



DOOR POSTS

[from Camp Zion - Door County's Christian Camp](#)

Where God Guides, He Provides

2020 has been one of the most unusual years ever. Through it all, God has been faithful. We are excited to see how He will provide for camp's needs!

When COVID hit, we knew that if we were able to open at all, our attendance and income would be down, which is exactly what happened. We care about our camper families, and offered the option of a full refund, or the chance to transfer their fees as a donation. Accordingly, Camp Zion's income from camper fees is down by nearly \$120,000 over last year. We have cut expenses, but still have ongoing operational expenses and staff salaries.

Architectural and legal fees related to our new Dining Hall have been substantial. When we are granted the permit for the new dining hall, Millenium Construction will be ready to hit the ground running, and we want to be sure to have the necessary funds already in hand.

A number of years ago, the Camp Leadership Team wisely increased the emergency reserve fund. That fund has carried us thus far through this challenging time, and now needs to be replenished.

More Than Ever, Kids Need Camp!

Turn on the news these days, and you might agree that our world is in trouble. We need good news. We need hope.

Now, more than ever, the unique environment of Camp Zion is one of the best places for kids to learn about the **Good News** of a relationship with Jesus Christ, **the only hope of the world.**

Even with all that is going on around us, there are exciting opportunities ahead for Camp Zion. God uses people like you to help make those opportunities become realities.

To help ensure that children and adults continue to hear the Gospel message and experience the joy of attending Camp Zion, **I would humbly ask that you include Camp Zion in your giving.** Gifts can be mailed in the enclosed donor envelope, or made online at campzion.com/donate. Setting up regular, **monthly giving** via your bank account or credit card can also be done online, or by contacting the camp office.

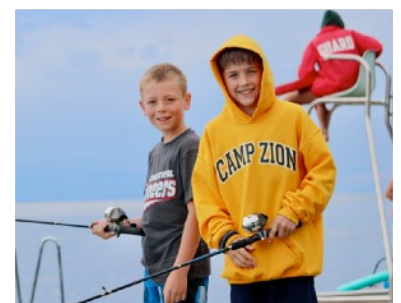
I want you to know how much our campers, staff and leaders appreciate you and your strategic partnership in the ministry of Camp Zion. Thank you, generous friends!

If you have any questions, want to share a camp story, or schedule a visit, please let me know.

We are hopeful for more normal times, yet trusting God, nevertheless!

Serving together,

Executive Director



Camp Files Suit In Federal Court

(from original press release)

On March 9, we filed for a Conditional Use Permit and variance request for the new Dining Hall & Fellowship Center. On July 7, after a 5-hour hearing, the Board of Adjustment 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 building 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 camp 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 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 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 20% 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."

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 their 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 road by camp, and a new access drive 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 five more years and hundreds of thousands more dollars trying to guess where the Board might allow us to build, and if they 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, will be here another 75 years, building lives and relationships and proclaiming the life-changing power of new life in Christ."

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We are blessed to be represented by the law firm of Mauck & Baker; committed Christians, professional, and knowledgeable. Their level of expertise and representation comes at a price, but in the end, we believe will achieve a positive result, to the glory of God.

Dining Hall Update

Work continues on dining hall plans with our partners from Fletemeyer & Lee Architects, Baudhuin Surveying & Engineering, Kitchen Consultants, and Millenium Construction. Depending on the progress of the litigation with the County, we hope to break ground sometime in 2021.

Unfortunately, construction costs have risen dramatically due to the long delays in getting the project started, and COVID-related supply-chain issues. Generous friends like you have donated a majority of the building funds, but **the project is not yet fully funded**. Additionally, we need funds to cover costs associated with:

- Wastewater treatment system
- Kitchen equipment (\$225,000 est., going up 6% in 2021)
- Dining room tables & chairs
- Meeting room furniture
- AV equipment
- Landscaping
- Related legal fees



Leave A Legacy

Did you know that you can support camp, **even after you are gone?**

We are truly blessed when people leave a **legacy gift** to ensure that camp continues for future generations! If you die without a will or trust, the government decides how to distribute your assets, which might not include ministries like church or camp.

Here's what one camp friend said to us recently (paraphrased).

Years ago, my wife and I made plans to include camp in our will. We love the kids, the impact camp has on Christ's Kingdom, and are glad to do this. Also, here's a check for right now; please use it where needed the most.

