



BEAR
CREEK
CAMP

SPRING 2025

Around the Fire

STORIES FROM BEAR CREEK CAMP

Our theme for Summer 2025 is “All Together” focused on the CONNECTIONS that unite us – at camp and beyond.

Like intertwined roots, together we grow stronger through love and service, grace-filled faith, and belonging in community. During the summer camp week, these interconnections and the support of many are essential for providing a quality camper experience. Here are just a few of those roles that campers see at camp:

Chaplains: “I am blessed to see generations sharing their faith with one another...This, I think, is what we hope for in all our faith communities, and Bear Creek Camp lives this out in amazing ways.

As chaplain, I seek to provide support, encouragement, and affirmation to our campers and summer staff.

By interacting with campers and staff through the camp week, I witness the strengthening of connections with God, nature, and each other through our shared experiences. Whether it is facing our fears on the high ropes, challenging ourselves on a sunset hike up to Baldy, or having the courage to share our stories, as we step out in faith, we are met by the support of this community and the God who calls us all beloved.”



Rev. Keith Anderson, Upper Dublin Lutheran

Summer Staff: Prior to camper arrival each summer, our college-aged summer staff come together to build a close-knit community, learning to work as a team as they prepare to mentor and care for campers.

Staff training includes: facilitating program areas such as high ropes, the lake, archery, and the nature center; hands-on experience with multiple staff overnights; learning to lead bible study and worship; risk management; abuse prevention; supporting campers with neurodivergence; conflict resolution; trauma-informed care; cultural competency; and more.

Our intentional staff training empowers our staff to embrace their role of upholding BCC’s mission and values, while serving as leaders in sharing our community’s culture with the next generation.



2024 Staff Training

Donors
Alumni



Congregations
Synods

Healthcare Professionals:

“We’re a safe space and a friendly face who is present for campers in addition to the care of their counselors throughout the week. Sometimes they’ll stop by just for a chat or for a small concern like a headache or a stomach ache. When we promise to check in with them later I can see how it often relieves anxiety for the camper to know they are being watched out for. Those bonds are what carries week to week, and even year to year. And a bonus for me, I get to do the thing I love at the place I love! It reconnects joy with healthcare!”



Sam Mull, Physician Assistant

Year-Round Staff:

We are excited to welcome Kallie Handlong to serve as our Program Director.

As the Program Director, Kallie will have many roles, including: hiring, training, and supervising the summer staff team; coordinating chaplains and healthcare volunteers for all summer sessions; reviewing program area policies and procedures; designing curriculum and serving as an essential point of contact between parents, campers, and camp staff.



Kallie Handlong, Program Director

The foundations of BCC extend **far beyond** those that are on-site during a summer camp week. We are deeply grateful for the support of congregations, our synods, those who support BCC with financial gifts, our alumni network, and all those that share about the impact of BCC in their community.

EXCITING NEWS:

Explore Our New Retreats!

We're excited to roll out two new retreats this spring! You can be a part of what we hope are the start of two amazing niches of our BCC community. Learn more and register for both retreats at bearcreekcamp.org.

Spring Family Nature Retreat MARCH 21 - 23, 2025

Bear Creek Camp is amazing in every season! Spring is filled with signs of new growth and life: budding trees, emerging ferns, rushing streams, and baby animals. During this nature-filled weekend, families will be able to share time together and experience the amazing environment that Bear Creek Camp has to offer in the spring.

Families will learn, observe and explore by participating in nature-based activities led by BCC staff. Planned activities for the weekend include hiking, nature crafts, visiting with live animals from the nature center, and learning about the local flora and fauna of BCC's 3,000 acres. Families are also welcome to adventure on their own, fellowship in community, and rest and relax surrounded by the beauty of nature. Meals will be prepared and families will enjoy private accommodations in our Retreat Center or Program Site Cabins.



Spring Womens Retreat APRIL 11 - 13, 2025

Our Spring Women's Retreat will provide women with an opportunity for rest and renewal, by being present in the beauty of God's creation. Building on success of our Fall Women's Retreat and anchored by the women's



group from Trinity Lutheran Church, Perkasie, PA, we're excited for a new opportunity to build community and be in rest and relaxation together.

