

Creekside Currents



Letter from the Executive Director

by Jesse Klosterboer



My wife and I are parents of summer camp age kids (K-12). Like all parents, we think about the challenges and opportunities we've seen, and want our children to be ready for all of it. Even more, however, we hope they are ready for whatever their future world looks like.

Our kids are going to need technical skills and expertise, sure. Even more, though, they need what modern managers call "soft skills." For any future, in any job, it's those old-world *people skills* that are (and will be) most important to lead people, manage systems, and connect with the wonderful diversity our kids are encountering – the skills "screen-based childhoods" do not make room for.

Resilience (grit!), patience, wisdom, intuition, compassion – these are some of the strengths my grandparents used when they conquered fascism overseas, fought back two world powers, and then rebuilt our country following WWII. In all things they had endurance of faith that they, just like our kids, are "created to be" together in daily relationship with the One who made us, forgives us, and renews us to serve each other in love, as we walk together with Christ.

This is why as parents, summer Bible camp is *first priority* along with weekly worship when it comes to our kids' scheduling. Our kids are in

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

sports; it's fun and good, but we know Bible camp is always far more impactful than a few additional sessions of ball. *Camp goes deep.* It's more than an hour or two. In fact, every year, every week of camp, our kids learn & practice skills in natural ways that are only possible when the experience is "immersive." With the supportive community and well-led cabin groups, research shows accredited overnight camp programs give kids lasting *superpowers* of empathy as compared to kids not given the opportunity.

At Sugar Creek it's about making friendships, but it doesn't stop there. Camp teaches kids how to *cultivate* life-giving relationships, guided by scripture, rooted in God's love.

Camp counts more than ever. Today youth and young adults suffer more crippling anxiety than any other generation. Yet at camp they grow in healthy confidence. Our college-age staff feel this blessing too. They often talk about new leadership

abilities and vocational clarity after each summer at Bible camp. It's because camp guides young people to try new things (like ride a horse), do hard things (like paddle on against the waves), and gain pride from daily affirmations in a Spirit-led and Bible-fed community. The best part is that as parents, we trust God to be present in the word, in prayer, in action, and like Jesus with his young disciples, God is even present in the wilderness. In a safe, adventurous setting, God's loving and guiding Holy Spirit assures our beloved kids that they are never truly alone.

I believe all faithful parents want this for their kids... if they only knew of the powerful and unique ways Bible camp provides it. That's where you and I come in – to be God's hands, blessing thousands more to come learn to change the world for the better. We need to invite every parent and every child in your church, family, and community to sign up for that blessing. We need to invest in Bible camp. Let's make it first priority to offer kids lasting skills for faith and life.

2025 YOUTH RETREATS



March 22
Elementary Retreat
"Daily Bread"

February 7-8
High School Retreat
"Your Kingdom Come"

March 7-8
Confirmation
Retreat
"As it is in Heaven"



1 Night Retreat
Friday 7 pm –
Saturday 7 pm
Cost \$75/person

1 Day Retreat
Saturday 10 am – 7 pm
Cost \$50/person

Custom Retreats Available

Scan the QR Code to enroll now!

visit www.SugarCreekBibleCamp.org/youth-retreats
for more information.

2025 Summer Camp Registration Opens Friday, November 1

Plan something great for your child or grandchild this summer. The Sugar Creek Bible Camp experience is a great Christmas or birthday gift. Pick your program and session now so you can make your summer plans accordingly. The theme for Summer 2025 is God's Word Draws Near, based on Romans 10:8: "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart."

Camp helps youth explore Bible stories through the week to discover ways God's word comes near to us. This happens as we:

- ground ourselves in the salvation story that God, in Christ Jesus, has saved the whole world
- hear how God's story is intricately woven into each of our own stories through Jesus
- discover how God can use our shared story to create love and justice in the world



Daily themes include:

- God's Word Comes Near in **Trusting**
- God's Word Comes Near in **Blessing**
- God's Word Comes Near in **Listening**
- God's Word Comes Near in **Serving**
- God's Word Comes Near in **Following**



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From the Sugar Creek Kitchen

This pecan pie recipe is always a fan favorite at the annual Sugar Creek Quilt Auction. Hope you enjoy it. -Wanda

Pecan Pie

- 3.5 cups pecan halves
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup dark corn syrup
- .5 cup brown sugar
- 1.5 teaspoons vanilla
- .25 cup melted and slightly cooled butter
- .5 teaspoon salt
- .5 teaspoon cinnamon



Spread pecans inside crust. Whisk eggs, corn syrup, brown sugar, vanilla, melted butter, salt and cinnamon together in a bowl. Pour over pecans.

