



October 26, 2021

Viborg, South Dakota

605-326-5690

**As the season changes around us, here is what is changing at Swan Lake Christian Camp.**



- ◆ The addition of a handicap accessible restroom in the dining hall.
- ◆ Concrete transition between retreat center and dining hall.
- ◆ Concrete pad outside of the new bathhouse.
- ◆ Two new cabins on the south side of camp.
- ◆ Planning for a new larger chapel.
- ◆ Planning for next summer camping season.
- ◆ Periodic Senior High evening campfires.

**Would you prayerfully consider how you could help with these projects?**

## **Save the Date**

**Winter Skate Craft Fundraiser**

*December 2nd, 6:30 PM*

**Piano Night Fundraiser**

*January 9th, 6:00 PM*

**Annual Meeting**

*March 13th, 4:00PM*



## **Winter Camps**

**5th & 6th Grade Winter Retreat**

*January 14th-16th*

**Junior High Winter Retreat**

*January 21st-23rd*

**Senior High Winter Retreat**

*January 28th-30th*

I have a love/hate relationship with fall. I love the changing colors, leaves falling, and the warm autumn sun shining down, but I hate the cold, windy days that scream of the cold months up ahead. One cold day and I'm ticking off lists in my head of all the projects that need to be finished before we are trapped inside for the incessant winter. My anxiety level rises, and I find myself falling into a depressive trap.

I was pondering this as I went for a walk on a warm afternoon. The drying fields reminded me of how fall is a time of harvest and thanksgiving. We praise God for all he has provided. I personally have many reason to be thankful, yet when I am distracted by the work, I forget. I found that praise and thanksgiving were the antidote for my anxiety and worry. In reality, it is a matter of focus. Where I am focused determines how I live.

As I was listening to the radio this morning, a song came on that took me back a few years to another fall day. I was in a hotel room attending a business conference. I turned on the radio as I was getting ready for the day, and the lyrics started like this:

*Make it count, leave a mark, build a name for yourself*

*Dream your dreams, chase your heart, above all else*

*Make a name the world remembers*

The lyrics hit home. Isn't this what the world had been teaching me? Dream big! You only live once so do what makes you happy! Climb the corporate ladder and buy that house, car, boat, lake home, etc. This is exactly what I had been trying to do....unsuccessfully. And I was tired of trying. But the song continued:

*But all an empty world can sell is empty dreams*

*I got lost in the lie that it was up to me*

*To make a name the world remembers*

Empty dreams is right. And then clarity hit:

***But Jesus is the only name to remember***

This song, these lyrics, sank down deep in my soul. This was the start of something new in my life. At that point as I looked back on my life, my eyes were suddenly opened to the goals I had inadvertently set. I was living to chase my own dreams, build a name for myself, and leave my own legacy. But the truth is, there was never a possibility of success because it was an empty, unfulfilling dream. My focus was in the wrong place. I was solely focused on myself, when Jesus is the only name to remember. The chorus continues:

*And I, I don't want to leave a legacy*

*I don't care if they remember me*

***Only Jesus***

Although it didn't change in an instant, I made the conscious choice to continually move my focus away from myself and onto the God who loves me. The chorus was a reminder of what is truly important and is still often on repeat in my mind. As my focus stayed on Him, I was willing to be led where He wanted to take me.

However, it is interesting (and frustrating) how easily I can stray. The moment the anxiety rises, I've lost my focus on what is important. The second verse starts like this:

*All the kingdoms built, all the trophies won*

*Will crumble into dust when it's said and done*

It's difficult to think about Swan Lake Christian Camp crumbling into dust, but we know it is the truth in the end. It is the people who come to know Jesus through us that will live on in eternity. So I want my mantra to be:

*And I, I've only got one life to live*

*I'll let every second point to Him*

## Camp...Then and Now

We recently hosted the first SLCC Board Retreat in a long time. I'll use the term "retreat" loosely as much work was accomplished. The weekend began with the opportunity to share camp memories. It was such a fun time of fellowship as we heard the good, the bad, the funny, and the bad and funny. I got to hear about the tractor rolling down into the lake during campfire. I was so blessed learning how camp has impacted so many lives throughout the years.

It quickly became clear that camp, both the physical buildings and the programming, has changed over the years. As we examined this together, we recognized the need for change as the culture changes around us. Today, instead of camp enrollment being filled with kids coming in groups from churches, we see individuals coming from a more local area. This, in combination with an increase in enrollment, has shifted the dynamics at camp.

So, what does this mean? It means we want to continue to stay focused on the mission that God has placed on us at Swan Lake Christian Camp—to share the transforming love of Jesus with kids while having fun. But we need to consider how we can do this effectively in light of this shift.

