

# Swan Lake

Christian Camp & Retreat Center

October 2023

Viborg, SD

605-326-5690



**We are so excited to announce the plans for a new worship center.**

Over the past four years, numerous individuals have weighed in with their ideas on purpose, location and function for a new chapel space. Plans are finally complete! This 70'x100' addition, connected to the existing dining hall, will include both dining and worship space. A storm shelter for the largest youth camps and new office space will be located in the lower walk-out basement level. We are beginning construction this fall and I am confident that this worship center will serve the camp well for many, many years.

Early this year, I was challenged through a sermon series to chase after dreams that were so big that only God could accomplish them. Initially, I believed the cost for a new worship center would stretch, but were reasonably within the camp's projected financial ability. We could do this on our own. However, as estimates of actual costs began to roll in, I realized that unless God was in control of this dream, it would fail fantastically. With a tremendous amount of prayer, producing profound peace among camp leadership, we present this project to you as an act of worship. Individuals have begun to offer their gifts towards this dream. I am asking you to join us. The total cost is \$3 million.

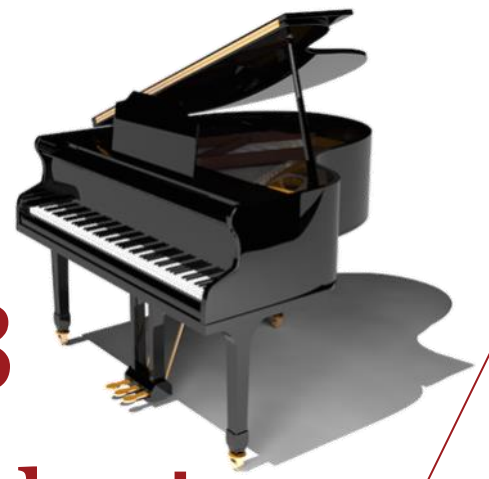
I am not begging for your money. God does not need it. I am asking you to celebrate what God has done in your life or the lives of your children through camp. If you feel led to support this project with your finances, we want to celebrate that with you. I know that Jesus Christ changed my life here at Swan Lake Christian Camp, and many others have also experienced His love in this place. We celebrate God's goodness as we seek to be obedient in fulfilling the dreams he has placed on our hearts. This project is too big for us to do it in our own strength. We ought to celebrate all of His victories. Praise God.

~ Jerry Kroeker

# Join Us

## Piano Night 2023

### Music & Dinner Fundraiser



Want to know more about the new worship center building project, be encouraged with stories of God's faithfulness, hear other camp news, and enjoy a delicious dinner?

Come enjoy an evening of food, fellowship and piano music.

**December 3rd, 2023 at 6:00 PM**

**Reservations are required and space is limited. RSVP early!**

To RSVP: Email [campoffice@myslcc.com](mailto:campoffice@myslcc.com) or call 605-326-5690



### Silent Auction Quilt

We were gifted this beautiful, history-filled camp t-shirt quilt made by one of our quilting groups, the Stich-N-Rippers.

To raise money for our building project, we are offering this quilt up for silent auction.

If you would like to place a bid, you can submit your bid in person during Piano Night or if you are unable to attend, submit your bid via email to [campoffice@myslcc.com](mailto:campoffice@myslcc.com)

Bidding will begin at \$100.

We will close the bidding and announce the winner at the conclusion of Piano Night.

# FALL CAMPFIRE

We are inviting all 7th –12th grade students to join us for a fall campfire on **Monday, October 23rd @ 6 PM on chapel hill!**

We will roast pizza rolls and marshmallows over the fire, share a campfire message, and enjoy some games and fun together.



# SAVE THE DATE! WINTER RETREATS 2024

Senior High.....January 5th-7th  
7th & 8th Grade.....January 12th-14th  
5th & 6th Grade.....January 19th-21st

## ANCHORED

With the weather quickly turning cooler and the leaves changing into beautiful fall colors, summer has already become a memory. Most campers have moved on to schoolwork, football play-offs, marching band competitions, and so much more. However, at the end of the summer camp season, I often find it more difficult than some to move on to the new season. It takes some time to mentally and emotionally process through each conversation, relationship and event that was crammed into the short weeks of camp. But through this time of reflection, I find that God often speaks to me, teaching me and revealing His truth to me. So I'd like to start with that conclusion summed up in the title of a Rend Collective song — "Hallelujah Anyway"

At the risk of sounding negative, I have discovered that being youth camp leadership means I often am in the position of dealing with difficult conversations and situations. And while I hope the campers leave here with amazing memories of fun and growth in their faith, many of the faces, names, and memories that remain close for myself are of those hard moments.

Our theme this past summer was centered around being anchored in Christ, Hebrews 6:19. We taught how when we are anchored to Jesus, we can withstand the storms of life. I believed this was something I had already fully grasped. I know in whom I believe, and I know that He is able. But throughout the summer, I felt continually shaken. I found myself trying to make sense of it all. And this is when God brought me to this truth. We know that in this life there will be trouble. There will be situations that don't make sense and hard things that we simply cannot understand. My heart still aches for so many. But even if I NEVER see the good, I know that God is still good and He is still in control. So I will choose to praise Him. I'll fight to bring Him praise. "Hallelujah Anyway."

This is what it means to be anchored in Christ. It turns out it was a lesson I needed to more fully learn. ~Kianne Gilles

# Always Enough

Recently, in my personal devotions, I have been fascinated by the stories of Elijah. In I Kings 17, we are introduced to Elijah as he prophesizes against King Ahab. God then suggests that it would be very good for Elijah to hide in a ravine east of the Jordan River. God promises to supply food for Elijah using ravens as his supply chain. Each morning and each evening, birds brought both bread and meat, enough to satisfy Elijah's hunger. The bible does not give any reason for us to think that there were ever times when the birds brought too little nor were there times when the birds brought such abundance that the meat spoiled before Elijah could consume it. Always enough, never too much. This reminds me of earlier stories that Elijah would have known of the Israelites in the wilderness gathering the manna and the quail each day. Always enough, never too much. When it is time for Elijah to leave the ravine, he is led to a destitute widow lady who takes him into her house. Her jar of oil never runs dry and her flour bin never is empty. Always enough, never too much.

Each of these stories are stories of faith. Elijah, the Israelites and the widow all relied on God to supply for their needs. I am encouraged by these stories as I enter into another building project here at camp. I have read these stories before and I took courage from them then as now. I have seen God provide for our needs here at camp in miraculous ways and that makes it easier to trust him now. I am not suggesting that I never have fear. Remember that Elijah was deathly afraid of Jezebel in Chapter 19 and ran for his life. Even then, God provided a loaf of hot bread and a jug of cool water before preparing Elijah for the next challenge in his life.

These men of great faith often took their eyes off of God and focused on their immediate problems. Right now, I worry about how to keep the water line, which is exposed due to digging the basement, from freezing. I worry about how to pay for this project. I worry about all kinds of things that could go wrong. But, I am reminded that God has always been enough, never too much. Often, I have found that God does not reveal to me how he will supply my needs until I have taken steps in faith. Will it be ravens or a jug that never runs dry or will God surprise me in a new and amazing way? What steps of faith are you being asked to take right now that will reveal God's incredible providence in your life? Join me in faith as we wait to see God's creative sense of humor as he meets our needs.

~Jerry Kroeker

