

# CAMP LEBANON



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**MISSION:** *Camp Lebanon is dedicated to providing a 'Meeting Place with God' to help the Church do the work of Christ.*

## **VISION STATEMENT:**

*Through (1) the "funnest fun," (2) loving relationships, (3) beauty inside and out, and (4) Truth declared and illustrated, Camp guests young and old will taste the delight of being desired by their Creator God.*

**POWER:** *Respecting the Sovereignty of Almighty God and the realities of spiritual warfare, Camp Lebanon's first ministry is PRAYER in and for all facets of Camp's enterprise.*

**POINTS OF IMPACT:** *More than a DESTINATION, Camp Lebanon will be a BASE from which staff and guests will touch the world with the love of Christ.*

**PROCLAMATION:** *In a world deceived by and lost in sin, Camp Lebanon's message will be UNMISTAKABLY JESUS and UNCOMPROMISINGLY BIBLICAL... no matter the cost.*

**PARTNERSHIPS:** *As servants of the CHURCH and allies of the FAMILY, Camp Lebanon will seek to forge dynamic partnerships with parents, pastors, and program leaders.*

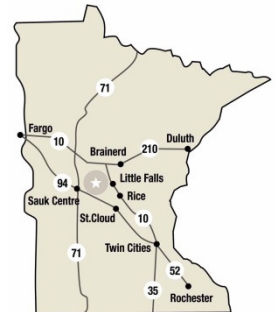
**PRIORITIES:** *In serving the entire church community, Camp Lebanon will more than anything else love KIDS into the Kingdom, encourage FAMILY as God ordained it and facilitate GUEST GROUP ministries.*

**PROVISION:** *Forever needing to trust God for every provision, Camp Lebanon will operate with full integrity within its means while keeping camp affordable, fully staffed, and well-maintained.*

**CORE VALUES:** Because ministry is all about relationships, Camp Lebanon is committed to:

- God-honoring service.
- Christ-illustrating love.
- Excellence.
- Team unity.
- Celebration of God's creation.
- Integrity in everything.

**LOCATION:** Camp Lebanon is located five miles west of Upsala, a friendly community of 400+ with another 1000+ in the surrounding lakes and farming areas. Situated fifteen miles from the geographic center of Minnesota, Camp is an easy two-hour drive from the Twin Cities. Distances: 110 miles northwest of US Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, 35 miles northwest of St. Cloud, and 25 miles southwest of Little Falls. Area churches: Community Covenant, Gethsemane Lutheran (ELCA), Word of Life Free Lutheran, St. Mary's Catholic, and Country Community - Holdingford (CCCC). Upsala Area School is a fine community school that serves grades K-12 with an average class size of approximately 30.



**CEDAR LAKE:** An ideal lake to facilitate an active camp, Cedar is 253 acres in size with a mean depth of 39 feet (maximum depth 88'). Served by a public boat landing, Cedar boasts quality fishing for largemouth bass, walleye (stocked), pike, and panfish. Clear year-round, Cedar Lake registered 20+ feet in clarity readings in recent summers becoming clearer as the summer goes on.

**CAMP HISTORY & OWNERSHIP:** Established in 1947 and incorporated the next year, founders sought to establish a summer Bible Camp to reach youth in Minnesota with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Over time this vision grew to a year-round ministry for youth, families and adults with an outreach that crosses Minnesota borders both west and east. Organizationally independent, Camp is currently owned by twenty churches that comprise the Cedar Lake Baptist Assembly, Inc. At least 50% must be members of the Venture Church Network (formerly Conservative Baptist,) but Camp gladly serves a wide range of denominations that either send campers to Camp Lebanon events or program their own. Each February at the Annual Meeting of the Membership a Board of Directors is elected consisting of ten members that set policy for Camp's operations and ministries.

**PROPERTY:** Camp's main site is a fifty-acre peninsula on beautiful, spring-fed Cedar Lake. In 1993, Camp secured eight acres of undeveloped forest now called "Eagle Ridge" and currently used for tent camping. In 1999, Camp acquired 13.5 acres west of the driveway, now known as "Sunset Cove." The very next year, Camp added 15 more acres to the west famously referred to as "Bass Point." Anticipating future expansion, Camp purchased the non-contiguous 65-acre Johnson Property in 2002 and resold it to develop the long-awaited "North 40" parcel secured in December 2006. In 2008 a comprehensive site plan for Camp Lebanon's 143 acres was adopted by the membership and approved by Morrison County. It was last updated in 2021. The plan serves as a development guide for future site improvements and program expansions.



