Upon the surge of Covid-19 in the states, many camps across the nation had to face difficult decisions regarding the upcoming summer. These decisions ranged drastically across subjects: financially, missionally, and the status of their regularly held summer camp programming.

Luther Crest decided early on that by providing on-site summer camp, we may be in turn risking the safety of our full-time staff, summer staff, retreat guests, campers, and families. We decided that as an organization, that we would need to cancel our on-site summer programming until further notice.

Because the status of the upcoming summer was rather difficult to navigate, Luther Crest began planning an alternative to summer camp programming during the end of March 2020. Although the on-site programming was suspended, Luther Crest had thirty-eight summer staff that were willing to put forth a program in alignment with our mission statement: to inspire faith, community, and stewardship in God’s creation. This being said, the program team began their work to put forth an accessible program that aligned with the values and mission of the organization.
BOLD TRANSFORMATIONAL FAITH

The Bold Transformational Faith program was initiated to provide a faith formation experience for all people during a summer where it was risky to gather. The Luther Crest year-round staff, along with 38 gifted summer staff, implemented the program which was composed of three parts.

Live Worship
Accessible to the public, Luther Crest staff members provided daily worships Sunday-Friday for folks to experience God's love through praise and thanksgiving. It was a way to celebrate our spiritual connectedness while we were socially distanced.

Online Small Groups
Online small groups existed for all ages throughout the summer. They included a weekly Bible Study as well as community building activities. These groups met via Zoom once a week.

Camp Activities On-Demand
There's nothing like being at camp and learning new things with new friends, but if we couldn't do that, why not bring camp to people's homes. We did this by creating camp activity videos that were published on Youtube for anyone to access. We also sent out camp kits to folks to enhance this "camp at home" experience. Kits included Bible Study materials, arts and crafts materials, and notes from our summer staff!

Our BTF program also was able to extend out into our congregations. In August, our staff provided curriculum, videos, online small group platform and Bible Study, administration, and materials for congregations to host an online faith formation experience! This model has extended out into this school year and we have been partnering with congregations to provide Faith Formation in a variety of ways for congregations between here in Minnesota all the way to New Jersey as we have collaborated with Cross Roads, a camping ministry in New Jersey.