

February 2022

Viborg, South Dakota

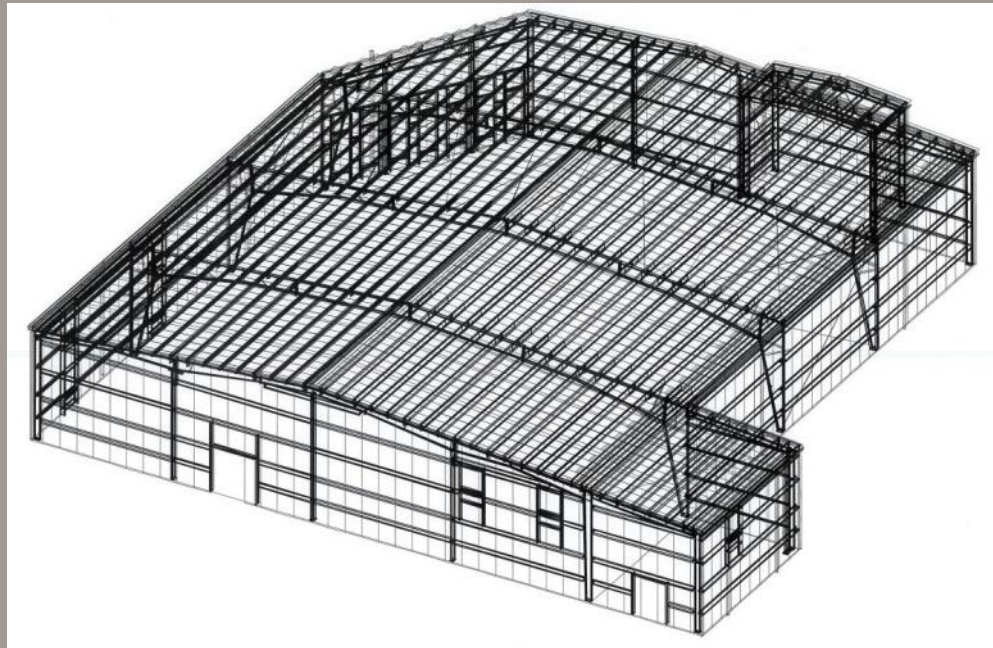
605-326-5690

Visions, Dreams and Sleepless Nights

Nine years ago, we were just about to break ground on a fantastic dream for a retreat center. I believe that God had placed an idea in our collective hearts that "Adults need Jesus, also." Five years later, that vision produced the Still Waters Retreat Center with 72 pillows in 18 guest rooms.

Again, we are looking to the future with the belief that our visions must expand again. The Still Waters Retreat Center is often full and God continues to present us with additional groups wanting to share Christ's love in new ways. A new vision is growing with the idea of replacing the current chapel with a new worship center that has space for indoor recreation. Additionally, the plans include space for up to sixty more beds in semi-private rooms. We want to provide space for our youth camps during inclement weather in a space that is specifically designed for worship. The additional beds would replace some of the current cabins which are aging out.

Current estimates place the cost of this project at \$1.4 million. This is beyond our ability unless God is the author of these plans. Join us if you're willing.



ANNUAL MEETING

You are invited to the annual meeting for Swan Lake Christian Camp Association on March 13th. The meeting will start at 4pm with the meal to immediately follow. Diane Gubbels of Coleridge, NE will be sharing stories of inspiration connected with her quilts.

Please RSVP by calling the camp office at 605-326-5690



PERSEVERE IN FAITH

As the lake is still mostly frozen over and we await a potential impending snow storm, I find it difficult to wrap my brain around the short time between now and the beginning of summer camp. However, Jerry and Judi insistently remind me that the time is short and I need to be ready! This fills me with both a sense of excitement and also apprehension. I'm excited for the joy the children bring, for hot summer days, and to see God come alive for so many. I'm apprehensive about scheduling Bible Leaders, hiring staff, and the imminent lack of sleep. Would you join me in thanking God in advance for his provision in these areas? I am choosing to believe in faith that my God, who causes the enemy to turn on themselves (See the Easter is Coming devotional on the last page), is powerful and mighty to supply our every need. Perhaps I'm not as apprehensive as I originally thought, but instead eagerly anticipating how God will move in our midst.

The theme for this summer is 'You are my Champion'. We will explore the story of the Bible, how evil entered the world, and ultimately how Christ conquered sin becoming the Champion. As Christians, we are invited to participate in the battle against evil using our spiritual armor and join in the victory that Christ has already claimed. As we open the Scriptures and explore this theme, I know the Holy Spirit will teach us as Christ promised in John 14:26.

This summer will bring a few changes. Some of you may have noticed (or heard of) the missing overhead sign, the removal of the old girls bathhouse/RESF (recreational equipment storage facility), and the poured foundations awaiting new cabins. All of these speak of the continued growth of summer camp prompting the need for additional staff. For this reason, the board has implemented an increase in the quantity of staff as well as a significant increase in the stipend provided. We anticipate this will positively impact the camp experience for everyone. The employment page on our website reflects some of the recruiting mechanisms—including the addition of internships and lead counselor positions. Please share these opportunities with your college students and young adults.

