

Riverside Reader

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

IN THIS ISSUE

Main Article	1
Jr. Camp Adv. Camp	2
VBS Staff Updates	3
Jr. High & Sr. High Photos	4
Stewardship	5
Upcoming Events	6
Calendar Most Wanted	7

THANK YOU!



Another Summer Camp season has come to a close, and we couldn't have done it without you! To all who donated to the Scholarship Fund, volunteered during a week of camp, prayed for the campers, showed up for work each day, and had a passion for Summer Camp ministry, **THANK YOU!**

Through the Eyes of a Child

by Melissa Motschenbacher, Forge Speaker

After prayerful consideration, I said, "Yes" to the invitation and committed to spending a week at Riverside this summer as the Chapel speaker for Junior Camp. Little did I know, it would change my life forever and I would return home bringing more back with me than what I felt I deposited into the young lives of the campers ages 8-10.

My 10 Chapel messages were prepared and prayed over and backed by nearly 1,000 prayer partners with Forge ministry. The week kicked off Sunday evening with a session called "The Standard," which focused on allowing Jesus to be our standard of measurement and the Ruler of our lives. Students were engaged and intently listening. Some of the volunteers even said, "You could have heard a pin drop!" When I gave an opportunity to respond to the message, there was nearly a 100% response rate in their seats. The children individually decided they wanted to have Jesus be the Ruler of their life. We were off to a great start!

We covered such topics as sin, surrender, Kingdom treasures, Holiness, and so much more. Every session was unique, interactive, and saturated with scripture. I gave small gifts to the students at the end of most sessions to seal in the teaching as they departed with their camp leaders to dig deeper into the lessons with small group discussions.

I came to camp prayed up and ready to teach, love, and serve, but my heart wasn't fully prepared for what truly transpired at Riverside's Junior Camp.

As I sat with students during daily devotions at 7:30am, and headed off for the flag raising each morning, to move to the exercises, mealtimes, team times, scripture memorization, and fun times at the barn, river, Tetherball pole or in the Hex ball court—my heart began to explode for these precious children.

The conversations that happened as my hair was being braided (and knotted) over and over on a picnic table bench, or through hugs happening in passing, or on a swing at the

river's edge as we enjoyed M&M candies, or joining teams to play various versions of tag together, left me seeing life through the eyes of a child with a newfound awe and wonder.

These children are precious! They had deep conversations and questions about God, and yet simultaneously had the simple and true faith of a child! Riverside Bible Camp was new for some and goes back years and even generations for others. It's a special place.

Thursday night quickly came, and I delivered a message on God's Holiness. I knew it was a deep concept that may be difficult for them to grasp, but I knew I had to share it. Again, you could hear a pin drop as the message was preached. God was moving! The students were listening intently.

I knew I had to extend an invitation for students to come to the altar to acknowledge the Holiness of God and to fully accept Jesus as Lord on their own. Nearly 100 percent of the kids responded and ran to the altar individually, seriously declaring Jesus as their Savior and committing to live a life for Him. It was an eternal, marking moment! Seeing their faith and genuine heart for Jesus left me in tears. I had to stay after, hit my knees, and simply thank God again for another Holy Moment at Riverside.

The next day, these were some of the things I heard:

"M&M, guess why I'm sitting here this morning in Chapel? I'm sitting on the right side; 4th row, in the middle because this is where God changed my life last night!"

"My favorite part of camp was Chapel because we learned so much about Jesus."

"I accepted Jesus into my heart for the first time ever here! He changed my life!"

"I will never forget this camp. God came into my heart here."

*Continued on Page 2

Cont'd | Adventure Camp

Junior Camp Cont'd

Thank you for supporting and praying for Riverside! This camp changed my life, maybe as much as the campers! What a joy to teach in Chapel, serve meals, sweep floors, love on the kids, and discover more of Jesus. I served alongside grandparents who were impacted by Riverside generations earlier and team leaders that have been attending and serving for years. The legacy of faith and heritage of prayers are felt as you are driving up to the grounds. I am leaving forever changed with an increased faith—through the eyes of a child.

