

REFRESHING TIMES

"I will take my children into the wilderness and there I will speak tenderly to them. I will restore their fruitfulness and turn their valley of trouble into a door of hope." HOSEA 2:14-15A

Mission Statement

To provide a place of refuge, peace, restoration, and hope, dedicated to help people establish intimacy with Jesus Christ and those they love.



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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

Greetings to you all. Here we are in another new year. So quick. It seems we just started last year but... The Lord has gone before us and He sets the stride. He promised He would, so we need to be willing to fix our eyes forward and follow His lead. With the completion of the Grace Cabin #10, Prayer Cabin Shower House #2 and the Shalom Cabin #11 underway, more Ultimate Marriage Retreat weekends, and Wilderness Worship nights, I am excited for more in '24! We have nine more prayer cabin sites to fill, but we wait upon the Lord to stir the people of His choosing to fund them. In His way and in His time, all that He wants accomplished here will be done.

The need is great in many aspects. The need for places where people can come for a time of refreshment and renewal with the Lord is ever growing. So the need for builders, electricians, framers, roofers, siders, finishers, etc., to come help when another prayer cabin is funded is also before us. I believe God is expanding His crew. I believe the Lord wants to do the impossible so that He alone gets all the glory. More cabins means more to maintain, more help cleaning, more administration team members, etc. Each cabin completed presents another platform to display God's power, protection, and provision. So, believe with us for more in '24. But most of all... join us in praying for more, not for our glory but for His Glory Alone!

Randy Klawitter

Executive Director TWFM

Praising God For Another Great Fiscal Year

The Wilderness concludes yet another year operating in the black, with all bills and salaries paid! Hallelujah! The Wilderness has operated always and only on a donation basis for 51+ years, and so we are dependent on Him, and Him alone, to provide exactly what is needed in order for this ministry to remain operational. As we see that happen week in and week out, we marvel at and are deeply grateful for His provision and the means to do what we do, which is to serve the people of God in this place.

Grace Cabin Is Open

We are so excited to announce that the Grace Cabin is NOW OPEN and we are taking reservations. Check it out on our website or you can scan the QR code!



Shalom Cabin Is Making Progress

Larry has been working diligently at getting so many projects completed around here, including Hope Cabin, which opened in April, 2023, Grace Cabin, which opened in January, 2024, along with two new outhouses and our new Prayer Cabin Shower House. Next on the list is finishing the inside of the Shalom Cabin, which is our ELEVENTH prayer cabin. Praise God for the provision, for a warm fall to complete all of these projects enough to have them buttoned up for winter, and for the many volunteers who have been here to help get it all done!



Future Prayer Cabins

We would love to have more prayer cabins funded! We are just waiting on the Lord for His timing and pro-

vision. Please be in prayer with us about that, and that God would raise up supporters who are willing to invest in the ministry here by way of funding a prayer cabin. Or maybe several who would like to donate toward a cabin! We have nine more cabin sites marked out in our Prayer Cabin Village, and we would love to see that come to fruition. With each new cabin that has opened recently, we see them filled just as quickly. The need is there! Is God moving on your heart to be involved in funding a cabin, either in part or in full? We would love to talk to you!

Conditional Use Permit

Along with the prayer cabins that have been completed, we are quickly bearing down on the deadline for our conditional use permit which expires on September 24th of this year. The conditional use permit, when granted by the county, allows us to use land for something other than that for which it is zoned (i.e. building a prayer cabin on land that is zoned agricultural). The permit is granted for three years, at the end of which time we must re-apply. Please pray for God's favor for renewal.

New Merch

As you enter our office these days, your eyes will automatically travel to our display of merchandise that we now have on hand. This includes t-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, mugs, stickers and clings with The Wilderness logo on



and styles of t-shirts, sweatshirts and hats!! Be sure to come into the office when you are here and check it out.

Future Conferences

❖ Marriage conferences are continuing this year. We just held one at the end of January. If you missed that but desire to attend one, we also have them scheduled for April 26-28 and October 4-6 this year. You can register for the conference online or by calling the office. If you want a

prayer cabin in conjunction with your marriage retreat registration, you will need to call the office, but do it early as the cabins fill up quickly.

