

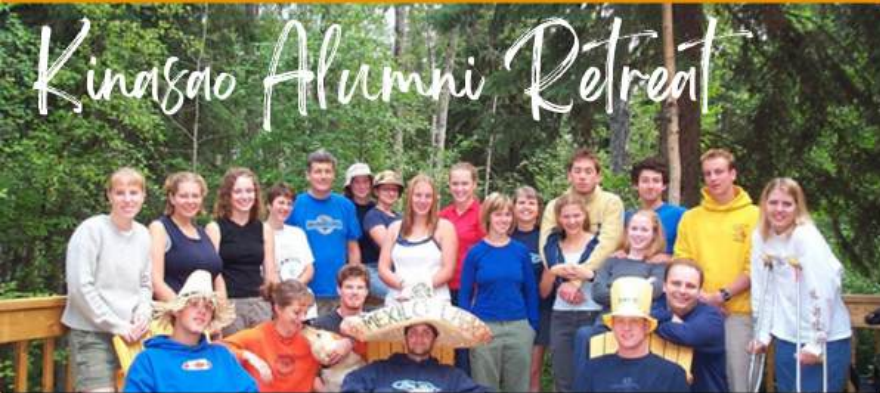
The Reel

KINASAO NEWSLETTER
FALL 2025

And I will make you fishers of men

In This Issue:

Kinasao Alumni Retreat



We're Hiring!



Christmas at Camp



2026 Program Updates



Clothing Order



Weekend Retreats



KINASAO: A PLACE SET APART IN GOD'S CREATION, INVITING ALL TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE.

Christmas at Camp

November 22

GET INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT AT KINASAO! FIND UNIQUE, HANDMADE, LOCAL GIFTS FROM 30+ VENDORS AT THE CHRISTMAS MARKET, CATCH UP WITH FRIENDS OVER A SOUP AND BUN LUNCH, ENJOY THE TASTE OF SUMMER WITH YOUR FAVORITE OVERFLOW DRINK, GATHER AS A COMMUNITY FOR A DELICIOUS CHRISTMAS SUPPER, ENJOY CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP IN THE CHAPEL, AND TAKE YOUR FIRST LAP THROUGH THE TWINKLE TOUR! CHRISTMAS AT CAMP IS A FULL DAY EVENT, AND YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS ANY OF IT!

A Full Day Event!

11:00-4:00 - Christmas Market

11:00-3:00 - Overflow Espresso Open

11:30-1:30 - Soup & Bun Lunch Available

3:30 - Raffle Winners Drawn

5:00 - Community Supper

6:00 - Song & Scripture Service

6:30-8:30 - Twinkle Tour Open



RSVP for supper at kinasao.ca



Advent Retreat

Dec 5-7

Have you ever felt the month of December is nothing but busy? Christmas practices, recitals, pageants, staff parties, shopping, wrapping, baking, planning, more shopping, decorating, catching up on eating mediocre chocolates from calendars.....it can seem like there is so much to do and not enough time to do it! We can get wrapped up in the things that seem so important, that we may miss what the Advent time of preparation is actually meant for.

If you'd like a different pace and focus for your life this December, consider taking a weekend away for the Advent Retreat. This retreat is a time to connect with family and friends (old and new!) in a beautiful and peaceful setting, with a focus on what the Advent and Christmas seasons are truly about - the coming of our Saviour to earth as a baby.

We will spend the weekend worshiping, playing, creating, serving and of course eating, together. Kinaseo's Twinkle Tour will also be open Saturday evening!

The Advent Retreat is open for family and individual registration, and for all generations (children must be accompanied by an adult). This Advent Season, start with a step back from regular life, and step into the true meaning of the season.



YOU CAN ALSO SIGN UP TO TAKE PART IN AN OPTIONAL CHRISTMAS BAKING EXCHANGE! BRING ONE TYPE OF GOODIE, GO HOME WITH MANY!

Visit kinaseo.ca for registration details!

Prayer Retreat

A deeper look!



One of the newer retreats to the Kinasao programming lineup is the Prayer Retreat. We as a Leadership Team were excited to add this offering to the list, as we feel there is no better place to come and meet with Jesus, than in the beauty of His creation. Prayer is something that is so incredibly simple, and yet so complex, we wanted to dedicate time to helping people (and ourselves) deepen their understanding of prayer, and experience different ways of talking with Jesus.

The Prayer Retreat is meant to be a small group experience, for people at any stage of their walk with Jesus. It is designed to be a place where people can grow in their prayer life through teaching, sharing, and experiencing God through creation and community.

This retreat is one where we rely heavily on the Spirit to do the work, from the materials we bring, to the times of personal reflection and group connection. We take advantage of our surroundings, spending time reading God's Word out on the glassy lake, or on the beautifully coloured forest trails. We offer many different prayer tools and practices, such as Lectio Devina or an Examen prayer, and then set aside time for the Spirit to work in individuals, and in us as a group. Sunday is always so impactful, spending the morning in worship and prayer together.