Did you catch the intentionality of the above comments? This couple knew that everything they have is on loan to them from God. Not only did they plan far ahead to make sure camp was included in their estate plans, but they gave a gift for current needs.

Legacy gifts of any size can make a huge impact on camp, and can come from a variety of sources (see right for some examples). Legacy gifts help fund major projects, upgrade existing facilities and equipment, and build up Camp Zion Advance, from which camper scholarships are funded.

Please let us know if you would like to discuss legacy gift opportunities.

Happy, Generous Friends

Camp Zion is where I first came to know Christ and met other great Christians who became my lifelong friends. Giving back to Camp Zion brings me such joy knowing that my funds are being used to give the next generation of campers the best possible experiences full of learning to know God, meeting great friends, and enjoying beautiful Door County.

-Young Alum

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 what I can, because Camp Zion is truly a blessing. P.S. Sorry for being such trouble when I was a young camper. Thanks for the grace!

Camp Zion Giving Options

Camp Zion Advance. Our general giving fund.

Scholarships. Donors contribute \$60,000 per year to keep camper costs down and assist those in need.

New Dining Hall & Fellowship Center.

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.

Legacy Gifts. Keep camp strong after you are gone through Planned Giving options.

Gifts of stocks, property, naming camp as a beneficiary of life insurance policies, or other financial instruments.

Gifts In Kind. Useful items in good shape.

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You can set up regular, monthly giving via your bank account or credit card at [campzion.com/donate](http://campzion.com/donate). Ask your employer about matching gift opportunities.

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. To receive 2020 tax credits, cash gifts must be received or postmarked by Dec. 31, 2020.

### 75 Years Of God’s Faithfulness

Youth and camp ministries were few and far between in 1945. However, early camp leaders Paul “Pete” Peters, Steve LaBelle, Frank Scaccia, and others from Christ Community Church in Zion, Illinois, had been doing youth ministry and youth camping trips since the late 1930s.

These men were quietly working on plans to turn their vision of starting a Christian camp into reality. Though they did not yet have the official blessing of church leaders, they began scouting out sites across Wisconsin where it might be possible to build a camp. They heard about Door County, and scheduled a trip to check it out.

In early 1946, the men asked the owner of the Beard Farm if they could hold camp on his property (about a mile south of our current site on Door Bluff Road). In exchange for picking his cherries, he agreed to let them have the first “Zion Camp” that summer.

Plans are well underway for our 75th season, and we can’t wait for 2021! God has given us the great privilege of ministering to thousands of campers of all ages over the past 75 years, and we have seen many **lives changed** by the Gospel. We are excited to see what He has in store during the next 75 years!



Early campers still like to say “We stayed in tents!”



Possibly the first “bus” trip to camp.

We look forward to sharing more 75th year Camp Zion stories over the next year, and would love to hear from you about your memories!



Larry Peterson (camper in 1946) and Arnie Stewart (camper in 1948) enjoying the 2020 Men’s Retreat

*Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6.19-21*

### Tentative 2021 Dates

- January 2 - Summer registration begins
- January 22-24 - Jr. High Winter
- February 12-15 - Sr. High Winter
- March 6 - Spaghetti Supper (in Zion)
- April 23-25—Lumberjack Work Wknd
- April 29-May 2 - Quilt & Craft Weekend
- May 10-16 - Spring Quilt Camp
- June 18-20 - Campamento de Familias
- June 27-July 1 - Primary Camp
- July 3 - Open House 7-10AM**
- July 5-10 - Jr. Girls Camp
- July 11-16 - Jr. High Camp
- July 18-23 - Jr. Boys Camp
- July 25-30 - Sr. High Camp
- Aug. 1-6 - HS 2.0
- Aug. 6-9 - Family Camp I
- Aug. 22 - Camp Reflections (in Zion)
- Sep. 3-6 - Family Camp II
- Sep. 17-19 - Women’s Fall Retreat
- Sep. 23-26 - Fall Quilt & Craft
- Sep. 27-Oct. 3 - Quilt Camp II
- Oct. 8-11 - Sr. High Fall Retreat
- Oct. 15-17 - Men’s Retreat
- Oct. 22-24 - Jr. High Fall Retreat

**ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE**



Camp Zion is a charter member of the Christian Camp & Conference Association, a ministry of Christ Community Church of Zion, Illinois (member of National Association of Evangelicals), and is licensed by the State of Wisconsin.



Past editions of Door Posts and are available at <https://www.campzion.com/camp-zion-news>

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