

Lutheran Bible Camp, Inc.

CHRISTIKON 2020

Rev. Mark Donald, Executive Director



In a year dominated by pandemic, masks, uncertainty, we are thankful for the opportunity to do ministry. Preparation to safely hold camp sessions is challenging, but all our effort ends up providing a powerful experience for those who come to camp. A few numbers that tell something of the year past, and/or point to the upcoming camp season:

- **285+**...total guests in 2020 (down 60% from previous year)
- **2 + 2**...PPP loans and MT CARES Grants (respectively), which helped carry us through loss of spring Benefit Auction and summer guests
- **26**...staff served this summer, hailing from Montana, Iowa, Illinois, Colorado, Minnesota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Washington. 8 are new, and 14 returners.
- **0**...times staff leave camp this summer (part of their commitment to guest safety is agreeing to spend the entire summer at or around Christikon, including breaks)
- **5**...gallons of hand sanitizer purchased from Billings Company Trailhead Spirits
- **1**...theologian who lead last year's Continuing Education Retreat and Family Camp. **Rev. Dr. Karl Jacobson** (Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Minneapolis MN) worked with the theme: "Everything You Know About the Bible is Wrong." This summer **Dr. Hans Wiersma** is on tap.
- **70** (and counting)...years Christikon has served God's people faithfully and well; we consider ourselves an arm of ministry to congregations and the larger Church, both near and far.
- **15**...number of onsite and trails camps scheduled for next summer
- **200,000+**...funds available to start phase two of the Capital Campaign. Depending on how the coming months progress, we hope to complete the Boy's Dorm Remodel and rebuild the Lodge and Canteen decks this year
- **24**...slots available each summer in our Sojourners program (for kids from disadvantaged and/or troubled backgrounds—there is no cost to them)
- **1 of 3**...camps in MT accredited by the American Camping Association (ACA accreditation indicates that a camp meets rigorous industry-wide standards for camp safety, administration, health care, site adequacy, programming, and staffing)

We remain deeply grateful for the prayers, encouragement, support, and dedicated work of all involved in the Christikon ministry, and continue trusting God will get us where God wants and needs us to be.

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A few numbers that tell something of the year past, and/or point to the upcoming camp season:

- \$ **700+**...total number of guests this summer
- \$ **1**...guest who's week at camp led him from (first night) "I'm not sure there's a God..." to (last night) "I believe God knows who I am and loves me."
- \$ **23**...staff serving this summer, hailing from Montana, Virginia, Massachusetts, Colorado, Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Washington. 15 are new, and 8 returning.
- \$ **5 and 5**...number of whitetail deer who called our meadow home this summer, and number of bear sightings in camp (thankfully they called somewhere else in the canyon home)
- \$ **1 + 1**...theologian and vocation director leading our July 29-August 4 Continuing Education Retreat and Family Camp. **Rev. Dr. Mark Gravrock** (New Testament, Lutheran Bible Institute, Seattle Wa, retired) worked with the theme: "Now wait just a minute". When this question rises up, could it be that God is in that gut-response? This kind of Bible reading is all the more crucial for the political, social, and religious struggle we find ourselves in today. **Chris Johnson** (Principal, The Milkweed Group) examined the "Power of Story" in our lives, congregations and world.
- \$ **69** (and counting)...years Christikon has served God's people faithfully and well; we consider ourselves an arm of ministry to congregations and the larger Church, both near and far.
- \$ **1,000,000**...goal for our upcoming Capital Campaign
- \$ **500,000+**...initial commitments from Christikon Board and other lead givers. The first phase (renovation of 100 year old Blackfoot Lodge and South Bathhouse) is complete, and phase two (Boy's Dorm Renovation) is set for this summer
- \$ **50+**...developmentally disabled campers who come to Christikon (as far as we know we are the only camp in MT that serves this population)
- \$ **17**...kids from disadvantaged and/or troubled backgrounds that took part in our Sojourners camp
- \$ **1 of 3**...camps in MT accredited by the American Camping Association (ACA accreditation indicates that a camp meets rigorous industry-wide standards for camp safety, administration, health care, site adequacy, programming, and staffing)

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