

St. Louis Camp Meeting Association of the Church of God

St. Louis Campground
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St. Louis, MI 48880



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Greetings from the St. Louis Campground!

Snow is on the ground and the campground is quiet yet again....and we can't wait for the 2022 camping season to start already! 2021 brought many changes and challenges, as every year does, but our God is faithful and brought us through them.

We were blessed to have Tom and Kathy Schaefer with us another year as campground caretaker and manager. Their love for the campground and their passion for sharing God's love is so evident. We've had multiple positive reviews and comments on internet forums, and many people are recommending the campground as a quiet and clean place to stay. We couldn't be more grateful to Tom and Kathy for all they do!! We can't forget their helpers though, Gary Puckett and Jeanette Lawrence. They both work day in and day out, helping Tom and Kathy with anything and everything! Tom, Kathy, Jeannette, and Gary: Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for serving!

We've had a great year in 2021, with loads of improvements around the grounds going on and plans being made for the coming years. Here are just a few notable upgrades:

- The wiring in the Youth area and to the dorm has been upgraded to underground wire. The circuitry and wiring in the dorm was also upgraded to allow for safer electricity use and with multiple plugs in each room. This was a high priority for us as we wanted to provide safer conditions for those staying in the dorm.
- LED lights were installed on the grounds this year, replacing the mercury lights and cutting our Consumers Energy bill by about 75%. We were offered an opportunity by Consumers to put in energy-saving lights and to receive a credit on the cost of supplies for this project; we took full advantage of this and are so pleased with the results! Not only did we upgrade to energy-saving lights on the grounds, but also in the tabernacle. Tom installed new ceiling fans and lights in the tabernacle, a fix that was sorely needed due to fans or lights not working.
- The area around the tabernacle was freshened up with mulch and some plants this year; we think Tom and Gary did a fantastic job with this. Also, the facing on the front of the tabernacle and the soffits were replaced. The tabernacle looks wonderful thanks to Tom and Gary's work!
- Charter/Spectrum internet has been installed at the campground. We now have a stronger and faster internet signal, with wi-fi stretching from the Registration office to the Business office and surrounding area. We're saving money with this upgrade and providing a more reliable internet service that many campers have asked for.

As some of you might remember, during camp meeting there was an issue with the electricity and wiring in the cottage area. It was discovered that the wiring to some of the cottages was very old and out of code. This caused some shortages and almost a fire in the cottage area when air conditioners and other high-voltage appliances were being used simultaneously. This is a top priority to be fixed next year. More information will be sent out at a later date to the cottage owners to address this issue and fix what can be fixed.

A very notable change that will affect the cottage owners is an increase in the optional fee which the cottage owners pay to allow them to stay anytime throughout the summer, outside of camp meeting. This fee has been \$250 for many years, and a number of cottage owners have taken advantage of this offer. However, we realized that this one-time fee may not be enough to adequately cover utilities for a cottage being used more than a couple times per month. Because of this, the board of directors has chosen to raise this fee from \$250 to \$400. The rate for camp meeting will remain the same at \$200, which is not an optional fee – it must be paid per cottage whether or not it is used during camp meeting. This \$400 fee can be paid by any cottage owner to allow them to stay

anytime throughout the summer, outside of camp meeting. This is effective January 1, 2022. If any cottage owner wishes to not pay the optional \$400 fee, they must pay the nightly rate of \$15 for staying in their cottage (outside of camp meeting).

The development committee is looking into several options for activities to add on the campground, such as disc golf, a splash park, mini golf, and a few others. We found out that a splash park can cost up to \$80,000 to install, while adding a disc golf course would be exponentially cheaper. What would you like to see added to the campground? Is there a particular activity or game structure you'd like added? Let us know! If you'd like to make a donation toward any of these types of projects, please send it to:

Sandy Turk, Treasurer
c/o St. Louis Campground
77 N. Baker Rd
Midland, MI 48640

As many of you might remember, we didn't have the café or the bookstore in the regular bookstore building this year. That was because black mold was discovered in the entire building and was deemed unsafe for any use. This became a significant issue that needed addressing immediately. We were able to hire a team from Allgood Construction in Flint who gave us a quote to strip the building down to its studs and deep clean the entire building. We are pleased to say that this work has been completed, and now we wait until Spring to make sure the mold doesn't come back. The plan moving forward is to paint the floor with a special moisture barrier and then either put vinyl flooring down or just paint the floors like in the bath houses. Again, if you'd like to make a donation toward this project, you can send it to Sandy Turk at the address above.

Now that the year is coming to a close, it's a good time to consider donating to the St. Louis Campground as part of your year-end giving. All donations are tax-deductible and can give you that extra little boost on your 2021 taxes. There are projects we are working on that can use funding, and there are always maintenance and upkeep costs throughout the year, so your donations will certainly be welcome. If you'd like your donation to go toward a certain project, be sure to make note of it on your check or in a note with your donation.

We would like to thank each one of you who continue to support the St. Louis Campground, whether it be financially or prayerfully. God has blessed the campground beyond any of us could comprehend, and we know He will continue to in the years coming. Join with us as we seek God's will for the campground and move forward in faith.

Prayers for a safe and healthy holiday season for you and your family!
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

In His Service,

The Board of Directors
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