

The relationships I made here
have lasted me a lifetime.
I have never met/worked
with better people.

-DRENCH



LAKEVIEW
MINISTRIES

Summer 2023



CAMP IS BIGGER



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"All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." – Acts 2:44-47 (NIV)

Dear Lakeview Family,

Many times, we read these verses in Acts and tend to focus on the ways the early church shared everything in common from a material perspective.

But if we keep reading, we begin to understand that the early believers shared more than just material possessions. They met together daily, ate together with glad and sincere hearts, and praised God together.

It sounds a lot like camp, doesn't it?

We often talk about how camp is like one big family. In that sense, camp is so much bigger than any single kid's experience over any specific summer. Through camp, people make millions of memories, forge lasting relationships, and develop deep connections—with each other and with our ministry.

That's why the ministry at Lakeview is more than just a summer camp. The camp community at Lakeview stands together in the weeks, months, and even years after the summer camp experience. In times of celebration, we rejoice with each other. In times of tragedy, we offer strength and support.

We can experience that kind of community because we are all one in Christ Jesus. The bond that brings us together in our love for our Savior flows over into our love for each other.

That sense of community gets magnified when people step onto the property. The distractions of daily life fall away, and—much like the early Christians who embarked on spiritual pilgrimages—people begin to see, hear, and understand God in new and important ways.

In this issue, you'll read about some of our summer staff members who discovered a new calling while serving at camp. You'll also read about our Lakeview partners and the reasons they invest in this ministry, even after their families no longer attend summer camp. And you'll discover new and exciting ways you can help us continue to build our year-round ministry to families by volunteering at The Springs.

Throughout the issue, I hope you'll begin to think about all the ways that camp has become bigger in your own life. We look forward to continuing this ministry with you as we walk together in Christian community!

In Christ's love,
David Vandercar, Executive Director



LAKEVIEW MINISTRIES WOULD LIKE TO THANK



Givers – Every item from our Wish List, every prayer offered for camp, every “Tier A” registration makes a difference! Thank you!

Lakeview Partners – When you donate to camp, you’re investing in life-changing experiences for our campers. Thank you!

Parents – When you trust us with you children, you are offering us a privilege we treasure and a responsibility we will never take for granted. Thank you!

Summer Staff – You have so many choices for your summer employment. When you choose to work on Summer Staff at Lakeview, you’re making an investment in the next generation of campers and giving back to God’s kingdom. Thank you!

Junior Staff – Taking that next step in responsibility and selfless giving is amazing! Thank you!

Volunteers – Every hour you spend at camp turns visions into reality. Thank you!

Churches and schools – When you invest in your students and invite us to be part of the journey, we all win. Thank you!

Campers – What can we say? Without you, there would be no cannonballs, no mud pit champions, no campfire devotions. You have so many choices for how you spend your summer. That you choose to spend it with us is an honor we will never take for granted. Thank you!



SUMMER CAMP RECAP



Every summer, Lakeview Ministries has the opportunity to touch hundreds of lives with the life-changing message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We're delighted to share the good news that this opportunity continues to grow.

This year alone, 2,438 people graced us with their presence through our summer programming. That's a growth of 152 over last year and 479 more people that we saw in 2021. We also added a Villages session and saw a 20% increase in participation in our Family Days programming.

While we're excited about the growth, it's not the numbers that thrill us. It's the fact that more and more people are seeking what Lakeview Ministries is offering: a chance to experience all the love and community that the body of Christ brings.

To us, camp is bigger than the numbers. It's the sum total of all the times our campers learned something new about themselves, about God, and about each other. If even just one camper came to camp and encountered Jesus, it would be worth it! The fact that over 2,000 did so humbles us beyond words!

Since your trust in us leaves us speechless, perhaps you'd like to hear from our staff members about the impact of camp on themselves and the campers in their charge.



AUDREY CAMP LAKEVIEW
SUMMER STAFF

"I GAVE A DEVOTION ABOUT GOD'S CREATION AND HOW WE SHOULD TAKE THE TIME TO THANK HIM FOR BLESSING US WITH THE EARTH AND ALL THE FUN THINGS IN IT. THE NEXT DAY I HEARD A KID SAY THANK YOU TO GOD AFTER GOING DOWN THE ZIPLINE. WHAT GOD SAYS THROUGH US HERE AT CAMP REALLY DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE, NO MATTER HOW BIG OR SMALL."

"I had a camper named Charlotte in 2019 who was struggling. I poured so much fun, love, joy, hype, and support into her that week. For the past four summers, she has been a Villages camper, but she always came back to Camp Lakeview on Friday evening to see me. Her dad told me how much he appreciated me and got emotional for me supporting her and her faith and thanking me for the work I do. Even that one camper made me feel like I did what God intended for me in my whole five years here."

- Dozer, Summer Staff at Camp Lakeview



KERMIT LAKEVIEW VILLAGES SUMMER STAFF

"MY GIRLS DID NOT COME IN A GROUP. ON THURSDAY EACH OF THEM TOOK TIME TO PRAY WITH AND FOR EACH OTHER. IT WAS REALLY COOL TO SEE THE FAITH AND COMMUNITY BUILT IN JUST A WEEK."



