



September 2022

Viborg, South Dakota

605-326-5690

Have you noticed our shirt design this summer?

Its always fun to see them when we are out and about in the local communities. They have been very popular so we have decided to open up the option to order this design in t-shirts, crewnecks and hoodies with a few color options.

To place your order: Scan the QR code with your phone camera.

You will need to fill out a new form for each desired shirt.

Ordering ends November 10th.

SCAN ME



WINTER RETREAT DATES

Mark your calendars!

Registration will open in November.

Senior High January 6th-8th

7th & 8th January 13th-15th

5th & 6th January 20th-22nd



MISSION STATEMENT

Be Still
and KNOW that
I AM
GOD

Rest Fellowship Grow

WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW

- Completing the two new cabins that went up this spring. Praising God for the ability to use them this past summer
- Hosted 2 weekends of large spiritual retreats. Praising God for the adult lives changed.
- Hosting 2 to 4 groups each weekend, both crafting and ministry groups
- Additional staffing to cover personnel transitions and increased guests



MILLION LITTLE MIRACLES

As summer comes to a close, I am frequently asked, “How did camps go this summer?” It is a fair question. So many are invested in the ministry of camp and truly care. However, I found myself answering with the typical, “It was good!”. Exclamation point because I want people to believe it. But really, it’s a loaded question, and I found myself struggling with a real answer. Is there a way to explain the highs, lows and everything in-between found in a season of camp in a conversational reply? And what makes a summer good or bad?

As I wrestled through this, I prayed...ALOT. And I sought out advice from trusted believers. All of which did help. But then, God spoke to me through a song, *Million Little Miracles* by Elevation Worship. If you haven’t heard it, go listen. I promise you will be blessed. Here is the chorus:

***I think it over and it doesn’t add up
I know it comes from above
I’ve got miracles on miracles
A million little miracles
Miracles on miracles
Count your miracles
One, two, three, four, I can’t even count ‘em all***

I was reminded and struck by the miracles I had experienced, not only personally in my journey to where I am today, but also during and through other people this summer at camp. There were a million little miracles. God supplied energy when we shouldn’t have had any left. He sent counselors when we didn’t have enough. He provided wisdom in tough situations. He multiplied our efforts. Everywhere I looked this summer, my eyes saw lack—not enough supplies, not enough help, and not enough time in a day. But in every situation, God showed me more than what I could see. He showed me A MILLION LITTLE MIRACLES! Was it hard? Absolutely. Did I have moments of lacking faith? Absolutely. But I saw God perform miracles in front of me.

So when camps ended and I started looking back, I didn’t know what to think. How was the summer? Was it hard? Was it good? Without the hard parts, I wouldn’t have experienced the miracles. It is all about perspective. I could choose to focus on the issues encountered and the lack of sleep, or I can choose to focus on a faithful God who provided. I can choose to focus on the lives that I saw changed in front of me. I can choose to focus on the good. The second verse goes like this:

***You held me steady so I wouldn’t give up
You opened doors that nobody could shut
I hope I never get over what You’ve done.***

Oh, Lord that is my prayer. **I hope I never get over what You’ve done.** I hope I never get over what you did this summer. I hope I never get over what you did on the cross. I hope I never get over what you did in my heart.



Piano Night

**Sunday, November 13th
6:00 PM**

**RSVP to 605-326-5690
Or campoffice@myslcc.com**

Enjoy a three course meal, live music, and fellowship.
Invite your friends to come support Swan Lake Christian Camp during our annual fundraiser.

Jerry's Update

Reading through Kianne's articles for this newsletter, I find myself asking, "What else are people wanting to know about what is happening at Swan Lake Christian Camp?" One thing that I want each of you to know with complete certainty is that we are striving to keep Jesus Christ central to all of our thinking, planning and implementation.

God has blessed us with an incredible number of kids coming to our camps. As we plan for next summer, you will see that we are adding a third day camp. I struggled with nomenclature for these camps. We had cottontail and chipmunk. What name do we add when kids from pre-kindergarten through 2nd grade are welcome to sign up for any of the three days, whichever suits their schedule and still has room? For now, they will be Day Camp 1, 2, and 3. We are also scheduling a second 7th & 8th grade camp during the week of July 4th. It won't work for some, but you can plan on terrific fireworks displays put on by cabin owners at the lake. It could be the most popular week of the summer. We will likely not have the traditional introspective campfire that evening.

