

FLBC Update

Spring/Summer 2023 Newsletter Honoring 2022 Donors & Volunteers

Thank you, Gary Cockrell!

Executive Director FLBC Feb 1, 1980–June 1, 2011

By Margie Fiedler

For 31 years, Rev Gary Cockrell served as the Executive Director of FLBC, and in the 12 years I have been the Director, Gary has been an amazing help to me. He has done everything from helping with a shoreline remediation, walking the land to show me the boundaries, introducing me to the amazing “family” of FLBC, helping with grants, and serving while I was on my eight-week sabbatical. When I started at FLBC, Sept 2011, I asked Gary if he would write the history of the camp.

Gary, has now been part of the camp’s ministry for over ½ the life of the camp (43 years)! Gary has been amazing: writing, organizing files, going through photos and copious documents to put the history of FLBC together. He is compiling a keepsake that will be a blessing for FLBC forever.

I had the joy of interviewing Gary and Carol in their home, January 11, 2023. We give thanks and praise to God for Gary, and his wife Carol and their 4 boys, who helped grow and impact FLBC! Join Gary this summer at our June 30–July 2, 80th Celebration, and hear more stories about FLBC. **THANK YOU, GARY!**

What have you discovered working on FLBC’s history?

I discovered the deep care that Montana Lutherans had for their youth and how intrepid they were in finding and building a spiritual place for them. The financial gifts given in the middle of WWII from congregations and individuals were remarkable! Giving \$15, \$25, and \$50 to help the camp was like giving \$255, \$425, and \$850 in 2023 dollars. Reading old documents, I could feel the Holy Spirit working through donors, congregations and volunteers who found one of the most spectacular places on Flathead Lake and with God’s help created a sacred place there. Then in hundreds of pages of history, I saw the belief that donors and churches had in this place. I witnessed 80 years of their continued support and giving to this ministry!

What were your greatest joys as Executive Director through the years?

Working with amazing donors and congregations across Montana who believed in FLBC’s ministry and graciously supported it was a strengthening joy to me through the years. It was a joy working with the outstanding year-round staff over the years. And of course, it was a joy seeing the campers and adults have a meaningful, spiritual experience at camp. Each year it was a joy watching the summer staff grow in their faith and skills, taking on responsibility and challenges, learning what ministry in a community was about and then with the Holy Spirit doing that ministry.

Humble Gary would never share his amazing accomplishments at camp... but thanks to Gary’s endless hours of work, we have the permits in the National Forest for our backpacking, rafting, and rock-climbing trips. Gary also started the sailing program on Flathead Lake.

What were your greatest challenges?

The greatest challenge of course was always safety. Twenty-four hours a day – safety! Creating and carrying out meaningful programs was always a challenge. There was the constant challenge of maintaining and updating the buildings – as well as



**Happy Birthday
FLBC
1943–2023**

**Celebrating
80 years
of Ministry!**



Continued
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Summer 2023

Summer is Coming!

And Karen and Richie are the program leaders making things happen... along with Danielle who oversees day camp and volunteers!

We are eager to be in planning mode for this coming summer and it has us dreaming of sunshine, green grass and the sound of singing around the campfire! As we are recruiting summer staff, we have visited with some amazing young adults who will make this summer so special for all the retreat guests and campers young and old. It is fun to brainstorm the ways camp crafts and outdoor games and activities intertwine with our summer theme of "Holy Trinity, Wholly Love". We are looking forward to the "Holy Joy" we will all experience on the rock-climbing wall, water trampoline, and sauna — all brand new additions to camp.

Hope you will join us for 'fun in the sun' as we grow in our self-esteem, confidence and our faith, as we build community together at FLBC this summer.



▲ Our Program Directors Karen Hesel & Richie Withycombe



▲ Our Day Camp & Volunteer Coordinator, Danielle Kirkland-Shatraw

Interview with Gary Cockrell CONTINUED

upgrading the infrastructure to benefit everyone and meet government regulations. Finances were continually challenging. Thankfully, gracious donors always enabled ministry to happen!

You shared that you and Carol have included FLBC in your estate.

Yes, we have FLBC in our estate plan. The camp's ministry has had an impact on the lives of thousands of young campers and adults over 80 years. It has also been a blessing to Carol and me and our four sons. By giving a gift from our estate we hope that this ministry will continue to be impactful. So, I encourage you, the reader, to put FLBC in your will.

Besides the financial help, a charitable gift from your estate teaches your family about stewardship. It also says a great deal about you and what you value and your vision for ministry beyond your life.

What are your hopes and dreams for FLBC?

That this special place will always be a Christian ministry! It is a gift from God, a sacred place. As

congregational membership shrinks today and congregations have fewer youth and our society becomes less Christian, FLBC's ministry will become even more important. The camp may even have to change its operational name to *Flathead Lutheran Outdoor Ministries* or *Flathead Lake Christian Ministries* or another name that spreads a wider net under which the Gospel is shared.

