



# The Park River Bible Camp Proclaimer

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Look for the next  
**Proclaimer** in October.  
Visit our website to sign  
up for email delivery.

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## Mowing With a Mission

This summer, Park River Bible Camp (PRBC) was blessed with a new lawnmower. A supporter and volunteer of PRBC, Claude Sheldon, saw a need for the camp and met that need by finding donations. Claude noticed the need because he donates time to mow lawns at camp and noticed the aging of our two other lawn mowers. This gift allowed PRBC to sell one of the mowers, which helped pay for repairs needed on the camp's tractor.

A new Snapper mower was purchased to help create a cleaner looking cut around the main camp and family camp areas. With the addition of the new mower, maintenance time has been trimmed along with repair time and expenses to fix the old lawnmowers. A special thanks to the donations of Claude & Darla Sheldon, Donald & Janene Opegard, Dennis & Arnola Skorheim and Lindsey & Lori Fingarson! Thank you for the donations in helping create a clean environment where we may continue to proclaim Jesus as Lord.

## Summer 2011 Immanuel: God With Us

By Luke Berntson, Program Director

How do you measure a summer of ministry? Should we evaluate it based on the number of campers who are given hope in a world that may seem to be set against them? Should we base it on the number of times a child finds comfort in God's Word of promise as it is spoken to them by their counselor? Perhaps we should measure by the number of campers who come to repentance and faith.

The essential thing is this – that the crucified, risen and ascended Jesus Christ is proclaimed! This summer God's Law and Gospel was proclaimed to 685 onsite campers and another 577 campers at Vacation Bible School. In addition, 36 summer staff members were given the wonderful privilege of participating in God's saving work.

When asked, "What do you think is the best thing about Park River Bible Camp?" campers' answers included "The camp games," "The Bible studies," and "The people who are there." Our prayer is that a camper's time at Park River Bible Camp would always be a fun, safe time in which the camper encounters the Triune God through worship, Bible study, music and time

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**Above:** The new lawn mower.

**Right:** A camper studies God's Word.



## Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner

The 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Lutefisk and Meatball Dinner is September 25<sup>th</sup>. Adult tickets are \$15, children 12 and under eat free. The meal is served from 12:00pm to 5:30pm. The bazaar will open at 11:00am. Baked and canned items as well as produce may be donated for the bazaar. Please bring those items by 9:00am on September 25<sup>th</sup>. If you want to help by making Lefse, join us on September 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. New people are welcome and experienced chefs are always willing to teach. On September 23<sup>rd</sup> you can volunteer to help make meatballs. If the fellowship isn't enough to draw you out to assist in making lefse or meatballs, the taste testing should be.

## ACA Certification

In an effort to be and to become a safer, healthier, and higher quality camp, Park River Bible Camp has held accreditation with the American Camp Association (ACA) since 2005. The following is information on the ACA from the ACA website:

The main purpose of the ACA-accreditation program is to educate camp owners and directors in the administration of key aspects of camp operation, particularly those related to program quality and the health and safety of campers and staff. The standards establish guidelines for needed policies, procedures, and practices. The camp, then, is responsible for on-going implementation of these policies.

The second purpose of ACA accreditation is to assist the public in selecting camps that meet industry-accepted and government-recognized standards. ACA's camp database provides the public with eleven separate ways to search for the ideal ACA-accredited camp.

Every three years, the ACA sends trained camp professionals to visit accredited camps for the purpose of grading the camp according to the ACA's standards. Though not all of the ACA's 300 standards apply to Park River Bible Camp, PRBC scored exceptionally well in this year's visit. Our accreditation with the ACA has helped PRBC to become a better camp in all regards, and year after year it is our promise to you that we will continue to strive towards excellence in Christian camping.

## Simply Giving

The *Simply Giving* Program, offered by Thrivent Financial Bank, allows you to make automatic donations to Park River Bible Camp through your checking or savings account. It is a great way to give regularly and consistently. Starting the program is easy. Simply go to [park-riverbiblecamp.org](http://park-riverbiblecamp.org), click on the "Support the Ministry"

## Designating Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thank you to all of you who have been designating your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Park River Bible Camp! So far, over \$5,000 has been joyfully received through this program. Your designations continue to amaze us! Eligible members of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans are designated Choice Dollars based on insurance premiums, contract values, and Thrivent Financial volunteer leadership. Choice Dollars can be directed to Lutheran organizations you prefer nationwide. If you are eligible to direct Choice Dollars to one of the enrolled organizations, Thrivent will notify you. Please consider designating some or all of your Choice Dollars to Park River Bible Camp. Call (800) 847-4836 or go online to [thrivent.com/thriventchoice](http://thrivent.com/thriventchoice), click on the red "Get Started" button, and enter "Park River Lutheran Bible Camp" as the organization name.

### September

- 9-10 Lefse Making Extravaganza
- 17-18 Sr. High Outback Retreat
- 20 Sr. Citizens' Fall Gathering
- 23 Meatball Making Day
- 25 Lutefisk & Meatball Dinner

### October

- 8-9 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Fall Retreat
- 15 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Fall Day Camp
- 18 Jubilee Day Camp
- 28-29 Confirmation Retreat

### November

- 5 Quilt Auction
- 11-13 Quilting Retreat
- 18-20 Stamping & Scrapbooking Retreat

*Visit our website for more info.*

link, then select "Simply Giving," and follow the directions to find the enrollment form. The form only takes a few minutes to complete and minimal information is needed.