- ❖ Northwoods Conference – we tentatively scheduled this for April 12-13. We pursued several different speakers and tossed about several different themes, but nothing seemed to gel. **As a result, the Northwoods Conference is cancelled for 2024.** We will be sure to keep you updated about 2025. Please be praying with us.
- ❖ Parenting Conference – we had originally scheduled this for July, but due to schedule conflicts with our speakers we have had to cancel.

911 Prayer Time

Every day, the team here at TWFM gathers at 9:11 a.m. to pray together, to lift the concerns and needs of The Wilderness and each other, and also to pray for guests who have shared their requests with us. We invite you also to join us at 9:11 each day as we approach our Father's throne and lay these needs before Him! Thank you in advance for your participation!

All We Like Sheep Book

Many of you have seen and enjoyed the book, All We Like Sheep written by Larry Guthrie and Robert Newhouse. We have placed a copy in each of the Prayer Cabins for you to enjoy. Knowing there were more cabins coming, TWFM purchased several to have on hand, and people have expressed a desire to obtain a copy. Sadly, this book went out of print a few years ago and we have been unable to obtain any more copies. Recently, however, there has been renewed interest in getting it republished. Randy has been having conversations with Larry and Bob and a few others about the possibility. Please be in prayer with us about this as we pursue options. If you feel led to help, feel free to give Randy a call.



Fellowship Center

We have now successfully updated the heating system at the Fellowship Center, which was long overdue. Thank you to Becroft Well Drilling and Earth Energy Systems for your good work!



IN FOND MEMORY OF LOUISE KLAWITTER

We'd like to thank everyone who sent cards, memorials, gifts, and food after the passing of Louise Klawitter, wife of Dick (Founding Director), mother-in-law to Randy (Executive Director), mother to Renee (wife of Randy) — yes, it's complicated! :-) Louise funded the Westrom Prayer Cabin in memory of her first husband, Marvin, who went to be with the Lord in 1999. Dick and Louise married in December of 2001 and were inseparable until she went home to be with the Lord on September 11, 2023. We are blessed to be part of such a community of support and encouragement through difficult times such as these.

BOARD NEWS

There are some changes happening on the Board of TWFM that we thought you might be interested in:

- ❖ First and foremost, be praying with us about who the Lord would have serve on the board for the next terms/years to come. Pray for wisdom for the Board and Randy as they consider different possible candidates. These are the people who decide and oversee the direction of The Wilderness, who are willing to commit the time and prayer to give godly guidance. We are asking the Lord to raise up the people of His choosing.
- ❖ We want to thank Keith Brask, who has served on the board since 1991, as he is stepping down in order to pursue other things. Thank you, Keith, for your faithful dedication and service to The Wilderness.
- ❖ We also want to thank Brian Stephany for 8 years of service and counsel especially in the area of finance, and notably as we walked through the audit of 2023. His term ended December of 2023.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Joe Kuchinka

I have been married to my beautiful wife Amy for over 26 years. We have 4 great kids ages 18, 15, 13 & 10 and reside in rural North Branch, MN. Amy is a full time Homeschool mom and I have spent 35 years in the insurance and risk management industry. Today I run Proverus, Inc. a

multi-location independent insurance agency and risk management consulting firm. We first became acquainted with The Wilderness in 2017 shortly after we moved to the North Branch area and it very quickly became our favorite place on the planet. Amy and I prioritize at least two 3-day prayer cabin retreats per year to both seek the Lord and reconnect with each other. It really is our lifeline. I look forward to bringing my risk management expertise to the team as I serve this great ministry.



Sarah Legband

For many years, the Wilderness has had a very special place in my heart. My house is full of beautiful people - my husband, Joshua, our 2 children, Caleb and Ellie, and my parents, Jerry and Carol. But with a full house comes a deep need to “get away” all by myself and be with Jesus. So for many years I have been coming to The Wilderness quarterly and it has changed my life.

During the day I currently manage life at home, homeschool our children 2 days a week, and support my parents in whatever they need. Family is my first ministry, but along with that I am a speaker, leader, and mentor. I run and lead mom's ministries both at my church as well as our children's homeschool hybrid academy. In the past I received a Christian outreach degree from Concordia St. Paul, worked at Minnesota Adult and Teen Challenge as a staff and dean, and served as outreach director at a church. I am honored to serve on The Wilderness board and excited to witness God's continued faithfulness over this incredible ministry.

