



FLBC Update

Summer 2017

Summer is Here!

The 74th summer season of outdoor ministry is now underway at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp! We are thrilled to welcome campers of all ages and backgrounds to experience Christ's grace at camp this year. Through Bible studies, games and activities, swimming, boating, archery, campfires and worship, adventure trips, and much more, FLBC staff and campers will explore our theme, "Just Add Water."

"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you."

-Isaiah 43:2

Throughout Scripture God encounters God's people through water in powerful and life-changing ways. We invite you to join us this summer to learn about the life-giving water that Jesus provides! Spaces remain

in some of our programs, but register early for your best choice of weeks!

Our 2017 summer offering will benefit two organizations, the Flathead Lakers and Intermountain. The Flathead Lakers

are committed to keeping Flathead Lake clean and its ecosystem healthy. Intermountain provides community and residential services to promote healing through healthy family relationships.

One of their residences for youth, Providence Home south of Kalispell, is in need of a playground. Our offering will assist Intermountain in completing this project as well as support the Lakers in their important advocacy work. We encourage you to consider giving a gift this summer!

As always, all are welcome at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. We hope to see you this summer as a camper, volunteer, or retreat guest!



New campfire benches built and installed by the Northridge Lutheran Men's Group, April 2017. Thank you!



October 6-7, 2017

Don't miss FLBC's second biannual Harvest Festival! This weekend includes live and silent auctions, wagon rides, games and activities for all ages, a fun run, fall-themed arts and crafts, and much more as we raise funds for camperships and the new camper cabin! Come for the whole time or come for the day (housing is limited: please register in advance for cabin accommodations). The 2017 annual meeting and celebration takes place at 1:00 PM, Saturday, October 7th.

Here is your Harvest Festival Checklist:

- ✓ Call (406) 752-6602 or email office@flbc.net for your dinner tickets. Suggested donation: \$20.00
- ✓ Consider donating something to the auction: Basket of goodies; vacation homestay; a piece of art; services such as house cleaning, lawn care, etc.; sporting event tickets; homemade handicrafts; etc. Let the camp know what you are donating.
- ✓ Talk to your congregation about gifting 3-5 baskets for the silent auction.
- ✓ Check with your congregation to see that your delegates are signed up for the Annual Meeting that will take place Saturday afternoon.
- ✓ Request housing if staying Friday night at camp. Or, get a local motel, ask about a local home stay, or make sure your tent is in good working order.

Schedule

Friday, October 6th

- 6:00 PM – Silent Auction Opens
- 6:15 PM – Harvest Dinner & Live Auction
- Free Childcare and Youth Activities
- 9:00 PM – Campfire

Saturday, October 7th

- 9:30 AM – 5k & 1 Mile Run/Walk
- 10:00 AM – Family Fun Activities, Games, BBQ and Music, Pumpkin Activities, Apple Creations, Hayrides, Face Painting, and Much More!
- 2:00 PM – Dessert
- 2:30 PM – Silent Auction Closes

Get prepared to have FUN!!!

Welcome, Melissa!

We are happy to welcome Melissa Shults as our new Development Coordinator. THANKS to the MJ Murdock Charitable Trust, FLBC received a \$154,000 grant to fund this position for 3 years. Melissa comes to us from First Presbyterian Church in Missoula, where she has served as the Director of Spiritual Formation for the past 4 years. Melissa has also served year-round as the Director of Programs at Camp Lutherwood, Oregon, and has contributed to summer camp Bible study curriculum for the ELCA for 4 years. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Christian Theology and Educational Ministries, and is currently working on her Master of Theology at Whitworth University. Melissa is excited to join our year-round team, where her primary responsibility will be coordinating fund-raising activities including visits, direct mailings, online giving, and events. Melissa will also oversee promotion and marketing.

Invite Melissa to speak at your congregation—she loves to preach and teach!



Melissa is pictured here with a camp car, purchased with Thrivent Choice Funds and FLBC 2016 Endowment earnings. THANKS to all who helped make this position (Melissa as Development Coordinator) and car possible for FLBC.