We have seen the hand of God move at this retreat in a way like no other. If you are hungering for a deeper prayer life, feel like you need a reset, or just need time to get away and focus on your relationship with Jesus, make time to come and meet Jesus at one of these retreats (spring or fall). You will leave filled, body and soul.



The next Prayer Retreat will be May 1-3, 2026

Kinasao's Twinkle Tour

Nov 22 & 23, Dec 6-7, Dec 31 6:30-8:30

THE TWINKLE TOUR IS BECOMING A HIGHLY ANTICIPATED COMMUNITY EVENT! IT IS SO FUN TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A JOYFUL EXPERIENCE DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS TO:

HELP DECORATE! COME OUT FOR THE DECORATING WORKBEE NOVEMBER 1, 10-3.
LUNCH IS PROVIDED.

BE A GREETER! WELCOME GUESTS, PASS OUT HOT CHOCOLATE, COOKIES, AND MAPS. WITH MORE GREETERS, THE TWINKLE TOUR CAN OPEN MORE NIGHTS.

SPONSOR A SITE! A GREAT WAY FOR YOUR BUSINESS OR ORGANIZATION TO BE RECOGNIZED DURING THE TWINKLE TOUR AND TO HELP EXPAND OUR DISPLAYS.

TO GET INVOLVED IN ANY OF THESE WAYS, CONTACT SUE@KINASAO.CA



TAKE A DRIVE OR WALK THROUGH THE KINASAO CAMPGROUND AND ENJOY THE AMAZING CHRISTMAS DISPLAYS. SPREAD THE WORD AND INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN US!
ADMISSION BY DONATION

New Years Eve Celebration

Dec 31, 2025

JOIN US AS WE WELCOME IN 2026 AT KINASAO!

The party starts with a community potluck at **5:30 pm** (**note the new time!!**) in the Retreat Center. Bring a hot or cold, sweet or savory dish to share!

Spend the evening playing games, visiting, tobogganing, playing outside or warming up in the sauna. The Twinkle Tour will be open to walk or drive through. We'll wrap up 2025 with a final worship service before heading out to fireworks!

FREE overnight accommodations are available for you and your family - contact kristi@kinasao.ca to book your space.

And don't worry if you fall asleep before midnight... you'll still be glad you came!



Ring in 2026 with the Kinaseao Community!

Sue's Scoop



As thanksgiving is around the corner, I can't help but look back over the year, and be filled with gratefulness. This summer you may not have seen us as much, and that is because our family took a 3 (and a bit) week holiday to Europe. We spent a week in Denmark visiting family, a week in Holland at a family reunion, and a week in France, for fun and to allow the boys to practice their French.

Reconnecting with family is such a blessing, especially to see the younger generation get to know their cousins. Our side trips to Flanders, where John McCrae wrote "In Flanders Fields" and Vimy Ridge, was a surprisingly impactful experience, one none of us will soon forget. The theme of 'remember' has been resounding for me, even during vacation. What a privilege to have this experience as a family, especially as I see our kids grow so fast! I am so thankful for a team that allowed us to take this time, during the busiest camp season.

More recently, I am so thankful for the fall work being done at camp, both with the blessing of nourishing others at the freezer retreat, and experiencing the amazing work of the Lord at the prayer retreat. The more that I in faith have set aside my plans and control, I have been overwhelmed by the work of the Spirit. He has cleared paths, changed hearts and brought peace and joy in ways I never imagined. I have seen His works, and I will remember them, with a grateful heart, in this season. And I will carry them with me through the next.

Isaiah 12:4-5 says "Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name, make known His deeds among the people, proclaim that His name is exalted. Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done glorious things; let this be made known in all the earth." May our lives give thanks to the glorious things Christ has done for us!

Sue

We're Hiring!

Join The Kinasao Leadership Team



THANK YOU, CELIA!

Celia Engen has served as our year round Program Director for the past two years. Celia's love for kids, camp, coffee and Jesus will be greatly missed, and we say THANK YOU for blessing us with your gifts the past four summers! Celia will be wrapping up her time as Program Director at the end of this year. We are so thankful for the time Celia has dedicated to Kinasao, and wish her all the best in her next chapter working as an LPN wherever the Lord leads her!

ARE YOU THE NEXT KINASAO PROGRAM DIRECTOR?

ARE YOU OUR NEXT PROGRAM DIRECTOR?

Are you looking for a job that gives you more than just a paycheck? A job that offers you an opportunity to be a part of something more? The Leadership Team staff have the opportunity to steward the ministry taking place at Kinasao, in all areas - camp programs, community events and engagement, summer staff development, administration and hospitality.

