

**COME TO FAMILY CAMP AT VLM AND BRIDGE THE GENERATIONS**

Family Camp at Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry, Camps Hiawatha and Vermilion, offers an opportunity for parents, grandparents and youth of all ages to connect in a beautiful northwoods setting supported by the Christian atmosphere of a Lutheran outdoor ministry staff and programming. Christian camping is great for youth but it is even better when they can share this experience with family across generational lines.

Here, there is the balance between planned activities by the camp staff and free time where families can just be together and do their own thing. Some of the time the youth and adults are doing activities separately, other times the generations are brought together to grow in deeper relationships through shared experiences and programs.

Matt Mehrkens, 14 year-old son of Aaron and Kristine Mehrkens of Virginia, Minnesota, attended family camp with his grandmother, Mary Therrien. Mary remembers this experience as "...a time of family and fellowship that puts my heart at ease, and makes me feel in tune with God and nature. I find that at camp, I am growing and learning as a parent, as a grandparent, and as an adult in my faith, and most of all, comfortable enough to talk about it with the group. The calmness and beauty of the lake reminds me of God's tranquility, and his presence in my life. Taking time from the everyday routine is time well spent, and makes for lasting memories with a grandchild."

Matt remembers his time at camp. "Every time I arrived at camp feeling so awkward and not knowing anyone. But, by the end of the week, I feel like the whole camp was one big family." The staff at VLM knows youth and what they will enjoy. Matt recalls, "The gigantic slip and slide we made from a big blue tarp, soap, a running hose and the hill by the chapel." Being there with his grandmother made his experience a special one.

This year the dates for Family Camp at both camps are August 1-4 with the option to stay until August 6. This flexibility should help people fit this camp into their calendars and their budgets. Pricing varies based on household size and length of stay.

**There is also a special Family Fourth of July Camp that runs from July 1-5 at Camp Vermilion. Meals will be provided, staff will be around to host your family, and guests are encouraged to bring their boats so they can watch fireworks from out on Lake Vermilion. A campfire worship after the fireworks will close out the time together.**

At a recent gathering of VLM supporters they were asked to state why they support outdoor ministries of VLM. Here are just a few of their responses.

- ...Allow growth and provide time for making life-long friendships.
- ...Kept me interested in church, and are the reason I am still involved today.
- ...Impacted my life at a young age and continues to give direction to me and my family.
- ... There I experience Joy, Friendship and the Love of Christ.
- ...Bring Christ to our young people and old people.
- ...Inspire people to live and learn about God’s wonderful love of people, the world, and nature.
- ...Nurture spiritual growth and have great passionate leaders who are deeply excited about their faith in Christ.
- ...Welcome a lot of young people and some oldsters to come away from their homes and refresh their souls and bodies and renew their faith in the Creator.
- ...Offer us a great chance to relax and have fun while growing closer to God.
- ...Brought out the spirituality in our family.
- ...Nurture disciples on journeys of faith in God’s Great Northwoods!

Hope to see you at Family Camp.

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Family Camp Costs			
Participants	Family Camp Aug 1-4 (4-days)	Family Camp Aug 1-6 (6-Days)	Family Fourth July 1-5 (5-Days)
Adult (18+ yrs)	\$170	\$255	\$170
Grandparent	\$110	\$160	\$110
Youth (12-17)	\$140	\$205	\$140
Child (4-11)	\$110	\$160	\$110
Contact the Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry office to register or for more information. 800-331-5148 <a href="mailto:vlm@vlmcamps.org">vlm@vlmcamps.org</a> <a href="http://www.vlmcamps.org">www.vlmcamps.org</a>			