

Winter 2025

# THE DOCK

Cedar Lake Ministries' Quarterly Newsletter



## CONTENTS

Director's Update – 1  
Our Year at a Glance – 2  
Department Updates – 3  
Make an Impact – 4

## DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Mike James  
Executive Director

Cedar Lake Ministries turned 110 years old this year!! The saying "time flies" certainly has merit. Although this year has flown by, looking back allows us to reflect on and be thankful for all that He has done for this ministry.

With the Lord's provision, the prayers, increased volunteerism, and support of donors that want to continue to have a Christian camp in northwest Indiana, these grounds have been improved, many of the buildings have fresh paint, significant progress has been made on restoring historic Lakeview bunkhouse, a working boat has been donated for the children and a new outdoor Pavilion has been built!! We are truly grateful to all the people He has used to revitalize this camp. The following page has some highlights in the "Year at a glance."

Looking forward:

We are adding a Spring Men's retreat in 2026 and we are continuing the new offering for children called "Kicks for Christ," where children receive bible lessons from a CLM employee while also being taught Taekwondo from a certified 6<sup>th</sup> degree black belt.

To attract more guests from churches, schools and families that use our facility for their events, we have instituted off season pricing and winter specials with rates as low as \$75 / person.

We are at the early stages of making plans for next year's Mother's Day and Christmas Gala and are discussing ways to increase worship events on our grounds in 2026.

Although it appears that we did not meet our 2025 budget target, we are continuing to press forward in faith with our efforts to rebuild this camp. If you know of a business owner that has a heart for the Lord and the spiritual growth of children and adults, would you please tell them about this ministry?

Thank you for all of your prayers & support. We pray that your 2026 will be even better than your 2025

# OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

CLM continues to impact people young & old...

- 5,600 Guests (churches, schools, families, etc.) stayed at CLM
- 755 Children attended camp
- 282 Adults attended CLM Program retreats
- 317 people attended special events (Mother's Day & Gala)
- 44 young adults and teens were trained and served as Summer Counselors or Leaders In Training

CLM continues to be blessed and is making progress on rebuilding and enhancing the camp

- A new outdoor pavilion was built
- A boat and commercial prep station were donated
- Historic Lakeview bunkhouse from the 1880s continues to be rebuilt (Most structural repairs have been completed)
- 7,027 volunteer hours

Our near-term focus is to complete rebuilding Lakeview and add a cement floor to the outdoor Pavilion so children can play sports in addition to worship.

## TOP 10 NEEDS

Kayaks - \$350

Used Skid-steer

New Signage - \$500

Archery Targets - \$500

Carpet Runners - \$560

Acoustic Panels - \$600

Mattress Covers - \$3,000

Five-well Hot Line - \$5,000

Four New PTAC Units - \$8,000

Backup Generator for Kitchen - \$12,000



## VOLUNTEER SUPPORT

We had wonderful volunteer support for our recent Christmas Gala fundraiser! Members from Suncrest Christian Church of St. John helped transform the Dining Hall with beautiful decorations, wrapped silverware, and arranged table settings and centerpieces. During the event, additional volunteers captured memories at the photo booth, played piano during dinner, and assisted with bussing tables and cleanup. Their support and teamwork with our staff were instrumental in making the evening a great success!



## Volunteer!

Scan this QR Code or email our  
Volunteer Coordinator at:  
[paige.c@cedarlakeministries.org](mailto:paige.c@cedarlakeministries.org)



## **Program- Hunter (Program Manager)**

Our Program team has had a phenomenal year and we are so thankful for the areas where we have seen God work! We recently had our annual Christmas Gala, which was a huge success! Now we are setting our eyes towards 2026. We are getting everything organized for our upcoming Elementary Winter Day Camp and our two weekends of teen winter camp now known as Base Camp. We are very excited for these events and can't wait to see what God does!



## **Maintenance- Tim (Maintenance Director)**

With the beginning of winter, our maintenance team has been hard at work trying to keep our roads and sidewalks cleared. We are also continuing to work on the restoration of Lakeview and some other miscellaneous projects around camp. If you or someone you know would be willing to volunteer to help us repair the ceiling in the Dining Hall, we would greatly appreciate the additional skilled hands.

## **Housekeeping- Mercedes (Housekeeping Coordinator)**

The snow is in full swing, but we're still moving! The Housekeeping team has had an amazing year. There is so much to reflect on and to be grateful for. I am thankful to everyone who has worked in this department this year and to those that have moved on, we still pray for everyday. I couldn't have asked for a better summer, a smoother transition into fall, or a more productive winter. The Lord has provided for us and this ministry so much this year. It really puts into perspective how much He wants Cedar Lake Ministries to succeed. As we enter another year strong, as a team we ask for prayers for the upcoming season; that God would bring the people He wants into this ministry and that He can keep us going for another one hundred years!

## **Kitchen- Ed (Food Service Director)**

Thank you so much for your continued support of our ministry! We have had a lot of exciting things happening in our kitchen. Our team had the honor of preparing a wonderful meal for our recent Christmas Gala and it was truly a rich time together. We are incredibly thankful for the opportunity to serve the Lord through our food and service. Please pray for our team as we continue to serve.

## **Guest Services- Dawn (Guest Services Manager)**

As we enter this beautiful holiday season, our hearts in Guest Services are overflowing with gratitude. This year we've had the joy of welcoming so many wonderful guests — families, churches, retreats, ministries, and friends old and new. Each visit reminds us how God continues to work through this place, bringing people together for rest, renewal, and connection. And while the seasons change, our invitation remains the same: Come and Rest a While. Snowfall, crisp air, and quiet winter mornings by the lake bring a unique kind of beauty that we love sharing with our guests. Even as the weather turns colder, our doors — and our hearts — stay wide open. In fact, many are discovering the peaceful charm of winter retreats and taking advantage of our off-season rates. We are just as thankful for the guests who have filled our year with laughter and prayer as we are for those planning to join us in the months ahead. Whether you've been with us many times or are considering your first stay, know that you are welcome here, all year long. From our Guest Services team to you and yours, we pray your holiday season is filled with joy, warmth, and the Lord's peace. We can't wait to see you soon. Merry Christmas and blessings for the New Year!



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## PRAISES & PRAYER

- Praise the Lord for the progress that we have made on Lakeview and around camp!
- Please pray for wisdom for our staff as they make decisions for this ministry.
- Pray for the Lord's continued provision and protection as we serve.
- Pray that we will develop deeper relationships with new and returning donors.
- Pray for opportunities to build strong partnerships with our local churches.
- Pray for the Lord to move mightily in our guests and staff throughout this upcoming winter.

Registration is now open for **all 2026 programs!** More information, including event details, dates, and pricing, is available on our website, [www.cedarlakeministries.org](http://www.cedarlakeministries.org).

## MAKE AN IMPACT

As many of you know, it takes a lot to keep a ministry like ours going. We need partners to come alongside us, both financially and in prayer. Please prayerfully consider becoming a partner in our ministry. Our Make an Impact Partnership is a simple, secure, and hassle-free method that allows you to support the ministry and its life-changing work on a monthly basis — even \$10 a month makes a big difference. Your generosity directly influences hearts and lives, as campers and guests of all ages are enabled to encounter their Savior — a true Kingdom impact!