In 1983, I sat in a coffee shop in Billings and talked with Rev. Ocee Johnson, who was the pastor in Conrad, MT in 1943 and involved with starting the camp. I will never forget this statement from him: *"Back then we just tried to find and build a place for our young people to have a week of Bible camp each summer. We could not have imagined that it would grow into what it is today with so many programs as well as being year-round."*

Thank you Ocee! And with that 'look back' from Pastor Johnson, we continue to pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance today and into the future for Christian ministry in this holy place.



Holy Trinity. Wholly Love.

Summer 2023 by the Numbers*

Numbers of people registered to date for Summer 2023! Our 80th year!

241 youth registered for a summer camp.

10 Glacier Wilderness groups booked.

16 Day Camps scheduled in Congregations.

26 Family Camper families booked for a week long family camp!

(We still have openings for tent cabins, or BYO tent/RV!)

*As of January 2023

Calling for Summer Staff!

At the time of this writing (early-Feb 2023), we still need staff! 18 years old and up!

Scan the QR Code to apply, email Karen at Karen@flbc.net or visit to our website for the application.



Partners in Ministry!

FLBC loves to support and partner with other organizations that are doing amazing work! Together programs are planned and FLBC supports each group! In 2023 to date we will be partnering with:

- Flathead Industries
- Intermountain Children's Home
- Montana Youth Diabetes Association
- Life Camp USA



Volunteers 2022

THANK YOU to all who gave of their time and talents in 2022! We also give thanks to the many families and individuals who attended our Memorial Day and Labor day Work Weekends.

STAFF TREATS!

Thanks to all who gave a gift to help FLBC give a treat to our awesome team! Sodas, ice-cream, pizza, and a cruise on the Far West at the end of the summer! **In total, \$2,696 was given.** THANK YOU!!

If you would like to give a treat for this summer, send your gift in, memo, Staff treats! Or go online to flbc.net/donate-volunteer/

2022 NON-SUMMER VOLUNTEERS

Doug Scott • Memorial Weekend volunteers – 44 people • Labor Day Weekend volunteers – 55 people • Northridge Lutheran Church Kalispell – 18 men • Billings Sr. High Choir – 30 • Peace Canoe Crew – Helena • Terry Sanderson • Phil Sauer • Don Stadler • Eric Svenningsen • Steve Seilhymer

2022 RETREAT LEADERS

Thanks to our 2022 Retreat/Event Leaders and speakers for our FLBC sponsored retreats! THANKS for sharing your gifts with this ministry!

Lyle Griner, *Youth Workers Retreat* • Pastor Scott Thompson, *Easter sunrise service* • Mica Riendeau & Angel Byrd, *Tea party* • Dr Andrew Root, *Adult Education Retreat* • Jay Bates, *Speaker for the Partners Luncheon* • Pr. Peggy Paugh Leuzinger, *Womens Retreat* • Hans & Kristin Wiersma, *Family Camp* • Pastor Wendy Alpine, *Grand Camp* • Pastor Seth Nelson, *Labor Day Retreat*

2022 COMMITTEES

Development Team

Merv Eriksson • Mark Mohorich • Cindy Pokorny • Tim Wiersum • Bob McCoskery

Endowment Committee

Mike Borge, *Chair* • Dave Dickman • Scott Moothart • Jim Stauffer

Volunteering Opportunities

We hope you will consider spending a week with us this summer as an adult volunteer, resource pastor, camp nurse, etc., helping provide faith-filled, fun, and safe experiences for our campers of all ages.

Visit flbc.net/donate-volunteer/#volunteer to learn more.

Special Thanks

Thank you to Rev. Mike Borge, who was instrumental at revitalizing the FLBC endowment and its policies.



Pastor Mike has led our endowment committee faithfully, in devotions, planning, strategy, and helping FLBC move forward in faith. Pastor Mike has termed off the committee, but is continuing to serve as an advisor.

We thank and praise God for Pr. Mike and his gifts over these many years!!

The best part of our retreat was everything. The activity options, food, accommodations, and location.

We would recommend this to other retreat groups. We have never had a better camp experience!

*~ Church of the Gates,
Women's retreat leader*





Thank you to all who designated Thrivent Choice dollars to Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. You have until March 31st, 2023, to direct 2022 funds to ministries you care about!

Visit thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-847-4836 to direct Thrivent Choice Dollars.

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2022 Thrivent Action Teams:

Memorial Day Group Several projects
Dave Doney Heat the Camp! Kindling Cracker, mallets & hatchets
Renda Doney Thank you mailings/postage & supplies
Margie Fiedler Flowers for Partner tables & craft supplies
Jim Stauffer Canoe Rack
Carlee Wood Golf Tournament supplies & supports

2023 Thrivent Choice funds will help us with:

Camperships • Finishing/Completing Sauna
• Off-site Equipment • Day Camp Vehicle/Car
• Dining Room Chairs

Action Team Ideas

- Kiosk, Signs, Cabinet for Disc Golf Course
- Small Green House
- Prayer Trail Boxes Up-graded
- Upgrade fire pit at Treehouse Camp
- New compost bins (educational tool for campers)
- Building/repair/paint picnic table & benches
- **Plus many more!!**

Have an idea? Let us know!!



