

PRBC PROCLAIMER

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(left-right) Back row: Scott Pierson, Isaiah Hylden, Rachel Monsebroten, Meredith Mutch, Esther Johnson, Kaylan Kizima, Tammy Olson, Ryan Papenfus, Susan Degner, Nacole Hillbrand, Emily Vogsland, Samantha Beckman, Austen Dahl; Middle Row: Zach Hanson, Jonny Cox, Melissa Irvine, Whitney Jones, Jessica Hanson, Caitlyn Kaz, Lindsay Dusek, Kayla O'Toole, Justin Hylden; Front row: Brennan Duffield, Sandy Pifer, Dante Irvine, Boe Miller, Rebecca Kjelland, Albert Irvine, Seth Helgeson, Shane Flemming, Mithch Anderson, Lilly Bullington



Meet Our Staff!

At PRBC we have been blessed with great godly counselors. Here are the stories of just a few staff and why they love PRBC 😊

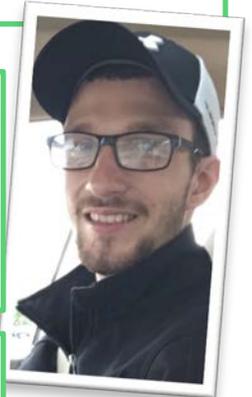


Meredith Mutch: I love camp because it has always held a special place in my heart. As a camper I enjoyed everything about PRBC, from worship, to Bible studies, to the high ropes course. It was, and still is, a place where I can reflect on life and truly take time to focus on my relationship with the Lord. Now as part of the staff, I love camp even more because I have the opportunity to help young campers grow in their faith. I feel God's presence at PRBC, and that's why I continue to come back. Once a camper, always a camper.



Albert Irvine: It has been a place to worship God and grow with other Christians. As a camper I was able to spend great weeks playing games and worshipping. Now as a counselor I get to do the same with other staff and spend time with campers as they grow in Christ during their time here.

Shane Fleming: Camp is a place I always loved going. As a kid, I spent almost every summer at Camp, learning about Jesus and growing with other Christians! Now that I work at a camp, I fall in love with it more and more every day as I'm given the opportunity to share Christ's love.



Jessica Hanson: My favorite thing to tell people why I work here is I started coming to camp as a camper and I loved it so much I never left. I learned of God's love here and my relationship with Him grows each week as I watch the campers learn and grow too.





On a summer day during the Great Depression—the year was 1935—Gustav and Albert Fagerholt took a drive with a vision. A vision for an evangelistic Bible camp, and just a few miles south of Odalen they found the place where God would call people to himself through the Word. The very next summer of '36 the clang of sledgehammers were heard ringing down the river as volunteers staked down Carl Paulson's eighty-four feet by forty-five feet tent. There would be 104 souls in attendance that first session from "21 congregations of the Norwegian Lutheran church and the Lutheran Free church" (*Walsh County Record, 1936*). Our forefathers had established a firm foundation under the awning of a tent—much like the Israelites in the desert—upon the unmovable Word of God.

That first gathering was 80 years ago to the day this coming June. Frances (Froiland) Kjelland reminisced on some of those first midsummer evenings, "In 1940 there was only one cabin and tents were still being used... I remember the campfires on the hillside every evening." They would gather around the fire, hearing the Word, and singing praises to their Creator under the stars. In those days they even had a week taught in Norwegian by Rev. Gornitzka. Though I can only recall the stories told by my great-uncle Mike Hylden about him and Ben Winther waking before the sunrise 'round 4:30 am to split wood for the old cookstove.

There are so many names, stories, prayers and dates that are impossible to all recall. Both because so many gave so much with never a thought for mention nor reward. Also because so much of those days are lost now—both to memory and time—there is something that no retelling can recall. Yet nearly all those who were there in the beginning have now been called to their eternal home, where upon arriving they surely heard their Savior say, "Well done, good and faithful servant... enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matt. 25:23). They laid a firm foundation, and God still called for others to come and build upon it.

