

WINTER RETREAT | JAN 30-FEB 1, 2026



It's almost time for Winter Retreat 2026 at Bair Lake Bible Camp! We are so excited about everything we have planned this year! As we get ready to go to camp in a few weeks, I wanted to update you with some news, reminders, your packing list, and other important and helpful info.

WEEKEND THEME

This year's theme is "In the Light."

I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness. – John 12:46

Jesus is the Light of the World, and through Him, we are called to step out of darkness and live in the freedom of His truth. 'In the Light' challenges students to embrace Christ's presence, allowing His light to transform our hearts and guide our lives. As children of light, we walk in righteousness, reflect God's love, and illuminate the world around us. We'll explore what it means to follow Jesus with boldness, live in genuine fellowship, and shine as beacons of hope in a darkened world. Are you ready to step into the light?



IN THE LIGHT

*"I have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness."
John 12:46*

IMPORTANT INFO & REMINDERS

- We leave for camp on Friday, January 30th. Please arrive at Crossroads at 5:30pm with all of your luggage so that we can check in campers, load luggage, review camp instructions, and be on our way. We plan to return Sunday, February 1st between 12:30-1:00pm.
- When you arrive for camp check in on Jan 30th, go inside Door #6 (east parking lot) to the Welcome Kiosk first, from there you will receive instructions about loading luggage, medications, and last-minute news.
- BLBC is located at 12500 Prang St, Jones, MI 49061. It's just about an hour away and we're taking a bus and a few other cars this year.
- The packing list for camp is on the next page! There's also a list of things to leave at home.
- Please eat dinner before arriving or pack something to eat as we drive up on Friday.
- If you only paid the deposit, the final balance for camp is due by January 11th. You can log back in to your registration to check your balance. If you've already paid in full, no further action is necessary.
- Make sure all your forms are complete! Did you complete the Crossroads Medical Waiver? Did you Complete the Bair Lake Winter Blitz Participation Agreement? Check your email for reminders.
- Camp activities are free; however, you may want to bring extra money for the camp store which sells apparel, snacks, stickers, and more.
- Join us in prayer: for safety and fun, strong friendships, and meaningful discussions. Pray also for our speaker, artist, the BLBC team, and our Dive youth staff, as they prepare to lead and share. And pray as God works in our hearts and prepares us for what he has in store.

- The Dive Student Ministry leaders who are attending camp are: Claire Carnes, Liz Collins, Kem Myers, Breanna Morrow, Darci Nifong, Darren Demis, Zach Pickens, Roger Krynock, Zach Dean, Michael Wagner, Blaine Jenney, Jesse Huerta, and Rich Gamble. In case of emergency, you can call my cell phone at (574) 540-6736.

If you have any other questions, just ask! Call or e-mail me at rgamble@crossroadsefc.com or (574) 935-3833.

Rich Gamble

Associate Pastor | Crossroads Church

PACKING LIST

ESSENTIALS AND STRONGLY RECOMMENDED:

Make sure you have enough clothing for the entire retreat and come ready to spend time outdoors.

- ☐ Medication (if required)
- ☐ Seasonably appropriate clothing: Casual clothing, warm and able to layer
- ☐ Pajamas, underwear, and extra socks
- ☐ Coat, hat, snow pants, boots, and gloves
- ☐ Close-toed shoes for indoor gym and flip-flops or sandals for shower
- ☐ Bath towel, washcloth, soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothbrush, toothpaste, and other toiletries
- ☐ Sleeping bag and pillow
- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Refillable water bottle
- ☐ Backpack (if desired)
- ☐ Bible, notebook, and pen
- ☐ Camera and charger (optional)
- ☐ Dirty laundry bag
- ☐ Snacks

Bair Lake Dress Code: Clothing should not be excessively short or revealing. For example, skirts/dresses/shorts should fall mid-thigh; midriff and underwear should not show; leggings/tights should have a skirt, dress, or shirt overtop that falls mid-thigh (except during exercise); shirts should not be low-cut and should have modest straps. Clothing with any sort of graphics or writing that is suggestive, demeaning, or otherwise inappropriate is not allowed.

PLEASE DO NOT BRING:

We aim for a safe, distraction-free weekend. When we say please do not bring these items, we mean it. So, if you do choose to bring them, please don't be upset with us when we ask you to put it away or confiscate the item until we get back home.

- ☐ Alcohol, tobacco or non-prescription drugs

Please note: Due to Michigan laws, all medications, including those available over-the-counter, will be kept by a Dive Student Ministry leader, and collected when you check in on January 30th. Put them in a zip lock bag, clearly labelled with the student's name. **Exceptions to this rule include inhalers, Epi-pens, and similar urgent-use items.**

- ☐ Firearms, knives, fireworks, sparklers, etc.
- ☐ Homework
- ☐ A bad attitude and / or drama
- ☐ Phones and electronics

*A note about phones at camp

Bair Lake Technology and Cell Phone Policy:

Bair Lake Bible Camp's core purpose is to inspire this generation to encounter God. Some of the ways we strive to accomplish this as a ministry is to provide a space and programs that are out of people's "normal." In our programs we challenge our campers to go without personal technology for the time they are here. Though it can be difficult, we have seen great impact in depth of interpersonal connection, minimizing distractions to emphasize what is happening at camp, relief from the anxiety of being over-connected, and letting God's Word be the "loudest voice" of the weekend. There is no doubt technology has great value, but as a ministry we have seen beautiful life change happen when we all step back to be present in what God is doing in the here and now.

We (Dive) are asking that students unplug for the weekend and request that students leave their phones and technologies at home.

Parents, we're asking that you please work with us on this one. We don't like being put into the position of taking away a student's phone and becoming the "bad guy." Again, if an emergency arises, my cell is listed above, and all of the Dive leaders have phones (and will always be present with students during the weekend).

****BLBC and Crossroads are not responsible for any lost, damaged, or stolen items.**

