

## St. Louis Camp Meeting Association of the Church of God

St. Louis Campground  
8489 N. Bagley Rd.  
St. Louis, MI 48880



(989) 681-2581  
[www.stlouiscampground.org](http://www.stlouiscampground.org)

Greetings from the St. Louis Camp Meeting Association Board of Directors! It seems like camp meeting was only yesterday...worshipping with Jeff Eckman and his wonderful praise band from the North Avenue Church of God, being challenged by Pastor Steve Gulick to build the Kingdom, eating at the all-camp potluck on Sunday, and watching the teachers and camp leaders be made into human sundaes! What a great camp meeting we had in 2019, filled with "RE"s—REcharging, REviving, REstoring, and REdeeming. Who doesn't feel revived and restored after a St. Louis Camp Meeting?

We would like to thank all the folks who were able to make it out to camp meeting this year; we saw a 10% increase in attendance! From Kid's camp to the Senior Adult activities and everything in between, we truly hope that you enjoyed your time there and are looking forward to the 2020 St. Louis Camp Meeting! We are very excited to see what God has planned for us in the coming years.

During the 2019 annual business meeting, the Board of Directors recommended to the association a budget raise for the South end sewer project to \$180,000, with the caveat that 50% of these funds should be raised prior to any work beginning. A two-year time frame was also given to obtain 100% of the amount needed for the project. The vote was overwhelmingly positive!

At present, we have approximately \$25,000 in the sewer project fund. Lord willing, we will have the \$90,000 within the next year, and the project can begin.

It is our firm belief that this is the direction God wants us to take. This sewer project will help to provide longevity for the St. Louis Campground by adding full sewer hookups and 50-amp electric service to 60 sites in the south end. It will allow for year-round camping and provide income throughout the whole year, which then will offer funds to upgrade and maintain the campground as a whole. We invite you to pray and seek the Lord's will on this. What are you willing to do to see this project move forward? Can you do a year-end gift? How about setting up the campground to receive your year-end minimum distribution from your IRA? Would your church be willing to put on a benefit dinner to raise funds? Can you take up a collection at your church for the sewer project? If you feel God is leading you to donate toward this, please get in touch with Sandy Turk, the camp treasurer. You can send her a check for a tax-deductible donation, or funds from your church's fundraiser, or even ask her about how to set up the minimum distribution from your IRA directly to the campground without any fees. Give Sandy a call anytime at (989) 430-1073. She would love to hear from you all!

Many of you participated in our all-camp potluck this year on Sunday during camp meeting, and wouldn't you agree that it was a great success? The windmill workers and their families were invited to come grab some grub, and even then there were still leftovers! We were so blessed by everyone who brought food to share that day, and would like to thank you for your generous participation.

Since camp meeting, happenings around the campground include upgrading shingle roofs to new steel roofs on four buildings: The house, the children's office, the youth office (Lett's Loft), and one of the children's buildings. There are still more buildings on the campground that need new roofs on them, and it was approved by the association in the 2019 annual meeting to include this in the 2020 budget. Also, we have sold many of the metal folding chairs, but opted to keep 200 of them. They are being stored on a special wagon that can be hooked up to a trailer hitch and towed wherever the chairs are needed on the campground.

The Board of Directors has been discussing the sign on the corner of M-46 and Bagley, as well as the lack of lights during the night time. Most of us remember when that corner was so well lit that no one could drive by without

beholding our three-tiered sign announcing the Michigan State Church of God Campground! That sign was a trademark for the campground and is still very well-known. But after years of punishing Michigan weather, the sign deteriorated and we replaced it with a temporary vinyl one just a few years ago. The main complaint about our corner of M-46 and Bagley is how dark that intersection is, and how difficult it is to find the campground at night. Well, we have decided to step out and obtain quotes from a few local businesses, and we have selected one to move forward with. The new sign will cost a little over \$4,000.00 and will be installed as soon as possible, weather permitting. New solar-powered spotlights will be installed, providing a cost-effective way to make sure that our corner is visible at night.

We want to say a GREAT BIG, HUGE THANK-YOU to Tom and Kathy Schaefer, our camp manager and caretaker. They have done an outstanding job keeping the campground clean, beautiful, and ready for campers. Kathy is an exceptional office manager—taking reservations, answering phones, and making sure the windmill and soybean plant workers have a great experience on the campground. She works hard at cleaning the buildings and the bathrooms, and we all know that is certainly no easy task! We've all watched Tom put in countless hours mowing, trimming trees, fixing broken pipes, restoring electricity to campers, and making sure everyone has everything they need at the St. Louis Campground. Words cannot express our gratitude to Tom and Kathy for their hard work and dedication. Feel free to drop them a note of thanks anytime throughout the year by sending a card or letter to the campground address. It is sure to brighten their day to hear how their hard work is appreciated!

Lastly, we want to thank all those who have donated to the campground over the years, including the churches who chose to include the St. Louis Campground in their tithing. Without you, we would not continue to be debt-free, **as we are to this day**. God has truly blessed us, and we pray that He continues to guide and bless us as we build His kingdom and spread His love!

We ask that you pray and seek God's will about supporting the St. Louis Campground by donating your time or money, and by keeping us in your prayers. We are always in need of volunteers during the camping months as there is always something to be done! To ask about volunteering your time, or setting up a work camp for your church's youth group, contact Kathy Schaefer at (989) 681-2581. For more information on a year-end tax-deductible donation, or even for setting up an event at your church to benefit the campground, you can get in touch with Sandy Turk, the camp treasurer. She can be reached at (989) 430-1073. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook to see what's going on at the campground. For camp meeting information, camp meeting downloads, and other camp meeting related info, check out our new website at [www.stlouiscampground.org](http://www.stlouiscampground.org). We have a page on our website to contact us, but for inquiries about camping reservations and availability, please call Kathy Schaefer at (989) 681-2581.

We look forward to the great plans God has for the St. Louis Campground! The Board of Directors would like to extend our best and joyous wishes for a blessed Thanksgiving and Christmas. May God bless you during this holiday season!

In His Service,

*The Board of Directors  
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