



# Menno Haven Impressions



THE NEWSLETTER OF MENNO HAVEN CAMP & RETREAT CENTER ~ WINTER 2016

## 2016 Spring Events

- Spring Work Day April 16  
(Work Day Rain Date) April 18
- Family Camp May 27 – 30
- Rally Day May 30
- 5k Run/2K walk May 30

## 2016 Summer Events

- Facilitator Workshop June 5 – 8
- Summer Staff Orientation June 12 – 18
- Summer Camps June 19 – July 22
- Back to School Party August 9

## INTERESTED IN HELPING?

Come volunteer anytime!  
Just give us a call at  
(815) 646-4344 or send an email to  
[info@mennohaven.com](mailto:info@mennohaven.com).



You could:



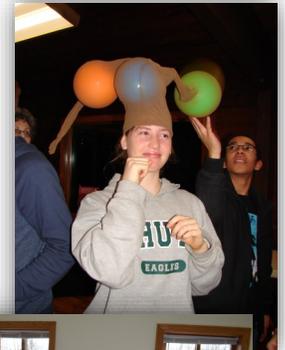
- Help host guests during a weekend • Remove Honeysuckle
- Learn how to lead the adventure course • Cut & stack firewood
- And much more!



## High School Winter Retreat



What a great time we've had at Menno Haven these last few weeks! In January we had over 130 youth and sponsors at our High School Winter Retreat. Jeff Ressler was our speaker and challenged us to step out boldly in our faith. The youth enjoyed getting to know people from all over the state, making connections and forming new friendships.



## Junior High Winter Retreat



About 65 youth and sponsors attended the Jr High Retreat making for a more intimate gathering. The weather was nice enough to enjoy ice skating, and a few adventurous folks tried the tubing hill before it



became too muddy. Mariah Martin, first year student at AMBS brought the messages and helped us to see how our identity was rooted in God's love for us. Both weekends were full of fun fellowship, meaningful worship, and lasting memories.

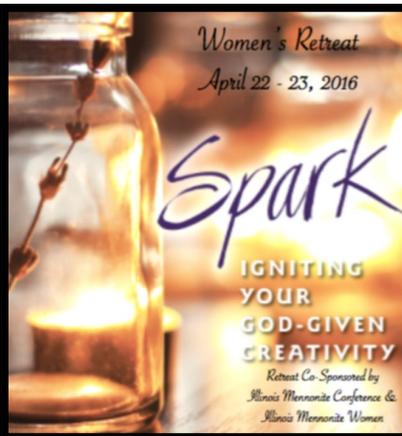
## Who is Your Shepherd?

### 2016 Summer Theme



Who or what gives you guidance and direction in life? In John 10:1-18 Jesus describes himself as a shepherd, someone that guides and directs. Jesus is not only our shepherd, but our GOOD shepherd. The shepherd calls to his sheep and they know his voice and follow. Jesus leads his sheep through the desert to pasture. And unlike the thieves and robbers who selfishly want the sheep for their own profit, Jesus lays down his life to protect his sheep. This summer at Menno Haven we will be discovering what it means to follow Jesus as our Shepherd, and become more aware of the thieves and robbers who don't truly care for our wellbeing.





Do you ever fantasize about getting away from day-to-day life to relax and spend time with friends and to connect with other women with time to dwell in God's Word and to worship together? If so, we have the event for you!!

The Spark: Igniting Your God-Given Creativity retreat will help you to discover God as the original Creator and the joys of being created in God's good image—all while nurturing your own creative spirit.

It's taking place April 22-23 at Menno Haven. Space is filling up, so register now. Go to [mennohaven.com](http://mennohaven.com) to the Quick Link "Spark, Women's Retreat" for a registration form. We would love to see you there!

### Wish List

- Ventrac 
- Stick Blenders
- Playground Balls
- Zippered Pillow Protectors
- Plain White T-Shirts
- Youth Size Life Jackets 
- Hymnals 

## WELCOME JACOB LANDIS

Jacob Landis joined Menno Haven staff full-time as the Program Director in November 2015. He is from Sterling, IL and has come to Menno Haven in the past as a camper, a summer volunteer, and as the Junior High School Camp speaker in 2015. Jacob recently graduated from EMU (and Hesston College before that) with a double major in Biblical Studies and Congregational Ministry.



Jacob would love to meet you at a Menno Haven Program or you can invite him to your church to preach or lead a Sunday School time. He is a wonderful addition to our full-time staff.

## Rally Day



Join us on **May 30** for our annual open house. Come early and participate in the fourth annual 5k Run/2k Walk to raise money for the Camper Scholarship Fund. Then stay to meet the 2016 summer staff, share a potluck lunch and enjoy all Menno Haven has to offer all afternoon!



## Spring Work Day

**April 16**

Bring your work gloves & friends out to Menno Haven on April 16 and help us prepare the camp for summer. It has been a hard winter and we need your help. If you have any special skills or have interest in leading a project please call or email us at [info@mennohaven.com](mailto:info@mennohaven.com).



Mark your Calendars!

Join us on **August 9** for the

## Back to School



We have had a blast the last few years at Back to School Party! Join us this year August 9, 2016 to enjoy Menno Haven as a family one last time before school starts; hang out during the day, then stay for a cookout and campfire with S'mores.



