

The Link to a Place Apart



HEROES

When Jake got home from Lutherock, he wanted to read his Bible more.

Jake spent a week at Lutherock last summer. As a 3rd grader, it was the first time he was eligible to be a summer camper. “He’s always wanted to go to Lutherock and he begged us,” says Jake’s mom Becca. “So, he invited his cousin and they went together.”

As former Lutherock summer staff members, Becca and her husband Jordan knew Jake would have a great week. “We love the religious life at camp,” Becca says. “It’s a great introduction for kids who have never had church in their lives. And for those who are already active in faith communities, it’s nice to be around kids who believe in Jesus the way they do.”

Becca says Jake has always been interested in the Bible and loves bible stories, but his week at Lutherock sparked a new level of enthusiasm for him. “After his week at camp, Jake picked up his Bible a lot and he wanted to dive in more,” she remembers. “The way they learned about and talked about the Bible at camp really made an impact on him.”

Continued on page 3

A Message From INTERIM CO-CEOS



Greetings Camp Friends,

While visiting a church recently, I (Mitzie) thanked a pastor for bringing his middle and high school youth to camp each summer. As we talked, Dana, the mother of an 11-year-old, walked into the conversation. “I hear so many wonderful things about camp,” she shared. “I want to send my daughter, but honestly, I am nervous.”

I understood her feelings. As a young summer staffer, I remember hoping that my own children would one day have a week of camp every summer because I saw how good it was for the campers I was working with each week. Then, when I became a parent, I felt a nervous twitch in my gut as I helped them pack for camp. We are so connected to our children these days and it’s hard to let them be away from us.

Dana’s pastor understood, too. He sends his own children to camp and has for years. “I was worried at first,” he told Dana, “but I saw how they grew after their first week of summer camp. They took care of themselves and had to remember to brush their teeth or hang up their wet towels. They were with their counselor the entire week, a critical relationship for their development. They learned there are other trustworthy, caring, and faithful adults in the world. They learned that the church, their faith community, is bigger than just our congregation. They made friends, friends that they still message and who help them get through tough days when they feel alone.”

I was so proud to hear this pastor explain everything I felt and wanted to say. There are so many benefits to a week of summer camp for children and youth. It’s so important for young people to be able to leave the distractions of bullying and electronics behind and grow in faith, explore creation, and make the best of friends.

Your camp staff is actively preparing for children to arrive this summer. We are recruiting, hiring, and training exceptional counseling staff. We are planning Bible studies, menus, and games. We are praying for campers and parents as they get excited, nervous, and excited again. We can’t wait to welcome your child, and every child, to these amazing places, set apart, where they will feel and know they belong to God and God’s family.

See you at camp!

With Gratitude,

Mike

Mitzie

Jacob Benington was Jake’s counselor last summer. He remembers being intentional about the time campers spent talking about the Bible. “We created safe space for campers during their group Bible studies and devotional time,” Jacob recalls. “It was a special time where kids could interact with the Bible together.”

As a counselor, Jacob knows that being at camp encourages campers to understand how the Bible connects with their lives in new ways. “At Lutherock, kids face some rigorous challenges,” says Jacob, “but they are also taught the skills to overcome them. Throughout the week at camp, we discussed multiple stories of great heroes in the Bible. I believe these stories helped motivate campers like Jake to take on these challenges and adapt the lessons into everyday life.”

Becca sees the way the challenges and lessons of camp make an impact every day. “Camp does such a great job getting faith into normal life,” she says. “It’s a part of everything they do. And those camp experiences enhance our family’s faith life all year long.”

Your gifts to NovusWay give campers like Jake the opportunity to learn how the Bible strengthens us for lives of faith and counselors like Jacob the tools to be great mentors for children of God. Thank you for helping us form faith, build community, and develop strong leaders.



PROS AND CONS

Last summer at Luther Springs, if you’d played a game to find out who traveled the farthest to get to camp, Kornelia Rudkowska would have won.

Kornelia came to Luther Springs from Poland, by way of Newberry College in South Carolina. She wasn’t planning to spend the summer at camp, but Newberry College Campus Pastor David Coffman encouraged her to consider it. One day while looking at the NovusWay website, Kornelia saw information

about Luther Springs. “I saw there was a camp in Florida and I thought that sounded like a great place to spend a summer,” Kornelia says. “I saw all the activities that were offered and that’s the thing that spoke to me the most.”

Kornelia was so excited about the idea, she shared it with her college friend Jordan Seay. “I remember Kornelia telling me that she found a camp in Florida called Luther Springs,” Jordan recalls. “I loved the idea of spending my summer being a counselor with my best friend!” To make their final decision, Kornelia and Jordan made a list of pros and cons about working at camp. “There were a lot more pros than cons,” Kornelia remembers, “so we were convinced and off we went.”

For Kornelia, the summer of serving at Luther Springs turned out to be fun, but it was also a transformational experience. “I thought the biggest challenge for me would be spending 10 weeks in a row out in nature,” Kornelia shares. “But it was also challenging for me to just slow down. I didn’t like to be still at the beginning of the summer. But by the end of the summer, I would sit by the lake and look at the trees and I really loved that.”

