



Camp Wartburg Sonlight Newsletter

Unusual Circumstances and Opportunities

ROBERT POLANSKY

What a wild summer and year it has been so far. Camp Wartburg shut down all of its program services in March, with the exception of our small After Camp program. After Camp was allowed to remain open as it was small (10 children) and served a few essential worker's families in the local area. As the state moved to a less restrictive phase we were allowed to open up only in a day camp fashion for the summer. Camp followed CDC guidelines and welcomed the staff for the summer two weeks prior to the June 1st opening of Day Camp. Camp would have normally opened in mid-May. We were allowed to open the swimming pool and parts of the climbing area on July 1st. Later in the summer we were allowed to have a couple of small overnight programs. Camp elected to do a Current River trip and two leadership programs (see accompanying story on page 3 by Madelyn) that ran overnight for smaller groups. In the end, Camp served 164 different campers this summer. The end result is devastating for the financial picture of Camp. Our parent company, Lutheran Child and family Services has been great and secured Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funds for Camp to survive. (Cont. p 2)



Our Camp Wartburg staff made the commitment to remain on-site the entire summer after quarantining for two weeks before Day Camp began.



Camp Wartburg 2020 SGLs and Staff:

From top left: Linda Polansky, Bob Polansky, Odin, Neptune, John "Sparky" Hemenway, Coach Matt Hubbard, Plank, Quicksilver, Tally, Snoop, Coral, Flick, Echo, Canary, Demo, Nova, Banana, and Cubbie.



So what did the summer look like? Some of it was greatly different and some of it was joyfully the same. We were allowed to have eight groups in eight separate places, with the same groups of campers throughout the summer. They washed their hands more often, they cleaned up their areas of use much better than in previous years, kept to their group for much of the summer and wore masks whenever necessary. Each group carried around a cleaning bucket so that after they canoed on the pond, they cleaned off the canoes, paddles and personal floatation devices. Later in July they were able to connect with another group and swim and play in larger group games and activities. Everyone, including staff, took their temperature prior to arriving at Camp and it was taken again when they arrived every day. With a large amount of grace and skills, to date, Camp has not had a positive test result with either the campers or the staff working with them.

This fall Camp has continued to provide programming in our After Camp program. This was designed to serve families in need with both before and after school programming during the school year. We have about 80 campers in this program which started out with the Waterloo schools being closed to in person learning. Camp adapted and provided e-learning with our staff and a few parent volunteers. Waterloo just began half days at the end of September and so we now greet those kids as the bus drops them off each school day. We had a few school groups come out for day trips, as well as Girl Scout groups and church groups come out for day trips and short retreats.

As Covid-19 still is a presence in our lives, we continue to ask for prayers and support of all of the programming that we are now providing.

Camp Wartburg was honored to have Pastor Merritt Demski perform a baptism for our Small Group Leader Flick (Tara Bryan) this summer.



JULY 12TH - 17TH AUGUST 2ND - 7TH

LEADERSHIP TRAINING CAMP

Mission Statement

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

Board of Directors

Curtis Boehne, Chairman
Wayne Price, Vice Chairman
Geraldine Eggerding, Secretary
Curtiss Wittbracht, Treasurer
Wally Streuter, Committee Member-at-Large
Mary Lou Byrum
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Kim Shank
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Sue Swisher
Kevin Williams

Staff

Bob Polansky, Executive Director
John "Sparky" Hemenway, Camp Manager
Ruth Hertlein, Administrative Assistant
Matt Hubbard, AfterCamp Coordinator
Clara Lewis, Assistant to Camp Manager
Cindy McNew, Nice Twice Manager
Theresa Thorburg, Development Coordinator
Terri Maier, Kitchen Coordinator

Contact us at:

5705 LRC Road
Waterloo, IL 62298
Phone: 618-939-7715
Fax: 618-207-3929

Visit our Website at:

www.CampWartburg.com
www.Facebook.com/CampWartburg

Leading by Christ's example

MADELYN POZARIC



The Leadership Training Camp at Camp Wartburg was an amazing experience. Over the course of the week, we studied leadership strategies and skills from leaders around Camp, like Sparky, Bob, Sparrow and Robin. I really enjoyed the lessons on followership, personality, and Bible studies. In order to be a good leader, one must also be a good follower. Working with the team, compromising, and enthusiastically pitching in are all things an effective follower does. Many skills taught by followership like communication and initiative are skills used in leadership. I will not be the leader in every circumstance, and this lecture created a guideline for me to follow when I am not at the head. I can lead by example and make the leader's task easier so the job will be completed effectively and well.

