

Riverside Reader

...a Biblically-based, cost-compassionate, small-camp experience

IN THIS ISSUE

- Thank You 1
- VBS | Adventure Camp 2
- Jr Camp | Jr High Camp 3
- Stewardship | TREK 4
- Sr High Camp 5
- Upcoming Events 6
- Calendar | Most Wanted 7
- Staff Update 7

THANK YOU!

Riverside had an incredible Summer Camp season this year, and it would not have been possible without the multitude of dedicated volunteers. Week after week, you answered the call to serve at Riverside and we are so grateful. The phenomenal cooks, nurses, cabin leaders, programming help, photographers, worship leaders, speakers, farm help, and more, all worked together to make sure the campers had a great experience during their time at Riverside. With almost 400 campers this summer, your help was greatly needed! Thank you for using your time and talents for God's glory at Riverside this summer. ♡



VBS | Adventure Camp

A "Stellar" Week at VBS

By Elyse Erdahl, Administrative Assistant

We are over the moon about the great week of VBS we had early in June. Over 100 students from kindergarten through sixth grade registered for this free week of day camp, and we were thrilled to have them all here. Throughout the week, campers learned what to do in a variety of life's situations - when life feels dark, when people don't get along, when good things happen, when people are sad, when people need help. In all situations, we can always shine Jesus's Light!

Along with the great Bible teaching, campers enjoyed all the fun of summer camp with songs, games, crafts, swimming, a visit to the farm, and fellowship with their peers. We are so grateful to all who volunteered to make this week possible. From our bus drivers and cooks, to our line leaders and projects team, you all helped our campers have an "out of this world" week at VBS. Thank you! ■



Adventure Camp

By Lori Clapham, Volunteer

Adventure Camp was three days of jam-packed fun. Thirty-five children, ages 6-8, attended. They experienced God's love through games, worship, farm visits, teaching time, Bible time and connecting with other kids and leaders.

The first evening, we dove into this year's theme taken from Hebrews 10:22, and children discovered why we all need to "Draw Near" to God. They learned that, if we did all our own activities first and then tried to squeeze God in, there wasn't enough room left for Him. However, if we spent time with God first, we actually had time for everything else to fit in, too. After they discovered why we all need to draw near to God, children rotated through 13 various stations to experience drawing near to God through hands-on activities. A few of the stations included Skittle prayers, creating prayer bottles, designing a door hanger, M&M prayers, "chewing" on God's Word, nature tic-tac-toe, and forgiveness at the cross.

When asked what their favorite part of camp was, one first-time camper said, "Everything! I loved everything. I even loved sleeping!" Adventure Camp is our youngest camp of the summer, and its shorter length makes it a perfect way to introduce your young camper to summer camp without committing to an entire week away. ■



Junior Camp

by Molly McGinn, Assistant Program Director

Over 70 campers attended Junior week this summer! Junior week is always such a fun time as the kids are full of energy, excitement, and lots of questions! Our speaker, Dan Kirk, a professional juggler who performs all over Wisconsin, did an amazing job tackling some of the Biblical questions these curious kids had. This was Dan's first time performing and teaching for a weeklong retreat such as Junior Camp, and he did a fantastic job teaching the kids Biblical truths while keeping them interested and involved with his impressive juggling skills. The kids absolutely loved Dan and hanging out with him between activities. It was so cool to see the connections he made with the

campers. I am sure those interactions will stick with the campers for a lifetime as they hopefully continue to draw near to Jesus! The campers had a blast renewing old friendships and building new ones as they participated in various activities such as Nuke'em, hexball, team challenges, swimming, tubing, and so much more! The campers also had the opportunity to go down to the farm and learn about God's creation; they loved it, and it seemed like their favorite part was snuggling up with the kittens! Overall, Junior week was such a fun week, full of excitement and drawing near to Jesus. We, staff and volunteers, were blessed to have the opportunity to pour into the lives of these campers! ■



Junior High Camp

by Lucero Olson, Program Director

Junior High week tends to be the week that requires the most care, attention, and guidance for the campers. We think that's why so many volunteers are excited to come and cabin lead for Junior High camp. There are so many opportunities to point these campers toward Jesus, and to help them understand what it means to have a relationship with Him. During this week, our speaker, Hope Radebaugh, really pushed the campers and staff to dive deep into our theme verse for this year, Hebrews 10:22. Each chapel session, Hope talked about a different small piece of the theme verse. She talked about what it means to draw near to God, to have a true heart, to be washed with pure water, and so on. Hope also challenged everyone to memorize the theme verse each day by teaching motions that went along with it. Everyone recited the verse together with the motions at the beginning of each chapel session, which was a great addition to the campers' normal verse memorization.