The Program Director's primary responsibilities revolve around planning our programs throughout the year, and preparing and caring for our summer staff team.

The specifics of this role have adapted to the needs of the camp over the years. If this type of job sounds interesting to you - let's talk!



Visit kinasao.ca for Job Description
and application details

Weekend Retreats

Come away for a weekend at Kinasao!

FILL YOUR FREEZER RETREAT: FEB 6-8

Food - it's a big part of our lives! This retreat gives you an opportunity to stock your freezer with homemade meals and relieve some of the stress of grocery shopping, prepping, and cleaning up at mealtime. Order the type and size of meals you want, prepare them together as a group, and go home with meals to enjoy with your family, or to pass along to someone else!



MARRIAGE RETREAT: FEB 13-15

No matter how long you've been married, getting away for a time to focus on your marriage is a good thing! This retreat will go through the Together for Good video material by Family Life Canada. In addition to sessions, there will be lots of free time to connect with other couples, and each other. Plus enjoy a special Valentine's Day banquet and date night!

LOPPET & BIATHLON: FEB 28 (WEATHER DEPENDENT)

Come and enjoy the Kinasao ski trails! The loppet will take place in the morning and feature a kids scavenger hunt, and adult races. After lunch, we'll test your skills on the track, and your aim with snowballs! A fun event for all ages - and cheerleaders are welcome!



PRAYER RETREAT: MAY 1-3

If you have a hunger for something deeper, or feel a need to reset, consider this retreat. This retreat brings Spirit led teaching in an environment that allows you to reflect and re-connect. Take time from your normal rhythms of life, and discover some prayer routines and practices to incorporate into your daily life.



Staff Alumni Retreat

Aug 28-31, 2026

Come back to Camp!

Next summer, Kinasao is hosting a Staff Alumni Retreat! Anyone who has ever worked at camp is welcome to come spend the long weekend (with spouse & kids if applicable!) and enjoy all Kinasao has to offer, while catching up with people who get what it means to work at camp!

The weekend will largely consist of time to be together at camp - enjoying the trails, challenge course, lake, campfires, camp food, maybe a round of 10 flags??? Lots of time to reminisce about "the good old days" and hear about what the current days are offering, and what's in store for future days at Kinasao. The Staff Alumni crew will be invited to lead our final Sunday worship service as well - we know you remember how to do it!

The Staff Alumni Retreat will run from Friday evening to Monday afternoon - come for as much or as little as you can! Registration is by donation.

We need help!

We want to make sure all Staff Alumni hear about this retreat. We are looking for volunteers to reach out to those they worked with and invite them to come! We are looking for help from all generations of staff. If you are interested in putting your tracking skills to the test, and reaching out to people, please contact kristi@kinasao.ca!



Alumni Retreat Registration will open in Dec!

From the Board Table

I love being part of a team.

Since the summer, my wife, cats and I have been working as a team to get used to living in a new house. Over the last month, my Grade 7 class and I have been learning how to function as a team. Within that team, there are many smaller teams – I tell each student that they are teammates with myself, the other adults in school, and their adults at home. I love this time of year because I coach a volleyball team – teams are even more fun when my favourite sport is involved.

Kinasao is a team with many teams inside of it. The Leadership Team provides tremendous skill, strong faiths and lots of creativity to help the camp function through all the seasons of the year. The Summer Staff comes to camp with many backgrounds and skill sets and connects with the even wider variety of campers at Kinasao. There are many other teams that make up the very large team of people who grow closer to God by being part of Kinasao.

I've been a member of the Board of Directors since 2022. In April this year I became the Chair of the Board. This is a new one for me. As someone who has served on the staffs of seven different Lutheran camps in North America, I have often been a leadership team member reporting to the Board of Directors. Now I am on the other side of the table. My prayer is for my experience with teams to be helpful to the Kinasao ministry.

The Board is a special team to be part of – I encourage you to consider serving the camp in this way. We are a group of nine to twelve individuals with a variety of backgrounds and camp experiences. The first thing that unites us as a group is our love for the camp, its ministry and its people. We meet several times a year, sometimes in person and sometimes electronically. The meetings are efficient and people's time is respected. For more information about being on the Board of Directors, contact me at directors@kinasao.ca.

Dave



WE ARE THANKFUL FOR OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS TEAM! DAVE BRAGG, SHARON HOPKINS, NATHAN HIND, BRYCE MACEWEN, NATASHA CARTER, PAUL TASTAD, KYLE HALSTEAD, CHERYL BAUER HYDE, PASTOR MAC DE WAAL

Jewels from Janaya's Journal

July 14

This summer, two of the weddings we hosted at camp asked for pies for dessert. I had never made so many pies from start to finish. When I worked at an orchard/cannery in BC near my parents' house, I learned to make big batches of pie filling for the process of baking pies, but never actually did the complete process there. Of course, I had made a pie or two at a time with my Mom for special meals, though not 27 for the same event! I would have found this project a lot more stressful if I had not had Kristi's help, but now I feel much more confident about producing many flavours of pies. What a blessing it was to have the opportunity to grow in a skill I did not specifically anticipate improving at Kinasao this season.