We also took a personality quiz called the Enneagram and created life statements, which taught me a lot about myself. I am a 6, which means I am loyal, desire relationships, defensive, trustworthy, anxious, and a good troubleshooter. I can relate almost all of my decisions and thoughts back to my type, and this identification helps me to understand myself better. This aids me in rebelling against my type's shortcomings and playing to my strengths. It is necessary for leaders to know their advantages and weaknesses, so this test taught me a lot about myself and the leadership style that suits me best.

While I don't know what field I want to go into, creating a life statement honed in on my priorities- to be joyful, a pillar in my community, and a follower of God. If I make decisions with these goals in mind, no matter what I end up doing, I will be content. I do not want a grand life, just a good one. I learned a great deal about my skills, values, desires, and beliefs through the Leadership Training Camp. I would highly recommend this program to anyone seeking personal growth in faith and self.



AFTER CAMP

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THE COMMUNITY

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4: 10

Matthew Hubbard



The year 2020 has been quite a challenge for families, businesses, and obviously just as much for Camp. Back in March, AfterCamp was growing by the week when the governor announced the shutdown of schools and the stay at home order. Luckily enough, AfterCamp was allowed to remain open to our regular customers but at minimal numbers. We had to quickly get on the same page as the CDC and our local health department to make sure we were following every guideline there was available to help protect the health and safety of our campers and staff. Social distancing and masks became the norm, but everyone adjusted well.

Then, after a successful eleven weeks of summer Day Camp, the local schools resumed but in a different way than we have ever seen before. E-Learning was announced as the only option for Waterloo schools and many in our community panicked. Parents searched for answers of what to do with their children while they continued to work so they could provide for them. Our administrative staff got together and created a plan similar to the one put in place over the summer where campers could be divided in to groups by grade in different areas with classrooms set up so they had the environment needed to do their schoolwork. Apollo, Bigfoot, Demo, Micro, Rodeo, and Tarzan all dedicated their time to come back to camp and not only take on the role as SGL's, but also as a learning assistant for five hours each morning. Between this group of young adults ready to serve, multiple parent volunteers, and a couple of junior counselors, we made it through the first six weeks of school in this format. Currently, Waterloo and Valmeyer schools are operating in-person for half days with 50+ kids spending their afternoons out at camp each day. We feel very blessed to be able to continue serving our community and still grow our after-school ministry during the wild times of COVID.



Camp Wartburg has not only been a life saver for my children, but for my new business too. Like everyone else, we were totally unprepared when the shutdown happened. My husband is an essential worker and travels weeks at a time. He was gone when the closures happened and was unable to be home to help take care of everything here. My new business (not even a year old) had to take a backseat to my new role as a stay at home mom with two kids. No substantial work got done for two months. Projects just crept forward with slow progress as other clients were shutting their businesses down.

The day Camp Wartburg announced they would be opening back up to a limited amount of children was a gift from God himself. They were able to take my youngest child of three years when the day cares were forced to close. A place where my children can be outside all day; focusing on God and nature... and not having to listen to me talk to clients or ignore them when I'd randomly hop on the computer to help a client or get some more work done. I completely trust the Camp Counselors led by Coach Matt and Sparky to take much needed care of my children; taking their minds off the craziness that was being unleashed on our world. Being able to have the kids at Camp not only made for a normal summer for them, it allowed me to get back to work.

Camp Wartburg not only saved my family, they saved my livelihood too! Thank you Camp Wartburg!

-Laura Griffith



Thank you to our parents and volunteers who donated a Sweet Treats visit for our students to enjoy.

My husband and I are essential business owners and have a forty-five minute commute each way. Camp Wartburg has been an amazing outlet for my three girls. They started after school camp which turned into full time camp due to COVID19 shutting down schools. The girls love it! They get to do pond study, socialize, and play with friends even with all the precautions Camp has in place. I appreciate every single one of the amazing counselors who go above and beyond for my girls from playing games with them to helping with their homework. Huge shout out to Coach Matt for being an awesome role model to my girls and always having their best interests at heart.

