

SUMMER OF SERVICE



As I began writing this, I started making a list of all the FVL graduates who have served at Camp Phillip, but I soon realized that their names would not fit in this article. Instead then, let me start by telling you what a blessing it is to be connected to FVL as we grow students in service together. We share a synod, a Savior and Scripture, but we also share a mission of preparing students for lives of service, and supporting them as God grows them in faith.

For decades, students from FVL have arrived at Camp Phillip prepared for service, and they have demonstrated servant hearts. We have two main programs at Camp Phillip in which FVL students are involved.

The first program, our Junior Staff Program, is made up of teen volunteers from all over the Midwest. We provide a week of training and mentorship, and they offer up a few weeks of their summer in service. They act as assistant counselors to God's children as they attend our programs at Camp Phillip, and they serve as leaders of our traveling Congregational Day Camp program. These portable VBS-type events reach about a thousand children around Wisconsin during the course of one summer.

Left to right, Kelsey Steffens('07), Matthew Bown - Program director for 12 years ('99), Chloe (Sievert) Vandenberg('08), Stephen Vandenberg('08), Bethany (Wichmann) Lehman('07), and Tyler Shinnick('06).



Justin Heise ('08) leading a Bible study at Camp Phillip last summer. He was our Bible Study leader, and Junior Staff director. He will be getting married in May and heading out to be a vicar in August.

The second program is our Summer Adult Leadership Team (SALT). These SALT staff members are high-school graduates who commit to serve for an entire summer, and their work is like the work of many in the full-time ministry. They pour hour after hour and day after day into their campers in the name of Christ. But somehow, after pouring out everything they have, God uses their experiences to build them up, bond them and fill them with joy in the Lord. FVL students have time and time again joined the ranks of spiritually mature young people who serve at Camp Phillip. They have been a part of the body of Christ in a very hands-on way at Camp Phillip, serving side-by-side with fellow Christians, and spurring each

other on toward lives of service in the name of Christ.

Finally, at the end of their chapter of service at Camp Phillip, I see adults who serve as lay leaders and full-time public ministers. They demonstrate the attitude Paul prays for the believers in Colossians 2:6-7. They have "received Christ Jesus as Lord," and they "continue to live in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as they were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

— Joel Hansen
Staff Minister, Camp Phillip
Wautoma, WI

SUMMER OF FUN

Matthew Brown, Erica Vandenburg ('12)



Joel Hansen, Matt Stuebs ('13)