



December 23, 2017

Greetings, campers and families of Camp St. George - IOWA!!

It may be only a few days before Christmas, but we are already looking ahead to summer and especially to Camp. I am excited to announce that Camp St. George will be held **July 1-7** in 2018, at a superb new spot--**Camp EWALU** in Strawberry Point, Iowa. Having camp earlier in the summer has never been a possibility for us till now; so naturally, getting the opportunity for 2018, we are seizing it with gusto!

Maybe you are like me, and you think about camp all year long, and wish you didn't have to wait till August for all the fun to start; now you will get to experience the joys of Camp six weeks sooner. Or maybe you, or someone you know, haven't been able to come to Camp because of the mid-August start date; now you won't have a conflict with the start of school.

As *the* Camp of the Diocese of Toledo and the Midwest for the past 16 years, our mission at Camp St. George is to serve as many young people in our diocese as possible, providing them with a venue to experience Orthodox Camping. It is our hope that having camp the first week of July will allow us to serve more campers and camper families, and also offer better opportunities for counsellors and staff to serve as well.

To have Camp at an earlier part of the summer, Camp St. George needed a facility that could provide all the wonderful camp amenities and offer a strong support staff; and most important, one that is accredited by the ACA (American Camping Association). Camp EWALU perfectly fits that bill.

I feel blessed to make Camp St. George available to you the first week of July, beginning in 2018 and every year following. Be sure to mark your calendars now, spread the news, and look for Camper and Staff applications on our website - www.campstgeorge.org - in January; and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for news and updates throughout the year!

I wish all of you a blessed Nativity, and a happy, healthy 2018.

Yours in the Lord Jesus,
Fr. Fred Shaheen, Camp Director