

Riverside Reader

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

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Junior Camp

by Tessa Olson, Farm Assistant

With over 60 campers, Junior week was an exciting time to minister to kids who are really starting to dig deep in their walk with God. Our speaker for the week, Rachel Boyd, shared many stories from her life that pushed her closer to God and helped her walk as a better follower of Christ. She emphasized learning how to accept the love of God and then to share it with others. Campers also had the opportunity to speak with their cabin leaders about what it really means to accept Christ as their Savior and to follow His example as they continue in their walk with Him after camp.

Outside of their chapel sessions and conversations with their cabin leaders, Junior campers had tons of fun doing all sorts of activities! They made up a team cheer and created a team banner to use throughout the week to cheer on their team during different competitions and games. They also enjoyed other activities in their cabin groups like water wars, disc golf, and hexball, to name a few. It was an action-packed week, full of energetic kids, and we are so grateful for the opportunity we had to serve them! ■



Junior High Camp

by Lucero Olson, Program Director

Junior High week was special for a few reasons this year: First, it was our most well-attended camp of the summer with over 90 campers! Secondly, our speaker, Luke Winger, a professional juggler, is unlike any other speakers we've had here at Riverside in the way that he performs while teaching. Lastly, Junior High campers are in a special place in their lives where they are looking for answers on how to navigate life and all of its challenges, and we are blessed to be able to point them to God and His Word for the answers to so many difficult questions.

Luke Winger wowed the campers and staff with many awesome juggling feats, some with the help of his own young children, and used them as a tool to teach a number of different lessons throughout the week. He spoke on topics such as joy, honor, courage, and trust, and told stories from his life as a kid, a teacher, and an athlete. Luke's wife, Davianna, also spoke for one session using a children's book she wrote to teach the campers about how to follow God in their daily lives.



Campers also had the opportunity to enjoy Mantastic Man Night and Girls Night. The guys stayed out in the woods at camp and played games, ate snacks, sang worship songs, and had deep conversations with other campers and their leaders around the campfire. The girls played some games, built a fire and cooked their food together, and got to ask their leaders difficult questions anonymously so that they could hear from women that have had similar struggles and learned from them. Junior High week was a great time of excitement, of learning, and of growth in faith for many campers. We were blessed with so many opportunities to point those campers to Jesus and to be a good example of His love in their lives. ■

Adventure Camp

Adventure Camp

by Lori Clapham, Volunteer

Adventure Camp's theme this year was "Pursuing God through Projects." Over 30 children attended the three days that were filled with excitement, activities, praise and worship, teachings, laughter, fun and so much more.

The first night, we started out discovering what it meant to pursue God. Through discussion with the children, we discovered that we shouldn't ever stop going after God and learning more about Him. Over the course of three days, we studied nine Bible verses that each taught us one way that we can pursue God in our daily lives.

1. **Talk to Him and write to Him** from Proverbs 7:30. The children created their own journals with wood covers and colored pages to remind them to "write God's Word on the tablet of your heart." Included in each journal was a laminated page with all the Bible verses we studied while at camp.
2. **Stick to Jesus and thirst for more of Him** from John 4:13-14. With colorful stickers and lots of creativity, everyone decorated their own water bottle to remind them that "whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst."
3. **Read our Bibles** from 2 Timothy 3:16. Knowing they could start anywhere and read at whatever pace they wanted, children learned that our Bibles help "teach us what is true" and "realize what is wrong in our lives." We made bookmarks for our Bibles together.
4. **Pray** from 1 Thessalonians 5:17. After reading "Peter's Perfect Prayer Place," children were able to create a fleece tie pillow to remind them to "pray without ceasing," when they wake up, before bed, or anytime they want!
5. **Ask others about God and listen to Him**, from Proverbs 3:6. Children got to stamp their name on a wooden walkie talkie and decorate it to remind them to talk to others about Him,



- and always "listen for God's voice in everything you do."
6. **Seek Him** from Jeremiah 29:13. Provided with their own plaster of Paris block, children dug deep to find the polished rocks hidden within. We talked about how we can dig and dig, but never reach the bottom of the knowledge of God, and we should wake each day eager to dig because there is treasure in finding God when we "seek Him with all your heart."
 7. **Learn who God is and be yourself** from Colossians 1:16-17. We made Jacob's ladders and learned that even when we feel like we are falling apart, God's love will always hold us together, much like the ribbons that were woven through the pieces of wood. Children learned that they never have to feel like they "have it all together," before they come to God because His love is unconditional and "in Him, all things hold together."
 8. **Get involved** from Matthew 20:28. Since Jesus came "not to be served, but to serve," we learned many ways that we can follow His example and serve others. Going to church, helping a neighbor, sending cards to people, donating food, picking up trash...we learned that we don't have to be perfect to help others. We are all beautifully broken, just like a puzzle-which each child got to make and take home.
 9. **Love and enjoy Him every day** from 1 Corinthians 16:14. Children had fun creating their own Shrinky-Dinks to remind them to "do everything in love," each and every day.