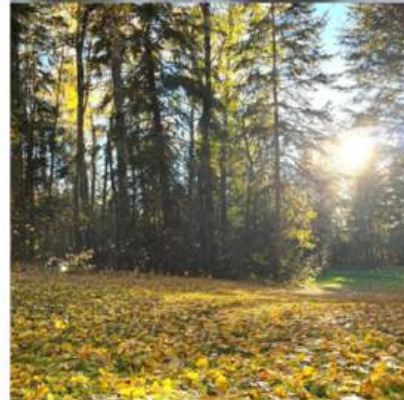
August 2

I'm very grateful to be part of such a competent team that makes it possible for each of us to spend time away from Kinasao even during the busy season, and not worry at all about how things are going in our domains back at camp. I was able to have such a fulfilling, beautiful time at my Hundebby family reunion last weekend! It was so special to have that time with people I love that could be so unhindered by any thoughts of work. My parents came from BC and we drove down from Saskatoon to Elbow. We made lefse and toured around old farm sites, shared memories and made new ones. My parents even came up to camp after the reunion to enjoy Prime Time, so I got even more time to visit, play music, and more with them during that week. Praise God for precious time together and for both the year round leadership team and the summer staff team that make those times possible.

October 5

Not too long ago I went with Kristi to start learning how to make pottery on the wheel at the PA Arts Center. This semester I'm teaching several pottery classes at the arts centre and learning more in the process, as is often the case when we prepare to teach something well. It's such an interesting skill that is both creative and practical. I'm looking forward to more learning and creating this winter.

Janaya



Thank you, Staff!

Just like always, our Summer Staff provided Kinasao programs with energy, enthusiasm, skills, and abilities all wrapped up in faithfulness and delivered in creative style! Thank you, Staff!

This year, the grand majority (all but one) of our staff members were either previous summer staff or had been Servant's in Training. They quickly bonded and fit together like a God ordained puzzle to make an excellent, experienced team that made for a super duper summer.

Our SIT Coordinator's love and passion for youth growing into their abilities as new leaders, made coordinating our youth volunteers a breeze. Our Program Coordinators quickly got the hang of office life and used their gifts well together. Our Counsellors were ready to serve at every moment - leading kids through the beauty of the Armour of God, filling in for silly skits and chapel action songs, leading meaningful discussions with their campers, and bringing the energy to every activity - whatever was needed, they provided! Our Maintenance Assistants were not only capable, confident, and reliable in their maintenance tasks, but they provided strong support to program activities each day. They also helped Daryl complete the grand task of the Pickleball court this spring! Our Kitchen Assistants blew everyone out of the water, taking on many meals and tasks solo. All potential to be head cook, claims Janaya. Our Program Activity Assistants were well-organized and full of positive, creative energy to support staff at every turn. They took on their roles with grace and joy - whether that was perfecting a craft on the fly, bandaging many toes (thank you First Aider!), or cleaning up the same cobwebs for the trillionth time this summer (bless you Housekeeping); our multi-faceted PAA's did it all!

Keep them in your prayers throughout the year, that the Lord would continue to use them for His glory. If you see them out and about this year, please say a grand Hello and a big Thank You!



Keepin' up with Kristi

This summer, we did something unusual after camp ended - we stayed home! Normally we spend a week in Calgary visiting family, but this year Ian's parents, Joe & Barb, came to visit us instead. They enjoyed the Taste of Norway banquet, bringing along a package of lutefiske to make sure we had enough for Daryl's most anticipated appetizer!

On the Monday after camp ended, we were enjoying a day at home. Grandma and Grandpa were on babysitting duty while Ian and I built new bunk beds in the former nursery room so we could shuffle kids around. After breakfast was done, the kids informed Grandma and Grandpa that it was chapel time. They led them downstairs, and proceeded to sing My Lighthouse and Deep Cries Out. Adalynn then came forward to introduce the theme of the day, the Belt of Truth, and to teach the corresponding memory verse. After a quick costume change (over their pajamas), "Ryan" (played by Karina) came forward and bemoaned the fact that he had a sunburn, had lost his shoe, gotten so many mosquito bites, and was hungry. Enter "Sneaky Stan" (Adalynn) who informed Ryan that obviously God did not love him as so many horrible things had happened that day, and in fact, God may even hate him! Cue "Gabriel" (played by Joel) wearing a white sweater, a pipe cleaner halo and a stylish belt. Gabriel quickly told Sneaky Stan to BE QUIET and to leave Ryan alone. Gabriel sat Ryan down and explained that while bad things had happened, it had absolutely nothing to do with God's love for Ryan - Ryan was so fully loved by God, and there was absolutely nothing that Ryan could do or experience that would change that fact. Gabriel took his belt off and wrapped it around Ryan's waist, telling him the truth is found in the Bible, and that if he puts it on everyday, he will be able to live in God's truth which will set him free from Sneaky Stan's lies. After another quick costume change, Adalynn came forward to share about Jesus being tempted in the wilderness by another Sneaky Stan, and how Jesus used scripture to remind himself of the truth, to combat the lies, and to help him stand firm against the devil's schemes. After one more closing song, chapel was concluded. Time to go play? Nope! It was on to day 2 - the Breastplate of Righteousness. The kids spent the entire morning (and part of the afternoon!) teaching Grandma and Grandpa the lessons they had learned through each of the 5 days of chapel skits and teachings they had heard at camp all summer.

