAMP

CAMPWARTBURG.COM

Archery • Bible Studies • Canoeing • Crafts • Creek Walking • Disc Golf
Field Games • Fishing • Gaga Ball • Hiking • Pond Study • Swimming



Day Camp Details

Grades	K-8
Camp Hours	7:00am-5:30pm
Cost	Daily \$40/Weekly \$160
Discounts Available	Multi-Child (Full Week Only) \$10 Attend 10 full weeks, get 11th week free.
Registration Deposit	None
Meals	Breakfast, Lunch, and Snack provided.
Field Trips	Various locations TBD.
Required Equipment	A "What-to-Bring" list will be provided upon registration.

A Fond Farewell to Diddy (Clara) Loesche



Hi my name is Diddy and I have been working at Camp Wartburg on and off since 2013. I began as an overnight Small Group Leader (SGL) for three summers, then served as a Day Camp SGL for the youngest age range for two summers. I have lived on-site through three off seasons, working with retreat groups, doing maintenance, and even filling in on some office work. Camp Wartburg has been my home and family these past seven years and I believe I could write a book with all my memories from Camp! For now I'll keep it to my top three memories.

The summer in 2013 was my first experience with Shepherding Sheep week. I had heard about the experience as a Junior Counselor, but had never volunteered. Going in as a new counselor I was paired with an experienced SGL, Alpine, who taught me everything she knew (which was so much). It was incredible to bond with the campers. Our group consisted of a small group of older ladies who enjoyed doing crafts, taking slow walks, and telling us stories from their lives. One camper, Gloria, and I spent a lot of time together. I got to hear all about her job back home and the house she lived in. She even brought pictures to show us these things. She also shared that she didn't have a Bible at home. It was such an amazing opportunity that Alpine and I were able to get her a Bible to take home. She even brought it back with her the next year, full of highlights, notes, and even more pictures to share!

During my two summers with Day Camp I worked with the kids ages 4-6. Their favorite parts of Camp were pool time and when we got to go explore the woods looking for cool plants, bugs, fairies, or unicorns. Whenever possible we did our Bible Study outside near where we had been playing, often trying to connect our setting with the Bible stories we were learning. While I hope the kids will remember some of the Old Testament stories we learned throughout the summer, there is a greater lesson I think they were able to take away from these moments. After every lesson we had prayer time. I always started the prayer and ended it, but everyone had the chance to say something to God in the middle. At the beginning of each summer most kids were shy and didn't want to talk. However, as we went through and kept at it, day after day, they became more open, and by the end of the summer most of the campers were eager to say at least something to God during prayer time. Seeing this growth and the lifelong lesson about prayer that these kids got, even at such a young age, is probably my favorite memory from camp.

My most recent year spent at Camp has included involvement in the new AfterCamp program. It has been such a joy to have many consistent kids coming day after day, getting to experience God and his creation at Camp. Seeing kids every day before or after school really lets us get to know them and see what their lives are like. They tell us about their families, what they did in school, plans for the weekend, and how homework is going. These relationships being built are so incredible, and are definitely something I will remember for many years to come.

Camp Wartburg Donors

The following donations were received between October 1, 2019 and February 29, 2020. Our sincere appreciation to all donors and volunteers who help make Camp Wartburg a place where heaven and nature sing.

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Meet our New Board and Staff Members



Sue Swisher, Board of Directors



Sue Swisher resides in St. Charles, MO with her husband Rork, son Kye (26) and daughter Karlie (21). She has spent most of her working career as an Administrative Assistant at schools, church, and most recently for the St. Charles City-County Library District. She is a member of Living Lord Lutheran Church in Lake St. Louis. In her free time she enjoys sewing, being creative, reading, playing piano, traveling, and enjoying time with her family. Camp Wartburg has always held a special place in her heart. Her daughter Karlie (aka Fribee) served several years as a JC and camp counselor. She is looking forward to sharing her organization/administrative skills and program ideas with Camp Wartburg.



Clara Lewis, Assistant to the Camp Manager



Hi! I'm Clara.

I'm the new face you'll be seeing in the office. I'm a graduate of Southeast Missouri State University and a former local from Maestown. Several members of my family have been part of the Camp crew and I'm looking forward to having as many positive experiences as they did! Camp is a brand new place for me, so I'm excited to really get to know everyone as I literally and metaphorically learn the ropes!



Winter Retreats



Fourteen men and Dr. Paul Robinson joined us at Camp for our annual Men's Retreat, January 10-11, 2020. Dr. Robinson presented and shared his article titled "Three Myths about the Crusades: What They Mean for Christian Witness." He spoke on the topic and answered questions. Good fellowship was had by all.

Twenty-four ladies joined us for our annual Women's Retreat in February. Angie Walston led our group discussions. The topic was Making Room: The Power of Relationships in a Task Driven World. We broke into small groups for discussion and enjoyed time away from worldly distractions. Participants were challenged to consider their schedules, their gifts, and the people in their lives as opportunities for worship, service, and sharing Christ's love.

A number of women climbed on our indoor climbing wall in Penny's Place, while others were taught by two elementary school teachers how to play Gaga Ball.

Thanks to Terri Maier and Shane Dyer, our kitchen staff, who served up a wonderful breakfast and lunch for the retreat participants.



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If you no longer wish to receive Camp Wartburg mailings, please email Ruth at Ruth_Hertlein@lcfs.org. Thank you.

Camp Wartburg Wish List

If you can share something on this list with Camp Wartburg, your gift will be a blessing to the children, church and community groups we serve. Please contact Theresa Thorburg at 618-939-7715 extension 11.

- Sponsor a camper or school group
 - Start a recycling program at Camp
 - Dining hall decorations
 - Donate items to Nice Twice
 - New or used golf cart
 - New or used Gator
 - Vacuum cleaners
 - Heating and AC wall units for cabins
 - Rolling white boards
 - Paved parking lot at Nice Twice
 - New or gently used digital cameras
 - Adult Retreat Center
 - Cleaning supplies
 - Small fishing nets
 - Nature Center
 - Ice machine
 - Stump grinder
 - New archery shed
 - Fuel efficient car
 - 12 passenger van
 - Minivan
 - Large charcoal grills
 - Fencing around playground
 - Picnic tables and benches
 - Paving the Camp road
 - New wooden bunks for treehouses (12)
- For Recreation Center**
- Canvas retractable wall
 - Padding under the basketball hoops
 - Interlocking cushion tiles

Volunteer Opportunities

- Contact us about a Thrivent Action Team
- Put wood chips around the challenge course elements
- Nurse of the Week during summer
- Pastor of the Week during summer
- Landscaping - help with planting, weeding, watering and leaf raking
- Help at Nice Twice (Camp's resale shop)
- Office assistance
- Handyman tasks around Camp such as minor repairs and painting
- Woodcutting (cut, split, stack)
- Build five foot-bridges along the hiking trails