This summer our theme is #RESURRECTIONMATTERS. Our centering verse is from John 11:25, "Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live.'" Our VBS teams are going to 15 different locations this summer. That is more than double from just last year! Our first on-site camps were a huge success with Peter Eide kicking off the week's worship. The rest of our on-site camps were filled with children from all over coming and hearing the saving Gospel of Jesus. One week we even had 199 campers here! It is a joy to see our final numbers for the summer are up from last year. The Holy Spirit is doing great deeds among us.

Since the first tent revival meeting under Carl Paulson's big tent by the river in June of 1936 we have had over 100,000 people pass through our camp. Over the years we have grown significantly, and thankfully no longer have to wake up at 4:30 to chop wood or cool off in the mud swimming hole behind the chapel. Though over nearly a century, despite all the changes around us—both physically and culturally—a child can still come sit around the same campfires and hear the unchanging good news of the gospel of Christ. We may be 80 years old, but we are "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone" (Eph. 2:20). A foundation that we have "carefully built upon" (1 Cor. 3:10) being careful not to store up our treasures where "moth and rust destroy" (Matt. 6:20). Instead we look "forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God" (Heb. 11:10). Praise God for firm foundations. Praise God for skilled craftsmen and women. Praise God for His faithfulness and His ministry at this camp. Amen.

Introducing the Director of Ministries

After a thorough, prayerful, and Christ-centered search, the Director of Ministries Search Committee (composed of PRBC Board members and other community leaders) presented Rebecca Kjelland as the recommended candidate to serve as the Director of Ministries of Park River Bible Camp. The Board of Directors accepted that recommendation on July 19, 2016, and extended the call to Rebecca on that date. It is with gratitude and joy that Park River Lutheran Bible Camp is pleased to announce that Rebecca has accepted this call. Therefore, it is our privilege to introduce the Director of Ministries of Park River Bible Camp, Rebecca Kjelland:

Rebecca, her husband Aaron, and their sons Sander (9), Jonas (9), Torfinn (7) and Brune (5) reside in rural Park River, ND, where they farm. Rebecca was not raised in a Christian home, but came to know the Lord at a Bible camp near Seattle, Washington when she was 13 years old. It was then, that she fell in love with Jesus, and it was the first time she felt loved and worthy of love. Rebecca has a great testimony and is using it to connect with people from all walks of life.

After graduating from high school in Sandpoint, ID, Rebecca took the train east. Her Youth Director, Jodi (Bjornstad) Houge, had told her about this amazing Bible Camp in Park River where Jodi (originally from Walhalla, ND) had worked. Rebecca came to Park River Bible Camp June 8, 2000. Rebecca started as a Camp Assistant that first summer and was paid \$500. She then worked for 2 summers as a counselor as she attended Bible School and college, and then worked for 3 years as the Program Director at PRBC.

In 2015, Rebecca was tasked as the Interim Managing Director of the camp and has served in that role with great enthusiasm and ability. Rebecca and her whole family are excited for this new adventure as she accepts the call to be the Director of Ministries. Her heart is here at Park River Bible Camp. She feels “very blessed and honored to have been asked to serve in this role.” Rebecca is eager to work alongside the Board of Directors, pastors, congregations, parents, and individuals who support this ministry, as well as the staff who work to bring the gospel to all who come to Park River Bible Camp. Rebecca has a heart for camping ministry and cares deeply about each camper—wanting them to grow in faith, to truly know that the word of God is living and breathing, and to realize that the Bible is the most important book they will ever encounter. Rebecca strives to show each person that comes to Park River Bible Camp that Jesus loves them whole-heartedly. She quotes from Mark 16:15, He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.”

Throughout her life, Rebecca has seen hard times and good, has grown in learning what it means to trust in the Lord, and she glorifies Jesus as the one who restored her and made her strong, firm, and steadfast in her faith. “And the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered for a while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To Him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.” (1 Peter 5:10-11)

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is my delight to welcome Rebecca and I look forward to working with her for the fulfillment of our shared mission—Park River Bible Camp is a camp and retreat ministry for all ages that encourages a faith relationship with Jesus Christ through Bible study, worship, music, and fellowship.