-Shannon Scheetz

I took a peek inside the buildings while school was in session. What I saw was simply amazing and second to none! Each child had their own space. Their work areas were strategically placed to offer social distancing and masks were a must. I saw children walk to their "desks", open their Chromebooks and begin their day without even being told. I saw a schedule of Zoom meetings posted on a white board so all the kids could see their teacher and classmates on a daily basis. I saw counselors coming to the aid of children who patiently raised their hands searching for help. I saw projectors showing lessons to the wee small ones, and I saw Matt put in a 40 hour week by Tuesday! Most importantly, I saw children in one of the most caring, safe environments that parents only wish for their kids. Those kids came home with smiles on their faces because they went back to school and then finished their day at Camp with their friends. Safe and sound.

Camp Wartburg is a solid foundation in our community that has helped us through one of the most difficult times in our lives. It has been a true lifesaver for my family as well as many others. I know that Camp Wartburg will continue to grow and thrive in this community and serve our families as well as children and families from across the region.

Thank you, Camp Wartburg! God's blessings to each of you!

-Leanna & Shane Stechmesser



Anne & Rick Riley's home



Party Favors

"Let Your Love Shine" Dinner Auction - A Virtual Soirée

We would like to thank everyone who supported us through our 23rd annual auction this year.

This event is our largest fundraiser of the year. As many friends already know, we were worried this year, not knowing what our event would look like due to Covid restrictions or how much money we might raise. We knew we would not be able to gather at the Regency with over 200 guests. So, we met with our wonderful auction council and decided to use board member, Wally Streuter's idea of hosting some smaller parties in homes and using an online system. The results were fantastic! Thanks to so many friends and their generous support, we had 266 participants and we raised \$97,437 for Camp!

Special thanks to Amanda Little (Pip). We are grateful for all of her efforts with the online software, setting up accounts, taking pictures of items, sorting, the list goes on and on. Thank you Amanda!

Thank you to our auction council members who make this event successful every year. This group donated auction items, hosted small auction dinner parties and/or pulled together and paid for a group of online bidders:

Ron and Cindy Auld, Gary and Gloria Behm, MaryLou Byrum, Karla Carnaghi, Barry Cervantes, Wayne and Cathie Collmeyer, Kevin and Shelly Day, Don Cochran, Jerri Eggerding, Tammy and Darren Hines, Anne Riley, Brian and Cindy McNew, Jeff and Kim Shank, Rork and Sue Swisher, Ron and Cheryl Turley, and Deanne Wells.

Thank you to all of our friends who participated from their own homes, and to all of our friends who hosted small parties in their homes:

Wayne and Cathie Collmeyer, Gary and Cheryl Hemmer, Jeff and Kim Shank, Amanda Little, Ron and Cindy Auld with Brockmans and Fanchers, Adam and Jill Eggemeyer along with Lee and Karen Eggemeyer, Deanne Wells, Kevin and Shelly Day, Rick and Anne Riley, Bob and Kris Givens with Tim and Theresa Thorburg, Craig and Dawn Thorburg, Rork and Sue Swisher, Jerri Eggerding and Bill Townsend, Tammy and Darren Hines, Susan Stratman, Jerry and Denise Grant, Bob and Linda Polansky, Tim and MaryLou Byrum, Bob and Barb Vernier, Brian and Cindy McNew, Curt and Ruth Boehne, Sparky and Christina Hemenway.

Please save the date for our 24th annual "Let Your Love Shine" Dinner Auction when we hope to be able to gather together again, host a big party/celebration and raise money for Camp Wartburg!

Saturday, August 28, 2021.



Rork & Sue Swisher's Home



"Camp Wartburg holds a special place in my heart and has truly changed my life"



Finding Camp Wartburg

Faith Morris

Hey everyone, my name is Banana, but for all legal purposes, I go by Faith Morris. I am currently a senior studying at Eastern Illinois University pursuing a major in public relations with a minor in fashion merchandising and design. Originally, I am from Metcalf, IL which is a teeny-tiny village located in east-central Illinois.