A piece of my heart will always stay at Riverside Bible Camp in the heart of Wisconsin! Riverside is a special place and the perfect spot to encounter Jesus and leave forever changed! ■



SCHOLARSHIP FUND

22 students attended a week of summer camp at Riverside this year thanks to the generous donations made to the Scholarship Fund. Our desire is to never turn away a camper due to a family's financial limitations. The Scholarship Fund and your generosity are what make this possible! If you would like to help us get a jump-start on next year's available funds, please include the designation "Scholarship Fund" in the memo line of your gift. Many campers will thank you!



Adventure Camp

by Lori Clapham, Volunteer Adventure Camp Coordinator

Adventure camp was filled with laughter, excitement, energy and oodles of fun with over 20 campers this summer. Teaching time was centered around two key words: transform and testify. Children learned that we are called to follow Jesus so that we can be transformed, just like a caterpillar is transformed into a butterfly. Once we accept Jesus as our savior, we can tell the whole world all about how amazing He is, like a fluttering butterfly showing off its beauty. Games, crafts, songs, and teaching time activities were all tied together through this theme. There were caterpillar races, transforming of melting crayons into amazing art projects, worship songs that taught the key Bible verse and so much more. Many children entered camp on Tuesday a little hesitant not knowing many people, but left on Thursday with hugs and hard good byes. There is just something special about Riverside Bible Camp that transforms kids and adults. It's incredible! ■



A Wild & Wonderful Week

by Elyse Erdahl, Administrative Assistant

There is no shortage of energy here at camp during VBS week. Well, maybe at the end of the week some of the leaders might find their energy a little bit lacking...but it's worth it! After spending the whole week teaching 100+ kids about God, His Word, and how we can each have a personal relationship with Him, a little temporary fatigue seems like a fair price.

Especially when every morning, excitement for the day is renewed as the campers show up, high fiving their line leaders, hugging new best friends, and anticipating the activities of the day ahead. This year, the theme for the week was "True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World." What a wild week it was! We had hammocks hanging from the ceiling of the Chapel, a kayak on the stage, and animal tracks climbing the walls of the Dining Hall! Every song, every game, every craft had a purpose - teaching our campers about Jesus and how to trust and live for Him.

The most important part of VBS is the focus on Biblical truths. Each day had a different memory verse assigned to it, a lesson about the verse, and a truth to remember. The overarching message for the whole week was that we can trust Jesus! When we wonder, when we feel alone, when we feel powerless, when we need hope, and when we need help, we

can trust Jesus. We studied several verses from the book of Matthew that presented all of these truths. And each day, the campers went home with a new Bible Buddy - a little animal figurine that had that day's Bible verse printed on the bottom of it - to help them remember what they learned at VBS.

A very special part of the week is the competition between the girls and boys to raise funds for a designated cause. This year, the goal was to raise enough funds to support two teachers at the school/orphanage in Haiti that Riverside helps to support. At Providence Christian School & Orphanage, the teachers have been working without pay for some time now and some have had to leave to find paying jobs in order to provide for their families. To fully fund two teachers' salaries for a year, the children needed to raise \$2,400 by the end of the week (just \$100/month for each teacher). They not only met the goal but blew past it raising over \$3,200!

We hope that every child attending VBS learned something new about their Savior during their time here, and maybe, some of the children met Him for the very first time. We will continue to pray for changed lives and a growing love for Jesus in the heart of every child who comes to Riverside. ■



Molly McGinn joined Riverside as the full time Assistant Program Director in May of 2023. She grew up attending summer camps here, served on both RSI and LIFT, then joined the permanent staff team. After serving faithfully for two years, Molly stepped away from her position at Riverside to pursue a new ministry opportunity with Forge. She has remained in the area and can still be seen from time to time volunteering with events at Riverside. Please join us in praying for her future as she explores a new path with this exciting, ministry-equipping organization!

Thank You

Scott Latzig began volunteering full-time with Riverside over eight years ago. During that time, he became our go-to guy for projects of all shapes and sizes. Lately, he was primarily stationed at the farm providing care to all of Riverside's animals as well as providing assistance in the kitchen during many Riverside events and camps. At the end of July, Scott seized the opportunity to live closer to family and has left full-time service at Riverside. He will continue to visit and volunteer occasionally and we are so grateful for his many years of faithful service! Join us in wishing Scott the very best!