We are tapping the breaks, so to speak, a little bit on any new building plans as we enter a season of completing all of the projects that we have previously begun. This includes completions of the two newest cabins, trim work in both the shower house and the new stairway next to the dining hall. It also includes some upkeep on the director's house and a number of other small projects. We need this time to catch up.

Many of you have been curious about what retirement will look like for Mary. That is a good question. We are hiring additional people to work in the kitchen. Mary will continue to have a role in menu planning, ordering and training of new staff. She will continue to make her jelly and, I believe, she will continue to have a big presence in the kitchen until all of us are confident that we can carry on with her serving more of an advisory role. She has no plans to leave the camp, only to cut back to a more sustainable schedule. We all have been so blessed to have her for more than twenty-five years of great food and dedicated service.

Finally, I want you to continue to pray for all the ministries of the camp. Pray for the kids. Pray for next year's counselors. Pray for the adults who meet Jesus here at camp. Pray for the finances and for good stewardship of all of our resources. Pray for new staff in the kitchen and for volunteers who will help complete some of the projects. Pray that the will of Jesus Christ will forever be foremost in our intentions and will be reflected in our actions.

I WILL BE EXALTED

Psalm 46

1 God is our refuge and strength,
always ready to help in times of
trouble.

2 So we will not fear when earth-
quakes come
and the mountains crumble into
the sea.

3 Let the oceans roar and foam.
Let the mountains tremble as the
waters surge!

Interlude

4 A river brings joy to the city of our
God,
the sacred home of the Most High.

5 God dwells in that city; it cannot be
destroyed.
From the very break of day, God
will protect it.

6 The nations are in chaos,
and their kingdoms crumble!
God's voice thunders,
and the earth melts!

7 The Lord of Heaven's Armies is here
among us;
the God of Israel is our fortress.

Interlude

8 Come, see the glorious works of the
Lord:
See how he brings destruction up-
on the world.

9 He causes wars to end throughout
the earth.
He breaks the bow and snaps the
spear;
he burns the shields with fire.

10 "Be still, and know that I am God!
I will be honored by every nation.
I will be honored throughout the
world."

11 The Lord of Heaven's Armies is
here among us;
the God of Israel is our fortress.

Interlude

In my house hangs an oversized, decorative sign with a well-quoted scripture, "Be still and know that I am God." For myself and I'm sure for some of you, it's a verse that reminds us that we are not in control. It commands us to stop our worrying and rest.

Now that I have my own children, I often find myself telling them to "chill". This is my modern way of telling them to have some patience. I have heard their request but it is going to take me a minute to get it accomplished, or I have something better in mind for them.

I started to wonder if that is how God sees me sometimes, like an impatient child. I read this verse in a whole new light. God is saying to me, "Chill Kianne, I've heard your request, but I'm God and I know better than you. Have patience and understand I want what is best for you." Suddenly now it wasn't necessarily about rest, but it was about understanding who my God is. It is amazing how the same scripture can continue to speak to us. The Word of God is truly alive and active. Recently, Jerry and I have had some discussions about the vision and direction of the camp. I was reminded about our mission statement, "Be still and Know that I am God. Rest, Fellowship, Grow". I'll be honest, in light of the summer camps, I started to question if this was a good mission for us. We aren't really "still" at camp. But once again, God revealed something new to me.

In my recent studies, I was taught to look at the context of a verse. So I backed up and read the whole chapter. In summary, Psalm 46 tells us that God is our help in times of hardship and trial. Verse 6 says, "The nations are in chaos, and their kingdoms crumble!". I can't think of a more fitting description of our world today. Yet in verse 7, He reassures us that He is still here among us.

With this in mind he tells us to be still, or some versions say "cease striving". And he ends the same verse (Verse 10) declaring that He will be honored (or exalted) in every nation and throughout the world. Please read all of Psalm 46—it is so worth it!

When I think of the big picture of Swan Lake Christian Camp, our vision through this lens is perfect. All around us, the mountains of our lives are crumbling, and the oceans are roaring. The youth in our schools are in chaos, and the adults are at war. Yet, God tells us not to fear, because his thundering voice causes the earth to melt. He ends wars. And He is here among us offering us a fortress. Instead of fear, He commands us to Be Still AND Exalt Him.

As campers come to camp, we invite them to come away from their chaos, to cease striving, and to exalt God. When adults come for crafting and retreats, we invite them to get away from their wars, to cease striving, and exalt God.



In our rest, we are exalting God. In our fellowship with others, we are exalting God. And as we grow in our faith, we are exalting God. May our focus always be to bring honor and glory to our God.