

CAMP MOUNT LUTHER Camel Tracks



Dec. 2011



Looking Forward to 2012

As we wind down one year and begin another, Camp Mount Luther is gearing up for another year of ministry with children, youth, young adults, families, and adults. Our summer program schedule will be posted on the camp's website this month and brochures will be mailed in early January. We also have several new retreat offerings planned for 2012.

The camp, the Upper Susquehanna Synod, and the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania will continue to partner to provide faith formation programs in both the synod and the diocese. We are pleased to announce that the diocese and their bishop, The Rt. Rev. Nathan Baxter, continue to encourage and support growth in our call to common mission by financially supporting Camp Mount Luther with \$12,000 annually, offered through diocesan convention vote. The Diocese of CPA considers Mount Luther to be a prime location for young people's formation as well as an educational training site central to the diocese. Their goal is to better serve together our young people at a location that represents the highest quality of care and service for our children, youth, and young adults in their faith formation. In addition, the Upper Susquehanna Synod continues to provide an annual allocation to the camp to help in our service to children and youth. The synod allocation for 2012 is budgeted at \$48,000. This funding comes through mission support dollars given by synod congregations and was adopted by the 2011 Synod Assembly and supported by Bishop Robert L. Driesen.

Wanted: Camp Videos!

We are seeking your help in promoting camp this spring. We are asking campers to produce short videos about why you love camp. We'll use the best ones in our marketing this spring. We need all videos by January 15, 2012, so get your cameras rolling! E-mail chad@campmountluther.org or contact us on Facebook and we can make arrangements for you to upload your video to us.

Camp Seeks Christmas Gifts and Kicks off Birthday Candle Campaign



Attached to this newsletter is a copy of our Advent Appeal letter. Each year, we ask our supporters to consider giving a year-end gift to the camp.

Camp Mount Luther has been making Christ known for almost 50 years. Participants renew and strengthen their faith through their encounter with Jesus Christ in worship, recreation, Bible study, prayer, creation stewardship, and music. As the camp gets ready to celebrate its 50th birthday in 2013, it is the board's birthday wish that Mount Luther has financial resources to begin its sixth decade on solid ground. That's why the camp board and the Upper Susquehanna Synod authorized a three-pronged fundraising effort to celebrate this upcoming milestone. The campaign is designed to enhance annual fund giving, reduce existing debt, build an endowment fund, and begin new capital programs. Congregations and individuals can help by giving a donation to the **BIRTHDAY CANDLE CAMPAIGN**. For every \$12,000 the camp raises by its birthday, one candle will be put on a birthday cake. We'd like to raise \$600,000 by then (and have all 50 candles!) You can designate your gift to any of the following and it will be counted toward this effort: Annual Fund, Camperships, Evergreen Center Debt Reduction, or Endowment Fund. To make a gift, please send a check to Camp Mount Luther, 355 Mt. Luther Lane, Mifflinburg, PA 17844.

A Busy January at Camp



FLOOD SU

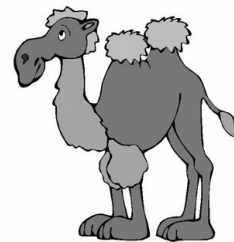
Camp Mount Luther and the Upper Susquehanna Synod Youth Council present *FLOOD SU: Friends Living Out Our Discipleship at Susquehanna University*. This annual event will be held on Saturday, January 14, 2012, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Field House at Susquehanna University. Doors open at 3:45 p.m. The event is open to youth in grades 4 through 12. FLOOD SU features a praise band, service project, swimming, open gym, racquetball, hot dogs, snacks, Rock Band, and Guitar Hero. Each youth group should bring a reasonable amount of snacks to share, clothes for swimming, a loud voice to sing God's praises, hands to do God's work, games, and sports equipment. We'll provide service project materials, hot dogs and drinks, basketballs, volleyballs, Rock Band, and Guitar Hero! Cost is \$5 if registered by Tuesday, January 3, 2012; \$10 at the door, with free admission for adult chaperones. It is requested that adult chaperones have their PA State Police Criminal Background and Childline Child Abuse Clearances. Each congregation should provide one adult (21 or over) for every seven youth. Registration forms are available on the synod's website (www.uss-elca.org) or the camp's website (www.campmountluther.org). *We are still looking for adult volunteers to help with this event. If you are available, contact the camp office!*

Camp Mount Luther Sunday

The Upper Susquehanna Synod Council has designated "Camp Mount Luther Sunday" on January 15, 2012. If your congregation is unable to celebrate with us that day, we encourage you to hold a Mount Luther Sunday at another time and join with us in emphasizing the importance of outdoor ministries in our synod. Camp Mount Luther is an extension of the ministry that you do in your local congregation. The camp is here to help congregations make Christ known to your local communities. There are many ways that you can help promote the camp on this Sunday. Visit www.campmountluther.org for a list of suggestions.

Annual Camperson Event

This event gives participants the chance to find out what's going on at camp and tell the story to others! It will be held on Sunday, January 22, 2012, at 3:00 p.m. at the Evergreen Center at Mount Luther. Each congregation in the Upper Susquehanna Synod is asked to send a representative to the event. Campersons serve as liaisons between the camp and the congregation, promoting outdoor ministries. Each congregation who sends a camperson to this meeting will receive \$15 off each of their church's camper registrations. For more information on being a camperson, please visit www.campmountluther.org.