This past spring, I found myself wrestling with thoughts of how our children would feel about being "camp kids" ten years from now, and what the impact would be on them. Would they grow up wanting to work at camp? Would they resent camp for taking over their every summer? Would they resent me for being so busy in the summers? Listening to my 9, 7, and 5 year olds teach their grandparents each and every lesson that we as a staff prayed would be internalized by our campers, brought me to tears that day. The fact that their first free day at home in two months was spent reliving their life at camp, struck me hard. It was the answer to the questions that plagued me months prior. There is nothing I want more than for my kids to be camp kids - to hold deeply the lessons that are taught at camp, to know with confidence how much God loves them, and to have no hesitation about sharing that with others. I want them to wake up daily, no matter where they are, and to remember to put on the armour of God, because their camp counsellors taught them the importance of standing firm. There is no other environment I would rather have them growing up in, and by the way they're already counting down the days to us moving back to camp, I think they agree.

Will you join me in praying for camp kids? For those who spent 1 week at camp, and those who have lost count of how many times they've come - pray that the messages they hear about God will sink deep into their hearts, and will have a lifelong impact on their faith journey.

Kristi



Welcome Terry!



TERRY ALLWARD - PROPERTY & PROJECTS DIRECTOR

We are excited to introduce Terry to the Kinasao Community! Terry started in the Property & Projects Director role at the beginning of October. Terry and his wife, Pat, live in Emma Lake and have huge hearts for ministry. They have a lot of experience working with kids, having raised many vulnerable foster children over the past years, and with Pat working as a mental health counsellor in the school system. Terry is involved with leadership in the Lakeland Bible Church in Christopher Lake, and is very excited to join Kinasao's Leadership Team! Terry looks forward to meeting all of you soon - and to having his own column in the next newsletter!

We're Hiring!

*Spend the summer
in the Campground!*

ARE YOU OUR NEXT CAMPGROUND HOST?

The search for our next Campground Host(s) has begun! We would like someone in place before the summer of 2026.

Campground Hosts are responsible for the day to day tasks of running our campground - cleaning bathrooms, filling wood bins, facilitating devotions, welcoming guests, and being the primary go-to for campground guest questions. Above all that, they have the opportunity to help create the community feel of Sojourner's Way Campground by building relationships and helping with community events. The role runs from May 15-Sept 15, although it could be split into smaller chunks and shared between a few people!

If you are interested in this position, visit kinasao.ca or contact darin@kinasao.ca.



*Book your spot in the Campground - Daily Sites
open Jan 15 & Seasonal Site Applications open Jan 7*

Get Your Kinasao Fish Swag!



WHO KNEW YOU COULD LOOK SO GOOD COVERED IN FISH???

This summer we did a refresh on a logo from the '90s, and it was a HIT! We know there were some disappointed folks out there who were too late to bring in a big catch this summer, but now you have another chance! We are taking custom orders of fish shirts and sweaters - pick your color for this fun fishy logo - will you pick one no one else has???

Clothing will be ready by Nov 21 and can be picked up at Kinasao, in PA or Saskatoon. If/when the mail strike ends, items can be mailed at the buyers expense (usually \$20ish)

AVAILABLE ITEMS:

- T-shirts = \$20
- Adult Crewneck Sweaters = \$50
- Youth Crewneck Sweaters = \$40
- Adult Hoodies = \$60
- Youth Hoodies = \$50

TO PLACE YOUR ORDER, VISIT KINASAO.CA
OR SCAN THE QR CODE!



Order deadline is Oct 26

Darin's Digest

In the Spring of 1988, I visited Kinasao for the first time with a singing group from the Canadian Lutheran Bible Institute, where I had just finished my first year of study. As we walked the camp trails together, those who had grown up coming to Kinasao as campers and counsellors shared stories of Kinasao and what it meant to them. They loved the place, but it was something of a mystery to me - unknown, but full of possibilities.

