

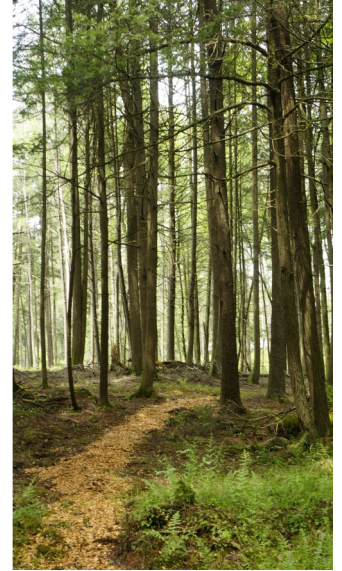
# Krislund's "Thin Spaces"

The Irish Celts have often shared the idea of "thin spaces," where the environment breaks down barriers and allows for an easy spiritual connection with God. Krislund has what many might consider "thin spaces" where they have encountered God and grown in their relationship to Him.

When Krislund was developed in 1963, the very camp itself was established as a thin space when its first Director, Rev. Torsten Edvar, recommended that the name reflect "Christ's Land" or "Krislund" in Swedish.



Krislund offers many places throughout the camp where campers, retreaters, and guests can feel close to God, his son Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. It might be around a simple campfire in the middle of the day or around meal times when campers gather to share their faith stories or study a Bible lesson. In the early days of Krislund when "family groups" of campers spent lots of time in their "home in the woods," time around the campfire was central to their camping experience.



## Bonfires

The thin space might be manifest around an evening bonfire when songs are learned that stay with you for a lifetime. Songs are usually led by counselors while they play a guitar or banjo. One song at Krislund that is a favorite of the earliest campers as well as the 2023 campers is *I Am the Resurrection*.



The chorus message is very clear:

*I am the resurrection and the life.  
He who believes in me will never die.  
I am the resurrection and the life.  
He who believes in me will live a new life.*



## Chapel in the Woods

One of the first chapels that was built was located near the current adventure park. It was known as the Vespers Circle and was used for evening vespers and other worship services for several decades. In 2017, under the leadership of camp Director Gene Joiner, the chapel was refurbished and renamed the Green Cathedral...perhaps reflecting the height of the trees that tower over the bench seats. The beauty of the surrounding woods has not changed even though the trees are 60 years older. This outdoor chapel provides a thin space for camper, retreat and alumni worship services and also for weddings and renewal services.



## **Nitefest at the Amphitheater**

In the early 2000s, under Director Steve Cort, a new amphitheater was built with support from the Pine Street Presbyterian Church in Harrisburg in memory of Roberta Adams, the wife of Rev. Richard Adams who was the Pine Street pastor at the time. For many years it has been the primary location of the evening worship service which was sometimes called Nitefest. Pastors from throughout the three presbyteries have volunteered to serve as chaplains and often meet with campers and counselors in discussion as well as provide an evening message at the worship service. The service usually starts with lots of singing led by summer staff. Campers often indicate this is one of their favorite parts of camp. The Roberta Adams Amphitheater is one of those thin spaces at camp where people of all ages can be close to God.



## **Krislund's Natural Beauty**

While campfires, chapels, and the amphitheater provide opportunities for singing, sharing and experiencing rich worship experiences, none are more awe inspiring than the natural beauty of Krislund itself...Christ's Land. One of the special natural areas at Krislund is the "Bald Spot." It is a rocky space on a nearby mountain from which you can look down on the camp and experience the solemn wonder of a beautiful sunset. Years ago counselors and campers erected a crude cross near the rocky area to symbolize what they experienced there.

Whether you sit around a cozy campfire or before a roaring bonfire, worship in an outdoor chapel, walk the labyrinth, or stroll through the wooded trails and read the inspirational messages on the signs along the way, Krislund offers many thin spaces which allow you to feel the presence of God. You are invited to come to Krislund to enjoy the awesome wonder of Christ's Land.