



I like to knit. Sometimes I am hesitant to tell people this random fact about myself. It is a rather feminine hobby as our culture describes it, and doesn't really boast of the tough cowboy persona I should perhaps be striving for as the director of Wilderness Ranch. A few years ago I ended up reading a paper and then a book on Hans Nielsen Hauge. Up until that point I had known very little about this influential Norwegian lay minister and entrepreneur. Hauge was most often associated with Norwegian Pietism.

In my reading of Hans Nielsen Hauge I discovered a rather unique fact about the man. Hauge was known for his knitting. You see, Hauge would walk from town to town and church to church. He preached fervently about having a relationship with Jesus and letting the Holy Spirit transform you. The other thing he did as he walked was knit. He would knit socks and mittens and give them to the poor who he encountered on his journey. All this, a worldwide pandemic, and some fond memories of a pair of Norwegian Selbu mittens I had worn out playing pond hockey as a child led to me picking up a set of knitting needles and trying to make my hands less idle and my down time more productive.

This morning during my devotions I read a passage from First Thessalonians Chapter 4. Verse 11 says, "Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands." The introvert in me hears that passage as pure gospel. I get to keep to myself and work with my hands? As I read this passage this morning another saying popped into my head. "Idle hands are the devil's workshop." I can imagine Hans Nielsen Hauge saying this or something of the sort as he walked along, knitting needles in hand. Hauge used the gift of his hands to bless other peoples hands. Let that be a challenge for you.

As you make your advent journey towards Christmas and the arrival of Jesus my prayer for you is that you find joy in the work of your hands. Whether that is knitting, woodworking, baking, or even just shoveling snow or doing the dishes. Your hands are an amazing gift from God, be thankful for them and use them to bless others.

We had another great summer at Wilderness Ranch. God was faithful again as he always will be. It was fun to see our Wilderness Adventure Bible School running again. Our quail coulee site was in full swing this summer as well. If God leads you to give to Wilderness Ranch this Christmas, please do. Our ministry relies heavily on the support of wonderful people such as yourself. God bless and have a merry Christmas.

Ken Olson
Wilderness Ranch Director



Summer Photos Left—Trail ride through the valley

Right—Staff and campers in front of the barn.



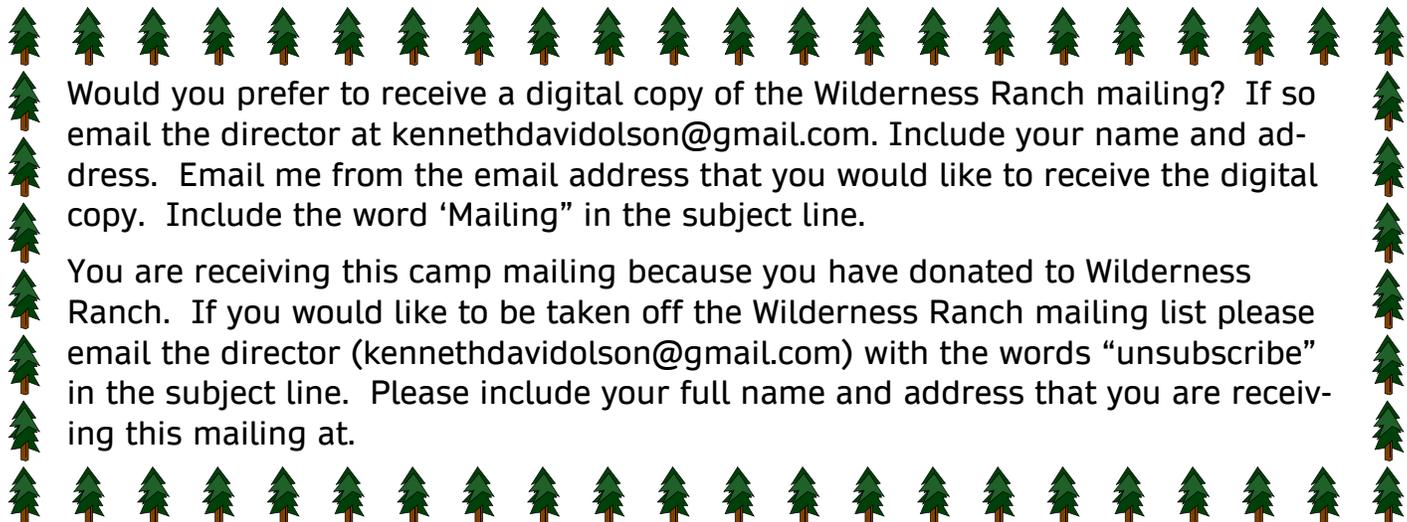
If God puts it on your heart to give to Wilderness Ranch this Christmas please do. There are three easy ways to give:

- Send an E-transfer to **wildernessranch@platinum.ca** (be sure to include your donor information for tax receipt purposes)
- Send a cheque payable to Wilderness Ranch to PO Box 1804 Claresholm AB T0L 0T0
- Donate using a credit card online at canadahelps.org (Please note that Wilderness Ranch does not receive all the money donated through the Canada Helps)



We will be hosting our Annual Pie Auction in Granum on Saturday April 22, 2023.

This will be the first Pie Auction we have had since 2019 so I am really looking forward to it. Come out for a fun night of fellowship and support the ministry of Wilderness Ranch.


 Would you prefer to receive a digital copy of the Wilderness Ranch mailing? If so email the director at kennethdavidolson@gmail.com. Include your name and address. Email me from the email address that you would like to receive the digital copy. Include the word 'Mailing' in the subject line.

You are receiving this camp mailing because you have donated to Wilderness Ranch. If you would like to be taken off the Wilderness Ranch mailing list please email the director (kennethdavidolson@gmail.com) with the words "unsubscribe" in the subject line. Please include your full name and address that you are receiving this mailing at.