## FACILITIES

- Cedar Bay Lodge (14 hotel-like rooms sleep five, full baths; built 1989, renovated 2004 & 2011.)
- Birch Point Cottage (Lodge-like, 4 rooms; built 1990, renovated 2003 & updated 2011.)
- Cabins (15 year-round units each sleep 12; community showers short walk away; constructed 1951-1994.)
- Chalet (dining hall 200+, main hall 250+, lounge, rec room, gift shop; 6 housing units sleep 52, elevator, handicapped friendly; built 1949, renovated 1970, enlarged 1996, entry reworked 2012, Main Hall remodeled 2014.)
- Scandinavia (6 housing units sleep 48; meeting room & recreation area; built 1993, renovated 2002, updated 2012, 2021.)
- Log Cottages (2 charming units with bedroom, bath, kitchenette, living area, loft; sleeps 4-6; renovated 2008.)
- Main Office (two-story, five offices; built 1975, renovated 2001, updated several times.)
- Activity Center (nature, crafts, canteen, generator; built 1969, renovated 1996, refloored 2018.)
- Source of Life Gazebo (beautiful meeting area for up to 25, fireplace, lake view, built 2000, renovated 2014.)
- Eagle's Nest Rec Pavilion (functions like a fun play space, feels like chapel, built 2016.)
- Legends Field Wiffleball Stadium (world class miniature ballpark with a big league feel, built 2017, improvements ongoing.)
- Beaver Point Boardwalk, Tree House, hiking trails, sand volleyball court, tennis/basketball court, 2 ballfields.
- Waterfront: beach, diving raft, sailboat, 4 pontoons, pedalboats, canoes, kayaks, corcls, ski boat, water toys.)

## HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

- 1946 Effort initiated to secure a camp site for Minnesota Baptist youth.  
1947 46 acres on Cedar Lake with six buildings purchased for \$6000. First camps held.  
1948 Cedar Lake Baptist Assembly incorporated with fifteen charter members. First cabins.  
1949 Chalet Dining Hall and ten more cabins constructed to replace tents.  
1952 Modern sanitation facilities installed.  
1954 Chalet's upper level added.  
1965 Family Camp ministries inaugurated.  
1970 A-frame Prayer Chapel built.  
1989 Hotel-like Cedar Bay Lodge opens new era in adult & family ministries. Quilt ministry begins.  
1993 "Eagle Ridge" (8 acres) purchased for \$90,000.  
1994 Scandinavia retreat facility constructed with an immediate gain of 1000 campers.  
1996 Chalet renovated and expanded, elevator, added housing. Ministry expands by 1000 guests.  
1998 "Sunset Cove" purchased.  
1999 10,000 camper threshold reached. "Bass Point" purchased (campfires, creation studies).  
2006 North 40 purchase (\$692,000) inspires an expanded vision.  
2008 New Master Plan adopted by membership, approved by Morrison County.  
2009 "Footprint for the Future" finished as 60K cubic yards of dirt moved to reset Camp's footprint. Zipline opens!  
2011 State of the art waste water management system installed.  
2012 Camp's "Hub" renovated and well upgraded.  
2013 Cabin renovations begin. New mattresses. A/C.  
2014 West end septic upgrade. Source of Life Gazebo renovated. Eagle's Nest Pavilion construction ground ready.  
2015 Eagle's Nest dedicated. Beaver Point Board Walk – Phase 1.  
2016 70<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Wiffleball Stadium constructed. West End gazebo.  
2017 Camp rezoned Shoreland Commercial. Conditional Use Permit for new Master Plan.  
2018 Chalet Deck replaced. Beaver Point Board Walk – Phase 2.  
2020 COVID Family Resort. Scandinavia renovation. Dining Hall makeover. 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Quilt Ministry.  
2021 Chapel Tent. Pontoon upgrades. Master Plan Updated.  
2022 75<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Gym Campaign. 12,273 year-round guests (record!) Beaver Point Boardwalk extended. New docks.



### CAMP'S FUTURE:

With the addition of the "North 40", Camp hopes to expand into multi-site ministries. A campaign is just underway to build a multi-purpose gym with a second Lodge hopefully soon to follow. Camp also plans to multiply ministry by establishing strategic partnerships with complimenting ministries.

### MEMBERSHIPS:

Christian Camp & Conference Association (CCCA); Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.

### WINTER PROGRAM:

Mega Fun (2 events, grades 3-6), Arctic Blast (2 events, grades 7-12), Winter Chill (staff reunion.)

### SPRING PROGRAM:

Quilt & Craft (4 weekend & mid-week sessions), Men's Advance!, Mother/Daughter/Grandma (2), Dads N Lads, Young at Heart Seniors & Senior Day, Spring YAR (Young Adults Retreat).

### FALL PROGRAM:

Dads 'n' Daughters, Men's Retreat, Women Retreats (2), Senior Adults & Senior Day, Quilt & Craft (5).

### SUMMER PROGRAM:

9 youth sessions (kindergarten graduates - high school grads, 1834 campers in 2022.)  
4 family events (Memorial Weekend, Summer Fun Weekend, Family Week, Labor Day Weekend.)  
Leaders In Training (grades 10+, three weeks of leadership development; 2 sessions in 2023.)  
Sweat Team (age 14+, two weeks of entry-level service training; 33 participants in 2022.)

### 2022 OPERATION:

\$1.97M budget. 63 program events. 90 rental groups. 12,272 year-round guests.

### MANAGEMENT STAFF:

Executive Director	Bill Abeler [1986]
Women's Ministries Director	Lisa Abeler [1986]
Business & Technology Manager	Marcus Nelson [1999]
Food Service Manager	Tony Cluka [2012]
Director of Ministries	Shane Hollenbeck [2019]
Office Manager	Faith Petersen [2018]
Guest Ministries Director	Ben Smith [2022]