



Cross Trails Ministry Summer Camp 2024

Ways to Involve Your Congregation

Camp offers a strong faith experience to your youth. It can become even stronger if your congregation integrates the camp experience into the life of the church. Below are some ideas for ways that you can help the campers to transition their camp experience into their everyday faith experience with your congregation.

Send Them with a Blessing

Send the campers to camp with your blessing. Give them a sense that the congregation stands by them and is excited that they are going to camp by including a sending service in your Sunday worship. Some resources are provided below.

Have a Pre and Post Camp Session

Before they leave for camp, have members of the congregation tell campers stories of how camp has impacted their faith. When they return, have campers tell the congregation about how they can live their faith 365 days of the year. Have congregation members and youth compare what has changed, what they notice about their faith now, and how the way they interact with the world has changed.

Set up a Prayer and Mail Campaign

Ask members of your congregation to write your campers letters and pray for them daily. Campers love mail, especially "snail mail". Imagine their reaction to receiving letters from members of your congregation while they are at camp from people who are praying for them! Send letters very early or bring them with you to distribute to your campers at camp.

Welcome Them Back and Let Them Share with the Congregation!

Set up a time for the youth to tell your congregation about camp! Give them a few minutes to share at worship, have them share their experience with younger youth in Sunday school, or let them lead a whole camp-style service! Have campers tell what they know about the seasons of the church year after learning about it at camp.

Have a Family Faith Night

Invite the families of campers, and any interested folks from your congregation or community, to a family faith night. You can begin with some camp games or singing, and then have the youth share what they learned on each day of camp. You can even have an open mic for anyone else who wants to share a story from camp.

Sending Service Resources

Feel free to use as much of this as you would like!

Call to Worship

L: God calls us to live out our faith all 365 days of the year.

C: Thanks be to God...

L: In Advent, God calls us to wait and prepare for Jesus.

C: Thanks be to God...

L: In the Christmas season, God calls us to celebrate the coming of Christ to the world.

C: Thanks be to God...

L: In the season of Epiphany, God calls us to share Christ's presence with the whole world.

C: Thanks be to God...

L: In the season of Lent, God calls us to reflect on sin in ourselves and the world.

C: Thanks be to God...

L: In the season of Easter, God promises us that nothing will separate us from God.

C: Thanks be to God...

L: In the season of Pentecost, God calls us to live together in the world as Jesus taught us.

C: Thanks be to God...

L: Every day, God calls us to share the good news with the world around us.

C: Thanks be to God and We Will!

Litany

L: Holy God, we pray this morning for all of the camps of Cross Trails Ministry – Camp Chrysalis, Ebert Ranch Camp, and Day Camp. May they be ready.

C: You call them to go!

L: We pray for the staff who work to be examples of your welcoming, gracious, unconditional love. May they be ready.

C: You call them to go!

L: We pray for the youth who will grow closer to you with their questions and play. May they be ready.

C: You call them to go!

L: We pray for the adults who will have their faith journey strengthened. May they be ready.

C: You call them to go!

L: We pray for the faith-filled friendships that will be made and strengthened. May they be ready.

C: You call them to go!

L: We give you thanks to you God.

C: Amen.

Songs

- He Came Down
- O Come O Come Emmanuel
- Hark the Herald Angels Sing
- Away in a Manger
- I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
- Jesus Christ is Risen Today
- Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing
- Go Make Disciples

Scripture Readings

This summer at all Cross Trails Ministry programs, our Bible study is focusing on the seasons of the church year. We are learning about Advent, Christmas & Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time. These are some of the texts we will be using in our Bible study.

- Isaiah 9:6-7, 40:3-5
- Luke 2:1-20
- Matthew 2:1-12
- Luke 19:33-38
- John 13:1-5
- Luke 23:32-33, 39-46
- John 19:40-42
- John 20:11-18
- Acts 2:1-6
- Luke 10:25-37
- Jonah 1-4

Blessing Your Campers

(Invite all who are planning to attend camp with Cross Trails Ministry this summer to come forward during worship.)

Today we are celebrating our partnership in ministry with Cross Trails Ministry. You have each heard God's call to attend camp this summer. At camp you will experience God's love in amazing new ways by living in God's creation, meeting new friends and worshipping daily. As the Holy Spirit prepares your hearts and minds for this camp experience we want to pray with and for you.

Awesome, Ever Present God, You are with us wherever we go and send us to do fun, important, and life-changing things with you.

Today, we are celebrating and asking for your blessing over our campers. They are about to embark on a journey filled with adventure, fun, and faith formation that will help them grow closer to you.

Bless them this week so that all of their questions and seeking might be explored with your guidance.

Bless them this week so that all of their excitement and energy might be met with your joy.

(Here, name each camper individually): Bless these campers that they might adventure with you this week. Help them feel you close as they learn about faith all year round, and remind them that we are here, back home, praying for their week ahead. Help them know our love and our hopes for them this week.

Bless our church, too, God.

Bless us as we wait for our campers to return home prayerfully and patiently.

Bless us so that we might be changed, just as they are, because of their week at camp and the stories they will share.

Do you, the members of _____ promise to pray for these people while they are away and to support them as they return?

C: We will!

Do you campers of _____ promise to be open to seeing and sharing God at camp?

Campers: We will!

Then let all of us, campers and congregation, get ready to learn and share, as we go in peace and serve the Lord in the coming week. Thanks be to God as we respond all together...

All: We will!

Prayer

God who creates and calls us, be with our campers as they learn about your calling to live out our faith. Let them be bold in their prayer and their play. May they learn new things from your Word and bring them back to share with us. May they know you are always with them. Amen.

Offering

Consider taking a special offering to give as a gift to camp or to have campers take with them for the summer offering.