My story of how I got connected to Camp Wartburg is a bit unconventional. Up until February of 2019, I did not know that Camp Wartburg even existed and thought that Waterloo was just a word used repeatedly in a Mamma Mia song. I was in Phoenix, Arizona attending the Best Practices in Ministry conference with my campus ministry leadership team and we ran into the executive director of Camp Perkins in Idaho. She knew our campus ministry director and when she saw my friends and I standing there she simply asked, "Any of you looking for a job this summer?" As someone who was tired of working retail and had always dreamed of being a camp counselor, I responded, "Yes!" From there the rest is history, as I filled out the application online, and blindly chose Camp Wartburg as my first preference.

It's crazy to look back on those days now after serving two summers as an SGL in addition to being a lead counselor this past summer. I thank God every day for the friendships I have made, children I have had the opportunity to work with, and memories created at camp. Even though I never attended as a camper, Camp Wartburg holds a special place in my heart and has truly changed my life—allowing me to grow in my faith and experience nature like never before.



We were happy that Matt Hindman, Shepherding Sheep Camper, was able to join us for a day this summer. Amanda Little and Matt spent the day together. He had so much fun fishing and swimming.

Thanks to Danielle Mongeon, Shepherding Sheep Camper, who volunteered all summer. Danielle was a big help with our youngest day campers.



Camp Wartburg Honor Roll of Donors

The following donations were received between March 1, 2020 & September 30, 2020. Our sincere appreciation to all donors & volunteers who help make Camp Wartburg a place where heaven & nature sing.

Individuals

Adrian & Bonnie Albert	Elaine Guebert	Joyce McDaniel	Marge Simmons
Willard & Ruth Ann Arbeiter	Brian & Nicole Hanger	Michael & Janine McGovern	George Solovic
Ron & Cindy Auld	Wayne & Susan Hargrave	Karla Mckee	Butch & Laurie Sparwasser
SusanBarker	Ronald Harper	Leigh Mcnicholas	Roger & Donna Sprengel
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Loren & Chris Bodendieck	Karen & Ron Hindman	Daryl & Judith Murken	Russ & Laurie Thompson
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Lea Chandrl	Jeanette Jung	Wayne & Helen Price	Alex Voges
Brian Charron	Paul & Kelly Karl	SusanRassbach	Kenneth & Joan Voges
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Courtney Frizzelle	Paul & Betsy Liberatore	Dale Schutt	
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Lawrence Goessling	Amanda Little	Kim Shank	
Jerry Grant	Tammy Little	Paul & Becky Shaw	
Dennis Gruchala	Sam & Nada Lutton	Dennis Shields	
	Shawn & Leah Macfarlane	Howard & Norma Shive	
	Dorothy Mansholt	Ed & Lori Siemers	
	Scott & Jackie Maxwell		
	Gerri Mazdra		

(Cont. Page 9)



Nice Twice at the Depot

518 Park St. Waterloo, IL 62298
618-939-0311

As good stewards of God's creation, it is our responsibility to use God's blessings wisely. LCFS' Nice Twice thrift store helps in many ways. Come shop for collectibles, pre-owned furniture and gently-worn clothing. Proceeds directly support Camp Wartburg and our campers who might need some extra financial assistance.

Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Sunday Closed

Churches & Schools

Hope Lutheran Church, Granite City
Messiah Lutheran Church, Carlyle
St. John's Lutheran Church,
Nashville
Zion Lutheran Church of Ferguson

Foundations & Trusts

Evans Charitable Trust
LCMS Foundation

Organizations

Lutheran Women's
Missionary League, SID

Businesses

1st National Bank of Waterloo
Burris Management, Inc.
Cotton's Ace Hardware Of Red Bud
Harrisonville Telephone Company
Microfinish Co. Inc.
Missouri Floor Company
Red Bud Industries
Reliable Sanitation Service Inc.
Republic Times
St. Louis Antique Lighting Co. Inc.
State Bank of Waterloo
T. Fuller Construction Inc.
Weir Chevrolet-Buick-GMC, Inc.
Wilke Window & Door Inc.
Wm. Nobbe & Co. Inc.

