



May 12, 2020

Dear Friends,

It has been a very long and strange Spring season. The quiet grounds and empty spaces are a constant reminder of the inability to control our current situation and world events. Our God is sovereign, and our prayer is that He will redeem this season as we watch Him do something new.

Our Executive Team, Trustees, and staff have been closely monitoring the developments of the COVID19 outbreak and its impact on summer camp and the ministry. We have consulted industry leaders and forums, healthcare professionals, camper parent surveys, federal and state guidelines, and MUCH prayer.

The situation continues to remain fluid, and flexibility is vital as our governing bodies may dictate further changes. Governor DeSantis is allowing summer camp programming once we enter into Phase 2. With that will be adjustments and changes to not only the number of campers and counselors but to our processes and procedures as well.

In light of the needed changes, we are **delaying the start of the camp season to a target date of June 21.**

The following changes to the summer schedule are as follows:

- Open House, originally scheduled for May 3, **postponed to June 13.**
- Aquatics **postponed** – TBD
- **Canceled** Week of June 7 - Lakeside 3,4,5 grades, Lakeside 1,2,3 grades, WHOLE, Alpha Session A
- **Canceled** Week of June 14 programs – Lakeside 5,6,7 Grades, Voice in the Wilderness
- We hope to reschedule Big MAC, Camp Friendship and Parent/Child Camp - TBD

All families of campers registered for the above programs will receive communication with specific instructions. If you are one of those families and have not received an email, please let us know.

Please note more changes may be necessary, but we hope that the rest of the summer programs will run as scheduled. A rolling system to announce additional opening/closing of sessions will be in place. Those decisions will be made four weeks out from the program, and camper families will receive a notification at that time.

Camp is a life-changing experience, and we do not take for granted the trust you put in Lake Aurora to provide a safe environment. In our effort to meet the CDC and state guidelines, there will be changes to the number of campers we can have on campus, which activities will be available, meal service, and housing arrangements. While we will make every effort to mitigate risks, *each family will have to determine if camp is right for your child this summer.* We do not want to encourage anyone with underlying conditions or weakened immune systems to expose themselves to these risks. In considering camp choices, please be aware that space is limited in all camps. As the restrictions change, more space may be available. Please use the waitlist if possible.

Lake Aurora Finances

This crisis has undoubtedly affected the camp financially through the cancellation of retreats since March and now the delayed start and anticipated limited summer camp attendance. If you are able, please prayerfully consider sharing an additional gift with this ministry, it will be of great help as we navigate this very difficult time.

Please pray – our mission is to have campers experience God's creation and see lives change. We want to reach young people for Christ and minister to them in this very trying time. Please pray for the volunteers, camp staff, and leaders as we move forward and trust in God's provision and leading. And finally, pray for the safety of all involved.

Thank you so much for believing in the value of Christian camping. The Lake Aurora ministry is encouraged by your prayers and support. This summer will be a challenge, but we trust God is in it and going before us. We anticipate God showing up and being an amazing summer for Him!

In Christ,

Steve and Phyllis Bornemann, & Jason Mocherman – Executive Team
Lake Aurora Board of Trustees