Bake 50 to 55 minutes. After 20 minutes put aluminum foil over crust edges if the crust browns too quickly.

Summer 2024 Reflection

Created to Be
*I praise you, for I am fearfully and
wonderfully made.*
Psalm 139:14, NRSV



This summer at Sugar Creek Bible Camp, we celebrated the truth that each of us is a unique masterpiece crafted by our Creator! Set free from sin, we are all made to boldly share God's love using the gifts and talents God has given us. How powerful it was to stand with the campers and declare that we are all created with purpose, bearing the title of 'Child of God.'

This season, 29 incredible young adults led summer programming, bringing passion and care to create sacred spaces where youth felt truly welcomed and wanted. In addition to launching six new programs, Sugar Creek introduced an exciting new element for everyone: Village Nights. On Wednesday evenings, campers participated in the Christ Hike, followed by a special prayer-focused worship service. There, they prayed one-on-one with counselors, as a cabin, and with others. This built up to a unique Thursday Village Night Celebration tailored to each program, featuring activities like root beer floats in Uncle Jack's for Pioneers and rodeo games with the wranglers for Horse Campers.

None of this would have been possible without the incredible volunteers who gave their time and energy this summer. From staff trainers, health officers, guest chaplains, kitchen helpers, and maintenance crews, your contributions make a difference. And to those who prayed for and financially supported your ministry in the sacred valley—thank you! Because of *your generosity*, and in response to an increased need for camper scholarships, Sugar Creek once again ensured that no camper was turned away due to financial need. Let's keep it strong!

Looking ahead, Sugar Creek is excited to expand programming to meet the evolving needs of families and congregations. In 2025, we will offer the Foresters Day Camp on a weekly basis. For the first time, individuals without a church group or leader will be able to attend Confirmation Camp alongside church groups. Traveling Day Camps will return to churches on a limited basis. Please contact Deacon Stephanie for more information if your church is interested.



Road to Bethlehem

A Drive-Through Advent Experience!

Saturday, December 7

2:00-5:00 pm



Sugar Creek Bible Camp
presents
Yesterdays Youth

Monday, December 2

Presentation: Joni Welda

The Variegate Lens: Nature Photography

\$15 per person includes meal.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

9:00 AM - COFFEE & FELLOWSHIP

9:45 AM - WELCOME & DEVOTION

10:00 AM - PRESENTATION

NOON - LUNCH

1:00 PM - SUGAR CREEK UPDATES

1:15-2:30 PM - MUSIC

Registration is helpful for lunch count.

Call the camp office at (608)734-3113

or email office@sgrcreek.org



JANUARY 12 AND FEBRUARY 9, 2025

WINTER

Fun Days

Sledding, tubing, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and all sorts of outdoor winter fun.

A lunch of hotdogs and chili provided.

Cost: \$10/person, children 4 & under are free.

RSVP's appreciated.

February 13-16, 2025

A Promise in Every Color:
Rainbows & God's Love

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

Psalm 36:5, NRSV

October 9-12, 2025

Crafting with Care -
Stewarding Creation

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.

1 Peter 4:10, NRSV

2025 Craft Retreats

Relax and enjoy time away at Sugar Creek Bible Camp!

Craft weekends include devotions, a craft demonstration, craft project work time, great meals, and fellowship. All crafters are welcome. You'll enjoy time and space to get it done. Bring your own projects and supplies, for a weekend of friends, faith, and phenomenal crafting.

Thursday - Sunday: \$250

Friday - Sunday: \$225 *Includes lodging, meals and work space.*

Contact the camp office to register.

Registration closes a week before retreat.