To finish up the amazing 3 days, children had a scavenger hunt for jumbo puzzle pieces. Once put together, the children read the message: I have decided to follow Jesus. We went over the ABC's of becoming a Christian.

Camp was jam packed! I can't wait for next year with incredible 6 to 8-year-olds! ■



Riverside depends on volunteers who answer the call to come serve with us. Without these dedicated individuals, we simply could not do what we do. With their help, Riverside was able to impact the lives of over 400 young campers this summer. Memories were made, Jesus was shared, and lives were changed. As Christians, we rarely see the full impact of the seeds we sow. Our prayer is that the seeds planted in the hearts of the students who came to us this summer will each grow into a committed relationship with Jesus that lasts a lifetime and beyond.

So, to all of the volunteers who helped make our summer camps possible by helping in the kitchen, serving as the camp nurse, facilitating activities, speaking truth to our campers during Chapel sessions and more, we say thank you. From the bottom of our hearts, we are so grateful for your service and your willingness to be so generous with your time and your talents.

To our adult volunteers, we will be having our second Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in March of 2023. Keep an eye on your mailbox for your formal invitation in February!

THANK
YOU

Homecoming Camp

by Mickey Kaufman, Director of Stewardship Ministries

Our first RBC Connections Homecoming Camp was held from July 24-30. The theme was "Find us Faithful." The structured time was spent singing, sharing the Word, and hearing about several ministries. Matt Rose and Gordon Williams shared about their work in international missions. Darrie Nelson led us through a history of Riverside, focusing on the people who have impacted the ministry over 88 years. Dean Nelson walked us through the history of the acquisition of the land and buildings. Paul Johnson, Bob Olla, Lonnie Stine, Josh Nelson, and Don Shire shared messages from the Bible relating to our faithfulness in several areas of our lives. We enjoyed a campfire, 3 evenings of Vespers led by Andrew Twist, a cookout at the EAA Airshow in Oshkosh, visits to River Hills Farm, a Don Shire concert, a night of worship, and various activities around Camp. But most of all, we enjoyed what happened in the unstructured times – the getting reacquainted, the talking, the sharing of our memories and our present situations, and praying for each other. We enjoyed just being together. What a special time for all who attended!

RBC Connections is Riverside's alumni group, i.e. people who have been campers, staff, or volunteers in the past. The purpose is to connect people to people (friends made at camp over the years) and to connect people back to Riverside itself, recalling the impact that this place has had on their lives. We held 4 regional events (in Upper Michigan, the Chicago area, and Minneapolis) earlier in 2022 and now we have had our first week of camp. Our plan is to hold a couple more decentralized events this year, probably in Wisconsin. We want to invite anyone who has a history at Riverside – as a camper, as a staff person, or as a volunteer – to join us at these events. Go to www.riversidebiblecamp.org/rbc-connections for more information. Or contact Mickey at 630.235.1948 or mickey@riversidebiblecamp.org. ■

"So good to see familiar faces and renew friendships."

-Paul

"I want to come back."

-Matt

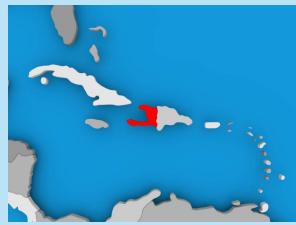
"A very enjoyable time filled with memories, laughter, reconnecting and spiritual renewal and refreshing moments, in a very special place called Riverside."

-Mark



Riverside in Haiti

Riverside is proud to help support an orphanage in Lajeune, Haiti run by Beauvoir Deshommes. His orphanage and school has been growing and our VBS campers were able to send over \$3,000 this summer to help build a girls' dormitory. As we enter the early stages of planning another visit to Haiti in 2023, would you begin to prayerfully consider if you'd like to be involved? Whether you join us in Haiti, support us with prayer, or support us financially, your commitment is appreciated!



VBS Day Camp

by Elyse Erdahl, Administrative Assistant

Around 100 students showed up each day for VBS this year to learn about God's "Monumental" love. Every day, they were presented with a new truth found in the story of Joseph. Children went home at the end of the week knowing that God loves them no matter what, He is with them wherever they go, He is in charge, He is stronger than anything, and He will surprise them! Students also got to enjoy the fun activities of summer camp all week long. They played outdoor games, went swimming, took a trip to the farm, learned new songs, and got creative during arts and crafts time. On Friday night, the VBS campers performed the songs they'd learned throughout the week during Family Fun Night at Nelson Park in Amherst. Together, Riverside and Amherst Bible Church provided families with an evening of free food, bounce houses, carnival games, pony rides, and prizes. There was something fun for everyone! ■



Sustaining Riverside Financial Report: 2022-2023

	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>Budget</u>
General Fund Income:	\$ 78,174.45	\$ 150,000
General Fund Expense:	\$ 83,003.75	\$ 150,000
Current Surplus/(Deficit):	(\$ 4,829.30)	As of September 1, 2022



*"Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done wonderful things, things planned long ago."
Isaiah 25:1*

I want to be a blessing to Riverside. How can I give?

