



Swan Lake

Christian Camp & Retreat Center

June 2021

The Word of Our God

There is a rosebush just outside of the Dining Hall that I often pass by on my way to other tasks. On June 1st, I noticed the first rosebud and stopped to take a picture. The single rosebud was tiny and precious to me. It spoke of the promise of the current season. Ever since that day, I frequently take the extra minute to stop, admire the beauty of the flower and watch it's progress. Three days later, I took another picture of the exact same flower, now fully open. Still beautiful, but in a new way.



I was reminded of the often-quoted scripture in Isaiah 40. "The grass withers and the flowers fade, but the word of our God stands forever.

With the 2021 camp season already upon us, I am amazed at how quickly this season will pass. The summer staff have already arrived and have been preparing their hearts and minds for the campers who will soon be here. And just like the flowers, they will soon leave camp to return to their lives.

However, it is my prayer, that even after they leave, the word of our God that was spoken from their mouths will remain. It will remain deeply planted in the hearts of the campers we were privileged to serve. It will remain here at camp in the hearts of the full time staff as we continue to serve those who stay at the Retreat Center. And it will remain in the hearts of the summer staff as they move forward in their lives. Would you join me in praying that the word of our God would find fertile soil this summer?



Each day, it seems like new flowers join the others on the bush. The beauty is multiplied. Today, the rosebush is overflowing. May God's word multiply from Swan Lake Christian Camp this season and every season to follow!

Kianne Gilles
Program Director

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

2021 Schedule

Cottontail Day Camp (Ages 5 & 6) .	June 14
Chipmunk Day Camp (Grades 1-2)..	June 15
Third Grade Camp.	June 16-18
Fifth Grade Camp.	June 27– July 2
Fourth Grade Camp.	July 6-9
Sixth Grade Camp	July 11-16
Junior High Camp (Grades 7-8)....	July 18-23
Senior High Camp (Grades 9-12)...	July 25–30

Meet the Summer Staff



Thaniel Shroeder

Hometown: Spencer, SD

"I enjoy running cross country and climbing trees"



Sarah Wipf

Hometown: Freeman, SD

"I'm currently a nursing student at USD"



Elijah Stahl

Hometown: Freeman, SD

"My favorite part of camp is the evening campfires."



Spencer Wirth

Hometown: Sioux Falls, SD

"What I like most about Swan Lake is the Christian Fellowship"



Meredith Graber

Hometown: Freeman, SD

"I enjoy going on mission trips around the world"



Jacob Janzen

Hometown: Aurora, NE

"My favorite place at camp is looking over the lake from the Retreat Center balcony."

Building Update

First of all, I want to say that we here at camp are having the hardest time knowing what to call this building. We still have a boy's bathhouse. We also recognize that every new building becomes not new anymore. I've been calling it the Showerhouse. Judi thinks that's odd. It's attached to the chapel, but it is intended for an irreligious purpose. It's still up for debate, but I suspect that all of you who have been following the progress for a while know which building I am referencing.

It is 99 and 44/100 percent complete. I have a little door trim and a fan to install. I suppose that we will put a little cement out front as well. All that being said, I want to thank the group from Bethesda who helped with tiling. I also want to thank Doug Hofer, Dennis Ries and Sean Bartels for their stick-to-it-ness especially with the grouting and hanging the privacy partitions. Dan Johannech has meticulously drilled about a million holes in the tile and the partitions to hang hooks and hinges. God provided each of these people, their talents and their availability at just the right moments. I am sure that others also helped and I am so very thankful for every one of them.

I know that it is weird, but I have enjoyed showing this new space to a whole bunch of people who have come to the camp recently. We used it for the first time during the Marathon weekend. Praise God. We were over budget, but I realize that this past year, that puts us in with the majority of people who built due to rising material costs. Again, praise God with me for this new space that will wash us clean, if only temporarily, while we learn about a God who promises to cleanse us permanently.

Jerry Kroeker,
Executive Director

