

# FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER 2021



**YOUTH FOR CHRIST**  
PRAIRIE RIVER CAMP

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## DEAR PRAIRIE RIVER CAMP PARTNERS,

Thank you for your partnership in reaching lost young people through the ministry of Prairie River Camp. Camps can have such an impact on reaching lost youth! It's about kids understanding how much God loves them and wants to have a relationship with them. We are separated from God because of sin, Jesus died for them on the cross to pay for their sin, so they could have a relationship with God by trusting Jesus to be their Savior.

Even though we have been in a pandemic we are still sharing Christ with lost kids. Winter camps are still underway with protective measures in place. We focus our eyes on Jesus and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit with all of our hearts. Love is our focus and I believe it's God's focus as well. We know that "God is love" and if we are of God we will love.

**"Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."**  
1 John 4:11

As well as loving others please pray without ceasing for all that the Holy Spirit puts on your heart. Loving and praying are two things that have powerful affects tied to them. This last year at one of the camps a girl shared with her cabin leader about past trauma and hurt she had endured. Her cabin leader shared Jesus with her, hoping that it could be a first step toward healing for this young woman. Even though we cannot be present with every student after they leave camp, Jesus can be. When no one is around, God is. Please pray for this young gal and all those who are attending this year's Winter Camps in February, that they will surrender all their hurts, hopes and dreams to the loving and caring arms of our Savior, Jesus.



As camp has been without many guest groups in the past year, the staff have not been without anything to do. In fact, it has been quite the opposite. There has been a lot of effort being made with the facilities, to make camp an even better experience. Staff have poured a cement basketball court, worked to make the Dining Hall operational, enclosed the picnic shelter to make it into a game room and canteen, and moved the offices to a bigger location in the same Canteen/ Game Room Building. Plans are being made to build an Outdoor Adventure Center building, attach the cooler/freezer addition to the Dining Hall, install a solar field as well as add onto the Maintenance Building in 2021. If you have some time and would like to help, give us a call.

Thank you for your support and prayers.

Reaching youth,

Greg Gudal  
Executive Director  
of South Central MN Youth For Christ

## BRING YOUR FAMILY TO PRAIRIE RIVER CAMP!

Our facilities are perfect for making memories with your family or friends that feel like family.  
Call 507.653.4700 for details!



# PRAIRIE RIVER CAMP 2021 SCHEDULE!

To register, visit [prairierivercamp.org](http://prairierivercamp.org)  
Or call 507.653.4700

## MIDDLE SCHOOL WINTER CAMP

6th-8th Grade Students

| FEBRUARY 26 - 28



## MIDDLE SCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

6th-8th Grade Students

| JUNE 14 - 18



## BOYS

### PAINTBALL CAMP

7-12th Grade Boys

| JUNE 21 - 25



## BEGINNER

### HORSE CAMP

8th-12th Grade Girls

| JUNE 22 - 26

## CO-ED

### PAINTBALL CAMP

7-12th Grade Students

| JUNE 28 - JULY 2



## HIGH SCHOOL

### SUMMER CAMP

9th-12th Grade Students

| JULY 12 - 16



## ADVANCED

### HORSE CAMP

9th-12th Grade Girls

| JULY 29 - AUGUST 1

## MINISTRY CAMP

9th-12th Grade Students

| AUGUST 3 - 8

## PASTOR'S KIDS/

### MISSIONARY'S KIDS

6th-12th Grade Students

| TBD

Due to the ever changing pandemic,  
dates are subject to reschedule.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING AT PRC?

One year, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, since we interviewed and accepted the call to Prairie River Camp. Seven months ago, we arrived on site and began learning about the ministry firsthand. A few days ago, we hosted our first High School YFC Winter Retreat, serving 28 students. What a fantastic time! The Lord challenged us to find alternate ways to have fun with windchills at -22 and below. Our team responded, and we heard things like, "That foam dart game was awesome! Can we play again?", "Minute-To-Win-It was so much fun!", "The food was great; I liked the PRC-fil-a sandwiches and waffle fries" and many more. We watched God work through Arron Oker's teaching times, and over ten kids rededicated their lives to Christ, **one first-time camper decided to follow Christ**, and several more said they grew closer in their walk. Praise to our Lord for His fantastic work in these hearts.

