



DOOR POSTS

from Camp Zion - Door County's Christian Camp

Strengthen Our Hands

In Nehemiah 6, Nehemiah's enemies were trying to stop the Jews from rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem. *"They were all trying to frighten us, thinking, 'Their hands will get too weak for the work, and it will not be completed.' But I prayed, 'Now strengthen my hands.'"*

The new Dining Hall & Fellowship Center is the most ambitious project we have ever undertaken. We are at a critical moment in the project (see page 2), and **we need you to "strengthen our hands" so we can finish this much-needed facility.**

Over the next few months, several different giving phases will be announced.

The focus of this current fundraising phase is kitchen equipment. Ovens, refrigerators and freezers, storage shelves, serving line equipment, dishwashers, etc. have seen 30% cost increases. Due to long manufacturing lead times and to avoid additional price increases, **we need to place this order by the first of the year.**

We are grateful for a friend of the camp who has offered to kick off this phase of the dining hall project, **and has pledged \$100,000 toward the \$320,000 cost of kitchen equipment.**

Thank you in advance for your generosity. May God honor you as you help us reach the finish line!

Favorite Time of the Week!

I love Testimony Night at summer camp. On the last night of a session, seated around the campfire while the sun sets over the bay and stars begin to come out, kids get the chance to tell what they have learned, struggles they are facing, and how God is working in their lives. It is truly a special moment. We never know for sure how it is going to go, or what they might say, but there are always kids who share about truths they've learned in Bible Study, life-lessons they caught from caring staff members, and most importantly, hearts that were changed by the message of the Gospel.

As I sit on the bench listening to the testimonies, all the preparations, budgeting, planning, ordering, and otherwise mundane tasks suddenly become worth it all. It's easy to get emotional thinking about the amazing volunteers, staff, and donors who make camp possible.



When you give of your time, talent or treasure to camp, you don't have to be present at campfire to be a participant in the good things that happen there!

Please make sure that the ministry of Camp Zion continues by **including us in your giving.** Gifts can be mailed in the enclosed donor envelope, or given online at campzion.com/donate.

We encourage regular, **monthly giving** via your bank account or credit card, which can be done online, or by contacting the camp office.

God bless you, generous partners and friends!



Dale Stewart
Executive Director

Dining Hall & Fellowship Center Update: Common Questions, Real Answers

How's Construction Going?

We are happy to report that we are making progress on the new dining hall! Slowly, but surely, the building is taking shape.

Structural steel and much of the lower level infrastructure has been installed; sprinkler suppression storage tank, heat ducts, concrete floor, fireplace foundation, and stud walls are all in. At the time of this printing, we are awaiting the arrival of floor trusses so the framing crews can continue their work.



Ready For Floor Trusses

Since receiving our Conditional Use Permit just over a year ago, we've encountered significant delays due to supply-chain and worker shortage issues. A delay in any step in the process throws the schedule off for all the other sub-contractors.

When Will It Be Done?

The original goal was a move-in date of May of 2023. The construction delays mean that a fall 2023 move-in date is more realistic.

How Much \$\$ is Needed?

The cost of construction today with all the associated building codes can make one's head spin!

In early 2020, estimates from multiple general contractors

ranged between \$2.9-4M. After more detailed construction drawings were completed a year ago, the official cost estimate was \$4.2M. That number did not include architectural and legal fees (already paid out), furnishings, AV and technology, landscaping.

Unfortunately, costs have risen even more dramatically since we began excavation a year ago. Record inflation has hurt, and some materials go up in price weekly. (Have you noticed the price of a loaf of bread, lately?!). Excavation work in the extreme rocky conditions has been more difficult than expected, even for Door County. Construction crews are traveling from great distances.

We have been blessed with generous donors that have helped keep this project moving forward over the last 10 years or so. Additionally, we have benefited from several significant bequests. A generous camp friend who wanted us to build the new dining hall sadly passed away 2 years ago. He had included camp in his will, and we are currently awaiting the results of his approx. \$1M pending bequest, which is slowly working its way through the courts.

So far, we have paid \$3,323,046 to the builder. Due to circumstances beyond our control, the "balance to finish" dollar amount has risen from \$1.2M to \$1.8M.

For a number of reasons, **pausing this project while we wait for additional funds to come in is not practical or advisable.** We have to keep going!

Camp Zion operates as a no-debt organization. However, in this situation, we have limited options, and may have to take out a line of credit or other financing in order to keep the workers working. Please pray for the Camp Board (CCC Elders) as they work through the best option to keep the project going forward.

How Can I Help?