Mental Health Crisis Among Youth: Why Camp Matters Now More Than Ever

by Deacon Stephanie Engel

Children, youth, and young adults today are facing a mental health crisis. It severely affects their ability to succeed in school, build healthy relationships, and develop self-confidence. This summer at Sugar Creek Bible Camp, not a day went by without a heartfelt conversation about mental health with our campers and staff. Our young people are struggling under the weight of distrust, global violence, isolation, and immense pressure. With pandemic disruptions in their education and social development, many lack the coping skills they need to thrive. While this crisis may make it harder for campers to attend, it's also the very reason why our young people need camp more than ever.

The World Council of Churches has now called upon faith communities to take action in supporting youth mental health. How? By doing what we naturally do at camp: creating cross-generational, faith-centered spaces where trust, care, acceptance, and open communication are at the heart of every relationship. Our campers practice building tenacity, empathy, and problem-solving skills each day through horse rides, interactive bible studies, preparing meals over the campfire, cooperative games, and daily living together. At Sugar Creek, campers experience a break from technology and the stresses of life, immersing themselves in nature while practicing the vital skills they'll carry home with them. One staff member reflected, *"This school year has been my best one yet because, after working at camp, I finally believe in myself."*

Your support did this. Your help is more crucial than ever in continuing this life-changing work. With your help, we can ensure our Summer Staff receive quality mental health training and continue offering programs like Peer Ministry for Camps, which nurtures essential social skills. You can also make a difference by encouraging young people in your life to experience camp for themselves and discover the empowering transformation that awaits in this sacred valley.

Sugar Creek invites you to partner with us in even more ways. We'd love to bring camp to your community by hosting outdoor ministry presentations, cross-generational team-building activities, or training sessions on how to connect with youth. Together, we can join God in making a deep and lasting impact that will help shape a brighter, healthier future for all.

"You can be yourself at Sugar Creek without judgment."

-Confirmation Camper

"Sugar Creek feels like a second home and I leave feeling more connected to God."

-Summer Staff

"Before coming to Sugar Creek I felt nervous and shy. But now I feel like I can do *anything* and I got to help campers feel that way too!"

-Jr. Wrangler

2025 Bus Trips

Join Sugar Creek and host Sheila Champlin for two trips in 2025. Trips include lodging at camp the night before trip leaves, luxury coach bus, hotel accommodations and some meals.

Contact the camp office at 608-734-3113 or camp@sgrcreek.org for detailed flyers.

September 15-19, 2025

Lake Superior, North Shore, Duluth, MN

November 10-14, 2025

Branson Missouri Christmas Shows

Fireside Dinner Theater Day Trip

June 5, 2025

Church Basement Ladies in the
"Last Potluck Supper"

October 30, 2025

Christmas Show
"It's a Wonderful Life"



2024 - 2025 CALENDAR

October

- 7 Yesterday's Youth
- 10-13 Fall Craft Retreat
- 18-20 Women's Retreat

November

- 2 Elementary Youth Retreat
- 1 Fireside Bus Trip
"Miracle on 34th Street"

December

- 2 Yesterday's Youth
- 7 Road to Bethlehem

January

- 12 Winter Fun Day

February

- 7-8 High School Youth Retreat
- 9 Winter Fun Day
- 13-16 Winter Craft Retreat
- 23 Annual Meeting

March

- 7-8 Confirmation Youth Retreat
- 22 Elementary Youth Retreat

April

- 5-7 Golden Horizons Retreat
- 7 Yesterday's Youth
- 19 Easter Egg Hunt & Brunch

May

- 3 Volunteer Work Weekend

Dates are subject to change.
Scan QR code to website for updates.





Sugar Creek Bible Camp
13141 SCBC Road
Ferryville, WI 54628

What's Inside

- Summer 2024 Recap
- Mental Health and Camp
- Upcoming Bus Trips
- 2025 Registration Opening Soon
- From the Sugar Creek Kitchen
- Upcoming Events



Mission Statement: *"Where all generations encounter Christ, experience God's grace, and are empowered by the Holy Spirit to go forth in faith."*

Please contact the camp office at 608-734-3113 or office@sgrcreek.org

WWW.SUGARCREEKBIBLECAMP.ORG