

SHELDON CALVARY CAMP

Emerging from the intense isolation, caution, and care of the Covid-19 pandemic, Sheldon Calvary Camp enjoyed a return to more fully enrolled camping sessions in the summer of 2022, serving 705 individual campers, some for more than one session. We were also able to welcome families for Family Camp and Labor Day Camp.

In 2020, The Camp Board and Directors made the difficult decision to close completely, for the first time in our history. By 2021, with careful Covid protocols in place, we were able to welcome approximately one half of our usual camper population, and to have an entire season with no coronavirus infections. It was only with the emergence of new variants in 2022 that we had people who tested positive for Covid-19 at camp. As a result, we shortened the two week session this summer to allow for rest and recovery. We are grateful for the support and understanding of families as we have navigated these complex choices with the goal of keeping campers healthy and safe.

As campers were able to gather again, our consistent work of building community became particularly crucial. Reconnecting with peers, with recreational activities, and with familiar spaces and traditions was a powerful antidote to the disruption caused by the pandemic. Camp is intentionally a place to rediscover wholeness, faith, hope, and peace, and those gifts were deeply appreciated.

We continue to benefit from the newer facilities on our campus, and from the generosity shown by so many in supporting our ministry. Fishing at the pond is very popular. The Dining Hall is a great space for summer campers. Beyond the camping season, it has become a resource for the Ashtabula County community, hosting meetings, weddings, and other family and civic events. We look forward to the opening of the new amphitheater with a stunning lake view, and to the design of additional year round housing space for small group retreat use.

We were glad to welcome Bishop Ketlen Solak, who made two visits to the camp. The first was a chance to see the campus not long after her consecration, just as the lake effect snow was beginning to swirl. Her second visitation was to bless the camp staff in June, and to learn from them about what Calvary Camp means to them and the campers they serve.

As always, we are deeply aware of the wholehearted commitment of the Diocese and so many individuals to seeing that Sheldon Calvary Camp continues to be a place where all are welcome. In a time of uncertainty and division, we thank you for remaining with us, rooted in the unconditional love and the unquenchable light of Christ.

Tim Green, Executive Director
Susan Roth, Staff Development Director
The Rev. Leslie Reimer, Director of Spiritual Life

The Calvary Camp Board
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