Board Chair and the rest of the Board of Directors



The “New” Memorial Cabin

In 1945, a boy’s dormitory was built as a tribute and memorial to Captain Adolph Winther who was killed in action in France. For 71 years, Memorial welcomed thousands and thousands of campers of all ages. This cabin has served a great purpose. It provided sanctuary and security. It has seen laughter and tears. Most importantly, it has sheltered God’s children. This summer the Board of Directors decided that Memorial needed to be replaced due to the cost of repairs exceeding the cost of replacement.

We decided to move a cabin that was donated to the camp several years ago. This cabin houses 50% more campers each week. Through the hard work and sweat of wonderful contractors and the grace of God this project was completed. The cost of the new foundation, moving, and labor was made possible by a generous donation from the late Art Greenburg. It was his will to see Memorial updated. After much discussion, we felt it right to honor both the Winther Family and Art Greenburg by designating the cabin carry on the name Memorial. Even though the structure has changed the sentiment remains the same. We are excited about this ‘new’ cabin. It will be used for summer activities and has potential for winter use. With God’s provisions we will be further updating the siding, insulation, and adding a bathroom. This will allow it to be used all year long for youth and adult retreats.

This has only come about because of the faithfulness of the Lord. For it is He that is providing us each and every day for the on-going ministry of Park River Bible Camp. He will continue to lead and guide us as we move forward with this new project. We hope you come to visit our new cabin that will continue housing God’s wonderful children.

Dining Hall Gets Refinished



During the cold of winter we hauled in a load of new tile to our dining hall. The original building was the result of fundraising from the initial lutefisk dinners many years ago. In the decades since the floor painted over many times had seen better days. The wall paneling also made the gathering space darker than desired. After many hours by groups such as the *Seven Rustler's* 4-H Club, Victory Free, Grafton Lutheran, and Langdon's *United Lutheran* church group the dining hall is once again the great facility it was built to be. It will continue to welcome thousands of campers, lefsa rollers, and meatball makers for years to come.

Summer 2017 Camping Schedule

- June 28-30th- Jubilee Camp
- July 5-7th-Sr. High Week
- July 9-14th-Adventure Camp I
- July 9-11th-Mini Camp I
- July 12th-Little Tykes Camp I
- July 13th-Day Camp I
- July 16-21st-Jr. High Week I
- July 23-28th-Adventure Week II
- July 23-25th-Mini Camp II
- July 26th-Little Tykes II
- July 27th-Day Camp II
- July 30-Aug. 4-Jr. High Week II
- August 10th-Jubilee Day Camp
- August 13-16th-Family Camp
- August 17-20th-Sr. & Jr. High Autumn Blast w/ OTCF

Justin Hylden— Finishes Year as Interim Program Director



If you had told me last July I'd be working at PRBC I would have told you that's crazy. In a month I was scheduled to move and had just closed on an apartment in another state. Yet now looking back I couldn't have imagined spending last year any differently. It has been such a blessing working at this camp that has given so much to me through the years. Camp has formed me as a disciple of Jesus since I was a child memorizing Bible verses to goofy songs, listening to counselors teach Bible lessons, and worshipping God through song on starry summer nights underneath the cross. In September I will be leaving for seminary to pursue ordained ministry. Even though thousands of miles may separate me from this camp it will always be close to my heart and lifted up in prayer. Thank you for a great year PRBC.



Introducing: The Resurrection Club

Park River Bible Camp exists to enrich spiritual lives, lift broken spirits, and walk with people on their spiritual journey. I was reminded from last summer that ministry happens in ways that we cannot foresee. 520 Campers worshipped and grew with us last summer, as well as 38 summer staff from all walks of life doing all sorts of jobs. I love this camp and how the Lord uses it for good! This summer we will welcome around 550 campers. We have also gone from serving 7 churches with our VBS program to 15 VBS's reaching 452 kids.

