**Camp Commissioning Service**

Litany of Blessing:

**Leader: Once again, O Lord, we turn to the season of summer fun, church camp and outdoor activities.**

People: We praise you, God, for the beauty of the world, and for the turning of the seasons that you have ordained.

**Leader: Grant that we shall use the refreshment of this time of the year to find a greater sense of your presence in our lives. Grant that our children and youth find a greater sense of your presence in their lives while they are apart from this family of families.**

People: Help us to see you in the beauty of nature, in the activities of the season, and in the faces of our friends. Let this be a time when we see more clearly, feel more deeply, and discover you more intimately in everything we do.

**Leader: Protect these young ones in their travels and in their cabins; in their small groups learnings and their large group activities; in their waking and in their sleeping; in their laughing and in their loving.**

People: And keep us mindful of one another while we are apart. Teach us the strength of love in the absence of presence.

**All: Through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.**

Prayer:

There is excitement in the air, O God. Our hearts are lifted up at the sense of something important that is about to happen. A lot of children and youth are going to gather within your sacred space at camp for several days of special activities. They will sing and learn and play together. Their counselors and leaders will be happy to share this time with them. Your name will be glorified in everything that happens. They shall have a sense of your presence, and know that something significant is happening within their lives. What happens this summer will cast its blessings upon the rest of their lives. They shall feel your love and care more intensely because of these days they spend in the hills of Casey County. This will affect how they feel about everything—their play, their family lives, their circle of friends, the trips they make, their return to school in the fall, whatever they do. Therefore, we thank you and pray for special blessings for every single youth and child who will take part in Outdoor Ministries this summer, and for the counselors, directors and camp caretakers as well. Reveal yourself in the very excitement they feel, dear God, and help them to know you as the God of all excitement. For there is nothing in the world more exciting than knowing you. ~Amen.

**Presentation to each camper a journal for their week away from church and home.**