



DOOR POSTS

from Camp Zion - Door County's Christian Camp

God Will Provide

Christian camps have been hit especially hard by the COVID shutdown, as the bulk of our annual income comes in during the summer months.

Camp Zion's income is down by at least \$116,000 over last year. We have cut expenses, but still have ongoing needs. It's going to take some time to get back to normal.

We care about our camper families, and offered them the option of a full refund, or to transfer their fees as a donation.

We are grateful for the good work of the Christian law firm of Mauck & Baker on behalf of our dining hall application process. Their team is critical to the success of the project. Legal fees have been substantial, almost as much as we take in in donations in a year.



A number of years ago, the Camp Leadership Team wisely established an emergency reserve fund. That fund has carried us thus far through this challenging time.

But now, the reserve fund needs to be replenished so that it is available for future needs.

You may know that we were the recipients of a large bequest from the estate of Mary Neketuk back in February. We are forever indebted to her foresight and generosity! We plan to use that money for the dining hall and scholarships.

Will you help keep camp going for future generations? Please give today at campzion.com

Summer Camp in the Year of COVID

In early March, our spring and summer registrations were way ahead of normal, and it was looking like a banner year for Camp Zion! Then, COVID 19 and the shutdown happened, and everything came to a screeching halt. We cancelled all retreats through June, but still hoped that we could have some type of summer camp.

After much study and prayer, we felt that we could meet the health guidelines. We modified our summer season to allow for shorter sessions, half of our normal summer campers, and fewer staff.

Modified Summer Camp went well, and **NO COVID!** Camper attendance ended up being less than anticipated, and the sessions were certainly different. But even with masks and social distancing, the kids still had **fun!** And most importantly, lives were **changed** by the power of the Gospel.

We couldn't have pulled off Modified Summer Camp without the staff's superb efforts. They stepped up to the plate, took on added responsibilities, and "knocked it out of the park". **Thank you, Staff!**

Dining Hall Update

On March 9, we filed for a Conditional Use Permit and variance request for the new Dining Hall & Fellowship Center. A few days later, the world shut down, including our variance hearing before the Door County Zoning Board of Adjustment. The hearing was eventually re-scheduled for July 7, and after a 5-hour meeting, the Board rejected our plans for the second time in 5 years.

On August 14, we filed a complaint asking a federal court to decide where we may locate the new dining commons and fellowship center to replace our 35-year old, obsolete facility.

"We planned the building in the exact area the County designated for institutional use," said Camp Director Dale Stewart. "We located it exactly where County staff agreed is the best site, and designed a short, elevated walkway, ideal for special needs children and the elderly and meets Americans with Disabilities Act requirements."

"It was disheartening to see Board members speculate about multiple possible sites far away in woodland areas that would burden the camp and our guests, destroy hundreds of the beautiful trees we love so much, and force the building to stand out rather than blend in with the Northwoods setting that makes this place so special."



In its decision, the Board said locating elsewhere was not an unnecessary burden or hardship because the disabled could be transported in vehicles.

"They really don't understand," Stewart said. "A huge part of camping is just being together. We've seen it many times over the years - spontaneous conversations on the way to meals and events open hearts and minds and spark lifelong decisions and

2020 Dates

- Sep. 4-7 - Family Camp
- Sep. 18-20 - Women's Fall Retreat
- Sep. 24-27 - Fall Quilt & Craft
- Sep. 28-Oct. 4 - Quilt Camp II
- Oct. 9-12 - Sr. High Fall Retreat
- Oct. 16-18 - Men's Retreat
- Oct. 23-25 - Jr. High Fall Retreat
- Oct. 30-Nov. 1 - Youth For Christ Leaders

ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Happy, Generous Friends

My wife and I thought of Camp Zion at the same time the other morning. We both felt led to donate, so here you go! This is not our money, it's God's!"

-Alums who met while at camp

This place means more to me than you could ever know; it helped saved my soul...the community here is so God-honoring and loving. God has put it on my heart to give a tithe to camp from now on...I will give back to what I can, because Camp Zion is truly a blessing. P.s. Sorry for being such a trouble when I was a young camper. Thanks for the grace!

-High School camper



Camp Zion Giving Options

- Camp Zion Advance.** Our general giving fund.
- Scholarships.** Donors contribute \$50,000-60,000 per year to cover operational shortfall costs.
- Dining Hall & Fellowship Center.** Our new dining and meeting facility.
- Staff Support.** Goes toward paid staff who are helping to raise the funds that make it possible for them to be employed at camp.
- Memorials.** Honor a deceased loved one by asking friends to give a memorial gift.
- Planned Giving & Estate Planning.** Keep camp strong after you are gone with a legacy gift.
- Gifts of stocks, property,** or other financial instruments.
- Gifts In Kind.** Useful items in good shape.

Gifts are **tax-deductible** to the full extent allowed by law. We honor gifts given to our giving categories, unless that need has already been met. Camp Zion has complete control over the use of all donated funds.

Camp Zion is a charter member of the Christian Camp & Conference Association, and is a ministry of Christ Community Church of Zion, Illinois (member of National Association of Evangelicals)
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friendships. The goal of ADA and Camp Zion is to give everyone the same access to those experiences, not isolating some people with repeated rides in a separate van to a separate entrance."

"Forcing the elderly and special needs campers to ride in vehicles would create more traffic, not less. And buying a properly equipped van, then training and paying staff to transport them could easily cost twenty percent of our annual budget, not to mention the disruption to scheduling and hardship on the guests themselves."

"We keep fees as low as possible so that children from all families can attend," Stewart explained. "Our donors sacrifice to make up the difference. Those funds should be helping children. We can't keep spending hundreds of thousands of dollars trying to guess where the Board might allow us to build."

In 2015, we applied for permission to build the new facility on the shorefront parcel. The Town of Liberty Grove Board approved the plans and the Door County Resource Planning Committee granted a permit to build. However, several area residents appealed to the Board, which overturned the Committee's decision.

Rather than challenge the Board's decision in court, we spent the last 5 years and an additional \$300,000 responding to the Board's concerns. Besides the usual impact studies and management plans, we again purchased more land, conferred with County officials and neighbors, retained leading design and engineering firms, designed a low-visibility structure on a site designated for institutional use, reviewed the site with County zoning staff, and chip-sealed both the main road and a new access road we built for neighbors in 2008.

When the Board rejected our plans yet again, Camp leadership determined that a judgment and resolution by the courts is the only alternative to yet more delay, expense, and uncertainty.

"We've already been damaged by years of delay, enormous development costs, and attorneys' fees. We simply can't afford 5 more years and hundreds of thousands more dollars guessing whether or not the Board will abide by its own zoning ordinance."

"We desperately need modern facilities that accommodate all campers together," Stewart said. "Mealtimes and other group activities are as essential to the Camp Zion family as they are to any other family. Now more than ever, young people and our other guests need to unplug from their media and connect with themselves, their family and friends, and their savior, Jesus Christ."

"Camp Zion strives to be a good neighbor and has broad support among area residents and businesses," Stewart said. "Camp is a positive force that makes significant contributions to the community and local economy. We've been here almost 75 years and, God willing, we will be here another 75 years building lives and relationships and proclaiming the life-changing power of new life in Christ."

Most Wanted List

For this edition, we are listing just **one need:**

volunteers! Food Service Director Carol Stewart is often looking for qualified people to serve in the kitchen. Operations Manager Matthew Gillmore has a long list of projects around camp that need workers in order to complete. Please contact us if you can help. You might want to organize a small crew to come up. The paint and stain is on us!