- mail a check
- text "riverside" to 40101
- use MyWell giving app
- visit the "donate" tab on our website
- list Riverside in your Will or Estate Planning
- give equipment or property (gift-in-kind)
- volunteer

God is a Generous God

by Mickey Kaufman, Director of Stewardship Ministries

Our God is a generous God, and He is at work within His people to make them generous too. In II Cor. 8:1, we see that Paul refers to the "grace that God has given the Macedonian churches." The Macedonian churches had sent Paul money for the church in Jerusalem. Behind the generosity of the Macedonians, however, Paul saw the generosity of God.

Think of all the ways that God gives more than what is needed. There are numerous examples in Scripture: the feeding of the 4,000 (7 extra baskets) and the 5,000 (12 extra baskets), the building of the Tabernacle and of the Temple (more than needed), "abundant life" (John 10:10), "more than we ask or think." Because God has showered us with His blessings and because we are becoming more and more like Him, we also give generously of our time, our love, and the possessions that have been entrusted to us to manage. What does this look like in your life? ■

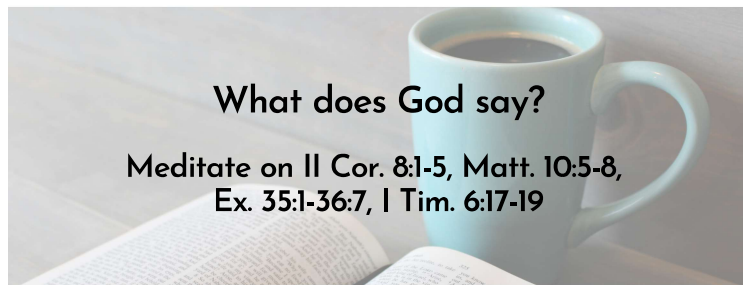


Adventure Awaits!

Adam and Megan Nelson have faithfully served at Riverside for the last five years. As they move on to the next calling on their lives, we hope you will join us in praying for God's blessings for their family through this exciting transition.

Megan's joyful personality and disciplined organizational skills made her the perfect fit for her role as Program Director. We cannot thank her enough for using her talents to ensure that our camps ran smoothly, safely, and were well-staffed. Our campers always found her to be friendly and approachable and it was a joy to watch her interact with them. While we are sad to see her go, we are excited to see Lucero Olson step into his new role as Program Director. After serving last year as Assistant Program Director and as LIFT staff the year before, Lucero is more than equipped to hit the ground running - and he has!

Adam has been managing River Hills Farm since 2017. His knowledge, dedication, and impressive work ethic have made him an incredible asset to Riverside, and he will surely be missed. His call to full-time ministry as a youth pastor is taking him into an exciting new season of life and we know he will be met with great success! We pray peace and joy for Adam, Megan, and their family as they follow God's call and prepare to move to their new home. Thank you, Adam and Megan, for five incredible years! ■



What does God say?

Meditate on II Cor. 8:1-5, Matt. 10:5-8, Ex. 35:1-36:7, I Tim. 6:17-19

Riverside is Growing!

With Riverside's continued growth, several new employment opportunities are available. We are currently seeking the right individuals to fill the positions of Assistant Camp Director and Farm Manager. The onsite Assistant Camp Director will provide direct supervision of the programming, housekeeping, caretaking, facility/auto maintenance, and foodservice areas. The ideal candidate must have a strong personal relationship with Jesus, well-developed interpersonal skills, experience working in the Christian Camp industry, and be capable of managing the various departments that keep Riverside running efficiently. This individual will report directly to the Executive Director, Darrie Nelson. The Farm Manager will provide farm expertise and leadership of our farm operations. The preferred candidate will have a passion for animal care and experience in hobby or small-scale farming operations. If you are interested in learning more about these positions or submitting your name for consideration, please email your resume to office@riversidebiblecamp.org

Join Our Team

TREK

by Lucero Olson, Program Director

The second ever TREK trip was an absolute blast!

The TREK trip is an offsite camp created to plug students back into nature and connect with God through His amazing creation. Each trip is guided by two leaders (Lucero and Tessa Olson) and can take up to 10 students. This year we are happy to see an increase in interest and ended up taking a full crew of 10!

Over this 6-day camp, we spent 2 days at Riverside and 4 days traveling and exploring the Keweenaw Peninsula in the U.P. of Michigan. We were able to see countless sights, including many beaches, waterfalls, and hidden gems. We hiked and swam, cooked most of our meals over an open fire, and slept in hammocks and in tents.

