

# Thoughts from a Table...Summer

**Verse:** And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the Word of God boldly. Acts 4:31b

I look out the window and I see the campers lining up, it's all a part of their morning routine. They look cold as they are standing on the dock waiting to jump in, but they are ready, just as I am. I am ready for the excitement, joy, noise that they bring. Soon they will be sitting around me eating breakfast, sharing stories from the day before and talking about what they are looking forward to the most in the upcoming days.

The dining hall door opens and campers come rushing in. There is so much noise and excitement that fills the dining hall, I am thrilled that summer has finally arrived. As I sit there listening to the conversations happening around me, I observe and overhear so much. There are counselors comforting the homesick camper and campers are asking "What activity are we doing next?" and "when is canteen" between their bites of food. Camper and counselors are getting to know one another. I've noticed, over the years, that food really helps bring people together.

There also is something else that I observe, something that is even more exciting than food, eating, and the conversations about the day's activities. I am seeing campers learning about Jesus, the One who died on the cross and saved them from their sins. The counselors are filled with the Holy Spirit and are boldly speaking about God to their campers. As I sit and watch, it is not only the words that the Counselors are speaking that teach of Jesus, but everything that they do, every action that they take is a bold reflection of Him. This is my favorite part of the summer! I love listening to the conversations of Jesus that happen every single meal!

By now everyone has cleared out and have moved onto their days activities. As for me, we'll I think I'll just sit back and wait for lunch, when I get to listen to their conversations all over again!

# Thoughts from a Table...Fall

**Verse:** The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of God stands forever. Isaiah 40:8

It's another new morning at Camp Luther and I can tell that something is different, there is a change in the air. The campers are no longer here, the trees have started changing color, the air has gotten colder, and the grass is no longer a bright green. Despite this change though, there are still people who have come and gathered for meals. These people seem to be a large mixture of adults, teens, and children. From what I can understand, they have gathered at Camp for a single purpose, to prepare Camp for a new season.

As I listen to the conversations happening around me, they are a little different from the one's that I heard this summer. These conversations are about the work projects that they are going to be working on during the day and the memories that they have from the times that they have been to Camp. I can hear the excitement in these voices, they are ready to be serving God in a way that gives back to the place that taught them and their families about His love.

As I continue to listen, I do notice there is still one topic that is continually talked about, and that is of the love that Jesus has for you. It reminds me of a verse from the Bible that is perfect for a day like today. It says "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of God stands forever." This is a perfect reminder for the season of Fall. The leaves are changing, the lake has gotten colder, the grass is no longer green, and even the people that I see have gotten older. I find great comfort in knowing that even though the world around me is changing, our amazing God will remain the same forever. He does not change!

# Thoughts from a Table...Winter

**Verse:** “Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the Lord. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool. Isaiah 1:18

It’s another new season at Camp Luther and today I’m looking out over Rangeline Lake covered in sparkling snow. It’s been quiet the past week, but something is coming and I can feel the excitement in the air! There is a new group just arriving, but it’s not like the other groups that I have seen over the past few months. It’s a group of middle school students and adults who all seem to know each other really well. From the conversations I’ve overheard at the previous meal, they are here for two reasons, to grow together as a group and to grow in their relationship with Jesus. How amazing is that that they have adults who are interested in helping these students grow in their faith and learn more about Jesus!

I watch their activities throughout the day and this group is so busy having fun in the snow. I can’t wait to hear about all the adventures that they are having. I know they must be having fun, because every time one runs past the window there is a huge smile on their face. I cannot wait to hear all the stories they have to tell and the conversations that they will have with one another.

As these super energetic students are busy running all over Camp, I am content looking over the lake and staring out over the snow. I love how white and unblemished the snow is, it is the perfect reminder that Jesus died on the cross and took away each and every one of your sins. Jesus made what was yucky, into something new and beautiful! I hope that as they are out experiencing God’s wonderful creation, these students take time and look at the white snow and remember that Jesus died for them and made their sins as white as the snow.

# Thoughts from a Table...Spring

**Verse:** Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Philippians 4:6

After a long and cold winter, Spring has finally arrived! I am a little anxious for this new season to start as we get ready for another amazing summer at Camp Luther. I know that soon we will have people coming to help get Camp ready for all the amazing campers and families that will be coming to Camp this summer to learn about Jesus and His love for them.

As I sit there waiting for all the Spring activities to begin, two individuals come in and sit by me and I listen in on their conversation. One of them is worried about what is happening in life and isn’t sure what the future holds. As these two talk about trusting God no matter what is happening around them and in their lives, the coolest thing happens. They begin praying to God for one another, they pray about their worries, fears, and they pray about the good things that are happening in their lives. They even pray for all those that will be coming to Camp in the coming months! How cool is that!

Their conversation reminds me that even you don’t have to worry about what is happening in your life. Maybe school is getting more difficult or you aren’t getting along with your friends. No matter what is happening in your life you can always pray to God about it and He will hear you. You can pray for your friends and family, there is nothing too big or too small for God! Isn’t God amazing! He loves us so much that wants to always talk with us!

