

In a state that covers that distance from Montana to Texas, one camp in any part of the state would have difficulty serving all of our people. For our congregations to offer a summer camp experience, a dedicated team of pastors and leaders plan, recruit, train and supply the people who pull off our summer camps. These faithful volunteers take time off from work or use vacation time so that our children and youth can have this experience of outdoor fun, faith formation and fellowship.

The Seward Peninsula congregations have a long history of offering three weeks of summer camp at Salmon Lake Bible Camp outside of Nome. This site is owned by Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Nome. A camp week is offered for youth in 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade, 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> and high school. A variety of indoor and outdoor activities that promote Christ education and well-being in body, mind and spirit are offered. Such activities include Bible study, crafts, traditional carving and beading, games, singing, worship, hiking, swimming, Eskimo baseball and canoeing. Campers also work together to haul water as there is no running water or electricity at this camp. Campers and volunteers fly into Nome then drive the thirty-five miles to camp.

Camp in Southeast Alaska has been housed in many different places. This year camp will be at Eagle Valley Boy Scout Camp in Juneau from July 20-26. Youth will travel by ferry from all over Southeast Alaska to Juneau. Camp is a place to ask questions, learn about God's word, and mature in your faith. There will be crafts, games, gifts of the spirit, Bible studies, campfire and all your favorite activities. This camp is not exclusively for Lutherans so feel free to invite friends.

In Southcentral Alaska, the camp meets the first week of August at Victory Bible Camp. Camp Koinonia is for middle school students and Camp Alpine is for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. High school students are trained to serve in leadership roles during the week. Activities include Bible Study, worship, games, campfires, *cold* lake swimming and playing on inflatables as well as horseback riding.

Thank you to those who have worked and dreamed to bring these camping ministries into existence this summer. Thank you to those who staff these camps, to those who help with fund-raising to make these experiences possible, to our families who entrust children and youth to our care for a week, to campers who participate with open hearts and minds. Thank God for the gift of this beautiful creation we live in that bears its own witness and of which we are a part.