

SHELDON CALVARY CAMP Report to Diocesan Convention 2023



In the 87th year of serving children, young people, and families, Sheldon Calvary Camp continues to be grateful for the care and support of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh. Bishop Solak visited during staff training week in June and offered a service of blessing for the summer ahead. This summer, the camp community was also enriched by the presence of visiting clergy who joined the regular worship in the Bishop Thomas Chapel to preach and to celebrate. The Rev. Erin Morey, the Rev. Brandon Cooper, the Rev. Sara Irwin, the Rev. Noah Evans, the Rev. Luke Zerra, and the Rev. Laura DiPanfilo shared their insight, their faith, and their energy generously with campers and staff. As a ministry of the Episcopal Church, the camp community enjoyed the opportunity to welcome a variety of voices from these clergy, and, in turn, to help them experience the spirit of Calvary Camp.

Calvary Camp is a foundational spiritual community for many, during and beyond their weeks or years at camp. Several former campers and staff brought their children to be baptized in the chapel this summer. A fourteen year old camper who had been engaged in a thoughtful, extensive exploration of religion and different traditions made the choice to become a Christian. He asked his family if the baptism could happen at camp. It is a profound privilege and joy to welcome new members of the household of God.

The summer camp experience is the primary ministry of Sheldon Calvary Camp. Camp programs reached seven hundred individual campers this summer, a number of them for more than one camping session. In the simple rhythms of day to day life together, children and young people come to understand, respect, and build friendships that grow from common humanity and transcend differences and divisions. Learning to love one another as beloved children of God is at the center of the camp's ongoing commitment. Calvary Camp also offers refreshment and relationship to the adults and children who participate in Family Camp and the increasingly popular Labor Day Weekend Camp.

This summer marked the first use of the new amphitheater for campfires. Campers and staff enthusiastically enjoyed the terraced space with seating for everyone and a spectacular sunset view. The amphitheater joins the Dining Hall and other camp facilities as a place of hospitality and welcome for local people. The extended season is full with celebrations and gatherings, such as weddings, class reunions, and graduation open houses. The warm, uncomplicated welcome and spirit of Calvary Camp sets it apart from commercial venues, and offers the same sense of community to all who come to the sacred place on the Lake Erie shore. We are grateful to all in the Diocese who sustain us with their prayer and their presence.

In faith,

Tim Green, Executive Director
Jenna Pasquino, Assistant Director
Susan Roth, Summer Camp Director
The Rev. Leslie Reimer, Director of Spiritual Life

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