

Living Faith



Dear Faith Shapers,

Here I am writing about summer camp and we are in the midst of a snowy winter! It's never too early to plan for the summer. Now is the time when I start to look at my family's summer plans. Bible camp is always first on my kids' list. We also plan summer vacation, sports and visiting family, but summer camp is their favorite. We send each of our kids to camp on their own and then if we can make it fit, we attend family camp together. Every child should get to experience Bible camp. So much faith shaping and growing up happens at camp. Please don't let overscheduled summers, sports, or cost get in the way of experiencing Bible camp. Our camps and many churches offer scholarships. If you don't have camping age kids, consider giving a scholarship for a child to attend Bible camp. Most pastors have attended or been staff at Bible camp! Camp really is faith shaping!

May you experience the joy of camping ministry.

Lisa Kammerer,
Deacon



Why I Am Sending My Kids to Summer Bible Camp

I am often asked by other parents how can I send my kids to summer camp? I get many questions/concerns such as: your kids are so young, how can you be sure they will be safe, a week is so long, what if they hate it, my kid won't know anyone, etc.

I firmly believe all of the benefits outweigh the concerns. Here's the joys my family has at camp:

Feeling God's presence & hearing God's call

Stepping out of our comfort zones to try new things

Team work in activities

Bible learning

Encouraged to be who we are

Sense of wonder

Learned how to pray

Emotional growth

Learned independence

And a love of zip lines!

February is the time to sign up for camp. We have several Lutheran camps in our synod and they offer discounts for signing up early. Many churches also offer additional scholarships to help get kids to camp. Here are the ELCA camps in our synod.

Camp EWALU www.ewalu.org

Riverside Bible Camp www.riversidelbc.org

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5 Things Your Child Gets From Summer Bible Camp

Develop Independence

You are giving your child the opportunity to live and thrive without you. Confidence & independence happen at camp because parents are not there.



Experience God

Your child will worship, pray, have bible study, make Christian friends, sing songs all while being in God's amazing creation with God's people!

Relax & Get Unplugged

You are giving your child a break from the pressures and stress of school, sports & daily life. They have the chance to unplug & connect face to face with other kids & positive young adult role models!

Become Better At Making Friends

The bonding and friendships that happen at camp are different from those that occur at school or on sports teams. Living together and experiencing camp together creates the ideal setting to form life long friendships.

Experience Outdoor Childhood Fun & Adventure

You are giving your child the gift of magical memories— dirt, adventure, faith experiences, story, joke filled days and nights spent with friends outdoors, under the stars, and around the campfire. These childhood memories will last FOREVER! This is a gift that will have more impact than any material item you've ever given.



The Real Story

- Saint Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland
- We think he was born in 385 AD in Britain
- At age 16, he was captured and sold into slavery in Ireland
- During his captivity, he became a very devout Christian
- When he escaped six years later, he went on to spend 12 years in a monastery
- He then returned to Ireland as a missionary
- Saint Patrick is credited with bringing Christianity to Ireland
- We think he died on March 17, 461

THINK
OUTSIDE
THE BOX

Ideas to give up or add for Lent

- ♦ Wearing jewelry or hats
- ♦ Text/Snap three people a day to ask if you can pray for them
- ♦ Go one day a week without any make up or hair products
- ♦ Tip 30% anytime you go out to eat
- ♦ Eliminate screen time 1 day per week
- ♦ Give up snapchat— only call or email
- ♦ Pick 4 outfits to wear all of Lent
- ♦ Throw away 40 things for 40 days
- ♦ When you buy a treat, buy a second one for someone else
- ♦ Turn off your phone when you are with your family
- ♦ Only check your social media 3x a day
- ♦ Shopping— only buy essentials during Lent