2022 Summer SCHEDULE

The 20th annual Swan Lake Marathon . . . June 11
 Cottontail Camp (pre K and K) June 13
 Chipmunk Camp (1st and 2nd grade) . . . June 14
 3rd Grade Camp June 15-17
 Senior High Camp June 27th - July 1st
 4th Grade Camp July 5th - 8th
 5th Grade Camp July 10 -15th
 6th Grade Camp July 17 -22nd
 Junior High Camp July 24 -29th

If you know someone who is interested in coming to any of our camps, You can register online at:
<https://myslcc.campbrainregistration.com/>





ANNUAL MEETING

I want to share with you a little bit about our speaker this year. Diane Gubbels gave a presentation to one of our quilting groups earlier this past fall. She shared from her heart some of the stories that form the background to her quilting penchant. As I listened to Judi's excitement and fascination over some of the stories, I thought about how often I share stories of Jesus Christ with the ladies that use our facilities for scrapbooking, crafting, quilting or other retreats. I have visited with a woman who questioned and hoped that she had done enough for her salvation. I got to share with her that Christ has done it all. We simply have to believe and call him Lord. As I have built relationships, I have gained the opportunity to share about my own faith. This time, I want to share the stories of Diane Gubbels. Some point to a deep faith. Others are whimsical. Many point to the reasons why so many crafting people gather together to do their projects and form relationships here at Swan Lake Christian Camp.

I also want to share how God continues to bless this ministry as we strive to honor him. As I shared in the fall, our youth camps continue to grow. My hope is that this is because we strive to boldly share the love of Jesus Christ. It may also have something to do with the pandemic. Because of the growth, we have started work on two additional cabins on the girl's side of camp. These cabins will be four season cabins with bathrooms included. My plan is to begin framing in March and have them functional by summer. I suspect that I will be completing them in the fall.

This winter, we have hosted the South Dakota community of Tres Dias. This three day spiritual renewal event takes every area of the camp by bringing in 75-90 men followed by nearly the same number of women on the next weekend. Many are mature Christians. Others are still questioning who Jesus Christ will be in their lives. All seem to grow from the intense experience. This semi-annual event and others like it are the type of groups we had hoped to serve when we built the retreat center. They are some of the motivation behind our dreams for a larger worship space. We also need additional space for youth activities in the winter or on rainy days (whatever those are).

We were blessed to build the newest shower house with no specific fundraising because of a terrific year financially. I believe we are listening to what God is placing on our hearts concerning the upcoming chapel project. If it is simply my wish, then no funding will come in and we will put the project on hold. If though, it originates from God, then we will build it and strive to wear it out through much use and continue to share the stories of God's faithfulness.

I want to encourage each of you to pray about the camp and these projects and then share with me what you hear God saying to you. If God is prompting you in any way, I pray that you will be bold in your listening and strong in your response. I believe God is moving powerfully in this camp.

~ Jerry Kroeker

WISH LIST

- Electric golf cart
Approximately \$8000
- New volleyball net
\$250
- Cajon (musical drum)
\$150
- Construction help
Priceless



PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Pray for the staff, who work hard every day to ensure that this site and its 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 a more personal manner.
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.

EASTER IS COMING

Easter is coming! This is absolutely the highlight of the Christian calendar and yet it seems to always surprise me. There is an entire month between Thanksgiving and Christmas for me to prepare for the birth of Jesus. But, even as I know that, Easter, like its fulfillment of prophecy, always seems to sneak up on me. Jesus Christ gave his death for me. We usually say that he gave his life — that becomes too sterile. He died a cruel, unimaginably painful death on a cross to accomplish my salvation. Praise God. Easter is coming.

This meditation should really bear Kianne's name. She brought this passage to me out of her daily reading. II Chronicles 20 tells the story of Jehoshaphat, whom my father contends, jumps. Just imagine if Jumping Jehoshaphat ever encountered Leaping Lena. These two vaulting exclamations are fun to consider. Anywho, back to Kianne's devotional.

In the passage, three nations come up against the nation of Judah. When news of this impending attack reaches the king, Jehoshaphat orders a national day of fasting. He then prays for his countrymen in confidence that the Lord who had been with them in the wilderness would hear them now and rescue them. The Holy Spirit speaks to one of the Levites named Jahaziel and says, "Listen. Do not be afraid or discouraged for this battle belongs to the Lord. Tomorrow, you will march out against them and you won't even need to fight."

Then all the people of Judah worshiped God. The next day, the army of Judah went out into the wilderness to meet the much larger armies arrayed before them. Jehoshaphat extolled them one more time simply saying, "Believe." At the urging of the people, Jehoshaphat placed the Judean Singers mass choir ahead of the fighting men and approached the battlefield, not with stealth, but loudly giving praise to God. When the field came into view, the three other nations were waging war against themselves and no one survives. Jehoshaphat returned to Jerusalem amidst the music of harps, lyres, trumpets and faith filled men.

Consider our own problems. Do you ever stop and fast while praying to the God of the universe who cared enough to send his only son to restore the relationship which our unbelief destroyed? Easter is coming! Praise God.

- Jerry