2022 Donors

We are enclosing a
donation in the memory
of the wonderful lady,
Helen Nelson.

We know how much
Helen loved being near
you and your
wonderful program.

We couldn't do it without YOU!

THANK YOU to all who have supported the ministry of Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp this past year. We are full of gratitude for each individual, family, congregation, and organization who have supported FLBC since 1943 with such faithfulness, love, and care!

A NOTE TO OUR SUPPORTERS: We appreciate your generous donations to FLBC, and we want to recognize everyone accordingly with 100% accuracy. If we have inadvertently made an error, please contact the office at 406-752-6602 or office@flbc.net with concerns or corrections.

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All of the staff were wonderful for clarifying and solving needs. Camp is such a beautiful setting and my accommodations were so clean and comfortable. Meals were excellent, and met my gluten free needs. Working with the staff and getting to know them and their campers was self-nourishing.

~ Summer Volunteer 2022

2022 Donors

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CONGREGATIONS

\$5,000+ St. Johns Lutheran Church-Helena • Northridge Lutheran Church • Bethel Lutheran Church-Great Falls

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\$500-\$999 Galata Lutheran Church • Eidsvold Lutheran Church • Trinity Lutheran Church-Choteau • First English Evangelical Lutheran Church-Great Falls • All Saints in Big Sky • Bethel Lutheran Church-Joplin • Big Timber Lutheran Church • First Lutheran Church-Ronan • Jocko Valley Lutheran Church • New Beginnings Lutheran Church-Rudyard • Valley of Christ Lutheran Church-Frenchtown • Gold Hill Lutheran Church-Butte

\$499 & under Bethany Lutheran Church-Dutton • Devon Lutheran Church • First Lutheran Church-Hamilton • Malta Lutheran Church • St. Johns Lutheran Church-Great Falls • Goldstone Lutheran Church-Rudyard • Hope Lutheran Church-Anaconda • Kremlin Lutheran Church • Bethel Lutheran Church-Brush Prairie WA • New Hope Lutheran Church-Great Falls • Christ Lutheran Church • Christ the King Lutheran Church-Bozeman • Fort Peck Lutheran Church



2022 Donors

IN MEMORY OF

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Dr. Gerald C. White:** Margie Fiedler, Stephanie White



2022 SHALOM HOME

Chamene Plum • Gary Smith • Linda Arlint • Fran Gossack • Pr. Barb Gwynn • Ila Hensler • Jim Kittilsby • Trudi Schmidt • Erin Schreurs • Richard Steinbacher • Aaron Weaver • Wendy McAlpine • Dick & Carrie Taylor • Margaret Mohl • Joel Block • Dave Dickman • Charlotte Higgs • Marge Samsoe • Jim Carver • Sarah Borge • Good Shepherd Trust • Jarecki Charitable Foundation Trust • Weekes Family Foundation

2022 Donors

IN HONOR OF

Reyna & Collin Asheim (Margie Fiedler) | **Ian Bartling** (Andrew Shay) | **Birth of Niece's son just born** (Teresa Kinley) | **Mike & Dorothy Borge** (Generations Family Medicine & Obstetrics, Sarah Borge & Cristian Orrego) | **Carrol Karlsgodt** (John & Juli Ann Parker) | **Rev Gary Cockrell** (Margie Fiedler, James Hollensteiner) | **Gary & Carol Cockrell** (Les McKean, Mark & Carol Ramseth) | **Diane Ersland** (Dave & Donna Kloker) | **Jerry Fiedler's Birthday** (Margie Fiedler) | **Margie Fiedler** (Dave & Donna Kloker, Jeanne McCoskery, Megan Minarik, Mark & Carol Ramseth, Michelle Thompson) | **The Margie Fiedler Family** (Philip & Joyce Estrem) | **All at the Fiedler Camp ~ July 2022** (Philip & Joyce Estrem) | **Ben, Kim, Logan, Luke Haugestuen** (Ronald & Leanne Ommen) | **Nic, Jake, Zac & Max Homer** (Doug & Leann Homer) | **Jesse Obrecht & Jade Metzler - Wedding** (Margie Fiedler) | **Ella Krumm** (Linda Nelson) | **Andrew Larsen** (Curt & Mary Larsen Family) | **David A. Lynn** (John O. & Barbara Hanson, Wm & Kristi Jo Lynn) | **Our Parents** (Earl & Kathi Ebert) | **Cindy Pokorny** (Ryan & Mandy Pokorny) | **Sarah, Anna, Inga Rohde** (Rev. Paul Rohde & Susan Wold Rohde) | **Grace Schroeder Scott's birthday** (Margie Fiedler) | **Doug Scott & Grace Schroeder Scott** (O. Jay & Pat Tomson) | **Mari Shumaker** (James Moody) | **Kristie Tunheim, Daughter, Counselor Summer 2019** (Robert & Katherine Tunheim) | **Garth West's Birthday** (Lavonne West) | **Rev Dr. Gerald White** (Stephanie White) | **Carlee Wood** (Lars Anderson, Margie Fiedler, William Kahl, Keith & Sarah Lefler, Anonymous)