- ✳ Pray. Pray for God's financial provision and direction.
- ✳ Give. Give sacrificially.
- ✳ Volunteer. We need people to cut and trim branches for the septic field, and pick and sort stone for fireplace, and later, we will be seeking people to help paint interior walls.
- ✳ Keep the encouraging words on Facebook and Instagram coming! *SO exciting! We've been waiting for this for a long time! Finally! Beautiful. Amazing!*
- ✳ Spread the word to friends, family, and churches about our awesome summer camps, guest group retreats, and the new dining hall.



Lower Level Is All Framed-In

A Camper Story; God at Work

Enjoy excerpts from one of our summer staff member's college entrance essay:

We were now only two hours away from camp, and that scared me....Ironically, I was feeling this anxiety over attending a Christian camp with a message that "God wanted me here and I was here for a reason....

...This year felt different. Making my way down the steps of the bus once we arrived, I saw a poster hung by a tree that read "IDENTITY" that made my legs shake. I didn't want or need the pastor I've known for years to tell me who I was and who I wasn't.



In a strange twist of fate, the first hour at camp didn't find me doodling in my book or having a stare down with the clock. Instead, I found my pen flying in my hand as I wrote down every detail the pastor was saying. Knowing that everyone my age and even people older than me were

struggling with the same word that was hanging on that tree brought me a sense of relief. The hot and sweaty bus I dreaded brought me to a place where broken people come to get glued together with the soft words of others, praising worship songs, and the calming influence of nature.

I aspire to be a camp counselor like the ones I once and still look up to. I am inspired by how they live in honor of Christ. Those people cared about my well being, and truly touched my heart just by volunteering a week out of their busy lives to spend time with campers.



Camp Zion Giving Opportunities

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. Help us reach the finish line.

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. Plan ahead! Don't let a judge decide what happens to your assets.

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.

Employer Matching Gifts. Check with your employer to see if they will match your gifts to camp.

Amazon Smile. Make your Amazon purchases through Amazon Smile, choose Camp Zion Inc as the organization you want to support, Camp gets a donation! <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/83-1657852>

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You can set up regular, monthly giving via your bank account or credit card at 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 2022 tax credits, cash gifts must be received or postmarked by Dec. 31, 2022.

CAMP ZION DINING HALL AND FELLOWSHIP CENTER

Camp Zion’s Special Ingredient–Volunteers

Without volunteers and donors, there is no Camp Zion.

We are incredibly grateful for hundreds of past and present dedicated volunteers. However, the nature of any volunteer organization is that we are always needing to **replenish the ranks**.

Volunteers are needed for summer youth camps, weekend retreats, and work parties throughout the year. We need new people to help cook, wash dishes, maintain facilities, landscape flower beds, and care for campers.

Ordinary people with an extraordinary vision built camp. Maybe God is nudging you to volunteer your time and talent to carry on the mission? **Contact us about getting involved!**



Ongoing Camp Needs

In addition to being in the midst of a major building project, we still have other ongoing financial needs and normal wear and tear that need to be funded. Here are a few examples:

- ✦ The south pier on our waterfront was damaged in a storm and needs to be rebuilt. We have received a DNR permit, and hope to begin work when the dock builder can get material, sometime in 2023. The est. \$210,000 cost will come out of the Camp Zion Advance fund, though that could be reduced by using volunteers for the concrete work.
- ✦ Zach Richards began his new job as Director of Operations in June, and we are glad he’s here! Donations to the Staff Support Fund help make it possible for us to have additional year-round staff.
- ✦ Our Scholarship Fund provides assistance to a number of kids who could not otherwise afford summer camp. We try to keep the price of camp reasonable, and camper fees do not cover all the costs of running camp. The operational shortfall (essentially a scholarship to campers) is covered from CZA funds.

2023 Dates

- January 2 - Summer registration begins
- January 27-29 - Jr. High Winter
- February 17-20 - Sr. High Winter
- March 4 - Spaghetti Supper (in Zion)
- [April 27-30 - Quilt & Craft Weekend](#)
- [May 5-7–Lumberjack Work Wknd](#)
- [May 15-21 - Spring Quilt Camp](#)
- June 16-18 - Campamento de Familias
- June 25-29 - Primary
- July 1 - Open House 7-10AM**
- July 2-7 - Jr. Girls
- July 9-14 - Jr. High
- July 16-21 - Jr. Boys
- July 23-28 - Sr. High I
- July 30-Aug. 4 - Sr. High 2.0
- Aug. 4-7 - Family Camp I
- Aug. 20 - Camp Reflections (in Zion)
- [Sep. 1-4 - Family Camp II](#)
- [Sep. 15-17 - Women’s Fall Retreat](#)
- [Sep. 21-24 - Fall Quilt & Craft](#)
- [Sep. 28-Oct. 1 - Quilt Camp II](#)
- Oct. 6-9 - Sr. High Fall Retreat
- [Oct. 13-15 - Men’s Retreat](#)
- Oct. 27-29 - 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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