I couldn't have known then that a dozen years later I would be married at Kinasao to a former counsellor, Anna Banana. Ten years after that, Anna and I were privileged to become cabin owners. Another seven years and I felt the call to apply to be Kinasao's Executive Director. All the while, that first exposure to Kinasao remained as my foundational experience of a sacred place. My Kinasao story started through the stories of others.

This year, on a blustery day in early June, I was asked to speak to a group of Christian motorcyclists who had offered to raise money for Kinasao in their yearly Ride for Camp Kids campaign. The weather was so inclement that the number of riders was only about a tenth of what it had been the year before. At one point, the ride organizer whispered in my ear that I could forgo speaking to the group, if I thought it wouldn't be worthwhile considering the sparse numbers. I chose to go ahead. I told the small group stories about Kinasao and its ministry - they listened attentively as they shivered and ate their hamburgers.



One person from the group, named Mark, came up to me afterwards to say that he too had stories of Kinasao from his youth. He told me about riding in the Tour-de-Kinasao and the positive impression it left on him. After several more conversations, Mark Flaman's family foundation chose to donate to help with our work. They want to support the ministry of Kinasao that I highlighted in my stories. We are thankful for this!

In September, I had the pleasure of hiring Terry Allward to be our new Property and Projects Director. As part of the hiring process, I told Terry about all the things we counted on our property guy to do - as you might guess, the list is rather long. Terry is capable of doing all of these things, but my conversations with him revealed that it is the stories of Kinasao's history and mission that are really what make someone want to be a part of working here. Mark, Terry and I all want to be a part of Kinasao. We have all been blessed by the love of God and moved by the way in which that love gets shared in wild and wonderful ways at camp. It is the stories of Jesus' love working in and through people over generations that keeps captivating our collective imagination and calling us to be part of the ongoing Kingdom work at Kinasao.

This past summer, my family and I were blessed to travel to the places in Europe where my kid's great-grandparents were born. It was fascinating to be able to re-tell stories of our distant relatives while exploring the places where these stories took place. We were able to visit the very Fjällström (mountain stream) from which we get our last name (pictured below). Stories of hardship and loss, triumph and adventure all mixed together to form a family mosaic of stories of faith. Kinasao is also a family of faith. Stories of camp blend over generations to give us a grand picture of what God has done and is doing, and cause us to look forward to what He will do next in a special place set apart.

What about you? What part of God's story in your life involves Kinasao? This season of Thanksgiving is a great time to think about, or better yet, tell your stories of Kinasao to those around you. Your story of Kinasao may be a building block in someone else's faith journey. Who knows, they may one day become a staff member or supporter of Kinasao. Either way, as believers in Jesus we have stories to tell, including those about our beloved Kinasao!

Darin



Servant In Training

If you think our summer staff this year was cool, you should check out our SIT (Servant in Training) program at Camp Kinasao. The SIT program is designed for teens 15-18 years old who want to volunteer a few weeks in their summer to growing their leadership skills, working with kids, serving God, and getting a taste of what it means to be a part of the Kinasao Summer Staff Team.

Our 2025 summer team had ELEVEN past SITs on staff. How joyous to see past volunteers come back and join us to help shape kids and youth through relationship and fun!

Our 2025 SIT Coordinator, Shalayne Eckart, reflected on how much the SITs have grown in their leadership skills and maturity in their faith over the past few years she's been working with them. God continues to be faithful to the next generation of amazing spirit-filled leaders. It is a privilege to watch the SITs both have fun and spark joy in the kids, as well as practice self-sacrifice for the kids who were homesick or struggling. Seeing what young people are capable of is a testament to how much God loves to bless and provide for Camp Kinasao.

We work hard so that the SIT program is a space for youth to both grow in their leadership as well as their relationship with Christ. We are eternally grateful for their hardwork and dedication to learning to be leaders and sharing their gifts with the Kinasao community – camp cannot happen without them!



The SITs Speak!

But, enough from us, you should hear from our awesome SITs themselves! Here are some highlights and key learnings from a few of our 2025 SITs:

"I love being a SIT because I love all things Kinasao. I loved being a camper, I loved being a SIT, and I hope to someday love being summer staff as well. Kinasao and its staff gave me so much as a camper; so many smiles, the feeling like I belonged somewhere. I hope to bring those things to future campers as well. Whether it's by working with campers directly, or working behind the scenes, I want to be a part of creating the camp environment that meant so much to me as a kid, and still means so much to me. Of course, I also want to grow in my relationship with God by serving in His creation."

"THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING ON A TEAM WITH OTHERS MY AGE AS WELL AS ADULTS, WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND GROWING MY LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE IS SO VALUABLE TO ME."

"I have learned patience and that every child is different; you need to take the first day or two to know who he or she is. I have also learned that God is always there. No matter what happens in your life, if you show your faith, something good will come out of it."