One of our stops was Breakers Beach in Houghton. Breakers is not a normal beach but a black sand beach! It is coarser, and of

course, black. This beach is normally pretty windy and that day was no exception. In order to make a fire to cook our dinner, we had to dig a hole in the sand, use our towels to block the wind, and try multiple times to get the flames to spread. After a bit of effort, we had a good fire going and grilled our hamburgers. Good weather is something we always look for at camp, but sometimes bad weather can create more memorable memories.

On the way home, we stopped at Hilltop Restaurant for their cinnamon rolls, which were as big as our heads! The TREKers enjoyed these treats on the drive home followed by a long nap in the van. It was awesome to see the friendships that can be formed while spending time together in God's beautiful creation! ■



Senior High

by Tessa Olson, Farm Assistant

Sr. High camp was our first overnight camp of the summer. The excitement before the start of camp could be felt and the joy of the campers as they arrived was so evident! We had a tremendous week and know that lives were impacted. Our speaker, Chris Emery, dove deep right from the get-go. He wasn't afraid to push hard and challenge all who listened.

Just over 60 campers attended. They were broken up into 4 competing teams for the week. This year we introduced a new game called the Root Beer Relay. In this relay, each member of the team must complete one challenge while holding a case of root beer. Once they finish their challenge the case is handed to the next person who must complete a separate challenge. The last leg of the relay is for the team to drink all 12 cans of their root beer! There were many laughs and many burps after this game!

Every year, the girls and the guys split up for an evening. This year the girls headed down to the farm for a campout. They cooked over the fires, set up their own tents, and played old school games like "ghost in the graveyard." This was a great time for them to connect with one another and their leaders. The boys hiked up to the hammock garden for a night of fellowship and games. They listened to Bob Karpinski share part of his testimony and joined in worship.

The Sr. Highers were also able to take a trip to the farm. Following the summer theme of Pursuit, we played an "Amazing Race" type game. It is awesome to see the campers work together to solve problems and compete against each other. ■



Upcoming Events

— Sept. 30th - Oct. 2nd —

HARVEST Family CAMP

— Riverside Bible Camp —

Craft Camp 2022



October 14-16
Cost: \$75
Registration Deadline: Oct 7th



RIVERSIDE BIBLE CAMP'S
LUMBERJACK DAY
OCTOBER 15, 2022 | 9AM-4PM

Ages 16+
Cost: FREE

More information at:
riversidebiblecamp.org/programs/lumberjack-day



Riverside's Annual

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE

*December 1, 2022
6pm-8pm*

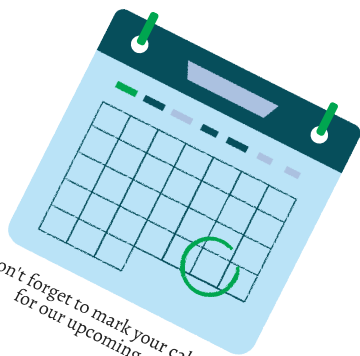
Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER

30-2 Harvest Family Camp

JANUARY

13-15 ELEVATE
Young Adult Retreat



Don't forget to mark your calendars for our upcoming events!

OCTOBER

1 Fellowship Supper
Celebration Service

14-16 Craft Camp
Women's Retreat

15 Lumberjack Day

FEBRUARY

10-12 INFUSE
Sr High Retreat

24-26 IGNITE
Jr High Retreat

APRIL

21-22 Association Meeting
Weekend Retreat

29 Pioneer Woman

DECEMBER

1 Christmas Open House

31 New Year's Eve Party

MARCH

24-25 GRIT
Men's Retreat

MAY

5-7 RSI
Training Weekend

13 Work Day

27 Spring Open House
Pancake Breakfast



Over the years, many in-kind donations have been made to Riverside. These 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, please let us know!

- Wooden Bench Swings
- 12-15 Passenger Van
- Scuba Tanks (for paintball)
- Implement/Passenger Tire Tubes
- Reams of White Copy Paper
- Heavy Duty Planer
- 6" Kitchen Wash Cloths (white)
- Paint Brushes (assorted sizes)
- Washing Machine (laundry)
- 1/2 inch Battery Impact Driver
- Funds for Archery Targets & Backstop Netting

b) a brush arbor. Visit the history link on the "About" tab on our website to see a photo!



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Riverside Bible Camp was founded in 1934 when 10 families gathered together on the banks of the Tomorrow River for its very first Family Camp. What was the first structure erected on the property for that event?

- a) an old, donated circus tent
- b) a brush arbor
- c) a simple cabin
- d) they met in an open field, no structure was built

Find the answer on the bottom of page 7!



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www.riversidebiblecamp.org



715.824.3198