

“How can we help?”

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Recently, I spoke with Rev. Eric Childers of St. Matthew's, Charleston about the struggles South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers was experiencing due to the loss of financial income because of the pandemic. He kindly asked me the question, “How can we help?” I responded by talking about outright giving with a direct donation, booking lodging for group events, and volunteering for service projects. To my shame, it wasn't until later that I realized I forgot to mention the most important way of helping: prayer.

All of us can help SCLRC by praying for this ministry by name in our congregations. Attached you will find twelve prayer petitions you can use in the prayers of the people once a month in your worship setting. You can save these for reference later or look on our Facebook page each month where these prayer petitions will be lifted up on the first of each month. Our Lord invites us to let our requests be made known to him in prayer and supplication. Consider supporting the ministries of Camp Kinard and Coastal Retreat Center with your prayers. You can also find other ways of responding to the question “How can I help?” on our website: www.sclrc.com

January: God of living water, may the lakes at Camp Kinard and the ocean's waves at Coastal Retreat bring solace to those who visit these special places. Help us to remember the waters of our baptism as a sign of your abundant love. Lord, in your mercy.

February: God of growth, you nurture and feed us. Grant spiritual growth to all who long for knowledge and wisdom. May places like Camp Kinard and Coastal Retreat provide time and space for visitors to grow in grace. Lord, in your mercy.

March: Generous God, Empower us to care for the land and all living things. We pray for those who steward land entrusted to us, including board members of the South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers. Bless visitors to Camp Kinard and Coastal Retreat with a sense of homecoming and true, authentic welcome. Lord, in your mercy.

April: Shepherding God, you give us companionship with your never-failing presence. Be with those who long to seek your face. Help seekers at Coastal Retreat and Camp Kinard find connection, refreshment and hope. Lord, in your mercy.

May: God of the cosmos, guide your people as we explore the mysteries of the universe. We pray for scientists, mathematicians, astronauts, and environmental conservationists. Bless those who steward the earth's resources with care, compassion and wonder. Guide those who care for our camps, Camp Kinard and Coastal Retreat. Lord, in your mercy.

June: Holy One, we pray for children and adults who play outside and for all those who enjoy the hospitality of Camp Kinard and Coastal Retreat. May their wonder and delight in your creation expand their love for you. Lord, in your mercy.

July: Holy God, all creation sings your praise. Bless wild places like Coastal Retreat and Camp Kinard so that birds and animals and all creation can thrive. Lord, in your mercy.

August: God of grace, we pray for those who visit Camp Kinard and Coastal Retreat that they may know the hospitable welcome of your love. Lord, in your mercy.

September: Almighty God, we pray for all struggling with discerning their vocation. May our camps, especially Camp Kinard and Coastal Retreat, be places where everyone, young and old alike, find wisdom and discernment. Lord, in your mercy.

October: Lord God, you make all things new. We pray for places set aside for their natural beauty, like Camp Kinard and Coastal Retreat, that they may serve as a place of respite and renewal for all who step foot on holy ground of your creation. Lord, in your mercy.

November: O God, we give you thanks for the saints, who have gone before us and who are around us still, who made faithful provisions for outdoor ministry. Thank you for the wisdom of our forebears in the faith who developed Camp Kinard and Coastal Retreat. May their generosity inspire us today. Lord, in your mercy.

December: Prince of peace, we pray for our camps, that they may be places of reconciliation and healing. Help those who gather at Camp Kinard and Coastal Retreat see you in their midst. Lord, in your mercy.

How can I help?

- Volunteer. Consider a service project like trail maintenance at Camp Kinard or spring cleaning at Coastal Retreat. Every set of hands lightens a load. Let us know your gifts and we can find a way to use them!
- Come. Help us by using us! Support your camp by booking lodging for council retreats, personal vacations, men's/women's/youth/congregation-wide retreats, picnics, and get-togethers. Remember our staff are also willing to go to you!
- Share. Tell others about us! You can be our advocate in sharing about our ministry with others. Maybe your workplace or school district might be interested in the ropes course or using our facilities. Recommend us to others through Facebook and other social media.
- Join our family. Sign up for our mailing list and stay updated on SCLRC news and events!
- Give. Make a direct donation to support our ongoing operations. Consider inviting your church home to make a gift. Maybe honor friends and family members this holiday season by pooling gifts together to adopt-a-room at Camp Kinard or Coastal. Consider a special season like Advent or Lent a chance to highlight giving opportunities in your congregation for our work. Join our Palm and Pine Society with a personal annual gift. Update your estate plans with a special gift to SCLRC. Donate physical items ranging from laundry detergent, cleaning supplies, and office supplies, to golf carts, paddleboats, canoes, and kayaks.
- Invite. Provide these many ways of supporting us to friends, family, and congregation members. Let them decide which way is best for them. See what creative ideas they have.
- Designate a liaison. Think of someone from your congregation, or a council member that can serve as a point person of communication with SCLRC to receive news, be our advocate, etc.
- Pray. Pray for us by name in your personal prayers and invite your worshipping community to consider lifting us up once a month in corporate prayer.