



December 2017



You can make many plans but the Lord's purpose will prevail.

Proverbs 19:21
New Living Translation



Dear Friends, Supporters, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

How often have you found the Lord made other plans for you? Vanderkamp found itself there earlier this year when a tree fell on the roof of Fellowship Hall just days before the opening of summer kamp. As you can imagine, when this act of God first happened we lifted our hands to the sky crying out, "Lord... really? Is this what you demand of us and your ministry... now... when we are so busy with final preparations for kamp?" We stressed over the impact this event would have on kamp and felt sorry for ourselves to have this burden laid before us... briefly... then we picked ourselves up, brushed ourselves off, and tarped the hole so Fellowship could be used, primarily for worship, during the annual kick off to our summer kamp season, Mohawk Valley Lutheran Confirmation Camp (MVLCC), a collaboration amongst our Lutheran churches. No structural concerns were evident. Thank you Jesus!

When faced with the Lord's plan for you, do you welcome it as an opportunity? Fellowship Hall is one of only two multipurpose spaces available for kamp, retreat, rental, and public programs. It is routinely used for worship, dances, parties, meetings, kamp activities, and more. While repairing this roof has long been on Vanderkamp's "to do" list, the Lord saw fit to catapult it to the top of the list. "We'll just deal with it after kamp"... or so we thought. Then in the middle of MVLCC a small section of the ceiling came down just before a worship service, leaving a gaping hole to heaven above... and all the elements of HIS creation. Praise God that no one was injured. The mess was cleared, and a piece of plywood screwed to the ceiling covering the hole. We "kicked the can" for a second time... until... this autumn when much more of the ceiling fell. Hindsight is 20/20; each time the Lord spoke and we failed to understand, he repeated his message--louder and clearer each time. We came to realize Fellowship Hall could no longer be delayed.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11 New International Version

So how can this act of God present hope and a future for Vanderkamp? Four years ago, our own introduction to Fellowship Hall was puzzling. We learned kamp worship services were held there. Our first observation was the deteriorated doors, where old patches had worn away letting all manner of weather and creatures into the building. The indoor/outdoor carpet and cushioned benches along the perimeter were worn, stained and musty. Open boxes of Cheez-Its lay scattered about the room, including on a communion table where two chipmunks were eating and scurrying about at their leisure. The building, to our minds, did not represent sacred space, glorifying God. We moved kamp worship and the communion tables to Fireplace Room in Commons. Games were moved into Fellowship (ping pong, foosball, floor pool and such). Storage in Fellowship was overflowing with Vanderkamp's vast costume collection. It seemed to make more sense to use Fellowship for programming, games and gathering, consistent with its name. Despite the change, Fellowship remained sacred space to many. MVLCC continues worship there, consistent with their decades of tradition.

fold & tear along dotted line

2017 – 2018 Annual Facility Appeal
 God demonstrated he had another plan for this year's annual facility appeal. Instead of continuing to raise funds to replace rustic cabins, the Lord made it clear that we could no longer delay repairs of Fellowship Hall. Once we began work this fall, the scope of the project became clear. Damage to trusses from snow load over the years needs repair. That means losing the existing ceiling and insulation. It only made sense to rectify heating, insulation, and ventilation issues at the same time. By then we were well past the halfway point to a complete renovation and upgrading of Fellowship Hall. Join with us in the first complete renovation of a Vanderkamp structure in recent years; meeting the needs of current guests, campers, and visitors.... Glorifying God and serving as a beacon of hope for the future of Vanderkamp's outdoor ministry.

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Name(s) as they should appear for recognition (if different).
 This contribution is being made anonymously.
 Please email Vanderkamp news & information.
 Please email Vanderkamp news & information.
 For more information, visit our website at www.vk.org, email us at vkcenter@vk.org, or call (315)675-3651. You can also Like us on Facebook.

