

March 5, 2021

Dear Friends of LYFE Camp,

With heavy hearts, we regret to inform you that LYFE Camp is suspended in 2021 due to the ongoing pandemic. This is how we got here and where we're going next:

Camp Minnesota is working hard to create a safe, exciting camp schedule this summer. They are using COVID-19 safety protocols set by the CDC, the American Camp Association, and our great state of Minnesota. You can read the updates at [campminnesota.org/covid-19-information](https://campminnesota.org/covid-19-information). Current guidelines are “to limit mixing by organizing into cabin group *bubbles*” and practicing distancing from others, including people participating in the same camp on site.

For a majority of Camp Minnesota Camps, which are smaller and led by paid site staff, this model likely has minimal impact on leadership and community-building goals. LYFE Camp is typically 80+ people and 100% volunteer led. Concurrently running several bubble cabin-centric LYFE Camps while practicing distancing from other bubbles has a tremendous impact on our community-building goals. Also, having volunteer leaders essentially “on” with their bubble 24/7 without the hands-on teamwork of the full staff ensemble creates extreme logistical challenges.

This winter, we gathered an ideation group of past, present, and potential Senior Leader volunteer staff who have a passion for LYFE Camp. We had prayerful conversations about minimizing leadership challenges and community impact. While pandemic headlines change daily, the time to make a decision that would allow ample time for staff training, logistics planning, and content creation is now. In the end, this ideation group left these conversations lacking a strong consensus that we have the resources to operate LYFE Camp at its best in 2021.

This is not a very fun announcement, *informational message* about camp! Young people have experienced so much drastic change in these times and we lament that LYFE Camp becomes yet one more drastic change. We especially lament the impact this has on high school seniors looking forward to their “senior year” of LYFE Camp. Please know you were on our hearts as the ideation group thought this through.

Anyone who registered will get a full refund or can use it toward another camp. Please consider participating in another camp this year! We hope to host online events for the week of June 27 when camp would have run; stay tuned to the [Friends of LYFE Camp Facebook page](#) and the upcoming refreshed [lyfecamp.org](https://lyfecamp.org). We are already excited for LYFE Camp 2022 and returning to the shores of Fish Hook Lake at Northern Pines Camp with you. Blessing to you all and thank you for understanding and your support.

In Christ,  
Rev. Rachel Devereaux  
Rev. Nate Melcher  
LYFE Camp Co-Deans