And as easy as it is to start the program, it is just as easy to adjust your giving or cease giving altogether. We understand personal situations may change in the future, for the better or for the worse. To cancel or change your giving to Park River Bible Camp through *Simply Giving* for any reason simply use the same enrollment form used to start the program to change or cancel your giving.

## Ga-Ga!

If you visited camp this summer, you may have noticed a strange new octagonal wooden feature in the playground area that looks like a corral one might see at a county fair. This is our Ga-Ga court.

Ga-Ga is the newest craze at PRBC. It is a new form of the classic game of dodge ball, but played much like foursquare. Players swat the ball, trying to hit others below the waist. The goal is to be the last one left in the pit. Hopefully, when you hear children talking about how gaga they are for Ga-Ga at PRBC, you will now know a little bit about what they are talking about.

## Harvest for Kids

After hearing about a new and innovative way to raise awareness and funds for Children's Camps International, a ministry originating in India, a few farmers and churches in Northwood, ND had an idea. After all, the idea worked extremely well in Canada, so why not North Dakota? The idea was to use the most abundant and lucrative resource in the area to raise much needed funds for local ministries... farmland.

The first step was to get the area churches on board and decide on a name, Harvest for Kids North Dakota. The next step was to decide on the benefactors and to educate them. Since Park River Bible Camp, Coopers-town Bible Camp, and FaHoCha Bible Camp all serve the area churches, Harvest for Kids North Dakota decided to give the proceeds resulting in the eventual harvest to those camps as well as to Children's Camp International.

*(Summer 2011: Continued from page 1)*  
with Christian believers.

This summer in Vacation Bible school we traced God's saving work through the life of Moses, the travels of the Hebrews, the prophet Jonah, and the resurrection of Jesus. We emphasized the wonderful truths that we are delivered from death, freed from sin, and given salvation in Jesus Christ and in Jesus Christ alone. Often we find ourselves unwilling or reluctant to share these truths with other people, yet it is God's will to work through us, as He worked through Jonah, to the end that even our enemies come to repentance and Chris-

Before all of this happened, though, some area farmers agreed to donate a portion of their acreage to the cause. All told, 70 acres was planted with soybeans and corn. Some of the seed was donated by Pioneer (20 acres of corn and 20 acres of soybean), and the rest was donated by the farmers themselves.

After battling a wet spring, all 70 acres of land was planted, and according to reports, is doing well considering the amounts of rain the area has endured. If all continues to go according to plan, the harvest will occur on October 22<sup>nd</sup> alongside a harvest festival with food, fellowship, and live music. As stated above, earnings from the harvest will be divided among the three camps serving the churches in the Northwood area, something for which Park River Bible Camp is extremely grateful. For more information on the harvest and the parent organization Harvest for Kids, visit [harvestforkids.com/northdakota](http://harvestforkids.com/northdakota).

Save the Date! The 24<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Quilt Auction will  
be on November 5<sup>th</sup>!

tian faith.

In our onsite camps we saw God working to redeem His people through His promised savior. His arrival was first promised to us in God's pronouncement of judgment upon the serpent in the Garden of Eden and was repeated over and over again until it was fulfilled in the incarnation of Jesus. In Jesus, God is truly Immanuel – God with us!

It is truly a privilege to see youth and children trusting in Jesus, and making new friends and memories that will last a lifetime.



**Bottom left:** Campers face extreme challenges on the high ropes course.  
**Top left:** A cabin Bible study at PRBC.  
**Above:** Campers worship God at Rally time.  
**Top right:** Arts and crafts provides a chance to be creative.  
**Below:** A game of water basketball is a great way to cool off.



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## From the Director's Desk

By Sean Barnhart, Director of Ministries

"Grape gramma meeting. Wake up grape gramma!"

These were the words of my son when he saw my grandmother lying in her casket at the family viewing the day before her funeral. For those who don't speak my son's brand of two year old, "meeting" is his way of saying "sleeping". It was a bitter sweet moment. Bitter because as much as we may have wished it, we knew she was not sleeping, but had finally succumbed to her long battle with diabetes.

But my son's comment, formed out of his blissful ignorance of death, was sweet because it reminded me of the hope God gives us through Paul's words to the Thessalonians in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14.

"But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep."

In the days of the early church, those Christians who died were referred to as only having fallen asleep. The

early believers understood that through Christ's resurrection, they too would be raised to new life, and that their new life would include a bodily resurrection, just as Christ too was raised.

So even though my son's words were sweet, they held no authority. But Christ's words *do* have authority because "death is swallowed up in victory." Through the death and resurrection of Christ, our hope can indeed be prophesied through the mouths of babes.

Get a taste of camp's theology  
through the writings of Sean and  
Luke on the Park River Bible  
Camp blog located at  
[parkriverbiblecamp.org/blog](http://parkriverbiblecamp.org/blog)



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