"Growing up in the faith, I've always known God, but I hit a pretty rough patch in high school. After graduating, I became a JC at camp, which jump-started my faith that had been on auto pilot for years! After the impact I felt here, I joined a ministry at college and applied for a staff position here, both way out of my comfort zone! Camp has truly changed my life!"

- Sunny, Summer Staff at Camp Lakeview



BY THE NUMBERS

2023 FINAL COUNT

GRADE	FAMILY DAYS	TINY TIKES	CAMP LAKEVIEW	LAKEVIEW VILLAGES	TOTAL
Pre-K	74				74
K	15	69			84
1	8	50	68		126
2	6	44	189		239
3	6	13	212		231
4	2		292		294
5	3		271		274
6	2		83	227	312
7	1			229	230
8	1			196	197
9				104	104
10				46	46
11				23	23
12				26	26
Adult	32	146			178
TOTAL	150	322	1115	851	2438

CAMP CHANGES LIVES

In this issue, we're focusing on how the impact of Lakeview Ministries extends beyond the summer camp experience. That is especially true for those who have served as Summer Staff. Read about how their experiences at camp brought them meaning and purpose and, in some cases, literally changed the trajectory of their lives!

During my freshman year of college, I was pursuing a degree in Public Relations. After a summer working with kids, I knew I was meant to be working with them full time. I then got my degree in education and taught for four years. Now I'm moving into a Programming Specialist role in Kids Ministry at my church.

- Alexis "Fuze" Smith,
Summer Staff 2015-2016

My degree is in education, and I ended up doing two years of volunteer traveling music ministry. I have also worked for two Christian non-profits and helped plant an LCMS church. I would never have done any of those things if I hadn't worked at camp.

- Jami "Bjami" Stroud,
Summer Staff 2008-2011



I was originally a nursing major and then switched to an elementary special education major because of my time working at camp. I don't think I ever would have made the switch to education had it not been for camp. Nursing sure wasn't for me and camp made it clear that education was!

- Emily "Jo-L" Haugh
Summer Staff 2010-2014

I came to camp as a camper and worked as a JC and then as a counselor and kitchen lady. Camp was a place where I saw people that I looked up to sharing their faith. Now I teach high school and I love it.

- Katie Wollenberg,
Summer Staff 2007-2008



"I had really no idea what I wanted to do before working at camp. I was super lost on a career, but after two amazing summers, I decided I wanted to be a Lutheran school teacher. Now I teach 6th grade at White Creek Lutheran school."

- Maddie "Brit" Engelau,
Summer Staff 2021-2022



The experiences that we have had with our children through the Tiny Tykes program and our ability to watch their excitement and passion for camp have lead us to support this place.

- Chris & Carissa Meyer,
Lakeview Partners since 2019

Camp ministry has been such a blessing to all of our family. We cannot help but support them in any way that we can. I love that God has blessed us with the means to be partners in this ministry.

- Mike & Verna Vandercar,
Lakeview Partners since 1998



THANK YOU, LAKEVIEW PARTNERS!

On Saturday, July 22, we hosted our second Celebration Day, where we welcomed our Lakeview Partners. Celebration Day is an entire day set aside to thank everyone who chooses to partner with us in this ministry by making a minimum contribution of at least \$100, although many of our Lakeview Partners contribute significantly more.

In fact, over 30% of our operating budget is made up of donations. Gifts from Lakeview Partners help us keep our prices down, offer camperships, and

make camp a place for EVERYONE, regardless of a family's ability to pay.

We thought you'd like to hear from some of the people who choose to invest in this ministry as Lakeview Partners. And if you'd like to become one yourself, just visit lakeview.camp/give. When you make a contribution as a Lakeview Partner, you're not just contributing to an organization. You're giving campers the chance to experience a life-changing relationship with Jesus.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

LAKEVIEW SPRINGS FULFILLS A VISION 25 YEARS IN THE MAKING!

MAKING YEAR-ROUND MINISTRY A REALITY

In the late 1990s, the board of directors at Lakeview Ministries made a key decision, one that allowed our ministry to explode. The decision? They added the phrases “people of all ages” and “year-round” to our mission statement:

To provide Christian experiences of growth, inspiration, and recreation for people of all ages through year-round outdoor ministry.

Prior to that decision, we literally opened in May and closed in August and primarily served youth. Today, our ministry is so much more robust, and our work at The Springs will help us strengthen it even more.

Just think. What if we extended all that kids experience for a week at camp to reach entire families? That’s just what can happen at The Springs. Thanks for helping us make that vision a reality!

UPDATE FROM THE SPRINGS

Wow! What a difference volunteers make! Work on our Civil War-era lodge at The Springs is moving right along, thanks to the 100-plus individuals who have given their time to bring this restoration to life. We’ve seen people come from as far as Wisconsin and as close as down the road

Want to be a part of it? We’re currently looking for people to help with re-chinking all the logs, which means mixing concrete and filling every single crack between every single log. Trust us, this is so simple, even a child can help

Be sure to visit
lakeview.camp/springsvolunteer
to get involved!



LAKEVIEW.CAMP