This year, we chose to put more emphasis on creating deep friendships within the cabins; one way we focused on that was by having two cabin times each day instead of just one. Cabin time is

when cabin leaders choose an activity to do with just their cabin for about an hour. They can choose to go tubing, play disc golf, challenge another cabin to Nuke'em or Hexball, do team-building activities, do crafts, or whatever other creative ideas they may come up with. These cabin time activities allowed cabin mates to be more comfortable with each other, to understand each other better, and to have conversations they might not have otherwise had. Building friendships is an important part of the ministry here at Riverside, and we hope that campers will always be making new friends, and/or growing in their relationships with long-time friends.

The Gospel was shared with all 75 campers, and there were some deep conversations about what it means to have a relationship with Jesus. We pray that these campers left with the theme verse well implanted in their minds, and with a saving knowledge of Christ. We also pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to work in the hearts of those campers, and that their memories of Riverside will point them back to Christ and encourage them in their walk with Him. ■



Sustaining Riverside Financial Report Fiscal Year: May 1, 2023 - April 30, 2024

	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
General Fund Income:	\$ 61,236	\$ 150,000
General Fund Expense:	\$ 85,846	\$ 150,000
Current Surplus/(Deficit): <small>as of Aug. 17th, 2023</small>	(\$ 24,610)	

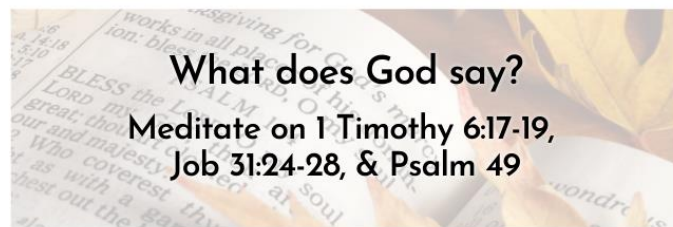


*"You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock."
Isaiah 26:3-4*

Our Trust is in God

by Mickey Kaufman, Director of Stewardship Ministries

In this country, there is a great emphasis on "saving for retirement" or "saving for the future" – as if that were all that mattered. God instructs us, as His children, to be sure that our trust is in Him and not in our possessions or wealth. Paul says to Timothy, "Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God who gives us richly all things to enjoy." Our hope is not in the amount of money we have set aside; our hope is in the living God. That is where security lies. (By the way, if you make more than \$1500 per year, you are richer than 75% of the world's population – so you are "those who are rich.") ■



TREK

by Lucero Olson, Program Director

TREK is on its third year running now, and we had another almost full week with 9 high-school-age campers. The first two days were spent here at Riverside, getting to know each other and engaging in team-building activities. We also kayaked down the Tomorrow River, cooked all of our own meals, and started our book study for the week. The book study we chose for this year was on the book of James, which challenged us to follow all the practical guidance and direction that the book of James has to offer. We talked about dealing with trials and temptations and how we can endure them and grow from them with God's help.

We also talked about how we are to be servants of God that are obedient to Him, and that living out our faith means doing good works and obeying God's commands. Some great discussions took place, and it was very encouraging to hear how the study was challenging campers to think about their lives and walks with God and how they can do better. We also talked about our TREK theme verse, James 4:15, which says, "Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.'" This verse, along with the rest of James 4:13-17, tells us to live a life following God's will and plan, not our own. Each of the campers were challenged to practice this during the week by embracing a free-flowing schedule that could change quickly due to weather and/or time constraints.