"My favourite memory of being a SIT is when I did skills camp for the first time. I have never done something like that before, and being around the kids learning dances and songs was so much fun. Being able to be with that group of kids while creating core memories for them was special."

"Last summer I learned the importance of fellowship and friendships. Its always important to have someone with you when having fun and sharing Jesus."

"I GAINED A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING AND MEANING OF GOD AND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE CHRISTIAN. AS WELL AS WORKING WITH CHILDREN MORE AND JUST TO BE ABLE TO FULLY SEE SIDES OF THE CHILDREN THAT MAY BE OVERLOOKED IN AN EVERYDAY SOCIETY. I THINK BEING A SIT IS MEANINGFUL NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS; THE OVERALL EXPERIENCE IS WHAT MAKES IT!"

"IT WASN'T ONLY THE VOLUNTEERING AND THE WORK WITH KIDS THAT MADE BEING A SIT SO VALUABLE, BUT THE TIME TO BE IN GOD'S PRESENCE THROUGH THE MINISTRY AT KINASAO MADE THE EXPERIENCE EVEN BETTER. I PERSONALLY THINK THAT VOLUNTEERING IS THE BEST WAY TO SPEND YOUR TIME DURING SUMMER VACATION, AND BEING A SIT IS MY FAVOURITE WAY TO VOLUNTEER."

Apply to be a SIT in 2026!
Applications received from Feb 1 - May 1 at kinasao.ca

Chesterfield Chats with Celia

Happy New Year! Oh, what? It's not the start of something new? Well, for me, it sure feels like it. Many would count their years based on their birthday or the start of the January after a busy holiday season, but I have been counting the start of my "new year" in September for the past I don't know how long! I often refer to the last school year as 'last year,' thinking that everyone is on the same page as me. This is not usually the case, so I must explain myself. My routine has been the same since beginning to work at Kinasao 4 years ago; I have always gone straight back to school after the summer, but now that I am finished my nursing program (praise the Lord for carrying me through), I am without the excitement, dread, and newness of another school year. A weird feeling for sure. I've lived, learned, cried, slept, stressed, and laughed as a student for as long as I can remember. So now that school is out of the picture, I have the opportunity to learn a new way to be.

Before we look on this new way and what is to come in this "new year", let's reflect on what the Lord has done since the last time you heard from me in the spring. My summer looked very different from what it has in previous years. Instead of helping lead staff training and being at Outdoor Ed in the spring, I completed far too many hours of hospital preceptorship and officially graduated (I get the privilege to call myself a real nurse now!!) Though a large accomplishment, it was a bit of a rocky jump coming into the summer. However, the time missed with the staff was quickly made up! I am always so grateful for how well the staff come together and what a BLESSING it is to live and work with some of the best people. Speaking of summer blessings, I got to share a sweet, old camper with Shalayne - many hours spent debriefing and late night laughter made the hubbub of the summer more manageable. Reminiscing about things campers say in blanket forts, bagel runs, and movies about chosen family were some highlights for me this summer with the staff- I love camp!! Though I love camp, sleep and rest were so needed come the end of August.

September was spent with some awesome Calgary and Kootenay Lake pals; we collectively drank far too much espresso and stayed up far too late, but the Lord provided endless joy and rest nonetheless! And wow, oh wow. Now it's October. How on earth did we get here? Some big things on the horizon of my "new year" are looking for nursing jobs and deciding where to live, planning Kinasao events, possibly having time for a hobby, and navigating a now fully developed frontal lobe (yay for 25!). Like the start of January, I have many goals for myself that I hope to accomplish, but not unlike any February, there are some goals that may stay untouched. Despite the reality, it is a "New Year, same God" situation - the same God who held me throughout the certain but rocky road of work and school is the same God who holds me in the uncertain, newly paved road of October...and November and December...the list goes on. Many have walked the post-graduation-haze trek, but I am confident in the fact that I have a community that has walked it before and walks with me along the way.

I remember Colossians 2:6-7 in this journey, *"Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."* Anywhosal, from my family to yours, Happy New Year!!



Summer 2026

A few changes to note!

Tour-de-Kinasao

SAME EVENT - DIFFERENT DATE!
THE 2026 TOUR-DE-KINASAO WILL TAKE
PLACE ON MAY 23!



Family Camp

FOR THOSE FAMILIES WHO JUST CAN'T GET
ENOUGH FAMILY CAMP, 2026 WILL HAVE A
5 NIGHT FAMILY CAMP OPTION!

JUNE 28-JULY 3

CAN'T STAY THAT LONG? YOU CAN ALSO
JUST SIGN UP FOR 3 NIGHTS!