When we really broke down what impacts our faith the most, we found it was the relationships we form with others. This is where we want to focus when it comes to camp ministry. How can we encourage and foster the development of more and deeper relationships with campers that will positively impact their faith? We believe the answer to that is found in our counselors. Camp is naturally designed for counselors to spend the most time with the campers. It makes the most sense that each cabin has a counselor who is equipped to fill this role and encourage relationships with themselves and with the other campers.

With this in mind, the board made the decision to change the summer staffing format for the coming 2022 summer. We will increase the pay so that we can hire 15 full-time Lead Counselors who are over the age of 19. These Lead counselors will join our typical high school aged volunteer counselors in the cabins.

We are really excited about the possibilities that this will bring to our camping program. Please pray with us for God to provide these individuals to fill both the Lead and Cabin Counselor roles.



**Campfire 1957**



**Campfire 2021**



<sup>30</sup> And you must love the LORD your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. <sup>31</sup> The second is equally important: Love your neighbor as yourself. No other commandment is greater than these. *Mark 12:30-31*

## Lead Camp Counselor

Swan Lake Christian Camp is looking for young adults who are actively living the greatest commandments to serve as lead camp counselors this upcoming summer. Camp counseling offers a great opportunity to learn and grow skills in many different areas. We believe that God has equipped each of us with special talents and gifts to share the love of Jesus with others. We are excited to help you discover and use those. It is our experience that as we love others through our gifts, we grow in the fullness of God.

### Requirements

- A heart for God
- A heart to serve
- Minimum age of 19

### Helpful skills or the desire to learn some of these skills

- Canoeing and kayaking
- Leading devotions
- Lifeguarding and swimming
- Fishing
- Leading craft or art projects
- Archery
- Camping out
- Lighting campfires
- Woodworking or building
- Leading and playing games
- Playing an instrument
- Singing
- Sailing
- Cooking over a fire
- Skit acting or Improv
- Sleeping in Hammocks
- Connecting with kids

### The details

- Lead counselors are expected to be onsite full time from May 26<sup>th</sup> through August 6<sup>th</sup>.
- SLCC provides a fun work environment, wages, and full access to Mary's cooking.
- After orientation and training, counselors have time off on Friday evenings and all day Saturday.
- All counselors must agree to abide by all camp policies.
- Internship and college practicum are a possibility. Feel free to let us know your needs in this area.

Apply online at: <https://myslcc.com/about-us/employment/>

Call 605-481-2814 or Email [programdirector@myslcc.com](mailto:programdirector@myslcc.com) for more information



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## **Cabin Counselor**

Swan Lake Christian Camp is looking for youth who are actively living the greatest commandments to serve as cabin counselors this upcoming summer. Camp counseling offers a great opportunity to learn and grow skills in many different areas. We believe that God has equipped each of us with special talents and gifts to share the love of Jesus with others. We are excited to help you discover and use those. It is our experience that as we love others through our gifts, we grow in the fullness of God.

### **Requirements**

- A heart for God
- A heart to serve
- Minimum age of 16

### **Helpful skills or the desire to learn some of these skills**

- |                                 |                             |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Canoeing and kayaking         | • Leading and playing games |
| • Leading devotions             | • Playing an instrument     |
| • Lifeguarding and swimming     | • Singing                   |
| • Fishing                       | • Sailing                   |
| • Leading craft or art projects | • Cooking over a fire       |
| • Archery                       | • Skit acting or Improv     |
| • Camping out                   | • Sleeping in Hammocks      |
| • Lighting campfires            | • Connecting with kids      |
| • Woodworking or building       |                             |

### **The details**

- This is a voluntary position. No pay is provided.
- Counselors can volunteer on a weekly basis.
- Attendance to counselor orientation is required.
- Cabin counselors will follow the directions of the Lead counselors.
- Cabin counselors must agree to abide by all camp policies.

Apply online at: <https://myslcc.com/about-us/employment/>

Call 605-481-2814 or Email [programdirector@myslcc.com](mailto:programdirector@myslcc.com) for more information

# Winter Skate Craft Fundraiser

Instruction by Shirley Phelan of Viborg's Scandinavian Coop at the Creamery

*Make a beautiful decoration for your home*

Do you or your grandmother tell stories of skating on a frozen lake? What a wonderful way to own a piece of history and cherish those memories!

**Thursday  
December 2nd  
6:30pm**

**Minimum donation**

**\$45**

**RSVP by November 24th**

**to 605-326-5690**

**or [campoffice@myslcc.com](mailto:campoffice@myslcc.com)**