After setting up camp the first night in the U.P., a large storm blew in off of Lake Superior and poured rain on us, flooding a good portion of our campsite. This was unexpected, but did not dampen our spirits. After the rain subsided, we got right to building a fire to cook our dinner for the evening. Throughout the rest of the week, we visited a number of different beaches along Lake Superior including a rock beach and a black sand beach. We took a few scenic hikes to different waterfalls, hiked through some giant white pines, and drove to the top of Brockway Mountain. Once there, we took time to have a book study session and just enjoy the scenic views. This year, campers had the opportunity to participate in a high ropes challenge course at Michigan Tech University. They were pushed outside of their comfort zones and had to walk across ropes, logs, and swings that were 30 ft in the air. Some chose to run the course a number of times, while others braved it only once, but it was definitely a growing experience for everyone.

TREK is a special program that results in close friendships between the campers, which is very easy to see from the beginning of the week to the end. Every camper that comes to Riverside needs a different experience, and it's awesome to see how God works through all the different programs Riverside offers. We're looking forward to another year of TREK in 2024! ■



Senior High Camp

by Tessa Olson, RSI Coordinator & Digital Marketing Coordinator

This summer flew by faster than we could imagine! Sr. High was right in the middle of the summer. It was after VBS Day Camp and Adventure Camp, and right before Junior and Junior High Camp. Year after year, it has been a blessing to watch these campers grow and mature in their faith and to welcome new campers into the mix. This year we had 80 campers, split evenly between the guys and girls. Finding female cabin leaders for Senior High camp proved to be difficult, but, as always, the Lord provided the people we needed. We have full assurance that He brought exactly the right people here to be Cabin Leaders and are so excited about the fruit that was produced this summer. Jaime Sherf, a long-time Riverside volunteer, spoke throughout the week. During each morning chapel session, the campers were able to spend time with God, uninterrupted. The campers loved this time to sit down with the Lord before the crazy hustle and bustle of the day. Another highlight of the week was the Prayer Walk. The campers began their walk in the chapel, hiked across

the road through the woods, and finished their walks on the ball field. There were signs along the way with prompts for each camper to stop and pray. Each person held a rock throughout their walk, which represented something they were holding onto. At the end of their walk, they surrendered that something to God and threw their rock into the river. This special time impacted many of the campers. Walking around the grounds during this time, you could feel the Lord moving. It was sweet to see the campers, sitting along the river, praying and throwing the stones into the water with both smiles and tears. As our theme verse for the summer states, "...let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of our faith with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water." (Hebrews 10:22).

The Lord was moving in powerful ways this summer; there is no doubt that great things happened, and that the Kingdom grew. Praise the Lord for this week and this wonderful place! ■



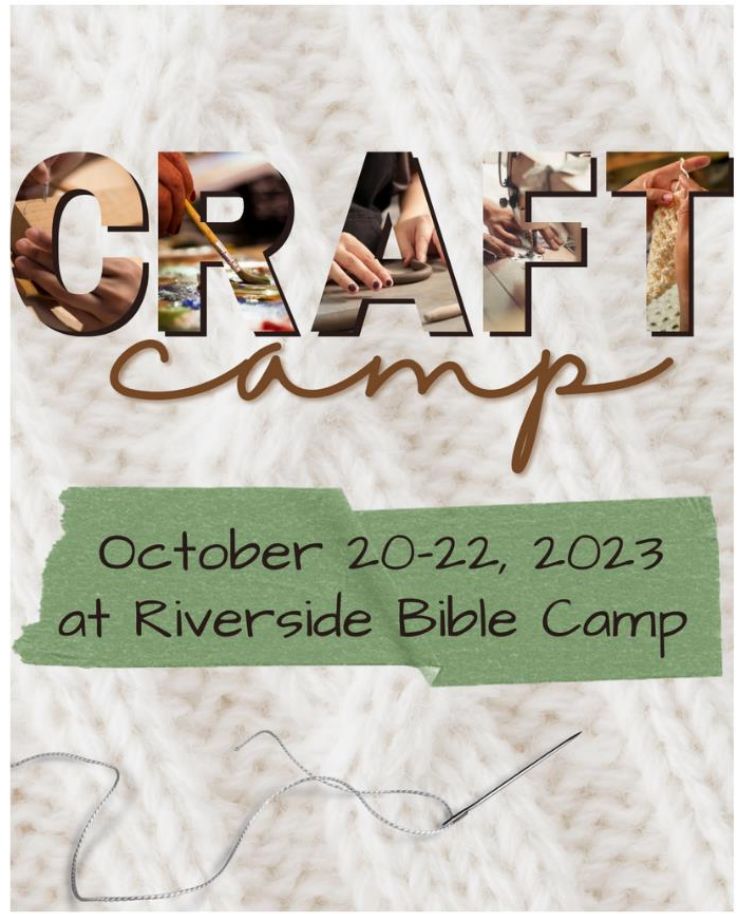
Serving at Riverside is a Blast!

