



**YELLOWSTONE  
ALLIANCE  
ADVENTURES**

Luke & Genevieve Smith

# Newsletter



## SUMMER REFLECTIONS

Hey everyone, Luke here. It has been a few months since the conclusion of Summer 2025 at Yellowstone Alliance Adventures (YAA). As many of you may know, I have the joy of running the Day Camp program here! Let's start it off with some highlights from the summer:

1. **Witnessing Staff Growth:** In my first experience working with exclusively high school-aged staff, I saw many people grow in their capacity to love well. What a beautiful thing!
2. **Leading Worship & Motions:** I love leading worship! It was so fun to learn new songs and bring some of my favorites to YAA!
3. **Being a Camp Speaker for the first time!** Embodying the Word was such a joy!

Because I started working at YAA last fall, this summer was my first experience with YAA's summer camp programs. This summer was full of new things for me, including embracing the challenge of



leading a program that I only knew in theory. I spent much of the summer taking notes on program elements, activities, schedule details, and camp policies. It was a summer full of new paces, new places, and new people – I am learning to love them all!

Speaking of new places, we are in the middle of a capital campaign to expand camp's impact. This summer, we broke ground on five new two-story cabins and a waterfront area! I am so excited to see how God uses these spaces to bring people restoration, healing, and abundant life to our campers and guests! Now, we are raising money to rebuild our old Chapel into a two-story Gathering Space large enough to accommodate 200 people. This is a place we hope will facilitate encounters with Christ through worship, sacrament, and word. If you are interested in donating to this project, please check out <https://www.yaacamp.org/ascend-campaign>. Watch the video, read the page, and of course reach out to me with any questions you may have!

## Welcome Back!

... to the Saga of the Smiths! In this edition, we provide an update on the ministry of Summer 2025, explain what Luke's life looks like in the "off" season, and give a few updates from our personal lives.

Thank you SO MUCH to everyone who has prayerfully and financially supported Luke's ministry at YAA this year! Your generous support has raised 90% of Luke's \$15,000 goal for 2025. Please consider sharing an end-of-year gift to push us to the finish line for the year!



Fall 2025



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[www.yaacamp.org/discover](http://www.yaacamp.org/discover)

Please consider  
supporting camp  
financially!  
(Tax deductible)



## A NEW SEASON

I have been writing about “summer” as if it only involved Day Camp. In reality, the beginning and end of the summer season is largely taken up by the other part of my job title: Rental Group Coordinator. Starting as far back as April, groups begin holding “long-stay” (more than 2 nights) retreats. May and August were booked full, and I even hosted a weeklong rental group in June!



By late August, most long-stay groups were over and I transitioned back into hosting weekend retreats. This fall, God has been teaching me more about the value of hospitality and how to cultivate open spaces where our guest groups can come and meet Christ in me. In addition to hosting fall retreats, I am also hard at work planning for Summer 2026: recruiting staff, setting strategy for the rental groups department, budgeting, running community events, interviewing candidates, writing policies, preparing the grounds for winter, training seasonal staff, etc. In light of this long list, it is sometimes challenging to know what to prioritize. Please pray for wisdom and direction on what is most important in each season of work. Although it has been a full season, I am grateful to work in a beautiful place and be growing into new levels of leadership here.

## PERSONAL UPDATES

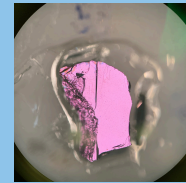
Hey Team, Genevieve here! We have an exciting update – Luke and I joined an Anglican church plant this summer! The return to liturgical, sacramental, and embodied worship is a delight to my soul. It has been sweet to see God invite Luke and I to serve in our giftings through specific roles at church. I am volunteering as a church administrator: organizing spreadsheets, designing name tags, and baking bread for Communion! Luke loves to jump in and lead worship as his schedule allows.



## NEWS FROM THE LAB

This summer I experienced a difficult workload transition from mostly classwork to solely research. I am grateful for a very supportive advisor and prayers and encouragement from many of you all! I have also been so grateful for God’s gift of keeping camp in my life through Luke’s job – it is a blessing to find rest in places and people that feel like home! Research now fills my days, which involves growing crystals and measuring their physical properties to study how electrons in solid objects organize themselves into different patterns depending on the conditions they experience. The “sciencey” way to say this is that I study quantum ground states of electrons in condensed matter. Growing crystals that are large/high enough quality for my studies has been challenging. Despite the ups and downs, the Lord has

provided enough crystals for my next big project: a neutron scattering study at Oak Ridge National Lab in TN. Please pray for safe travels and conclusive data! Technical woes aside, the relationships I have built in the lab this year have been a great encouragement to me. In addition to my faithful grad friends, I now have two undergrads working for me and we have two Brazilian professors visiting our lab for the year! My favorite moments involve laughing and collaborating with all of them.



## ANSWERED PRAYERS

- Much to our surprise, we felt like we had plenty of time together this summer, even with our crazy schedules! Thank you, Lord!
- The Lord provided for one batch of large crystals in September.
- Quality summer staff. We did not meet our number goal, but had better people than we could have possibly asked for! Praise!

## PRAYER REQUESTS

- May the Lord provide exactly what Genevieve needs for her to accomplish her Ph.D research.
- Give Luke focus and motivation.
- Draw us near to Him as we seek to walk in obedience and faith.

## ASK US ABOUT . . .

- Baking sourdough(!)
- Visits from friends and family over the summer. (Special thanks to our parents!)
- Luke’s first (few) summit hikes!
- Car repair woes and wins.
- Our first anniversary!

\*Please note that your donations support the ministry of YAA overall, not Luke’s salary directly.

Fall 2025