



# CAMP KOINONIA NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2020

---

## Merry Christmas from the Camp Koinonia Staff & Board of Directors!

We hope that you and your households are healthy and happy this Christmas season. We are happy to send you an update on the past year at camp. **With the support of our community, we continue to work towards new growth at Camp Koinonia, drawing from old roots of hospitality, sanctuary and adventure.**

## STAFFING UPDATE: Welcome Evan & Meara!

---

The Board of Directors is very happy to introduce our On-site Caretakers, Evan Laramée and Meara Sparling! Evan and Meara, and their pup Stella, moved out to Camp Koinonia in May 2019. So far, their favorite things



about living at camp have been living in the beauty of nature, watching the seasons change and having many opportunities to hunt and fish. There have been challenges as well, including having much of summer camp cancelled due to Covid19 and living far away from friends and family during the pandemic.

Please join us in praying for Evan and Meara to experience peace and joy in their role at camp. We are so thankful for them!

We also continue to be very thankful for Matt Heide, our General Manager, and Laura Dyck, our Guest Group Coordinator. The

Covid19 pandemic has created new challenges in offering hospitality and our staff have continued to adapt amidst changing provincial health guidelines.

## FROM THE DESK @ CAMPS WITH MEANING: by Janet Peters

---

**Looking back on Summer 2020:** Camp this summer ended up looking quite different than normal. With no overnight camps allowed, we had to get creative - and we did! The leadership staff pulled together to create a one-day Pop-up Camp program, which we implemented in Steinbach, Morden, Winnipeg, and Koinonia. With little else able to happen at Koinonia, we were all glad for the chance to be out there and to connect with campers in that space. We heard from many first-time campers that they would be coming again! We also ran some week-long day camps at Camp Assiniboia.

**Looking ahead to Summer 2021:** Summer 2021 is still largely unplanned, as we do not yet know how our province will be doing by that time. We hope to have a full program running again. If not, we now know that Pop-up camps and day camps can be just as meaningful and full of that special camp energy. Keep your eyes and ears open for updates in the new year!

## BASEMENT RENOVATIONS

---

There was a plus-side to having a slow summer at camp – time for a basement renovation! As some alumni may remember, the basement in the Main Lodge was in need of attention. Due to the high water level surrounding the building, the walls had started to shift inward. We were able to amend this problem by excavating around the building, reinforcing the basement walls and then sprucing up the interior with new drywall, fresh paint and a heated floor! Our hope is that the basement will now be a cozy hangout space.



We are thankful for our partners at Camps with Meaning for sharing in the cost of this project. We are also very thankful to Sheldon Dyck for leading the charge on this renovation, as well as the many volunteers who came to lend a hand over the course of the project.

## SUPPORTING CAMP KOINONIA

---

**Your support means the world to us.** Please consider supporting Camp Koinonia in the following ways:

1. **Pray for us.** For wisdom and discernment and for the Board of Directors looking ahead.
2. **Donate items on our Christmas Wish List**, including:

High chair	Snow shovels
Booster seats	Rakes
Waxless xcountry ski equipment	Welding helmet
Snowshoes	Welding rods
Round tablecloths	Paddles
Shuffleboard table	Kayaks
Snowmobile	Pipe wrenches
3. **Volunteer your time.** To get involved, contact Matt (campkoinoniamatt@gmail.com)
4. **Invite your loved ones to camp!** For bookings, contact Laura (campkoinoniainfo@gmail.com)
5. **Give a financial gift.** As we are currently a non-profit organization seeking charitable status, we cannot issue charitable donation receipts at this time. Donations for capital improvements at Camp Koinonia can be made through our partner organization, Camps with Meaning (Mennonite Church Manitoba).

Thank you for joining us in this work!

We wish you all the best this Christmas season.

Sincerely, The Camp Koinonia Staff & Board of Directors

[www.campkoino.ca](http://www.campkoino.ca) @campkoino