IN KIND DONATIONS

AAA Tree Services: \$2100 Donation Credit on Tree Removal and cleanup bill | **American Lutheran Church Quilters:** Quilt | **John Anders:** Very beautiful canoe | **Blacktail Grocery:** Raffle Basket for Golf Tournament | **Cristian Orrego & Sarah Borge:** KN95 Face masks | **BT Graphics:** 80th camp anniversary logo design | **Christ Lutheran Church:** Quilt | **Gary & Carol Cockrell:** 10 Poinsettias | **Costco Wholesale-Helena:** Inflatable Tobin Party Island | **Dave & Renda Doney:** Teapot, teacups, saucers, serving plates; box of scrapbook paper | **Margie Fiedler:** Raffle Item for Golf Tournament: 2 Bottles of FLBC Wine | **First Lutheran Church:** Gift Baskets/Items for Annual Meeting | **Fort Peck Lutheran Church:** 6 Blankets | **Joe & Casey Furr:** Cleaning supplies | **Glacier Perks:** Raffle Item for Golf Tournament: Coffee Gift Card | **William & Mary Harris:** 4 Flathead Artistic Prints | **David Highness & Patty Hartman:** Camp Maps update | **Krispy Kreme Kalispell:** 10 dozen donuts for Valentine Tea Party | **Daniel & Gloria Lannen:** Silver Plated Coffee & Tea Set for Harvest Festival | **Kelly Lindahl:** Guitar | **Jeanne McCoskery:** Quilt & 2 pillows | **Patsi Morton:** 2-drawer fire-safe legal size and 4 drawer legal size file cabinets / Two 4-drawer dressers | **Brad & Marj Nelson:** Air Compressor | **Allan & Sue Ost:** Assorted art supplies: scrapbook paper, beads, yarn, and more | **Tom Pacitto:** 2 toilets | **Rod & Celeste Pogachar:** Cribbage game boards | **Redeemer Lutheran Church:** Games and other items | **Cynthia Reimers:** Golf Tournament giveaways: duffel bags, shoe bags, & Golf Bag for raffle | **ROW Adventures:** Peanut Butter, Honey, Mustard, Pickles and other condiments for Auction baskets | **Terry & Jean Sanderson:** Coffee pot for Fireside cabin | **Doug Scott & Grace Schroeder Scott:** 5 large bath towels, hand towels, and washcloths / Lifesaver ring | **Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church:** 7 Quilts | **Sportsman & Ski Haus:** Raffle Items for Golf Tournament: 4 gift certificates to TrackMan Golf Simulator | **St. Johns Lutheran Church Quilters:** 3 Quilts | **St. Paul Lutheran Church WELCA:** Chocolate & Wine Basket for Annual Meeting | **Mike and Sandy Sullivan:** Water Trampoline | **Ed & Joanna Thamke:** 1 set cross-country skis, boots and bindings | **Meg Undlin:** 2 Kayaks and Leaf Blower | **Wally & Bunny Wilder:** Indigo Dyeing Kits & drying rack | **Carlee Wood:** Raffle Items for Golf Tournament | **Ed & Joyce Wretling:** Handmade bookmarks for Summer Staff 2022

STAFF SCHOLARSHIP GIFTS

The FLBC Board made the decision to 'go out in faith' to raise the staff salary for the summer. This year beginning staff will receive \$400 per week (up from \$255 in 2022). There are also many incentives including a \$1000 bonus for staying all 11 weeks!

Special thanks goes out to Northridge Lutheran, Kalispell, who heard about this increase, and the encouragement to *Adopt a Staff person*. Bev Larson, LPA, Justin Shobe, and Peter Metcalf, Delegate/Ambassadors for FLBC, took on the challenge, and organized a raffle for items. The members of Northridge donated amazing items, and people bought tickets, placing them in the jars of their favorite items! The drawing raised \$1,946 and the Northridge Advent offering also went to the fund, with a total of \$4,108 raised! THANK YOU, Bev, Justin, and Peter, and thank you Northridge!

And thanks to all who have gifted to the 2023 Staff Scholarship Fund:

Jonathan Davidson • Kristie Tunheim • Linda Nelson • John Halvorson & Hjordis Dommer Halvorson • Ryan & Mandy Pokorny • Bill & Jana Pursell • Douglas & Gail Daehlin • Larry & Loretta Obie • John & Cheryl Keith • Daren & Melissa Engellant • Jeane Frandrup • Mike & Cindy Fretheim • Peg Allison • Doug Scott & Grace Schroeder Scott • Generations Family Medicine & Obstetrics-Sarah Borge & Cristian Orrego • Northridge Lutheran Church • Wm & Kristi Jo Lynn Charitable Fund • Doug & Julise Mitchell

THANK YOU! You are making a difference!



