



Congregational Day Camps

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a congregational day camp?

Congregational day camp is an opportunity to partner with Lakeside in ministry and allow us to bring a bit of camp to your local church.

Congregational day camp runs similarly to a typical vacation bible school (VBS) program.

2. Why does Lakeside offer congregational day camps?

Lakeside has 4 goals in running congregational day camps:

1. Share the Good News of God’s love made known by Jesus.
2. Partner with congregations in providing Christian education and a local outreach opportunity.
3. Provide an opportunity for young people to grow in community, get to know Christian role models, and participate in healthy activities during a week in the summer.
4. Introduce children, youth, and families to Lutheran Lakeside Camp.

3. What is the time frame of a congregational day camp?

Congregational day camp typically runs Monday through Thursday, some exceptions are allowed on a case by case basis. The time frame varies, depending on the needs of each congregation. Some examples of time frames churches have done in the past include:

- 8:30 am - 2:30 pm
- 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
- 8:30 am - 11:30 am
- 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Ultimately, the time frame is up to you. However, we require a minimum of 3 hours. This is to ensure each camper receives the same quality of experience, no matter which congregation they attend.

The schedule of each congregational day camp will be constructed by our Day Camp Coordinator, who will be in contact with you the week before your week of congregational day camp. A sample schedule is provided on the “Congregational Day Camps” of our website.

4. For what age group is congregational day camp designed?

Lakeside's congregational day camps are designed for campers who have *completed* Kindergarten up to campers who have *completed* 5th grade. If you have campers who have not yet entered Kindergarten, you can add our preschool program for an additional cost.

5. What activities are included in congregational day camps?

Each day of congregational day camp includes worship, Bible study, crafts, and recreational games. Since Lutheran Lakeside Camp is an outdoor ministry, activities happen outdoors as much as possible. Depending on the length of your day camp, other activities may be added, such as story time, silly songs, a meal, snack time, drama, and an additional worship.

6. What does Lakeside provide for congregational day camps?

Lakeside provides staff based on a 1:12 ratio; For every 12 campers, Lakeside will provide 1 staff member, with a minimum team of 3. For example, if you had 48 campers, we would provide 4 staff members.

We will also provide a complete program, including worship, Bible study, crafts, recreation, and supervision. This includes any and all supplies that we may need for these activities.

7. What is expected of the congregation?

As a partner in ministry, we expect your congregation to provide a "Church Coordinator" to work with our program director and day camp coordinator in the planning of the congregational day camp details. The church coordinator will be Lakeside's main contact person and be responsible for organizing the following:

- Arrange adequate housing* for Lakeside staff, including the availability of showers. This is often a congregation member who volunteers their spare bedroom(s) for the week.
- Arrange all meals* for Lakeside staff. This can be done by the host family providing housing or can be a shared responsibility of multiple congregation members. It can be homemade meals, delivery, or a combination.
- Publicize the congregational day camp in the congregation and community as deemed appropriate.
- Obtain all necessary forms, including registration, health, and parental permission.

- Recruit and secure volunteers, who can be present throughout the week of the congregational day camp. We require the congregation to provide 1 adult volunteer (16+ years) for every 12 elementary campers.
- Be the go-to person for any problems as they may arise throughout the week.

*Lakeside staff typically arrive Sunday evening (time to be arranged between the local church coordinator and Lakeside's day camp coordinator and leave Friday morning by 8 am). Housing and meals will need to be provided for their entire stay. Additional housing and meal guidelines will be provided in regards to covid-19.

8. What is included in the preschool program?

The preschool program is for congregations who have a significant number of campers who are at least 3 years old and have not yet completed Kindergarten. Lakeside will provide one staff person who will lead the preschool curriculum that will partner with the elementary school program. If preschool camper numbers exceed 12 campers, a second Lakeside staff person will be provided. For safety reasons and to ensure our preschool campers have the attention they need for the best week ever, we require the congregation to provide 1 adult volunteer for every 6 preschool campers. These adult volunteers will solely work with the preschoolers each day to assist our staff in bible study, crafts, and games. Preschoolers will join the elementary campers for meals*, snack time*, and worship.