Kornelia’s favorite part of camp was evening devotion time when staff and campers would gather together, talk about their day, and share their highs and lows. “It was a very spiritual time,” remembers Kornelia, “and it was truly inspiring to share those moments, and the gospel, with kids.”

Jordan is thankful that Kornelia told her about Luther Springs and convinced her to go. “Being able to spend my whole summer with people around me that were strong in their faith really helped me grow in my faith,” she says. “Working with children and getting to watch them learn about God was really beautiful. This summer was truly a life changing experience for me.”





COMFORTS

Every quilt has a story. Quilting retreats at NovusWay camps help people share their stories.

In February, quilters from Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, North Carolina, and South Carolina, attended the Quilting Bee Retreat at Lutheranch. The three-day event gave participants the opportunity to try out new projects as well as work on things they brought from home.

One of the most meaningful parts of the quilting retreat was the intentional time set aside for people to share about quilts and projects that are important to them. “There is a lot of show and tell,” explains Holly Anderson, who helped lead the retreat. “One evening, people bring a quilt from home that has a story or is special to them. At the end of the retreat, we have a show and tell of what everyone has accomplished during our time together.”

For Holly, retreats like this gathering at Lutheranch stir up her passion for quilting and for connecting with others. “I love quilting,” Holly says. “I love the history behind it. I love that it touches people. Quilting is a great way to reach out to others. Often, the experiences that are shared create opportunities to care for each other.”

Mona Henderson, who attended the Quilting Bee Retreat from South Carolina, loved connecting as well.

“It was very inspiring,” Mona says. “You see what other people are doing and it encourages you to do more. I came away from the retreat with new energy.”

During one of the show and tell times, Mona shared a quilt her mom had started years ago which Mona has now completed. “I took all these memories

and pieces of fabric that she had saved and I added some of my own,” Mona says. “I loved sharing the story of this quilt with everyone.”

The quilts made by those who attend events like the Quilting Bee Retreat often become gifts for others. To Holly, that is one of the most inspiring parts of the groups’ work. “Sometimes quilts are referred to as comforts,” she says. “And many of us want to share these comforts with family or with others in need.”

One of the quilts Holly has shared hangs in a gathering room at Lutheranch’s McKanna-Sandrock Retreat Center. On the quilt are the words from Psalm 23, *He restores my soul.* “That’s what I get from quilting,” Holly says. “The people, inspired by one another, are a comfort to the soul.”



GROWING UP TOGETHER

“I keep my Lutheridge history in my Bible,” says family camper Sarah Vandergrift. Sarah is one of the parents who has been coming to 4th of July week Family Camp at Lutheridge for many years. Her family’s camp adventures started in 2010 when Sarah first saw the family camp program in action.

“I was at Lutheridge that week as an adult C3ARE leader,” Sarah recalls. “It was the first time I had been to camp in a long time. When I saw the family camp group connecting and having so much fun, I knew I wanted to do that!” Sarah returned with her almost 1-year-old and 5-year-old in 2012. She and her children have been coming to family camp ever since.

“For my kids, they were too young to be in a cabin,” Sarah says, “so it was a chance for them to learn what being at Lutheridge was like. For me, family camp has been a way to regain my youth again. I get to participate in skits and be goofy in a way I rarely do. It’s a place apart in that way, and to be able to come and do that again is always a reset for me.”

Like many of the parents who come to family camp, Sarah's Lutheridge story includes several years being on summer staff. Each summer she was at camp Sarah brought her student Bible along, and she wrote in it what she did that year. "When the kids started coming the list got more complicated," Sarah says. "But I love keeping this history of what we have done every summer."

Sarah's three children have done other programs at camp and had great experiences being away from their parents at Lutheridge. This summer, however, Sarah and her children will be together at family camp. "The beauty of family camp is that it's one big family," Sarah shares. "The kids and adults who come back year after year are growing up together. It's intergenerational and it doesn't matter what kind of family you are."

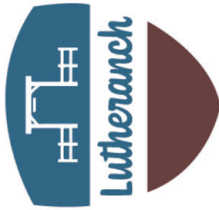
When she thinks about her future adventures at camp, Sarah still imagines being a family camper. "Even when the kids are out of the house, I will keep going," she says. "I think these other family camp friends will too. We have such an amazing history. We are family."

Thank you for your generous gifts to NovusWay Ministries, which give families the opportunity to connect with God, each other, and Christian friends and to grow in faith together.



BEYOND THEIR WALLS

When St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Port St. Lucie, Florida began a capital campaign to grow their ministry, they knew they wanted to bless an organization beyond their walls. Because of their connections to camp, the congregation chose to tithe 10% of the gifts they raised to support Lutherock. Here, NovusWay Co-CEO Mitzi Schafer receives a check for \$30,590, the first portion of this generous gift, from Saint Andrew leaders and former Lutherock campers.



NovusWay Ministries

PO Box 830
Arden, NC 28704
828-684-2361
www.NovusWay.org

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
ASHEVILLE NC
PERMIT #575

Change Service Requested

Please help us update our records so we can serve you better.

Make any corrections on the label. Mail it back to us or send an image to give@NovusWay.org.

- Name Change
- Address Change
- I received more than one copy
- Please remove me from the mailing list