Thank you, Peter Metcalf and Bev Larsen for making a difference! ►

2022 Donors

2022 GRANTS

Dennis & Phyllis Washington Foundation – Camperships • Hetzel Grant – Community Outreach • Flathead Electric Co-Op – Life Jackets

2022 ENDOWMENT GIFTS

Michael Borge • Jim Penner • Gold Hill Lutheran Church • Jocko Valley Lutheran Church

2022 ORGANIZATIONS/BUSINESSES

A. T. Farm, Inc.-Oilmont • AAA Tree Services-Kalispell • American Endowment Foundation • Bill Henry Construction-Havre • Blacktail Grocery-Lakeside • BT Graphics-Hayden ID • Charity on Top Foundation, Inc. • Costco Wholesale-Helena • Frontstream-Costco • Frontstream-Costco • Generations Family Medicine & Obstetrics, PLLC-Missoula • Glacier Perks-Lakeside • Hatlen Foundation • Hatlen Properties-Bigfork • Jarecki Charitable Foundation Trust • Krispy Kreme-Kalispell • Minneapolis Foundation • Network for Good • Optimist Club • Pledgling Foundation • Rakuten Marketing • Rocking K Land & Cattle, Inc. • ROW Adventures-Coeur d'Alene • Mitchell D. Siderius Family Trust • Sportsman & Ski Haus-Kalispell • Summit Surgery Center-Butte • US Charitable Gift Trust • Weekes Family Foundation • Western Building Center-Kalispell

2022 MINISTRY PARTNERS

American Lutheran Church Quilters-Turner • American Lutheran Church WELCA-Chinook • Bethany WELCA-Dutton • Bethel WELCA-Joplin • Big Timber Lutheran Church Women • Christ Lutheran Church Women-Big Sandy • Christ Lutheran Church Women-Whitefish • Evangelical Lutheran Church in America • First Lutheran Church Endowment-Havre • First Lutheran Church Foundation-Glasgow • First Lutheran Men in Mission • Galata WELCA • Good Shepherd Lutheran Church WELCA • Good Shepherd Trust-Karlsgodt Fund • Good Shepherd Lutheran Church-Rolfson Trust • Good Shepherd Trust-Polson • Hope Lutheran Church WELCA-Anaconda • Malta Lutheran Church WELCA • Messiah Lutheran Church Women-Havre • Northridge Lutheran Church - Anna Circle-Kalispell • Our Savior's Lutheran Church Endowment-Bonner • Our Savior's Lutheran Church WELCA-Columbia Falls • Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church Quilters-Townsend • St. Johns Lutheran Church Quilters-Helena • St. Luke's Lutheran Church Endowment-Shelby • St. Paul Lutheran Church Endowment Fund-Missoula • St. Paul Lutheran Church Foundation-Fairfield • St. Paul Lutheran Church WELCA-Fairfield • St. Paul Lutheran Church Women in Mission-Missoula • Sunburst Lutheran Church Women • Trinity Lutheran Church WELCA-Choteau • Turner WELCA



2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Great Divide Cluster	Richard (Bing) Crosby President
Flathead Cluster	Scott Thompson Vice President
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Golden Triangle Cluster	Wendy McAlpine
Golden Triangle Cluster	Mike Wallewein
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Bear Paw Cluster	Lynn Steinmetz
Bear Paw Cluster	Chamene Plum
Five Valley Cluster	Mark Grotbo
At Large Position	Samantha Schurke
At Large Position	Jay Bates

Are You Willing?

If you could make a gift that would impact the future of campers for generations to come, would you consider this? I have had several people say to me... "well I have children, or I don't have much of an estate.... how could I make a difference?" But think about it... FLBC will be 80 years old in 2023. Can you imagine what our endowment would be, and how much money would be funneled into the camp, if everyone had left just 1-5% of their estate to the camp? (I bet no one would be paying to come to camp or a retreat!!) Well, we can start now!

Prayerfully consider a gift in your will, or including FLBC as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy, your home, land, your IRA, or another estate planning tool. Your gift will reach beyond your lifetime and ensure that the gospel will continue to be shared through this ministry for generations to come.

Questions on how to do this?

Call our office at 406-752-6602 for our Legacy brochure and/or talk to Grace Schroeder Scott or Margie Fiedler about how to make this happen! We are happy to talk to your advisors with you too! If you have already included FLBC in your will/estate plan, let us know so we can list you as a Legacy Partner!