*Subject to change due to new covid-19 protocols.

9. Are field trips allowed during congregational day camp?

Some congregations have a tradition of going on a small field trip during their VBS. If your congregation would like Lakeside to join you for a field trip, such as singing at a local nursing home or spending an afternoon at the local pool, the church coordinator is responsible for organizing the logistics of the trip. This includes appropriate transportation, communicating with those that work at the destination of choice, and parent permission slips for campers to participate. Lakeside staff will come along for supervision and lead any activities once everyone has arrived at the destination. Please let Lakeside know as soon as possible if you have organized a field trip, so we can provide you with our new covid-19 travel guidelines.

10. Does Lakeside host a mission project as a part of their congregational day camp?

Yes! Each year Lakeside chooses a mission project that aligns with our summer theme. Both on and off-site, we ask the campers to help us raise money to support the chosen organization. At our congregational day camps, we take a daily offering as well as teach the campers more about the chosen organization through interactive activities. Participating in our mission project is optional. Please let Lakeside staff know if you would like to participate prior to your week of camp.

11. Does Lakeside provide an end-of-the-week program*?

Yes! Lakeside loves bringing communities together. One way to do that is through an end-of-the-week program. This is another optional addition to your congregational day camp. If your church chooses to hold an end-of-the-week program, our staff will prepare the campers (and volunteers) for a 30-minute program. The program will include campers' favorite songs from the week, prayer, insight on what they learned throughout the week, information about the mission project, and more! This can take place Thursday evening and include a meal or it can happen in place of Thursday's closing worship. As a congregation, you are responsible for inviting parents, families, and congregation members and providing a meal, if you choose to include one.

*Subject to change due to our new covid-19 guidelines.

12. What efforts is Lakeside making to protect its participants from covid-19?

We are still living in uncertain times. We want to reassure you that we are doing everything we can to minimize risk of covid-19 for both your congregation and our staff. New policies and protocols are being put in place based on the American Camp Association, CDC, and other camp's policies and experiences with running camp during a pandemic.

Some of the information in this document may change as we learn more and start developing our own covid-19 policies and protocols. Please be patient as we are making changes to our "typical" day camp program. A few new protocols may include: masks requirements, minimal large group activities, designated small groups/pods, temperature/health checks upon arrival every day, and multiple meal times or locations. Any and all new covid-19 policies and protocols are designed to help keep everyone involved safe. That is our #1 priority.

13. What is the cost of congregational day camp?

The cost of congregational day camp is as follows:

- \$530 per staff member (minimum of 3 members = \$1590)

- \$0.55 per mile (round trip from LLC to you and all day camp-related miles)
- Optional: \$600 preschool program

A non-refundable \$500 deposit is required to reserve your week of congregational day camp. This will be deducted from your total bill after the day camp has ended. If either party cancels due to covid-19, the non-refundable policy will be waived. Your congregation will receive the total bill in August, after the final week of camp.

14. How do we reserve a week of congregational day camp?

Yay! We're so glad you want to partner with us! To reserve a week of congregational day camp, please contact our program director Paige McGrath at paige@lutheranlakeside.com. Include the local church coordinator's name, your top 2-3 choices for weeks, and (if possible) an estimate on how many campers you expect to attend. We will be accepting reservations until December 1st. Requests are considered on a first come first serve basis, so please submit your requests ASAP! Once the deadline has passed, we will put together the 2021 summer day camp schedule and send you a contract with your designated week. Your week will not be reserved until we receive your signed contract and \$500 deposit.

If you have any more questions or would like to reserve a week of Congregational Day Camp, please contact Paige McGrath at paige@lutheranlakeside.com or (712) 336-2109.