

St. Louis Church of God Camp Meeting Association

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



(989) 681-2581
www.stlouiscamp.org

Greetings to all! It's been a wet spring this year so far at the St. Louis Campground, and we've wiped down our waders and dried off long enough to write this newsletter! Just as soon as the standing water dries out from one rainstorm, another storm hits—and then we're back under water! But, if you know the St. Louis Campground, you know this is nothing new! Tom and Kathy are dealing the best they can with the excess water, including digging small drainage passes so that the puddles can drain into the ditch on Bagley Road. There hasn't been any lasting damage to buildings or structures from this spring's rain, so that's a big Praise the Lord!

Tom and Kathy have been hard at work on the campground, welcoming group after group, and cleaning and maintaining the grounds. A very big THANK YOU to Tom and Kathy for all their hard work! The grounds look fantastic, campers are happy, and the word is spreading about how great a place the St. Louis Campground is! Large camping groups are returning that haven't been here in years, and not to mention, there are three weddings planned on the campground this year! Way to go, Tom and Kathy!

We would be remiss if we didn't mention the help Tom and Kathy have had this year with maintenance and upkeep; Gary has been working as hard as Tom since early spring, and Craig and Shirley Hearn have been helping move projects along. Ted Wejrowski has been working on the electricity in the South end, updating many sites to 50 amps to allow for bigger campers. A few others have stopped in to help with little tasks, so thank you to ALL who have donated their time to helping the campground! Please feel free to stop in and see what all has been done at the campground, and don't be shy about checking in to see what else needs to be done. We are to be God's hands and feet...and sometimes those hands need to get dirty for the Glory of God!

We currently have a number of windmill workers already on the grounds for the whole summer, as well as some soybean plant workers. They were happy to return to the St. Louis Campground—and we're happy to have them! There was some interest last year in having some services on weekends at the campground for those seasonal campers, and this year we're implementing a Saturday service/vespers, open to the public. These will take place the 2nd and 4th weekends through September, and the 2nd weekend in October. Each night will be hosted by an area church, with snacks and refreshments to follow. The location has yet to be determined, but it will take place on the campground, and might even take place around a campfire! We hope that by hosting these gatherings, we can spread the Good News and encourage people to come see what our campground is all about! We are, first and foremost, a Church of God campground! If your church would be interested in hosting one of these events, please contact Tom and Kathy at (989) 681-2581.

There have been a number of projects completed on the campground this spring, and some that will be ongoing throughout the year:

- New siding has been put on parts of the South bathroom to cover what was left bare after construction.
- A washer and dryer have been donated to the camp, which were installed in the South Bathroom.
- Multiple diseased/dying trees have been removed over the last few years; we are having some people come in and investigate to see if there is a common source for the diseased trees that we can try to mitigate. As a reminder, we still are offering the purchase of sapling trees to plant on the campground in memory or honor of a loved one. Our goal is to plant as many sapling trees (or more) as other trees are being removed. We all know how helpful good shade is in the summer!

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- The campground is looking to purchase sturdy picnic tables to provide to campers on multiple campsites. Many other campgrounds provide picnic tables on every lot, and we feel that we should try to offer this as well. If you would like to donate a picnic table, or funds to help purchase some, please contact Tom and Kathy Schaefer at (989) 681-2581.
- To help mitigate muddy roads and campers getting stuck in the mud after rain, we have implemented the use of “StoneCrete”, which produces no dust when it’s dry, hardens to form almost a paved road, and is visually appealing. It is somewhat costly, but it provides longevity and is extremely low maintenance. The roads on the campground now have less potholes and are much smoother.
- Lastly, we want to provide an update for the South end sewer project. Last August, we had a special meeting of the Association to garner approval for revamping the sewer system in the South end, allowing full RV sewer hookups for seasonal campers—primarily, the windmill and soybean plant workers. The project has been moving along, but not without speed bumps. During inspection of the existing South sewer system, it was found that the maximum septic holding capacity was far exceeded—calculated based on 75 gallons of water usage per campsite, per day, at full occupancy (State regulation). Because of this, it was decided to reduce the number of camping lots by about 45; some lots are now pull-through instead of back-in camping lots. This change mainly involves the South camping area, but if your reserved lot for Camp Meeting is affected, you will be notified at registration. It is very important that all campers register before parking; more so this year as changes will have been made to some lots and lot numbers. The entire system will be a new, separate septic system installed in the South end.

Permits for the sewer project have been granted, which are valid for up to 5 years. We are planning to begin work in late September, after the main camping season slows down. This project is not fully funded, so please consider giving to the St. Louis Campground this year at any time. The South bathroom project was extensive and expensive, but it was fully funded! The campground was in debt for many years, but now we are debt-free! If God wants this campground to move forward, He will provide the means. We serve a mighty God who moves mountains! Do you believe this? We do!!

All donations to the campground can be sent to the campground address, C/O Sandy Turk, Treasurer. Your donations are tax-deductible and always appreciated. Last year, we had a challenge issued during camp meeting, that for every 5 people who donated \$250, an additional \$250 would be added each time. Well, we went 7 rounds, totaling over \$10,000! You, our faithful campers, are the ones who donated this money! THANK YOU!!! Because of your generosity, the St. Louis Campground is going strong today! We wouldn’t commit to these big improvements without the support you’ve shown over the past few years! We can’t say it enough....THANK YOU!

Camp Meeting 2019 is shaping up to be a great event. We are excited for some new activities, and some cherished that have been going on for years. The Sunday afternoon Hog Roast has been changed to an all-camp potluck this year. Everyone is invited! Please bring a dish to pass (or two!), along with your own table service and lawn chairs. Bottled water will be provided. Also, we will need some volunteers to help with set-up and take-down of the tables and chairs in the back of the tabernacle—this is where the food will be “served”. If you are interested, please contact Tom and Kathy Schaefer and let them know. After the potluck, how about a playing some games of corn hole? We invite everyone to bring your own corn hole sets as we plan to have multiple teams set up in the grass between the maintenance barn and the duplexes. We are even hoping to have a tournament! There will be a sign-up sheet for the tournament at the registration office for two-person teams.

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Your continued support of the St. Louis Campground is always coveted. Please continue to pray that we seek God's will in improving the campground, and that we would never stop spreading the good news of Jesus Christ from our grounds. We are excited for the improvements happening on the grounds, and we are excited to see you at Camp Meeting this August, 1-9, 2019! Call Tom and Kathy Schaefer to make your reservation, or for information about the campground or Camp Meeting in general, at (989) 681-2581. Don't forget to visit our website at www.stlouiscamp.org or check us out on Facebook by searching for St. Louis Campground! God Bless!

In His Service,

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