

STRONGHOLD CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER COMMITTEE
Presbytery Report – November 13, 2018

The Stronghold Committee and our Separation Task Force continue their work toward making the full separation of the Presbytery of Blackhawk and Stronghold Center a reality. To this end, the Task Force continues to work with our attorney on developing the by-laws and other necessary documents. The Council's proposed budget for 2019 includes the continued step-down of Presbytery support for currently shared expenses while maintaining mission support for the ongoing ministry of Stronghold.

A Junior High retreat for churches in Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa was held November 9-11. Keynote speakers were Jacob and Brianne Christiansen, youth pastors from First Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, Arkansas. The Praise Band was provided by Westminster Presbyterian Church, Rockford. Our Synod provided a mission grant of \$2000 and our Presbytery provided mission funds of \$750.

The Confirmation Retreat tradition continues. This year we will have only one confirmation retreat. The date has been set for February 22-24. If you would like to know more, or make a reservation for your group, contact Stronghold.

Light Up Stronghold, our effort to replace all the light bulbs at Stronghold with LEDs continues. So far two buildings have been fully converted. If you would like to contribute toward these efforts, please drop off your LED bulbs at Stronghold or send a donation designated for "Light Up Stronghold".

Improvements continue camp wide. If you haven't been to Stronghold recently, stop by and see what we've been up to. Danny or any of the staff will be more than happy to show you around.

Your church should have received a copy of our End Of Year letter. Please consider including this in your church newsletter.

As always, there is a great deal going on at Stronghold. Stop by the Stronghold table or check out strongholdcenter.org for more information about this and other Stronghold events.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Kathleen S. Luke
Pastor, United Presbyterian Church, Freeport
moderator, Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center Committee