Deadline Extended for Food Service Applications

Camp Mount Luther is currently in a search for a new Food Service Manager. This position will be part-time, year-round. The anticipated start date of this position is February 1, 2012. Responsibilities include menu planning, ordering food and supplies, supervising staff, overseeing food service operations, hospitality, and stewardship endeavors. Compensation will be based on qualifications and experience. A full job description and application are available on the camp website at www.campmountluther.org. **THE APPLICATION DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2011.** For further information, contact Chad Hershberger, Executive Director, by e-mail at chad@campmountluther.org or by phone at 570-922-1587.



CAMP MOUNT LUTHER

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Advent Greetings from Mount Luther

On the first Sunday in Advent, I wore a necktie depicting the nativity. My almost-two-year-old daughter walked up to me, pointed to the tie, and said in her own special way, "Mary."

I was flabbergasted. How did Claire know who Mary was? I couldn't recall specifically telling her about the virgin mother of our Lord. Sure, we read some Christmas story books to her; perhaps that's how she knew.

Since then, Mary has been on my mind a lot. Perhaps her reaction to the news of being the blessed mother was similar to my reaction when I realized my toddler knew of her. Not much is told of Mary in Matthew's account of the birth of Jesus. The gospel writer just tells us that she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. He sums up Jesus' birthday in a partial sentence, "...until she had borne a son, and named him Jesus."

But Matthew does tell us of Joseph's hesitation when he found out the natal news. It is in this account that we hear about the angel who calms Joseph's fears. "Do not be afraid," the angel says. "All will be okay. This is to fulfill what has been spoken by God."

In many ways, I needed to hear that angel's words these past few years. Camp life has been more challenging as we face the realities of lower enrollments and decreasing incomes. But still, I hear the voices of the angels that grace us with their presence:

- *"At my week at camp I grew the closest I've ever felt to Christ."*
- *"Camp is one of my most favorite times of my life."*
- *"Mount Luther is a gateway into wilderness, and a venture in the un-tamed love of God."*
- *"I love camp because it allowed me to shine my talents and tackle my short-comings."*
- *"So awesome there is no word to describe it!"*

What we do at camp changes lives, just as the life of this world was changed when Jesus came to be with Mary and all of us. As we dwell together at camp, faith is formed, relationships are built, and our campers encounter Christ. Despite an ever-changing world around us, our work is still important and we will continue our mission of providing a place to grow in faith, experience God in nature, and learn to be disciples in our everyday life.

But we can only do this with your help. You are also one of those angels who help calm my fears. Knowing we have supporters like you, who value our work, has helped me navigate our recent challenges. Despite the fact this year that we lost significant income due to no local school districts' outdoor education programs being held this fall, we enjoyed an increase in summer camper numbers and an increase in retreat usage. With your help this month, we can enjoy the first operating surplus in our budget since 2002.

So I ask you to consider making a gift to Camp Mount Luther this holiday season. Your financial support is important, as is your donations of time and talents to aid us in continuing outdoor ministry in this part of Pennsylvania. With your help, we can sing with Mary, Joseph, and the angels, "Oh come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! Oh, come ye to camp to encounter Christ. Come and behold him born the king of angels. Oh, come, let us adore him!"



On behalf of the entire Camp Mount Luther family, I wish you a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Chad

Chad Hershberger, Executive Director



HOLIDAY GIVING OPPORTUNITIES AT CAMP MOUNT LUTHER

When making a donation, please mark which item number you'd like your money to go toward. Donations can be made in honor or memory of someone as an alternative gift purchase. If you'd like, please request a gift card acknowledging the donation.

Item #	Description	Cost
AF-1	Staff Shirt that we provide for each staff member	\$5
AF-2	Camper's Snack Card per camp per week	\$7
AF-3	Maintain ropes course for three summer campers	\$10
AF-4	Extra Supplies (crafts, pool, etc) needed for each camper	\$15
AF-5	Promotional and Postage Expenses for one summer camper	\$20
AF-6	Meals for one day for one camper	\$25
AF-7	First Aid and CPR Training for one staff member	\$50
YCF-1	Donations per camper needed to replenish 2011 Campership Fund (13 campers received scholarships)	\$55
EC-1	Amount of donations per day it takes to pay our monthly mortgage for the Evergreen Center Construction Project	\$120
AF-8	Utilities cost per day	\$140
YCF-2	Amount of 2011 Camperships for one full week of camp	\$417
AF-9	Computer Expenses per year	\$500
AF-10	Amount spent each summer to provide fuel for camper transportation	\$1,000
AF-11	Adopt a Staff Member! Donate all our expenses for one member of the summer ministry team	\$2,750
AF-12	Donation toward the Annual Fund (at the end of November, we still needed \$10,000 to meet our budget)	Any amount
YCF-2	Donation toward the Campership Funds (at the end of November, we still needed \$1900 to meet our budget)	Any amount
EC-2	Donation toward the Evergreen Center's debt reduction (at the end of November, we still need about \$253,000 to pay off the principal)	Any amount
EF-1	Donation toward the Endowment Fund (we'd like to raise \$2,500 for this endeavor this year)	Any amount