**So, where do we go from here?** Middle School Winter Camp! Prayers for a full camp (48 Students), for the Lord to bring the students He wants to be here, that the messages speak to them, and that the weather allows for more activities, students to have fun, and everyone remains safe.

**Then what?** Well, we have three new groups to host in March and May. We have openings for guests to fill for families and groups from now until Summer Camp starts, staff recruiting for Summer Camp, schedule and curriculum planning, staff interviews, building projects to finish and start (see Caleb's article), Ropes Course inspection, training, and the list goes on. All in God's time.

Our team will be reaching out for help from all of you. We are looking for college-age cabin staff for this summer; students to serve in the program, maintenance, food service; and adult volunteers to serve as prayer warriors (at camp and at home). We are so blessed by all of your prayers, encouraging words, gifts of time, and financial support. Through all these ways, you are laboring with us in this ministry.

*In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:6*

In His Service,  
Peter and Sherry Coffey - Prairie River Camp Director & Wife



## CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Greetings PRC Family,

The team at PRC is currently working in two major areas: the **Dining Hall** and the new **Rec. Room/Canteen**.

**The Dining Hall should be completed for Summer Camps!** This includes the new kitchen, deck, walk-in cooler and freezer, as well as the basement patio and retaining walls. Once the ground thaws, the outdoor projects will start, but for now, we are working to get the commercial kitchen finished and inspected within the next weeks.

The new **Rec. Room/Canteen** has been going for a few months now. We passed the electrical rough-in inspection and have started insulating. We did convert the space into a foam dart war zone because of the sub-zero temps at our High School Winter Camp, so it will need to be changed back into a construction zone again. It is already serving as a great space for indoor activities, and it is only about 70% completed. Despite being told by a few different people that we should stop construction and use this for Foam Dart Wars, once completed the Rec. Room will be used as a space for registration as campers arrive, and our new canteen as well as games and sitting area for guest groups.

As spring arrives we have multiple new projects starting up including our Outdoor Youth Activity Center, new parking lot, more sleeping quarters for campers, expanding our paintball program and installing our new solar system that will help us cut our electrical costs. Exciting things continue to happen at PRC, and we are so thankful for everyone involved!

In Christ,  
Caleb Sutton - Prairie River Camp Facilities Director

# WAYS TO FUND THE MISSION

Your faithful support is vital to the ministry of Prairie River Camp. In addition to regular giving, there are several unique options available. Below is a list of ways that others have helped and may be a good fit for you. It is because of your prayers and support that we have been able to reach young people in the Southern Minnesota area.



## Become a Team PRC Member

Team PRC Members make a 3-year commitment to monthly pledges (i.e. \$25, \$100, \$500, etc) or annual pledges (i.e. \$1,000, \$10,000, \$25,000, etc). Pledges can be made online at [prairierivercamp.org](http://prairierivercamp.org) or by mail. Checks should be pay to the order of: Prairie River Camp, and mailed to **SCMYFC, 116 W Clark St. Albert Lea, MN 56007**



## Real Estate Donation:

The value of real estate can often greatly increase the size of your estate. A real estate donation entitles you to a significant current tax deduction and can reduce the value of your estate, which can save or eliminate estate taxes. It can also provide a lifetime monthly income.



## Donation of Stocks & Mutual Funds:

Donating appreciated stocks or mutual funds can be a great benefit to both the donor and Prairie River Camp. As a donor of an appreciated stock or mutual fund, you are able to avoid paying capital gains tax on the appreciation of the asset. Also, as the donor of that security, you get to deduct the full fair market value of the security at the time of the gift, if you have held the security for longer than 12 months.



## Wills & Trust Bequests:

A bequest through a will or trust is the most popular form of planned giving. By remembering Prairie River Camp in a will or trust, you are looking past your own lifetime to further the work of the kingdom through the Prairie River Camp Endowment Fund. These gifts ensure that Prairie River Camp will always be ready to reach out to young people.



## Charitable Gift Annuities:

You make an irrevocable gift, generally using cash, maturing CD's, or securities in exchange for lifetime guaranteed payments, the amount of which is based on the value of your gift and the age(s) of the payment recipients. In addition, the donor receives an immediate income tax deduction, and a portion of each payment is income tax free!