*Just a note to say how thankful
I am for all of you and the
ministry you share with children
and adults, who come to camp,
or who are part of your outreach
ministry. What a blessing!*

~ Special camp friend

Legacy Partners

Legacy Partners are those who are giving in their estate plan. A cross (†) represents the person has gone onto glory and their gifts are already at work at the Camp. Our Legacy Partners are a **permanent** part of the ministry of Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp. A courtyard brick paver is made for each Legacy Partner who has passed on.

Please let us know of any corrections.

If you have included FLBC in your estate plans... please let us know! THANK YOU

Thank you faithful stewards!

Mark & Carrie Ageson	Knud† & Kathy† Grosen	Rev. John Olson†
Marge Allen	Norm† & Mary Ann Hagen	Allan & Sue Ost
Bob† & Shirley† Anderson	Bill & Marilyn Henry	Marie Ostrem†
Dexter & Jean Aspevig	Jack† & Connie† Hensley	Jim & Barbara Penner
Louis & June Beirwagen	Dick† & Carol† Irvin	Roy† & Jan† Pettersson
Bob & Midge Bentley	Donald & Donna Jacobson	John & Michelle Phelan
Michael & Diana Blend	Sylvia Jansen	Rod & Celeste Pogachar
Jacob† & Jan† Block	Ona Jaumotte†	Harold† & Olive† Price
Horace Borchert†	Penny Jarecki	Rick Richter
Michael & Dorothy Borge	Dorothy Johnson†	Mica Riendeau
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Tom† & Beverly Gilman	Reuben Nelson†	Carlee Wood
Clarice Grimsted†	Bob & Kathy Nockleby	Tom Wynia



New Dock in progress!



Outdoor Chapel Benches in need of repair



Amphitheatre before remodel



New Sauna

Facility Update!

Many things are always in the works at camp, to make camp safer, more accessible, and more FUN!!!

Did you know that NO user fees are used for capitol improvements? Improvements are made through designated gifts!

Some items recently completed, or ALMOST complete!

- New swim dock with accessible chair lift – From the Holy Ground Phase 1 appeal
- Cold water sinks in cabins 9-14 – From the Holy Ground Phase 1 appeal
- Sauna (used to be Cabin #1!) This was approved by the board, in 1980... sometimes things take a while to get done!
- An additional kiln – donated!
- Upgrade transformer to more power, so we can add another kiln – From Holy Ground Phase 1 appeal
- Internet updates including STARLINK – Thanks to the MJ Murdock Charitable Trust
- Water Trampoline – donated, and will be installed for this summer
- New roofs on 6 cabins (replaced due to hail damage)

Not started, but working on!

- Outdoor chapel benches – these were so rotted, we have not been able to use for some time. For FLBC's 80th birthday, if you would like to donate a bench, the cost is \$750 and it will be engraved with your name, a memorial, church name, Bible verse, or whatever you would like!!
- Amphitheatre re-model – The remodeled theatre will have an aisle down the middle for easier access
- Cabins Bear Paw and Aeneas remodeled – removing child size beds and going to twin beds!
- Shalom Home – multi use facility for staff housing or small retreat group
- An Eco burial area for bio degradable urns – Families' names would be put on a plaque, in a walk-through meditative area.

With our strategic plan adopted in 2022, the master planning team is hard at work! Some of the ideas being explored include:

- Laundry facility at camp, for staff and guest linens
- A 12-14 room building for housing retreat guests, family campers, volunteers, and staff
- Office building on site (currently Admin office at FLBC in Kalispell, with program office at camp)
- Shepherd's Rest – this has been in the plan for decades! A place for church leaders to 'come away' to rest, recharge, have sabbatical time, and/or volunteer
- More privacy in cabins
- Buying more property – as a buffer to protect the camps 'wilderness' feel
- Making trails more accessible to the beach and campfire area

If you have an idea you would like to share with the Master plan committee, please email the committee chair at wadebitz@gmail.com.

Offering!

Thanks Summer 2022 Campers!

THANKS to the campers donations, \$1,000 was given to *The People's Food Sovereignty Program*, a Native-led, grassroots organization that serves our neighbors on the Flathead Reservation through food projects, including teaching gardening and distributing game meat. Food Sovereignty is about making healthy, culturally appropriate food, produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, available to members of this community.

And \$500 was given to buy a cow through the World Hunger Program! You made a family very happy!

For 2023...

Our offering from campers will go to the *Haitian RUBY Project*. A program started by our summer staff member, Jovenell Pierre, to help redefine community through Christ, through actions of care. We love this program, as it is started by youth, run by youth, the work is done by the youth, and the money is raised by the youth. Jovi will be back with us in 2023, and would love to share more about what transformational things are happening in Haiti thanks to this awesome program!

Begin saving your money, and tell your friends, family, and church so you can bring an offering when you come to summer camp! For more information go to: thehaitianrubyproject.online



Advent Appeal 2022

THANKS to all who gave to help with camperships, facilities, staff scholarships, and the Shalom Home.

Your gifts In Honor and In Memory of loved ones help the camp in so many ways. Together we raised \$15,327 and met our matching goal!

