

Menno Haven Camp and Retreat Center

Youth and Family Camps • Retreats and Conferences • Adventure Education

December 2025

Greetings, Friends of Menno Haven!

God is good! The Lord keeps going before us! My heart feels it will burst from the amount of gratefulness I have for how the **LORD is faithful** to continue to go before Menno Haven's Ministry. My heart overflows with **gratitude for YOU** and the ways you have supported the youth and adults who enter God's presence in and through this place! **We need your help** again to continue to support our campers.

In **May of 1978** for the first time campers were able to dive into the deep end of the **new Menno Haven pool**. Since then it has been the location of baptisms, swimming and diving lessons, crazy Water Carnivals, invigorating Polar Plunges before breakfast, relationship building free swims and cabin activities, revitalizing Beaver Swims at the end of a really hot day, and good poolside conversations as well as **a source of joy, refreshment, and play** ever since that summer almost 50 years ago. In our surveys, the pool continues to be **a top favorite of our campers** and church groups have specifically chosen to come to Menno Haven because we have a pool. **The pool is a vital part of the summer experience here.**



The last few years we have been assessing the pool's long-term viability. Based on a good professional report of a solid pool structure and conversations with other camp directors who missed the crucial timing to repair their existing pools and therefore needing to spend an exorbitant fee to build new pools (close to \$3 million), this past spring the Board of Directors along with Menno Haven Ministry Team took steps with the amazing help of many volunteers (professional & willing folks) to prepare the pool vessel for repair by a pool contractor. This included concrete repair where needed, sealing the seams/penetrations with high grade caulk, sandblasting the old paint off, and repainting the pool with a higher bonding pool epoxy which will have lower yearly maintenance.

Back in 1978, our pool had state-of-the-art filtration equipment; however, 47 years later the equipment has been repeatedly patched and repaired and is showing its age; it may not last another summer. **A new filter system and mechanical room renovation is the only feasible option to ensure the pool can stay open in 2026.** Additional benefits include greatly **reducing water loss** as well as **saving energy, chemicals, and staff time to manage.** While these upgrades come with a sizable price tag, they are significantly less sizable than the cost of a new pool! **Here is where your help comes in.**



We need your support to complete this pool restoration, prior to summer 2026. In order for that to happen the IL Department of Public Health needs to approve the engineering plans and \$390,000 is needed to fund this project. Those are two big things. But our God is that big!!!!

Can you help us by:

- **Praying** - Invite God to act on our behalf by praying for the engineering plans to be approved in a timely fashion (we would love to start in December if possible), for the funding to come in, for the demolition and rebuilding tasks to go smoothly, and for volunteers to be available when needed.
- **Giving to the Pool Restoration Project** - Through June 1, 2026,



every dollar given to the Pool Restoration Project will be matched - up to \$150,000 - by a generous estate gift!

This means your gift of \$25 becomes \$50 and a \$1,000 gift becomes \$2,000 and \$10,000 becomes \$20,000! You can even spread your giving out over the 2025 & 2026 calendar years.

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

WITH A MATCHING GIFT

- **Giving to the Annual Fund** - Menno Haven Ministry relies on donations of 15-20% of our budget (this fiscal year we estimate this to be \$142,000) to carry out the purpose the Lord has called us to and cover the yearly operating expenses that come with upholding a high quality of service to our guests and campers.

We praise and thank the Lord for His provision, both for the professionals and volunteers who have already worked on the Pool Restoration Project and for you as you partner with us in the ministry of providing a place of refreshment of the body and renewal of the soul ... for people to worship, fellowship, recreate, grow and renew in their journey with Jesus!

A Servant of Christ,

Doc Johnson
Executive Director