Jr High & Sr High Camps



Meet Zeke! After Molly's departure, our Programming team had a position to fill. Zeke Thunder has stepped into the full-time role of Assistant Program Director as of September 2025. Zeke has a long history with Riverside and his enthusiasm with the campers is truly contagious. Riverside was blessed to have Zeke's help for a few weeks throughout the summer before officially welcoming him to the team in September. We are looking forward to another great year of Programming at camp!



Sustaining Riverside Financial Report Fiscal Year: May 1, 2024 - April 30, 2025

	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
General Fund Income:	\$ 86,306	\$ 175,000
General Fund Expense:	\$ 94,772	\$ 175,000
Current Surplus/(Deficit): as of September 2025	(\$8,466)	



*"Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf."
-Proverbs 11:28*

Blessed to Bless

by Mickey Kaufman, Director of Stewardship Ministries

Time, possessions, abilities, family members, friends, opportunities, money, and much more - everything - is given to us by God to bless us and to bless others through us. As we commit these to Him for His purposes in the world, we are both blessed and able to bless. We were not meant to keep them for our own pleasure, but to invest them in His Kingdom's great work. How are you using your various blessings to invest in His Kingdom and bless those around you? ■

What does God say?

Reflect on Gen. 12:1-3, Matt. 6:19-24
& Luke 12:32-34



Letter from The Director - Darrie Nelson

This year's Summer Family Camp was more than just a time of fun, worship, and good food—it was a powerful reminder of what can happen when God's people come together in true fellowship.

Last year, a married couple attended camp burdened and broken, quietly standing on the brink of divorce. They had come, perhaps, not expecting much—maybe just a few days away to clear their heads. But what they encountered was something they didn't plan for: **the genuine love and presence of Jesus Christ**, expressed through His people.

It wasn't a dramatic altar call or a powerful sermon that first broke down their walls—it was fellowship. It was the way fellow believers welcomed them, prayed for them, listened, and shared their own stories. God used the simple faithfulness of other campers to bring healing to places of deep hurt. Through meaningful conversations, times of prayer, worship, and the steady, gentle love of the saints, this couple experienced the

beginning stages of a peace that surpasses all understanding, which is only found in Christ. The process of restoration in their marriage began as they realized how much they needed fellowship with other believers.

But the story didn't end there.

This year, they returned to Summer Family Camp—not as the hurting and uncertain couple of last summer, but as people renewed spiritually and in relationship with fellow believers at their home church. The seeds that were planted at Summer Family Camp in 2024 had blossomed throughout the year as they continued to learn and grow in Christ. They again arrived at Riverside, unprepared for how God would use the weekend, but knowing that they were now experiencing new life in their marriage and in Christ.

And in one of the most powerful moments of the weekend, following the Sunday morning worship service, they were both baptized along with their two daughters.

What a testimony to the power of God working through the fellowship of the saints.

The Bible says in Hebrews 10:24-25,

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Fellowship is more than a friendly hello—it's a spiritual lifeline. God often uses the pastor, the cabin leader, or the worship leader—but just as often, He uses you. The fellow camper who takes the time to listen, to pray, to share a word in season. You don't need a microphone to be used by God. You just need a willing heart.

This couple's story is a testimony to what happens when the Body of Christ functions as God intended—when we don't just attend camp, but truly enter into fellowship with one another.

So, as you reflect on this story and wonder how you can be used by the Lord, ask yourself: Are you willing to be used? Are you ready to be the answer to someone's silent prayer? God is in the business of transforming lives—and He often chooses to do it through His people and often times He even does it at Riverside.

In His service, by His grace, and for His glory,

Darrie Nelson

WONDERING HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT RIVERSIDE? THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GET INVOLVED!

