



Summer Bible Camp is an experience many of us remember as youth. We are blessed to have several Bible Camps near us through Lutheran Outdoors. In the next few weeks, we will highlight ELCA Lutheran Outdoors and why the camp experience is so special as well as highlighting four Bible Camps that our members have experienced or found special.

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries operates 120 ELCA affiliated camp, retreat, and conference center sites in the United States and Puerto Rico. Faith formation is an important aspect of the camp experience. The wisdom of camp, shared throughout decades of learning about God and each other, shows us how effective and impactful faith formation can happen through outdoor ministry experiences when five fundamental elements come together uniquely at camp. These five elements are:

- Camp is relational – where campers show improved social competency, increased self-confidence, and more positive attitudes toward Christian communities.
- Camp is participatory – where campers show a willingness to try new things, increased creativity, and more positive attitudes toward life.
- Camp is “unplugged” from home where campers show and learn increased independence and differentiation from parents
- Camp is a safe place where campers gain more positive self-understanding, increased self-esteem, and a desire to seek out safe places and relationships.
- Camp is faith centered and campers demonstrate increased frequency of faith practices in the home, stronger identification with faith traditions, and ability to interpret life through the lens of faith.

We are fortunate to have access and partnerships with Bible Camps near to English Lutheran Church. In the next few weeks we will highlight [Sugar Creek](#) (Ferryville, WI), [Luther Park](#) (Danbury, WI), [Ewalu](#) (Strawberry Point, IA) and [Camp House](#) (Brimson, MN), which our Faith Web participants have the opportunity to attend.