## Facilitator Workshop

**June 5-8**



Our Adventure Education Program is growing and we need trained facilitators! Are you 16 or older and want to learn how to lead guests through cooperative activities, initiatives, the high ropes course, and up the climbing wall? Once you have completed your training, you can be hired to facilitate for guests groups at Menno Haven. Call the office for more information!



## Menno Madness

Saturday March 12<sup>th</sup> we had our lively 4<sup>th</sup> annual Menno Madness basketball tournament at Menno Haven. The teams played hard but smiles and friendly competition reigned.



Congratulations to Walnut Community Bible Church who took home the 5 foot trophy for the third year in a row!



## The Gift of Association Members: Reflections on the IMCA Annual Meeting

The Annual Association Gathering took place on a crisp Saturday on December 5. The day started off with sounds of willing workers splitting wood, taking down the ceiling of Oak Bunkrooms and preparing a mailing. What a gift! After lunch a tour took place to see the physical updates in the last year. The Association Members met for the annual Business Meeting to meet the staff, worship together, and reflect on the past year. Doc's words of reflection ring true when he said "I am appreciative of you the owners, donors, and supporters who have given of yourselves, your time, your skills, and your resources. You are a gift. You have given a gift that invests in the future of this organization and in the future of all who attend here." If you have any interest in becoming an Association Member, let us know. We'd love to see you next fall at this gathering!



## Renovation & Bringing New Life to Oak Lodge



Renovation is defined by Wikipedia as "the process of improving a broken, damaged or outdated structure. Additionally, renovation can refer to making something new or bringing something back to life." It is our prayer this happens for all who come to Menno Haven – that broken hearts and tired spirits can be brought back to life in Christ Jesus!



Renovation is also needed for outdated, worn physical buildings that have served countless people for almost 40 years. **Starting October 10** of this year, the Oak Lodge Bunkrooms will be gutted and resurrected as Dorm Rooms in time for Winter Retreats in January 2017! Paul Yoder, former Facilities Director and Project Manager of the Hickory Dorm Room Renovation, will be returning as the Project Manager for the Oak Lodge Renovation. His knowledge of the prior renovation will be a great asset for this project. In preparation for a speedy renovation, windows have already been cut in and installed, new drain tile dug in around the building and the old drop ceiling has been removed and sheet rock has been temporarily installed.



In the coming months, we will be looking for skilled workers – framers, concrete workers, plumbers, electricians, dry-wallers, finish carpenters – who are willing to lend an expert hand during October -January. There are also times when we will need strong arms and willing workers to move furniture, do demolition, bust out concrete floors, etc. We also need faithful prayer warriors. We are looking to have people sign up to pray each day of the project – for safety, for volunteers to come forth, for equipment to be available as needed and not breakdown, for the tasks to go smoothly without obstacles, for provision of funds to complete this project, etc. Please contact our office if you are interested in helping in any of these positions for this renovation and our volunteer coordinator will contact you with scheduling information. Help bring life back into these buildings so they can better serve Menno Haven's mission to invite all to experience God's World and Christ's Kingdom.



## Prayers & Praises

- We are thankful for our new staff and pray that they have a good transition to Menno Haven
- We are thankful for the 200+ youth and sponsors that came to the Winter Retreats
- Pray for the campers that will join us this summer; that they will experience God's world & Christ's kingdom
- We are very thankful for all of you who have supported Menno Haven with your gifts of volunteer time, resources & prayer; we couldn't be the ministry we are without you
- Pray for those considering being a part of this year's summer staff

## Join us for a Summer Ministry Opportunity!

We are seeking qualified young men and women who have a desire to know, love, and serve Jesus Christ, and to share their faith with others through their words and lifestyle. We are looking for applicants to be mature, teachable, dependable, hard-working, service oriented, and well suited to working with children and adults. If you know someone who meets these requirements please send them our way! You can contact Jacob, the Program Director, at [jacob@mennohaven.com](mailto:jacob@mennohaven.com)



### Menno Haven Camp & Retreat Center

Ph: 815-646-4344

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## MENNO HAVEN YEAR ROUND STAFF

Doc (David) Johnson  
*Executive Director*  
 Kenny Lane  
*Guest Group Coordinator*  
 Beverly Mercer  
*Housekeeper*  
 Evie Yoder  
*Grounds-Keeper*

Tim Gale  
*Facilities Director*  
 Jacob Landis  
*Program Director*  
 Andy Lanier  
*Food Service Manager*

## EVER HAD A DESIRE TO BE ON MENNO HAVEN STAFF?

**Now's your chance** to fill a temporary need. Tim Gale, our Facilities Director, is on crutches and restricted duty due to a knee/ankle injury sustained on December 26 and it is unclear when he will be back to full duty. While the Year Round Staff are doing what they can to fill in, there are many jobs still on the to-do list. Would you have the skill set and time to: finish building a deck and railing, do repairs on cabins including doors and screens, clear trails and clear trees that have fallen over the winter, help prep the pool for summer, or a variety of other tasks? Call the office if you have some time to come help out during the week or on a weekend. We would be so very grateful!