Sharing Jesus at Summer Camp in the Rocky Mountains

Bringing the Inner-City Children to Camp
Lutheran Valley Retreat, Colorado — $25,000

Opening
Hymn: A Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (LSB 790) verses 1 and 2
Leader: Raise your hand if you’ve ever been to youth summer camp. (Allow response.) Raise your hand if you remember camp songs, camp leaders, friends you made at camp, or a fun or funny summer camp incident. (Allow response.) Lutheran Valley Retreat (LVR), located in the beautiful Rocky Mountains of Colorado, offers summer camp to youth, showing God’s grace and glory through His creation.

ALL: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork (Psalm 19:1).

Be exalted, O God, above the heavens!
Let your glory be over all the earth (Psalm 57:5).

Reader 1: Research shows that summer camp transforms the lives of children and teens. Young people who take a break from daily routines, responsibilities, and technology are truly themselves.

Reader 2: LVR strives to provide fun and challenging outdoor activities to allow young people to see the love and grace of Jesus through the beautiful world He has created.

ALL: Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint (Isaiah 40:30-31).

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Leader: Archery, rock climbing, hiking, and a giant slip-and-slide are examples of the fun activities LVR provides to campers. Daily devotions, worship around a campfire, and learning praise songs are ways God’s Word is shared and His love is shown to campers.

**ALL:** *Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:105).*

Reader 1: About one-half of the youth who attend summer camp come from states across the country to serve in maintenance projects at LVR. The rest of the campers are from Colorado, including the Denver area.

Reader 2: Although LVR has generous donors allowing scholarships for campers, many people in inner-city Denver are not aware of these scholarships. This mission grant will allow LVR to work with Lutheran churches in the Denver area over the next two summers, to provide scholarships and transportation for summer camp to multicultural children of all socio-economic levels in the Denver area.

**ALL:** *We love because he first loved us (1 John 4:19). Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 19:14).*

Prayer: (Leader) Heavenly Father, we thank You for the beautiful world You created for us. We thank You that Lutheran Valley Retreat provides summer camp for young people, showing them Your love, grace, and glory in the midst of Your creation. Please bless this mission grant, that more children can attend summer camp and most importantly, come to faith in You. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Children of the Heavenly Father (*LSB* 725) verses 1 and 2

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