S'more Camp

YOU KNOW YOU WANT SOME MORE CAMP -
A NEW SPRING CAMP JUST FOR ADULTS!
MAY 17-20



A FULL LISTING OF 2026 SUMMER PROGRAM DATES WILL BE AVAILABLE
AT KINASAO.CA ON NOV 1 - REGISTRATION OPENS DEC 1!

We Need Your Help!

Do you have one of these items?



HERE'S A FEW THINGS WE WOULD LOVE TO RECEIVE AT CAMP! IF YOU HAVE ONE OF THESE ITEMS IN GREAT WORKING CONDITION AND WOULD BE WILLING TO DONATE THEM TO CAMP – OR WANT TO BUY A NEW ONE FOR US – PLEASE CONTACT KRISTI@KINASAO.CA!

**Truck
Skidsteer
Side-by-Side ATV
Golf Cart
Hide-a-bed
Vacuum Cleaners**

**Dehumidifiers
Christmas decorations
Washers & Dryers
Pickleball balls & paddles
Household Dishwasher**

We Need Your Help!

Will you pray with us?

THERE ARE MANY THING ABOUT KINASAO THAT MAKE IT SPECIAL... THE BEAUTY OF THE SPACE, THE SPECIAL COMMUNITY, A DEDICATED STAFF. BUT THE THING ABOUT KINASAO THAT TRULY SETS IT APART IS THE PRESENCE AND DIRECTION OF THE LORD. PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER FOR...

The Lord's direction and leading in programs and leadership of camp

For the funds required to pay off the mortgage

For solutions to our water system challenges and limitations

To reach our surrounding community as a witness of the goodness of God

That our camp kids (of all ages) would remember the lessons learned at camp,

and be able to apply them to their daily lives

For connection and engagement within the Kinasao Community

For safety for all who live, work and play at Kinasao

For our year round and summer staff positions to be filled with dedicated Christ followers

That all who leave this place are empowered to share Jesus in their communities

That we respond to the Spirit's leading...whatever that may be

That above all, to God be the glory, in all things we do

Thank you for partnering with us!

Gifts In Memory & Honour

Harry and Hilda Njaa

Bev and Joan Kaiser

Elsa Lee

Dennis & Elaine Serfas

Garry Silde

Lorna Gjesdal

Ken & Betty Haugen

Keith & Sheila Tysdal

Christian & Verna Rude

Richard Bellamy

Harold & Elaine Hesje

Anne Mathewson

Chris & Laura Haugen

Teresa Sly

Wayne & Delores Hagen

Don & Marlene Reid

Krystal Moore

Cindy Sundquist

Kristy Rhead

Brian & Rose Sveinbjornson

Linda Cocks

Knute & Melodie Gjesdal

Karen Jordan

Sandra Sawatsky

Scott & Karla Gjesdal

Elizabeth Makelki

Michelle Naundorf

**Raymond Lepp & Lorna
Hansen's Anniversary**

Raymond Lepp

Morris & Betty Anderson

Obert & Connie Friggstad

Dennis & Elaine Serfas

Ruthe Olson

Richard Bellamy

Keith Walters

Janet Walters

Stirling Hopkins

Gail Bruner

In Honour of...

Dan Birkland &

Jan Haugen's Wedding

Harvey & Sylvia Haugen

Tim & Sherry Halstead

Lance & Kim Nelson

Steve & Joy Gjesdal

Daniel & Susan Slind

Shawn & Amanda Follick

Gordon & Holly Cochrane

Chad & Kristi Eby

Tim & Patti Haugen

Robert & Joanne Bodnarchuk

Donna Silde

Carroll Birkland

Lorna Hansen & Raymond Lepp

Myrtle Bauer

Elizabeth Grynoch

Clarence Hagen

Karen Shaw

Joe & Joyce Abrook

Obert & Connie Friggstad

Allan Grundahl

Henry & Marlene Wichert

Robert & Karen Hopkins

Upcoming Events

2025

Oct 31 - Nov 2: Youth Retreat
Nov 22: Christmas at Camp - Christmas Market,
Community Supper, Song & Scripture Service &
Twinkle Tour
Dec 1: 2026 Registration Opens
Dec 5-7: Advent Retreat & Twinkle Tour
Dec 31: New Years Eve Party

2026

Jan 7: Seasonal Campsite Applications Open
Jan 15: Daily Campground Reservations Open
Feb 6-8: Fill Your Freezer Retreat
Feb 13-15: Marriage Retreat
Feb 28: Loppet & Biathlon (weather dependent)
Mar 20-22: Men's Retreat
Mar 29: Eat This Bread Event
Apr 17-19: Women's Retreat
May 1-3: Prayer Retreat

Need a Christmas Gift?

WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED! KINASAO

REGISTRATION GIFT CARDS MAKE THE PERFECT GIFT

- FOR A SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM OR WEEKEND
RETREAT - THERE'S SOMETHING FOR ALL AGES!



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