

Hello friends, family, and supporters of Lakeshore Center at Okoboji. We pray you are staying happy, healthy, and faith-filled through these times.

This is a difficult letter to write, and we imagine it will be a difficult letter to read.

On Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at the recommendation of Lakeshore Center's staff and Program Committee, Lakeshore's Board of Directors unanimously voted to suspend all 2020 summer camp programs. Although this was never an announcement we wanted to make, after carefully analyzing COVID-19 trends and reviewing the best advice from health experts, it is clear that this is the most prudent decision at this time.

Lakeshore Center holds the health and safety of its campers and staff in the highest regard while striving to provide the highest quality experience possible. With the restrictions placed on us by COVID-19, there is simply no way we can meet both of those expectations to our satisfaction at the same time this year.

In recognition of the current economic climate, we have instituted a new refund policy for all currently registered campers. All payments made for 2020 programming can be applied as a credit to future programs, refunded in full, or donated to Lakeshore Center as a tax-deductible gift. Camp families will receive emails to arrange this soon.

We are grieving now, but we trust that God will lead all of us to something good. Let us remember Isaiah, 43:19, when God tells us "Behold! I am doing a new thing!" We follow a good and generous God who leads us through the wilderness, and makes waters flow in the desert. This will be the first time in Lakeshore's 64-year history that summer camp will not happen, but it is also a God-given opportunity to explore new ways of doing ministry.

Although we will not have camp programs, Lakeshore Center still strives to be a place of faith and growth this summer. With current COVID-19 restrictions, it is far easier and safer to focus our ministry on individual, self-isolating, groups. We are encouraging families and other small groups to come to Lakeshore and rent a cabin for a few days to enjoy the lake and the sunshine while growing closer to God and to each other. Please call or email us to learn more and reserve your group's cabin.

Lakeshore itself remains healthy, but a summer without camp programs will be a hardship on this ministry - spiritually, financially, and physically. Please consider ways you can support Lakeshore through this crisis. Whether it is money, volunteer time, or prayer, this ministry thrives on your involvement and gifts. Call our office or visit our website to get involved.

Like many of you, Lakeshore's plans have changed drastically this year. We cannot change the times that we are living in, but we are empowered by our God to respond to them with courage, grace, and above all else, love. We look forward to a time when we can all gather together again, but in the meantime, take care to practice the Christian values we cling to: Love all your neighbors, try something new, and experience God through prayer, play, and praise!

Peace of Christ, always,

Harry & Cassie Gabe  
Associate Directors  
Lakeshore Center at Okoboji