



The Diocese of Fond du Lac

The Episcopal Church in northeast Wisconsin

Diocesan Summer Camp Transformed to Camp @ Home

April 23, 2020

From Bishop Matt:

Dear Members of the Diocese of Fond du Lac,

I have been pleased with the way our congregations have continued to find ways to be the church despite the challenges presented by Covid-19. Clergy and lay leaders have found creative means of leading prayer worship while we are dispersed. Members have found ways of staying connected to one another. Congregations have proven agile in making sure their outreach ministries continue serving those in need. There is no denying the losses. Regular worship has been suspended. Events have been canceled or postponed. Still, God has remained faithful to his church and you have demonstrated a responding faithful resilience. I am confident you will continue to do so as long as this lasts in whatever ways it lasts.

We will also need to demonstrate that same creative faithful resilience with our Diocesan Summer Camp. Our Camp Director, Erin Wolf, and I have been in conversation and decided it would be unwise hold camp in the usual way. This is not an easy decision given how important we know camp is. Many of you know how much I personally love attending camp every year. But given the uncertainty of where things will be with the infection rate, the likelihood of ongoing restriction of some kind, and our own determination not to put our children, youth or staff at risk, this is the decision we need to make.

The good news is that just as our congregations have found creative ways to continue being the church differently, plans are being made to be camp differently. We can still provide opportunities for connecting with friends, learning more about following Jesus as members of the church, and having fun. I will let Erin tell you about those plans.

From Camp Director Erin Wolf:

The ever-evolving nature of our current pandemic has led us to make the decision that the Episcopal Diocese of Fond du Lac Summer Camp will not happen at Camp Lakotah this summer. We know this decision will disappoint those who hold camp near and dear to their hearts. Our camping community continues to be held in prayer as we grieve the loss of a beloved opportunity to gather in-person. But there will be camp!

We are immensely blessed to have a volunteer staff who is willing to take this opportunity to connect our community in a transformative way with Camp @ Home. During our scheduled camp dates of June 7-21, we will offer times of online check-ins and provide for at-home camp activities. Camp staff will create videos showing how to do crafts or singing a song (and more) featured on the diocesan YouTube

channel, viewable at your convenience. Camp @ Home won't replicate the experience of gathering in-person, but God is with us wherever and however we come together, even in a digital space that is different from what we are accustomed to.

Above all, though, please pray. Pray for our friends at Camp Lakotah, for our staff, for graduating seniors and all our campers & families. These are difficult times we are living in, and God will continue to see us through!

Thank you all for your patience and prayers as we continue to navigate this uncharted territory. We hope you will consider joining us for the Episcopal Diocese of Fond du Lac Summer Camp through Camp @ Home.

Grace and peace,

Erin Wolf (she/her/hers)
Camp Director

P.S. If conditions allow it, we hope to have an in-person Camp Day gathering at Camp Lakotah later this summer. We'd have time for a variety of camp activities that we all love including worship, games, crafts, and hopefully, gaga ball! More information will be shared as we continue to learn more about what we are able to safely offer camp families.

(don't miss the Q&A on the next page)

Camp @ Home Q&A (Questions and Answers)

Q: What is Camp @ Home? What does that mean for me and/or my camper(s)?

A: Camp @ Home combines scheduled online gatherings via Zoom for campers & staff and @ home activities for campers. Online time gives opportunity to check-in and hang out; worship using the Daily Office; conversations on a topic in both large & small groups. @ home activities include doing camp activities @ home, like crafts, campfire with smores, and singing camp graces at mealtimes.

Q: What if I don't have materials for activities or a Book of Common Prayer? How can I participate?

A: Register for Camp @ Home at diofdl.org/camp by Memorial Day (May 25) and we'll send you a camp care package at no cost! It will include items like the online gathering schedule via Zoom, camp graces for mealtimes, printouts for worship, materials for some of the projects, and low- or no-cost camp activities to do at home.

Q: What if I don't have reliable access to the internet? How can I participate?

A: Register for Camp @ Home at diofdl.org/camp (well, or call us at 920-830-8866 as you may not have internet access) by June 1 and tell us about this need. We will do all we can to get you connected either through another camp family nearby or a local congregation. And if that doesn't work, you can still join the online times via phone and will still get the care package for @ home activities.

Q: Where do I find the current information on Camp @ Home?

A: Visit the summer camp webpage at diofdl.org/camp. We also send out updates via email and through diocesan social media. If you really need to know now, contact the Camp Director.

Q: What can I do to support camp at this time? How might I help?

A: Let's count the ways you can help: 1) Prayers are always welcome! 2) Staff Camp @ Home by contacting the Camp Director (we could use a few storytellers for Kinder Camp yet). 3) Make in-kind donations of materials for camp care packages by contacting the Camp Director. 4) Give to support the camping ministry by visiting diofdl.org/camp. 5) Tell children and youth about Camp @ Home and have them visit diofdl.org/camp.

Q: How do I contact the Camp Director?

A: To contact Camp Director Erin "Erni" Wolf send an email to camp@diofdl.org. If you need to talk directly to Erin, call (920) 830-8866 and you can get connected.