THANKS For making a difference in the lives of campers and staff!



Get Ready...

It's Time For Our Biannual Campership Fundraiser!

Saturday, Oct 14, 2023

4-5:30 PM Silent Auction, Happy Hour, & Appetizers

5:30 PM Dinner served

6:15 PM Live Auction & Program

Silent Auction closes after program

Individual Tickets: \$50 each

Table Package (8 tickets): \$350/table

Kids 16 & Under are free; activities & dinner for youth from 4-7 PM

Please plan to attend the annual meeting AND the Harvest Festival!

What You Can Do Now!

- Offer to volunteer to help with the planning! We need you to zoom in or come to a meeting!!
- Add to your calendar, June 1st to buy tickets for Oct 14th, dinner and festival fun!
- Add Oct 1st on your calendar to watch for the online auction to open.
- Add Oct 14th to your calendar to attend the Harvest Festival.
- Consider what you can donate for the live or silent auction on Oct 14th to make this the BEST festival ever!
 - Do you have a vacation place?
 - Tickets to a game?
 - Airline miles? (For the on-line auction)
 - Make a basket of goodies?
 - A gift card?
 - Your old car?

Please contact Kellie, Harvest Festival Coordinator at: harvestfestival@flbc.net



Happy 80th to FLBC!!!!

Alumni board members and staff are invited to camp FREE of charge, June 30–July 2nd, to celebrate 80 years of ministry!

Join Gary Cockrell and Brad Abbott to share stories, and listen to your story!!

Every one is invited!

You must pre-register! If cabins are all taken, bring your tent or Hammock...

Can't join us for the whole weekend??

Come on Saturday July 1st, for a FREE burger and dogs BBQ in the pavilion, and a concert by 'Just Move' (formally Agape). Plus, campfire fun and smores!!

We will be celebrating all year!

Share your story of FLBC at office@flbc.net.

Musings from Margie

Margie Fiedler, Executive Director

I am often asked... *"Why are kids so different these days?"* There appears to be many factors, but many social and child psychologists believe smartphone and social media play a central role. According to psychologist Jonathan Haidt, when he reported to a Senate subcommittee, he shared *"online life transformed childhood activity, attention, social relationships, and consciousness."* The US Surgeon General, Vivek Murthy wrote in a 2021 report, that *"youth feel worse about themselves, using social media."* Joseph Allen, a Clinical psychologist who specializes in adolescent social development, said, *"social media does not give kids what they need. With phone and video games beckoning them 24/7 with features engineered to be addictive... youth spend less time outside playing, exercising, and attending religious and other community activities, all which boost their mood."*

With all the challenges so real, the fact is that camp has never been more needed or important. According to the American Camping Association, *"As a society we are just beginning to understand the long-term effects of extended isolation on children and teens. Camp is a safe place to grow in socio-emotional skill and build confidence. Camp connects young people to the environment, to skills, to fun to community, and an opportunity to grow in faith."*

A study conducted by psychologists Ruth Ann Atchely and David L. Strayer found that creative problem solving can be drastically improved by both disconnecting from technology and reconnecting with nature. Improving problem solving tasks by 50%! Maybe that is why our campers love solving issues on the low ropes course and the escape room! And of course, every activity we have campers participate in are all for the purpose of faith development and personal and community growth.

Increasing costs and a changing economy make camp this summer a tough choice for families at a time when the educational benefits of camp are more important than ever. I am so thankful that FLBC is committed to making a summer at camp more feasible for young adults by drastically increasing salary and bonuses. FLBC is also committed to NEVER turning away children/families because of an inability to pay. For this reason, we are focusing on asking churches, individuals, organizations, and businesses to "Adopt A Staff person." Any amount helps! \$5,000 covers salary; \$15,000 covers the cost of having a staff member, but any amount helps! For a gift of \$3,600 or more, you will be connected with a staff member, (if you want to be!) to communicate with them, and get to know them better. Camperships of ANY size help send a child to camp! From \$10.00 to \$890 (our cost per camper) and anything in-between or above! FLBC has NEVER charged anyone what it costs for camp. Each person is subsidized.

So, join us with your prayers for an awesome 80th year of ministry! Encourage young adults to work at FLBC this summer, and help send a child to camp! Yes, help them unplug for a week, to grow emotionally and spiritually.

Hope to see you at camp or a retreat soon!!

In Christ's service, *Margie*



Building the Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp Endowment Funds

In 2023, Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp (FLBC) will celebrate its 80th anniversary and implement an expanded vision based on its recently-updated Strategic Plan. One of the goals is to build-up the General Endowment Fund to help sustain FLBC for years to come.

Plans have been approved by the FLBC leadership staff and Board to increase the compensation for the Summer 2023 staff. We are working to recruit cream-of-the-crop summer counselors and staff, many of whom are between the ages of 18 and 24. Each summer staff member will receive \$400 per week plus room and board. If a staff member is willing and available to serve for the full summer (11 weeks) and signs on by March 31, their compensation (including bonuses) will move to \$5,000 plus.