This weekend is intended to provide the time and space to slow down and just be. Programming includes time for personal projects (knitting, crocheting, etc.), games and puzzles, hiking, arts and crafts, and enjoying time both individually and in fellowship with friends new and old.



We are proud to be recognized as a Reconciling in Christ organization!

This recognition comes after the Bear Creek Camp Board of Directors recently adopted a public statement of welcome and commitment to intentional inclusive practices as part of living into our mission, vision, and values. We are excited to join in sharing the RIC designation with our partners in the Northeast and Southeast Pennsylvania Synods and many individual congregations across our BCC community.

Rev. Dr. Alina Gayeuski, Pastor at Reformation Lutheran Church, Media, PA and member of the BCC Board of Directors shares how the RIC designation is not an endpoint but rather a step in a long process of constantly assessing and adjusting our welcome and inclusiveness. "Becoming RIC is putting the radical inclusion and hospitality of camp into a concrete value that we can hold before us. This enables us to point to this and continually work to make sure that camp is a place where all are welcomed and loved. This is the great gift that camp is able to provide to the whole church. What a joy it is to be part of bringing this moment where the official welcome is named and celebrated!"



Thank You Trailblazers!

The Trailblazers Club is an expression of our community joining forces with other supporters to grow and sustain the ministry of Bear Creek Camp in a way that will have a lasting and profound impact. Your gift, combined with the gifts of others, is the power of the Trailblazers Club. The Trailblazers Club includes, individuals, families, and congregations that provided generous and consistent financial support (\$250+ annually) to Bear Creek Camp.