Leaving a Legacy at FLBC



Help children and families during their challenging times by joining the Legacy Partners.

Of the many ways people participate in the vital work of FLBC, one that is gaining in popularity and importance is the Legacy Partners.

The Legacy Partners is an association of people who care enough about the Bible Camp's ministry with youth and adults to include FLBC in their estate plan. Including a bequest for FLBC in your will is very common, but you can also become a member through giving a gift that will provide you an income for life. (This type of gift takes advantage of the Montana tax credit, if you are a Montana resident.)

Being a Legacy Partner means you will always be recognized in our annual report. Even after you have gone on to greater glory your name will always be listed, sharing with your family and friends for generations to come about your faithful stewardship.

Of course, your greatest benefit will be the satisfaction of knowing you are assuring that an effective and exciting ministry with children will have the means to continue its work into the future.

To find out more about Legacy Partners membership and its benefits, send in the coupon below, contact office@flbc.net or call (406) 752-6602.



THANKS Thrivent Financial

FLBC is incredibly blessed to partner with Thrivent Financial.

Thanks to ALL who contribute to camp by sending your Thrivent Choice Dollars to FLBC. In 2016 over \$36,000 was received, allowing camp to buy a car, new mattresses, and pottery kiln, and to continue planning for the new cabin as well as funding camperships to help children in need. FLBC continues to receive tremendous support from Thrivent Choice donors and is one of the top organizations in the Northwest and nationally to receive funds!

THANKS also for the amazing Thrivent Action Team projects that have happened at and for camp, including: care kits for CASA young women, picnic tables, food for the Annual Meeting, baking pans for Cooking Camp, new signage, benches painted, garden tools and plants, luncheon for the local Lakeside/Somers school district, Discovery Times for summer campers, trails refurbished, care kits for the Heart Locker, and more. Please consider applying for and sponsoring a Thrivent Action Team. FLBC has LISTS of ideas for you!

Please send me the Legacy Brochure!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone: () _____ - _____

Email: _____

Reflections of a Camp Counselor

I'm 47 years old. I'm still not sure what I want to do with my life.

During my second year of college I thought I knew...I had wondered about becoming a pastor. And I had this crazy idea to apply to be a counselor at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. (How I, a kid from New Mexico, knew about FLBC in Montana is another story for another time.) I figured that perhaps I would meet others there who might share my wonderings about life as a pastor.

I loaded up my little car with my sleeping bag, guitar, swim suit and hiking boots and drove north for 2 days, by myself.

That summer, living in community, learning to water ski, climbing the high ropes, playing guitar for campfire, praying with campers, sharing meals, sleeping on the dock, tipping over in canoes on purpose, leading Day Camp in places like Hogeland, MT (again...another story...), washing that one kid's sleeping bag for the third time in a week, discovering how we find ourselves in the story of Jesus, and walking those paths from cabin to Dining Hall to beach and field and back again – to the point when I could do it in the dark...I tried to figure out if I should become a pastor or not. In August, I left Montana to drive back to New Mexico. But with no certainty of what my life and career would look like.

That was 28 years ago. I did, in the next few years, go to seminary and become a pastor, and I've had a wonderful time of it. I would like to think that my time at FLBC helped me decide to become a pastor. But really, the thing I learned most that summer at FLBC, was to trust. What made me leave family and friends and go to an unknown (granted, beautiful) part of the world? What made me stretch out my heart and mind to unknown co-workers, staff and campers week after week? What made me share my own emerging sense of faith and calling with the unsuspecting youth and families of Montana that summer? The only thing I can think of was that the Holy Spirit was helping me to trust in God's plan for me.

And that's good enough. I'm 47 now and I still don't know what I want to do with my life. But I continue to trust in God. And I know that God will give me faith – along with the skills and the temperament, the patience and the drive – to be whatever God calls me to be.

That's one of the gifts of Camp – of places and communities like FLBC all over the country and the world – the gift of trust. God will guide your life. Sometimes you just gotta get in the car and go.