If your high-school-aged children are interested in helping with Summer Camps in 2024, let us know! We'd love to get you some information about RSI, our volunteer program for teens. Students are only required to complete one weekend of training in May and, if their application is approved, can volunteer for as many or as few weeks in the summer as they would like. It's easy to serve at Riverside and still work a summer job, go on family vacations, and participate in sports!

More info @ riversidebiblecamp.org/serve/rsi



Upcoming Events



TOP 10 LIST

Over the years, many in-kind donations have been made to Riverside. These generous gifts are a wonderful blessing to the ministry and provide needed resources. Please check our list of current needs, and if you can help with an item or provide funds to purchase it, let us know!

WANTED

1. 12-15 Passenger Van
2. 2-4 Seat UTV
3. Riding Lawn Mower
4. Air Hockey Table
5. 1/2-in Battery Impact Driver
6. Wooden Bench Swings
7. Full-Size Refrigerator
8. Ball Pump & Soccer Cones
9. Passenger Tire Tubes
10. 500-1000 gal LP Tanks

OCTOBER

- 6-8 Harvest Family Camp
- 7 Fellowship Supper
- 20-22 Craft Camp
- 21 Lumberjack Day



DECEMBER

- 7 Christmas Open House
- 31 New Year's Eve Party



JANUARY

- 5-7 ELEVATE - Young Adult Retreat
- 15-24 Mission to Haiti

FEBRUARY

- 9-11 INFUSE - Sr High Retreat
- 23-25 IGNITE - Jr High Retreat
- 27 Marriage Café



Onto a New Adventure

Taking a leap of faith and relocating from Indiana, Niki Beecher came to work for the same camp she grew up attending. From January through the middle of August 2023, Niki served as Riverside's first full-time mechanic. She helped repair and maintain countless vehicles and pieces of machinery. In addition to manning the paintball course and maintaining its equipment, Niki also led various RSI project teams throughout the summer, completing many needed tasks for camp.

While we are very grateful for her time here, and were very sad to see her go, we know God has an incredible future planned for Niki. She will continue her career back in Indiana, closer to home, as a mechanic for the Air National Guard.



Molly joins Riverside!

In May 2023, Riverside added a new full-time staff member. Molly McGinn was welcomed with open arms, to fill the position of Assistant Program Director. With our expanding event calendar, Molly stepping into this role is a great blessing. She has a degree in Graphic Design, Print Technologies, and Social Media Design. All of those skills have been put to good use!

Having grown up attending camps at Riverside, serving as a teen in the RSI program, and then joining summer staff with LIFT, Molly knows the ins and outs of camp life. This year, she experienced summer camp as a full-time staff member. She loved being able to connect with all the campers, welcomed back previous campers she knew, and had a much bigger role in the programming side of things.

We are so happy to have her here and look forward to all the exciting things to come from Lucero (Program Director) and Molly at Riverside.





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Pancakes & Pony Rides

by Elyse Erdahl, Administrative Assistant

Wow! We are so grateful for the support our community continues to show us. This year's Spring Open House & Pancake Breakfast was likely our largest turnout, ever! We served over 350 plates of delicious, free pancakes in just three hours. Two tractors were constantly shuttling families to and from the farm all morning. Families spent the morning enjoying the beautiful weather while playing games in the barn, having their faces painted, and meeting all the animals at River Hills Farm. If there is a better way to kick off the Memorial Day weekend each year, we're not aware of it! In addition to raising community awareness of all that Riverside has to offer, our annual Open House gives us the opportunity to give back by providing a free event that the whole family can enjoy. This year, we made it even more exciting by giving away a free week of summer camp! We had such a wonderful morning with you all. We can't wait to welcome everyone back again next year. Bring your friends! ■

