

Bay Lake Camp est. 1926



Dear Friends of Church Island and Bay Lake Camp,

As treasured friends and neighbors of Church Island, we want to let you know about changes to the ownership and operating structure of Bay Lake Camp and invite you to meet with us to consider what the future might bring.

Despite great effort and much attention to Bay Lake Camp and the financial challenges associated with the “great recession,” First Lutheran Church finds that it can no longer operate Bay Lake Camp by itself. In 2008, the recession deepened just as we completed large scale fundraising and rebuilding efforts on Church Island, while at the same time, limiting future development by placing Church Island in a conservation easement with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. This conservation easement will remain in effect forever. While we have experienced continued growth into a new business plan since that time, it has not developed as quickly as we had hoped. We are eager to explore ways in which we all can continue to enjoy, thrive, and grow through the camp experience on the Island and it’s many community based events throughout the year. Whether through life-changing leadership camps, weddings/family gatherings or spiritual pilgrimage, the journey to the island and back again, is one which produces memories for a lifetime. Each of us has a unique investment through our shared memories and our hopes for a thriving future for people of all ages and all walks of life.

With the future in mind, First Lutheran Church will be listing Church Island with Debra Flam and her team at Edina Realty with our priority being a sale to a non-profit entity or group of people with a like-minded mission, with whom we can partner. We look to you, our friends and supporters, for your ideas and suggestions to help build Church Island’s next chapter. We welcome your thoughts and questions, and we invite you to join us on Saturday, August 30th, at 9:00 a.m. in the Dining Hall at Bay Lake Camp, for a question and answer time as we hope to discover what will be the next step of the journey for Bay Lake Camp. **Whatever the future holds, our work together to place the Island in a legally protected, conservation easement will remain forever.** If you have questions or ideas or suggestions before that time, you may call Debra Flam (218-821-7229) or myself, Brenda Olson (651-247-0360).

Over the course of 88 years, First Lutheran Church has tried to be faithful to the task of creating a safe place and inspiring experiences for so many people. It is our hope that with the right group of people or entities, we might be able together, to continue this important work in the world. In the meantime, our work continues as it always has--welcoming all to experience the joys of life at the lake!

See you on the Island,

Brenda Olson, Camp Director
on behalf of First Lutheran Church and Bay Lake Camp Committee

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First Lutheran Church

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