THE
ULTIMATE
Marriage Retreat
WITH JONNY & AMY CLAUSSEN
2024 DATES
APR. 26-28 & OCT. 4-6

Call The Wilderness office at 715-488-8564 to find out more details and to register. Or you can register online at:

www.wildernessfellowship.com/events.



PERSONALIZED GIFT CERTIFICATES



Gift Certificates can be purchased online or by mail. Please follow instructions on our website.

www.wildernessfellowship.com

Needs/Wish List

- Large skid steer snow blower
- Road sanding bucket to scoop and spread sand on roads and icy hills
- Commercial duty 24" snow blower for trails to prayer cabins
- Old fashioned lawn fertilizer spreader for spreading sand on prayer cabin trails (call for info)
- New couches for Johnson Hall and Founders Fireside Retreat Center (call for info)
- Semi tire chains 22.5s single to use on the skid steer for snow plowing
- Old candles for making fire starters
- Electrician for the next prayer cabin(s) – rough in and finish
- Volunteers to fill wood baskets for the winter heating season
- Underground wire locator

Memorials

GIVEN BY

Bob and Patty Patch

Debi Paepke
John and Faye Bosak
Laurice Ronholdt
Lois Robson
Mark Helling
Pamela Fahrenkamp
Paul Kragness
Paul and Cheri Staswick
Paula Wright
Phil and Cynthia Leonard
Rick and Kim Lee
Todd and Cheryl Riggs

Calvary Covenant Church
Dick Klawitter

IN MEMORY OF

*Karl & Verona Hoff;
Louise Klawitter
Dennis Paepke
Louise Klawitter
Louise Klawitter
Louise Klawitter
LTJG Marvin Helling, USN
Mary Eggum
Kenny Bill Kragness
Louise Klawitter
Jim Wright; Louise Klawitter
Alma Karels
Louise Klawitter
Danny Montpetit;
Patricia Glynn
Louise Klawitter
Louise Klawitter;
Pastor Carl and Faith Lindell,
Wanda Simengaard,
Alma Karels, Linnea Brask,
Jack Hedlund, Eugene Glader;
Scott Langlie, May Anderson,
Carl Palmberg,
Wally Roetzer (Former Board Member)*

Honorariums

GIVEN BY

Paul and Cheri Staswick
Dick Klawitter

IN HONOR OF

*Dick Klawitter
Pastor Dave Jore (Former Board Member)*

GUEST COMMENTS

Thank you so much for providing a place for us to come and be still with the Lord. We have been greatly blessed by our time here and hope to come back in the Spring. — **B.R.**

Thank you for a lovely space! It was a blessing to rest in the Lord's presence before jumping into the busy holidays. — **T.S.**

This was our first visit but it won't be our last. A wonderfully refreshing time. The cabin was so charming. Thank you! — **J.H. & D.H.**

Thank you for this place and the people that so diligently keep it up, Lord! We really needed this. I came here with what felt like rocks in my abdomen and shortly after arriving was filled with the peace of the Lord. May God bless you and keep you, make his face shine upon you, raise his countenance to you and give you peace! This was the best time my wife and I have ever had here. We Love You! — **M.L.**

Another amazing, powerful time with the Lord. Thank you for all you do! — **A.P.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

2024 MARRIAGE RETREAT DATES:

ULTIMATE MARRIAGE RETREAT WITH JONNY & AMY CLAUSSEN
APR. 26-28, 2024 | Oct. 4-6, 2024

The Ultimate Marriage Retreat is a call to hope, greatness, and destiny for every marriage. We begin with the Father's original culture, and from His starting point, we drop a plumb line to help you build the ultimate marriage. It's time to learn what heaven's idea about marriage truly is – because it's way bigger than you think! Register today by calling the office at: 715-488-8564!

NORTHWOODS CONFERENCE – CANCELLED

The 2024 Northwoods Conference has been unfortunately cancelled, but we will be back in 2025!

WILDERNESS WORSHIP – 3RD SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH (EXCEPT DEC.) – 7:00 PM

An hour and a half of praising the Lord in song! No agenda, no preaching, just worship. If you're unable to attend in person you can join us on our FaceBook livestream.

UPDATES TO ALL TWFM EVENTS WILL BE POSTED ON THE EVENTS CALENDAR
ON OUR WEBSITE; SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

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