## CAMP STORY

Supporters of PRC,

We were able to have our High School Winter Camp this month! At the end of our speaker's message on the last day, I walked around with a mic challenging the students to share one thing that either God taught them this week, or something that they learned about God. At first it was dead silent, but after a few awkward moments we had a younger girl raise her hand. I had noticed her a few times over the weekend, but she never said much. I felt like the Lord had told me to keep waiting. Then she spoke up, and said:

**"For the first time I feel like I am loved, I am cared for, and that I belong."**

Then she smiled and sat down.

A few minutes later a young man spoke up, and said:

**"I liked what the speaker said about how we are not just animals. We are created in the image of God!"**  
He seemed so amazed, and then sat down.



As we continue to hear from campers about their experiences at camp we are amazed by the power of God, and His ability to touch the lives of these campers, and change their hearts. We have so many more camps on the calendar for 2021, and we can not wait to see how God uses us for His will!

Alex Melin - Prairie River Camp Program Director

# STAY AT PRC!

## **LODGE, CABIN, RV & SEASONAL TENT CAMPING!**

Here at Prairie River Camp, we want to invite you to bring your family or church group to spend quality time at our facilities!

Facilities include: Prayer Cabin, Six Year-Round Cabins (sleeps up to 10 people), River Lodge, Cups of Faith (kitchen),

The Shelter (Dining Hall), Prayer Chapel, The Church, Amphitheater (summer only), Playgrounds & Firepits.

**For inquiries, or to make reservations  
please call 507.653.4700**

## **Online Donations Accepted!**

Would you like to give via credit card or set up a regular monthly donation?  
Visit [prairierivercamp.org](http://prairierivercamp.org) and click on Giving.



**Follow Us On  
Social Media!**



We are excited to update you regularly on what is happening at camp! We also post contests and prizes for you to WIN camp goodies!

**@prairierivercamp**

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook!



**thrivent®**

Thrivent policy holders may qualify to apply for one or more \$250 Action Team projects each year. If you would like to know how these funds can help Prairie River Camp, please contact Greg at 507.383.1782.

# MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

## In Memory Of:

Alpha Kingstrom  
Andy Gudal  
Arlen Legred  
Janel Beckman  
Jerry Gudmonson  
Marvis Risius  
Robert Stensland  
Tara Elsborg

Every effort has been made to ensure this list is accurate and complete. If we have inadvertently omitted, misspelled, or otherwise improperly reported your name, please accept our apologies and contact us at 507.653.4700.

## Given By:

Shirley Gudal  
David and Missy Gudal  
Shirley Gudal  
Lee and Sharyl Johnson  
Robert and Julie Aamodt  
Robert and Julie Aamodt  
Shirley Gudal  
Robert and Julie Aamodt

## PRAISES

- Praise God for the youth who have registered and attended camp this year, that the message of Jesus' love would be heard and received!
- Praise God for the grants and special donations that have been given in order to complete our new facilities!
- Praise God for the health of our staff and families!
- Praise God we received a pick-up truck donation!

## CAMP NEEDS

- Multiple Passenger or Utility Golf Carts
- Wood Chipper (PTO or Engine)
- 65" or Smaller Tiller for JD 3720 (Model: RT1165)
- 70HP or Higher Skid Steer on Tracks (Grapple Bucket and Forks would be a plus)
- Front Mount Snow Blower for JD X748
- Gas Pole Saw

## VOLUNTEER NEEDS

- Helpers for Summer Camps
- Painting, cleaning and assistance with general work projects around camp

To volunteer, contact us at 507.653.4700 or email  
[Peter@prairierivercamp.org](mailto:Peter@prairierivercamp.org)

## LEAVE A LEGACY

### MEMORIAL PLAQUES AVAILABLE ON OUR PRC MEMORIAL TREE

Two plaque options available:

- Option 1: \$125 Gold Plaque
- Option 2: \$500 Larger Plaque

For inquiries, or to purchase a memorial plaque  
please call 507.653.4700



# YOUTH FOR CHRIST

PRAIRIE RIVER CAMP

52792 80th St.

Bricelyn, MN 56014

Non-Profit Orgn.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Permit No. 343  
Albert Lea, MN



## BRING YOUR FAMILY TO PRAIRIE RIVER CAMP!

Our facilities are perfect for making memories with your family or friends that feel like family.  
Call 507.653.4700 for details!