Vanderkamp Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit religious organization. For income tax purposes, your contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

Vanderkamp, as we are all aware, has many—often competing—facility needs. This grand, historic property, the remnants of an authentic Great Camp has aging structures, some of which have not always received the care and attention they require. No surprise really; it is costly. Many Vanderkamp structures, over the past 50 years, have evolved into sacred space for those blessed with the opportunity to spend time here immersed in God’s creation and living in Christian community. Last summer, during bible exploration, kampers were asked to identify sacred spaces in their lives. As expected, the youth spoke of church, their homes, and their bedrooms. Kampers also spoke of sacred spaces at Vanderkamp, including lodges where they slept, Outdoor Chapel and Fireplace Room where we worship, Dining Hall where they nourish their bodies, places they hiked, and Fellowship Hall where they played.

As stewards of Vanderkamp and its many sacred spaces, together with our board of directors, we strive to strike a balance between repairing and maintaining existing structures with the need to improve facilities and provide modern amenities meeting the expectations and needs of our guests, visitors, kampers, and local community—today and for the future. Fellowship Hall requires much more than a new roof. We need your help.

Join with us in an endeavor that goes beyond resolution of a current maintenance concern impacting all aspects of Vanderkamp’s outdoor ministry. Together we will renovate and modernize Fellowship Hall to meet current and future needs; transforming this space into a suitable and welcoming place for worship, indoor sports and games, meetings, and more.

The renovated Fellowship Hall will glorify God while serving as a beacon of hope for the future of Vanderkamp’s outdoor ministry. This will be the first building to be fully renovated in recent years. Creation care is one of Vanderkamp’s core values. We are committed to using environmentally sourced and sustainable materials to the extent possible, and conserving energy through improvements in insulation, heating, and lighting.

The proposed renovation of the Fellowship Hall addresses each of these areas:

- ◆ Metal Roofing ◆ Siding Repair ◆ Heating ◆ Flooring ◆ Insulation ◆ Interior Painting
- ◆ Truss Repair ◆ Ceiling ◆ Rear Exit Stairs ◆ LED Lighting ◆ Built-In Benches ◆ Exterior Staining

Note: Vanderkamp received grant funding to replace the front doors, though the additional work needed to prevent a recurrence of the same issues that destroyed the current doors over time has been included in the renovation budget.

The total cost for renovating Fellowship Hall is \$30,000. The timeline for completion depends on raising necessary funds and rallying volunteers to aid in construction. With your help, we can complete Fellowship’s renovation in 2018. God willing, in 2019 we will return to *the original plan* which was, before God so persistently exclaimed HIS, to raise funds for continued replacement of rustic cabins. Funds and volunteers secured, Cabin 5 replacement is slated for completion in 2018. These are very exciting times at Vanderkamp. We thank you all for being part of its ministry!

Work on Fellowship began this fall; to delay was to risk further damage and expense. Roof framing and sheathing was repaired and shingles on the back side of the roof were removed and ice & water shield applied. Over the winter, **as funds become available** we will continue to work on the truss repair, insulation and heating, so that in the spring we can finish the roof in time for kamp. *If you cannot contribute now, please prayerfully consider making a pledge to aid us in planning.* Visit Vanderkamp’s website at www.vk.org, for photos, project updates, or to donate online.

In His service,



Bill R. James, MS
Penny A. James, PhD

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I will join you in the renovating Fellowship Hall.

Contribution:

- Enclosed is our gift of:
- \$1000 \$250 \$50
 - \$500 \$100 \$25
- Other: _____
- Our check or money order # _____ is enclosed (Payable to Vanderkamp Center).
- To gift credit card or eCheck, please see Online Gift Options” below.

Pledge:

Contribution Schedule:

- Weekly Quarterly
- Bi-Weekly Semi-Annually
- Monthly

Amount of each gift installment:

- \$100 \$25
 - \$50 \$10
- Other: _____

Payment Method:

- Will mail check or money order.
- Will make recurring online gifts by credit card or eCheck.

Online Gift Options:

- To pay by credit card or eCheck, go to www.vk.org and click on “Support Vanderkamp” then “Donate Online.”
 - Make a one-time contribution or recurring gift pledge.
 - MasterCard & Visa accepted.
 - Automate your recurring payments or process installments manually.
 - View your contribution history, update account information, or modify your payment schedule anytime.
- If you require assistance or prefer to pay by phone, call us at (315) 675-3651.