If you are open to considering a \$125,000 pledge over the next five years designated for the FLBC Endowment, your gift will generate

funds to support a summer staff position every year going forward. The Endowment Fund is invested for long-term growth and the Finance and Endowment Committees have approved a distribution of approximately 4% annually. [4% of \$125,000 = \$5,000.]

For those individuals, families and churches who make gifts of \$125,000 or more for the Endowment Fund, it is possible to name the fund in honor of or in memory of a family, friend or faith community as well as designating its purpose to support summer staff, year round staff, camp programs, current operating needs, camperships, capital projects (new and maintenance) and environmental improvements.

Please contact us to learn about donor-advantageous ways to make high-impact gifts that will bring joy to each donor as well as contributing to the future of FLBC. We are prepared to help individuals and families consider

a multi-year pledge for the FLBC Endowment Fund and/or to plan legacy gifts to help ensure the future of Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp.

Grace Schroeder Scott, Senior Development Consultant, is eager to help you discover your preferred giving pathway. Please call Grace (612-743-7035) or contact her by email (grace@flbc.net) for further information.



Thank You To Our Year-Round Staff!



Year-Round Staff, December 2022 (Left to Right, Back Row): A. Pastor Amanda Applehans, *Retreat Coordinator*; B. Richie Withycombe, *Wilderness/EE Director*; C. Nell Johnson, *Food Service Coordinator*; D. Danielle Kirkland-Shatraw, *Community Staff/Volunteer & Day Camp Coordinator*; E. Jan Greenwald, *Registrar*; F. Renda Doney, *Administrative Assistant*; G. David Doney, *Maintenance Coordinator*. **(Left to Right, Front Row):** H. Margie Fiedler, *Executive Director*; I. Carlee Wood, *Development Director*; J. Karen Heser, *Program Director*. **Missing:** Grace Schroeder-Scott, *Sr. Development Director*



Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

603 S. Main Street
Kalispell, MT 59901

Find us on   @flatheadlutheranbiblecamp

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Needs List 2023

A few of the items that are needed! Gifts-in-kind or Financial gifts towards these items are so appreciated!

- Embroidery floss
- Cotton white pillow cases
- Brooms & dustpans
- Hand tools
- Postage stamps
- Staplers
- Pedal boats
- Snowshoes
- Soft play balls for GAGA
- Golf cart
- 4-wheel drive truck
- Cars and mini vans
- Band-Aids
- Electric fans
- Clorox wipes
- TP!

Visit flbc.net/donate-volunteer to see camp's full list of needs.

We are always grateful for your in-kind donations!

Upcoming Retreats & Events

- Mar 27-31 **Spring Break Camp (Grades 1-6)**
- Apr 9 **Easter Sunrise Service ~ 7:00am (Outside)**
- May 14 **Mother's Day Brunch**
- May 26-29 **Memorial Day Work Weekend + Family Retreat**
- June 9-11 **Women's Retreat**
with Rev Dr. Meggan Manlove
- June 10 **Partners Luncheon**
Speaker Ben Haugestuen
- June 30-July 2 **Family & Friends Weekend + 80 Years Celebration**
with Rev Gary Cockrell & Brad Abbott
- July 21-23 **Family Weekend**
with Pr. JP Carlson (MSU Campus Ministry)
- July 28-30 **Wild Women on the Water**
with Elizabeth Peterson
- Sept 1-4 **Labor Day Work/Family Retreat**
- Oct 14 **Harvest Festival**
with Dinner & Auction
- Oct 20-22 **Grief Retreat**
- Oct 29-31 **Flathead Theological Conference**
Sunday evening - Tuesday morning with Dr. Wrenn - "The Bible in 24 Hours"
- Nov 9-12 **Crazy About Quilting and Crafts Retreat**
- Dec 8-10 **Advent Retreat**
- Dec 27-29 **Young Adult Retreat**
Wednesday-Friday

We hope to see you soon!

Mark your calendar and register soon for these upcoming events & retreats!

Summer Staff Testimonial

Spending a summer working at FLBC was one of the best decisions I've ever made. I had so many new experiences that helped me grow and learn so much.

The wide variety of things offered by camp mean that you can be trained to facilitate all of those activities that you're excited about; this includes lifeguarding, high ropes, backpacking, and so much more. Not only that but you get to spend a whole summer playing games with all different age groups of kids and sometimes adults too!

Experiencing the magic of camp and bringing it to life for the guests is such a pleasure because the more fun that you have, the more fun they have. That is so unique in a work experience and made every day so enjoyable.

Finally, being around so many people who shared my faith allowed me to grow in my relationship with Jesus in such an amazing way. We had worships and Bible study everyday which helped me to really focus on being intentional with my alone time as well as my interactions with others.

Thank you!

*~ Skyler Earle
Summer Staff 2022*

