



January 2021

Viborg, South Dakota

605-326-5690

Summer 2021

Although the look of the snow clinging to the tree branches and the groups that we host during the winter months are enjoyable, we can all look forward to the promise of summer.

We read in Isaiah 43:19 "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you see it?" As this year's campers come together, they will have a week of new experiences to enjoy. Concerns, disappointments, and challenges will not go away, but new friends and fresh opportunities can offer new ways of seeing their lives before camp. As they join other campers and the counselors, staff and bible leaders in praising God, they will discover or be reminded that God is with them in each moment. They will also learn that new friends in Christ can offer a different perspective, and that God will continue to do a new thing in us, both individually and collectively.

I am asking each of you to begin to pray for the summer camping season. Pray that those whom God intends to be here this summer will respond to His nudging. Pray that we find Godly servants who will serve as staff members and bible leaders. Pray also for those new children who will come to camp for the first time. Pray that they will find acceptance and people who will challenge them to grow spiritually in new ways.

This year especially, we have many things to prepare for the coming summer. Pray also that Judi, Mary, Shelly and I will accomplish our goals with the joy that comes from following a good and creative God.

2020 Financial Update

Many of you have been asking how SLCC fared during the past year of the pandemic. Understandably, virtually all of our family reunions for the past summer cancelled or postponed their events. An abbreviated summer schedule saw only a 13% decline in our camper attendance. Many of our fall and winter groups have returned albeit generally a bit smaller than in the past. All of that said, Swan Lake's financial picture looks really good. We ended the year in the black by almost \$6,000. We did receive about \$39,000 of government aid. Expenditures were lower and donations remained steady. We began the bathhouse project with materials purchased before March and we did as much with volunteers as possible. I appreciate each of the staff members who made due with what was on hand and I feel blessed to see how God has sustained this camp. I know that others have been deeply affected by this past year and I pray that they also have felt the hand of God holding and keeping them through all of it. I want to thank all of you for your prayers and for your support.

~Jerry Kroeker, Executive Director

2021 ANNUAL MEETING

We will hold a virtual meeting
on March 7th at 4 p.m.
Look for detail to follow

WISH LIST



- Commercial meat slicer webstarantstore.com \$759
- Donation towards the new boys bathhouse—\$40,000 project estimate
- A full year of scheduled events with Christ centered fellowship and fun.





2021 SUMMER SCHEDULE

If you know someone who is interested in coming to any of our camps, You can register online at:

<https://myslcc.campbrainregistration.com/>

Swan Lake Marathon	June 6
Cottontail Day Camp (Ages 5 & 6)	June 14
Chipmunk Day Camp (Grades 1-2)	June 15
Third Grade Camp	June 16-18
Fourth Grade Camp	July 6-9
Fifth Grade Camp	June 27-July 2
Sixth Grade Camp	July 11-16
Junior High Camp	July 18-23
Senior High Camp (Grades 9-12)	July 25-30



GO THE DISTANCE

Judi and I spent much of this fall with her father, Erland Thiesen. We were both with him in the doctor's office when the neurosurgeon gave him the long face. The problem with his left hand was a brain tumor in an inoperable location. Again, we were both with him when members of his congregation gathered around him to pray for a miraculous recovery. I saw his faith and the faith of many people who were close to him.

Since Judi left in 1988 to spend the summer counseling at Swan Lake Christian Camp, she never lived at home again with her father. Erland and I formed a friendship in 1992 when I met him as the summer staff were in Henderson for the fourth of July. As Judi and my relationship grew, Erland and I also grew to know each other better although we never lived within 200 miles. Erland was my wife's dad.

Erland lost his wife Glenda in 1986 to cancer. In 1994, he married again and lost Ruth Ann also to cancer a dozen years later. Through all of this, he trusted God. Now, during his own battle with cancer, he again showed his faith in God. He believed that he would receive a miracle. Almost daily, I could see signs of deterioration. He lost his ability to grip. Then he lost all use of his hand. His left leg soon followed. Before long, we were calling hospice for assistance with his daily care.

The miracle that I received was getting to truly know Erland. I met neighbors whom he had prayed for. Neighbors brought food and sat with him. There were tears and much laughter. Erland shared about his first date with Glenda. Judi and I, her brother Micah and her sister Rachel were with him when he passed away in his living room on Judi's birthday. The picture above was taken just one week earlier. Erland prayed for a miracle, then he prayed to go home. Even when he did not understand, he trusted that God did. We miss him, but we celebrate a faith worth emulating.

~ Jerry Kroeker

PRAYERS

1. Pray for the staff, who work hard every day to ensure that this site and programs are the best that we can offer.
2. Pray for the retreat groups who will come here, that they might find what they are looking for and meet God in this place.
3. Pray for the campers who will come this summer, eager to have fun, but also to grow and learn.
4. Pray for the summer staff who will be role models and leaders for the children and youth.
5. Pray that all those who come to this camp would find the same wonder, joy, safety, and peace that you found.
6. Praise God, the loan on the Retreat Center is completely paid off. SLCC is again debt free!

The community, faith, love, and fun that Swan Lake Christian Camp gave me will forever be in my memories. I spent two summers with this wonderful group of people who not only taught me about God and how to have fun, but lifelong skills that will serve me going forth. Not to mention the glory that is in Mary's cooking. The scene that will forever stick with me is the image during campfires. A group of Christ-seeking children singing with the sunset hitting the cross just right. Never have I seen a more beautiful sight. ~former staff member

Bathhouse Project

The Swan Lake Christian Camp board of directors approved the building of a new bathhouse connected to the west of the chapel. The old bathhouse was built near the end of the gang shower era. Although partitions had been added, privacy was minimal and space was really tight. This building will be repurposed as a new cabin with a bathroom facilities included.

The new bathhouse will include a floor plan that allows it to be used for both genders if needed. It will also provide the supervision that seems prudent with proper privacy including enclosed changing areas for each shower. The building is accessible both from the outside as well as through the chapel with an eye towards a future renovation of the chapel space.

Most of the sheetrock is hung. Some building materials are being delayed because of work stoppages. Our intention is to have this building functional for the summer. For that to happen, I will be asking for some volunteers to step forward. After the mudding and taping, we will need to put up tile, paint and hang toilet partitions.

I would also ask for your financial help with this project. Building materials are much higher than anticipated. We need about \$25,000 to complete this project.



*Be Still and Know that
He is God:
Rest, Fellowship and Grow*

Mission Statement