Pr. Scott Thompson

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Kalispell, MT



L-R: Jacob (2017 summer staff member), Pr. Scott, and Jana Thompson

Wish List

Thank you to all the generous donors who have contributed in-kind gifts to camp. We are grateful for you! Below are some ways you could support FLBC this summer and fall:

- Arts & Crafts: Scissors, crayons, markers, small terra cotta pots
- Cleaning, Maintenance, & Garden: Bag-less vacuum cleaners, rakes, hammers, pitch forks, trowels, shovels, commercial-grade washer and dryer, duct tape, masking tape, work gloves, any and all garden tools, hand tools, garden hoes, lawn mowers
- Vehicles (in good working order): 4-wheel drive truck, van or minivan, "new" cars for year-round staff and day camp teams
- First Aid Supplies: Band-aids, gauze, wraps, alcohol swabs
- Camping/Program: Fishing lures, pedal boats, digital camera, Go-Pro camera, kayaks, snow sleds, irons, ironing boards, thick oven mitts
- Office Supplies: Locking filing cabinets, SD memory cards, micro-SD memory cards, tablet PCs or iPads, scotch tape, postage stamps
- Housing: Reasonably-priced housing for year-round staff in the Flathead Valley, house-sitting opportunities for year-round staff in the Flathead Valley

Call the office at (406) 752-6602 and we will be able to pick up your gift!

Bags of Blessings

"Bags of Blessings" is a great example of a Thrivent Action Team project! Wade Bitz of Havre, who serves as FLBC's Board Chair, customized grain bags for farmers to tithe grain to benefit FLBC. Wade involved a lot of people in his project, including the local Boy Scout troop who painted the camp logo on each bag. Congregations or groups may also fill these bags with other blessings! Messiah Lutheran Church filled one with toilet paper! If you would like a bag, please contact Wade at (406) 262-7197. Bags may be filled with many things, such as: cleaning supplies (brooms, dustpans, cleaning wipes), arts and craft supplies (paint, color crayons, old candles, white shirts and socks for tie-dying), office supplies (printer paper, stamps, scotch tape, envelopes), kitchen items (pot holders, aprons, paper towels, ziplock bags, teaspoons), and maintenance items (rakes, shovels, duct and masking tape, hammers, nails, screw drivers). These are just a few examples of how you can fill your Bag of Blessings to benefit FLBC!





@F_L_B_C_



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Upcoming Retreats

Don't miss these upcoming retreats and events, and be sure to invite your friends!

- September 1-4, 2017: Labor Day Family Camp
- October 6-7, 2017: Harvest Festival and Annual Meeting
- November 3-5, 2017: Men's S-S-S Retreat
(Scripture, Scales, and Suds)
- November 3-5, 2017: Bread of Life Retreat
- December 1-3, 2017: Family AdventFest

For information about these great retreat opportunities check out our website: www.flbc.net



Harvest Festival donations are coming in! Thank you Clayton and Kathy Schenck for donating a stay at your beautiful cabin!

Did you know?

- The typical American youth, age 8-18, spends an average of 44.5 hours per week on an electronic device. -www.keepitsafe.org (2015)
- \$1200 provides for a new high ropes teambuilding element
- \$780 is the actual cost for a person to attend a week of camp
- \$750 buys a new kayak
- \$300 buys a basketball hoop
- \$140 buys a new archery set
- \$120 buys a new mattress
- \$30 buys a new rec ball for games
- Every dollar donated helps children at camp!
- Youth who attend Bible Camp are 3 times more likely to remain religious 5 years later than those who do not attend.
- "The Summer Camp Experience and Faith Formation of Emerging Adults," Journal of Youth Ministry



Retracing-Renewing-Reforming:

Travel with FLBC for the 501st Anniversary of the Reformation, August 6-16, 2018

Join FLBC staff and Hans Wiersma (alumni staff and professor at Augsburg College) for a trip of a lifetime! The trip includes visits to Prague, Dresden, Wittenberg, Berlin, and many more, with a variety of amazing experiences and education! Contact FLBC to receive our tour information!