Over the last ten years, Park River Bible Camp has had persistent operating budget deficits. We ended 2015 unable to repay our operating loan. Park River Bible Camp has also seen declining attendance in the past. We seem to have stabilized both of these concerns, but now need to reverse the trends. Park River Bible Camp is rich in so many ways. We have wonderful facilities, volunteers, staff, and campers. We have had wonderful relationships with member and non-member congregations. We have an AWESOME and POWERFUL God.

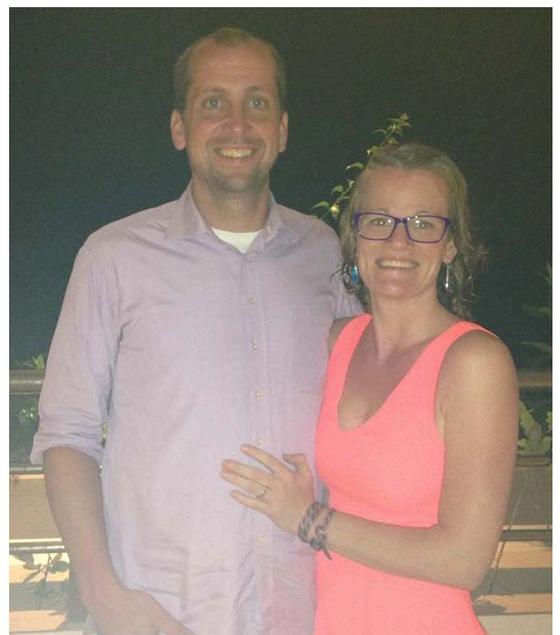
I believe with all that is in me that Park River Bible Camp exists for HIS purposes. I believe in our Lord's resurrection and I believe that with HIS help, Park River Bible Camp will also rise. With that in mind, I am creating a new giving opportunity. The **Resurrection Club** will be a way for a select group of supporters to make major gifts to ongoing, operating costs. This money will not go to plaques, or bricks, or monuments. It will pay for things like bible study materials, food, staff, lights, water, building maintenance, and even fuel for the lawn mower. Each year we need to raise \$100,000 to repay old debts and fund these expenses for the summer.

We need your help and I would love to visit with you about a gift. We are asking for gifts of \$1,000 to \$5000 in the first four months of each year. Here at Park River Bible Camp, we don't turn people away if they can't afford the cost. We believe that our duty as Christians is to welcome all people and share God's Love. Park River Bible Camp covers the cost of any camper who cannot afford the full tuition to come to camp. We want families to know that their **kids can come to camp, regardless of cost**. Your gift to the **Resurrection Club** enables Park River Bible Camp to serve ALL campers.

I love Park River Bible Camp so much; I know you too love this camp. I am boldly asking for you to consider being a part of this movement to keep Park River Bible Camp out of debt and keep this vital ministry able to teach about the love of Christ. With all of my heart I know we can do this together. I would love to visit with you about this opportunity and need at Park River Bible Camp. Thank you for your prayers and your valued partnership!

In His Grace,
Rebecca Kjelland
Director of Ministries

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UPCOMING EVENTS @ PRBC



- September 9 & 10th- Lefsa Making Days
- Sept. 14th-Fall Gathering
- September 23rd & 24th-Meatball Days
- September 25th-Lutefisk Dinner
- October 8-9th-Dad, Mom, & Me Rocket Retreat
- Oct.12th- Autumn Confirmation Blast
- October 29th-B.Y.O.C. (Bring Your Own Costume) Day Camp

- November 4-6th-Knitting & Crocheting Retreat
- November 6th-Quilt Auction
- November 11-13th-Quilt Retreat
- November 18-20th-Scrapbook/Stamping Retreat
- December 9-10th-4-6th grade retreat
- December 30th-Staff Reunion
- December 31-January 1st-Jr. & Sr. High NYE Retreat
- January 20-22nd-Quilt Retreat
- February 12th-Valentine's Father/Daughter Dinner
- February 20th-Free Day Camp (7:30-5:30)
- March 3-4th- 4-6th Grade Retreat
- March 17-19th-Quilt Retreat
- March 24-26th-Scrapbooking Retreat
- May 24th-Jubilee Day Camp (1:30-3:30)

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