

Easter tide 2025

Dear friends in Christ,

For nearly 100 years, Camp Chickagami has been a sacred space of growth, connection, belonging, and spiritual discovery. Whether it's through a quiet Compline in a canoe on the gentle waters of Lake Esau, a romp through ancient woods with old and new friends, a starlit hike to Lake Huron, or a holy campfire with singing, jokes, and prayer - Camp is a thin space where campers, volunteers, staff members, and guests encounter the creative and restorative work of the Holy Spirit. **Today, we ask for your help to protect and preserve this beloved place as we recover from recent ice storms and ensure Camp Chickagami remains safe for all who come here.**

We're grateful that the storms of late March and early April left most of our 26 buildings intact, with only one sustaining major damage—repairs that will be covered by insurance. But as anyone who has stepped foot on this holy ground knows, **Camp is more than its buildings.** Our outdoor chapel—the heart of our community and primary gathering space—suffered significant damage, and at this time, we are unsure what insurance will cover. Our hiking trails, where many games and spiritual activities take place, are now unsafe, with fallen trees blocking paths and broken limbs still hanging overhead.

Our need is both immediate and long-term. These storms have led us to look more critically at the overall safety of Camp Chickagami—for those who visit and for the land and waters entrusted to our care. Following the advice of local emergency responders, we are planning beyond immediate cleanup to ensure Camp remains a safe, accessible, and welcoming space for all people to encounter the beauty and goodness of our Creator.

We are seeking to raise \$60,000 to address critical safety needs at Camp Chickagami. On the enclosed flyer, you'll find a list of prioritized safety projects, identified with guidance from professionals, McKenzie Bade-Knill (Camp's Executive Director), and staff.

This effort goes beyond storm cleanup. It's about stewarding a treasured gift—so that Camp Chickagami remains a place where our children are safe, where seekers find rest, and where communities gather in love and trust for generations to come.

Please prayerfully consider what you can give to support this urgent need. With less than two months until our staff arrives to welcome campers in July, your support is needed now. Every gift—large or small—makes a difference.

You can give online at bit.ly/chickagami-safety, or by sending a check to our financial office at 124 N. Fayette St., Saginaw, MI 48602. Please make checks payable to **Camp Chickagami** and write **"2025 Safety Campaign"** in the memo line.

Thank you for helping us rise to this challenge—and for being part of what makes our diocese and Camp Chickagami a place of sacred encounters and holy possibilities.

With hope for the future,



The Rev. Molly Bosscher
President, Standing Committee
Episcopal Diocese of the Great Lakes