- Use the MyWell Giving App
- "Donate" Tab on our Website
- Text "riverside" to 40101
- List Riverside in Your Will or Estate Planning
- Volunteer
- Mail a Check
- Join our Prayer Team
- Give Equipment or Property (Gift-in-Kind)

Upcoming Events

RIVERSIDE 6355 County Road DD
Bible Camp Amherst, WI 54406

HARVEST
family camp

OCTOBER 3-5, 2025



CRAFT

CAMP 2025

OCTOBER 17-19

**join us for our annual women's crafting weekend!*



LUMBERJACK DAY



RIVERSIDE BIBLE CAMP

OCT. 18 @ 9AM - 4PM

CHRISTMAS
open house

Thur. Dec. 4th 6pm-8pm
@ Riverside Bible Camp

Come meet the staff of your favorite Bible Camp!
(and have some cookies!)



TOP 10 most-wanted

In-kind donations are a wonderful blessing to Riverside's ministry. Please let us know if you would like to donate an item listed below or if you would like to provide the funds needed to purchase it.



● Wooden Bench Swings (3)*

● Fire Rings

● XL Campfire Roasting Sticks

● Commercial Backpack Vacuum

● 9-12ft Artificial Christmas Tree

● Riding Mower

● Paintbrushes - Variety

● Refrigerators

● Funds for Van Roof Rack

● PTO Generator



*One bench donated, 3 still needed

2025/2026 Schedule

October

- 3-5 Harvest Family Camp
- 17-19 Craft Camp
- 18 Lumberjack Day

December

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

January

- 2-4 ELEVATE

February

- 6-8 Infuse (Sr. High)
- 17 Marriage Café
- 20-22 Ignite (Jr. High)

March

- 24 Marriage Café



Looking for more information about one of our events? Visit:

riversidebiblecamp.org/programs

PROGRAMMING UTV

Earlier this year, funds were generously donated for the purchase of a six-seat UTV for the Programming team. Throughout the summer, this piece of equipment could be seen hauling summer staff and RSI volunteers all over camp! We are so thankful for this blessing and will continue to put it to good use for years to come. The community Riverside serves is one of a kind... Thank You!

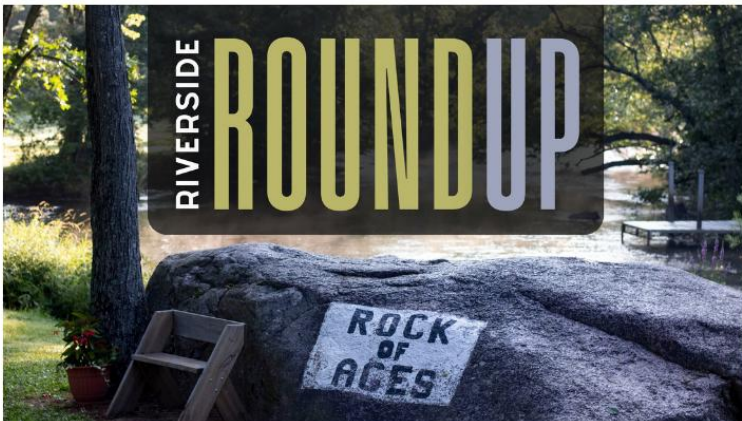




6355 Cty Rd DD | Amherst, WI | 54406
715.824.3198 | riversidebiblecamp.org

Return Service Requested

Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Amherst, WI
Permit #3



Loving the quarterly updates from your favorite Bible Camp? Did you know that you can get monthly updates delivered directly to your inbox if you subscribe to the Riverside RoundUp? It's true! Keep up to date on all things Riverside by sending an email to the office and asking to be added to the mailing list for our monthly digital newsletter. Once a month, you will receive Riverside's prayer requests, learn about service opportunities, get reminders about upcoming events, and stay fresh on all the recent happenings at camp.

Simply send an email to office@riversidebiblecamp.org including your first and last name and let us know if you'd like to start receiving the RoundUp, the Reader, or both to your inbox.

It's that simple!



Connect With Us!



[facebook.com/
riversidebiblecamp.org](https://facebook.com/riversidebiblecamp.org)



[riversidebiblecamp](https://www.instagram.com/riversidebiblecamp)



office@riversidebiblecamp.org



riversidebiblecamp.org



(715) 824-3198