PLATINUM

Advent Lutheran Church West Lawn	Mary Ann Spengler	Dana & Jason Henry	Chad and Sarah Hershberger
Charles Barndt	Jane & Jeffrey Sprecher	Bruce Kerr +	Susan & David Hill
Charissa & Matthew Berryman	Robert & Betsy Springman	Bill Krapf +	Glenn & April Hiller
Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church Conyngham	St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church Ardmore	Mary & James Landmesser	Hope Lutheran Church Cherryville
Christ Lutheran Church Hellertown	St. Paul Lutheran Church Doylestown	Janet & George Law	Hope Lutheran Church - Tatamy
Daniel G. Ebbert Charitable Fund of Berks County Community Foundation	St. Paul Lutheran Church Telford	Barbara Mann-Harmonic	Ashley & Brian Johnson
Susan & Joseph Dryburgh	Susan Steward	Michael Minichello Jr & Kerry Gushka	Linda Keck & Frank Mariano +
Lisa Elliott +	William Steward & Terry Sandman +	Gay & John Mocerri	Ava Killingsworth
Faith Lutheran Church - Blakeslee	Jill Wagner Tilney	Edwin Niemann	SueAnn Knoebel
Faith Lutheran Church Mt Penn / Reading	Angie & Joe Tobey +	William Roberts	Thor & Dawn Kvande
Paul Feimster	Trinity Lutheran Church - West Hazelton	Amy & Terry Rothermel	Sam Legg +
Friedens Lutheran Church Oley	Carol & Joe Voicheck	Michael & Heather Scholtes +	Karen & Jennifer Lehman
Christine Frye & Brendan Sozer +	Janet Walker	Schwarzwald Lutheran Church-Reading	Jamie & Natalie Marks
Karen & Raymond Gilbert +	Terry Wallace +	Ann & Gary Scott	Susan & Richard Maxwell
Carolyn & Jerry Holleran	Benjamin & Vicki Werley +	St. Andrew's Lutheran Church Audubon	Jared & Linda Maxon
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Catasauqua	Larry & Karissa Williams	St. Andrew's Lutheran Church Easton	William & Mary Louise McAdoo +
Jordan Lutheran Church Orefield	David & Deborah Wilson	St. Andrew's Lutheran Church Perkasio	William & Kathleen Michael
Rebecca & William Knox +		St. John's Lutheran Church Nazareth	William & Laurie Mueller +
Larry Koehler	GOLD	St. John's Lutheran Church Phoenixville	Sandra & David Oswald
Jerrienne & Dave Kuntz	Calvary Lutheran Church - West Chester	St. John's Lutheran Church Stroudsburg	Jennifer & Matthew Pothier +
Little Zion Lutheran Church Telford	Michele & Brian Daniszewski	St. Stephen Lutheran Church Feasterville	Redeemer Lutheran Church Allentown
Bonnie & Paul Lombardi	Collin & Katherine Grooms	Kelly & Matthew Voicheck +	Katherine Offutt Ross & Casey Ross
Luther Crest - Spiritual Life Committee	Margaret & Michael Gumpert	Alexis & Tim Warren	Stephanie & Donald Roth
Lutheran Campus Ministry at the University of Delaware	Daniel & Andrea Jones	Megan & Scott Watza +	Tim Russell
Lutheran Church of God's Love Newtown	Christopher & Dorothy Mejia-Smith +	Douglas & Donna Wilt	Ruthann & Bob Schultz
Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit - Emmaus	Leata & Casey Mullen	Zion Lutheran Church Womelsdorf	Hannah Shade +
Dorothea & Bruce MacLaughlin	St. Paul's Lutheran Church Dallas	BRONZE	Nathaniel Shadle +
Samuel & Constance Mario	Erika & Guenter Wesch +	Advent Lutheran Church Harleysville	Cynthia & Carl Shankweiler
Marilyn & Blake Marles	SILVER	Marilee & Dean Cassidy	Glenn & Mary Simmons
Timothy & Kimberly S. McNair	Carin & Rob Antochy +	Nancy & Norman Dresher	Jeannine & Michael Simms
Patricia & David Neale	Chris Carter +	Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Atonement - Wyomissing	Stacey Sottung +
New Hanover Ev. Lutheran Church Gilbertsville	Robert Chorpenning	Constance Farmer	St. John Lutheran Church Honesdale
Northeast Pennsylvania Synod	Ron Colbert	Joel Filius	St. Matthew's Lutheran Church - Perkasio
Michele & Michael Pessina	Ainsley Crowell +	Mark Foster	St. Paul Lutheran Church Fleetwood
Reformation Lutheran Church Media	David & Donna Deal	Jean & Stephen Godsall-Myers	Dale & Cathy Stephens
Renewed Spirit Church - Reading	East Berks Mission District	Walter Goms	Trinity Lutheran Church - Reading
Second Chance Shoppe	Leslie & Paul Forberger	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church King Of Prussia	Trinity Lutheran Church Wernersville
Deborah & David Smith +	Philip & Sue Ann Forester	Taylor Grooms +	Richard Walck +
Southeastern PA Synod	Jean & Dan Foster +	Scott Hall	Jimmy Lee & Melanie Werley +
	John & Amy Greenleaf	Ashley & John Han	Courtney Smith Westerlund & Jonathan Westerlund +
	Sandra & Douglas Grooms	Wayne & Elsa Heintzelman	Paul & Bonnie Zieger

+ Sustaining member (Monthly Gift)



BEAR CREEK CAMP

P.O. Box 278
Bear Creek, PA 18602

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit # 354
Wilkes-Barre PA

 Bear Creek Camp  @bearcreekcamp



A ministry of the Northeastern PA and Southeastern PA Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America. Accredited by the American Camp Association.



Mark your calendars!

- Spring Nature Retreat* • March 21 – 23, 2025
- Spring Women's Retreat* • April 11 – 13, 2025
- MayPlay Day* • May 3, 2025
- Labor Day Family Camp* • Aug. 29 – Sept. 1, 2025
- Fall Women's Retreat* • Oct. 3 – 5, 2025
- Winter Connect* • Jan. 9 – 11, 2026

Plus, register now for Summer 2025:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| SESSION 1: June 15 - 20 * | SESSION 5: July 13 - 18 # |
| SESSION 2: June 22 - 27 * | SESSION 6: July 20 - 25 # |
| SESSION 3: June 29 - July 4 + | SESSION 7: July 27 - August 1 # |
| SESSION 4: July 6 - 11 ** | SESSION 8: August 3 - 8 * |

* Try Camp is available + Family Camp, Artist's Retreat # Rafting trip option available

Learn more and register online at bearcreekcamp.org