Honorariums:

Jerri Eggerding's Birthday
Darlene Fritzinger
David & Helen Schafer's Anniversary
Rork & Sue Swisher

Memorials:

Marion Baebler
Michael Baebler
Norman Eggemeyer
Bob & Linda Polansky
Wilmer Harre
Dale & Carol Brockman
Dennis & Cheryl Fancher
Rev. Herbert Mueller, Jr.
Faith Mueller
Bob & Linda Polansky
Dorothea Wirz
Bob & Linda Polansky
Arlene Thorburg
Mary Woehr


CAMP WARTBURG'S
51ST ANNUAL (TAKE TWO 🍷)

CHICKEN

DINNER

SUNDAY, APRIL 25
SERVING 11AM-2PM
\$12 FOR ADULTS, \$6 FOR KIDS
CHILDREN UNDER 5 EAT FREE

TRIVIA NIGHT



FEBRUARY 6TH
IN THE NEGWER FAMILY CENTER
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM
TRIVIA STARTS AT 7:00PM

TABLES OF 8 ARE \$120
(\$15 PER PERSON.)

ALL CAMP GAME DAY

December 19 - 10am-3pm
Lunch and Snack provided
\$20.00 per person

REGISTER ONLINE AT
CAMPWARTBURG.COM



2020 Virtual Golf Outing

Thank you golfers and friends for making this year's Virtual tournament successful! Our golfers, golf committee and our sponsors really rallied behind Camp this year. Wow! We netted \$550 more than last year. We had minimal expenses and we provided vouchers to those who wanted to play at Acorn's and have lunch at a later date (before October 31st). Many are playing in October.

Thank you to our Sponsors

Helen Bisaga	Al Koepke
Wayne & Cathie Collmeyer	LCMS Foundation
Lawrence & Janet Goessling	Betty Poore
Elaine Guebert	Wayne & Helen Price
Kathy Liefer, Red Bud Industries	Kim & Jeff Shank
Bob Polansky	George Solovic
Bill Stock, Microfinish	Butch & Laurie Sparwasser
Allan Belko	Greg Stellhorn
Loren & Chris Bodendieck	Wally Streuter
Adam & Jill Eggemeyer	Arlene Thorburg
Jerri Eggerding	Thrivent Financial
John Hemenway	Ron & Cheryl Turley
Steve Hendry	Kent Verseman,
Ron & Karen Hindman	Missouri Floor Company
Jerry & Sherri Jenson	Mark & Lauri Weis
	Curt & Linda Wittbracht

Thank you to our committee members:

Ron Turley, Chairman • Wayne Collmeyer
Adam Eggemeyer • Al Koepke
Greg Stellhorn • Wally Streuter



*Wally Streuter, Steve Hendry,
and Eric Larson*

*James Blasingame, Rich Luebbert,
Bill Petersen, and Steve Petersen*





Please Consider a Charitable IRA Rollover gift to Camp Wartburg before year end!

Individuals age 70½ years or older can make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) directly from their IRA to Camp Wartburg.

By directing your gift directly to Camp Wartburg, you do not report the IRA distribution as income. This is particularly useful if you do not itemize your deductions. As with any gift, you can designate the purpose for which the gift is to be used.

To make a tax-free charitable IRA gift: (Qualified Charitable Distribution – QCD)

- You must be 70½ years of age or older when the distribution is made.
- The transfer must go directly from your IRA to Camp Wartburg.
- You may make tax-free transfers from your IRA to a charity or charities of any amount totaling up to \$100,000 each calendar year. If you are married, your spouse may also be eligible to make such gifts up to \$100,000 from his/her IRA.
- A charitable rollover gift from your IRA will count toward your minimum distribution requirement. (Although for 2020 there is no requirement due to the COVID-19 pandemic)

Please Contact Us:

For further information or to notify us of a gift from your IRA, please contact Theresa Thorburg at 618-939-7715 extension 11.

(Your IRA custodian will have forms for you to direct your gift to Camp Wartburg)



5705 LRC Road
Waterloo, IL 62298

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
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Permit No. 3252



Lutheran Child and
Family Services of Illinois



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
- Adult Retreat Center
- Cleaning supplies
- Small fishing nets
- Nature Center
- Ice machine
- Stump grinder
- Fuel efficient car
- 12 passenger van
- 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