

February, 2024

Viborg, South Dakota

605-326-5690

Our cook, Mary, is set to retire

Mary Anderson is going to retire. She came to Swan Lake Christian Camp in the spring of 1998 after serving at Byron Bible Camp for twenty years. She fed so many kid's bodies so that others could feed their souls. Her ministry here at the camp cannot be overstated. Although she never gave a campfire message, she ministered to campers and volunteers alike.

She will continue to live at the camp for as long as it works for her to live in her little house. She is beginning to think about what it means to not be responsible for all of the meals. She may help out in the kitchen when she wants to or maybe she will come in to play piano for our guests. She will likely spend time with family near Wilmot and perhaps she will do a little traveling.

We are planning an open house to honor Mary's many years of service on Sunday, March 10th from 2-4p.m. Cards with your favorite memories of Mary or of her special foods would be one way to bless her. Come celebrate with us before our annual meeting.



ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting for Swan Lake
Christian Camp Association
March 10th at 4 p.m.

Hear stories of how God has been faithful this past year and listen as camp leaders share their vision for the future. Plans will be shared about the Worship Center and board members will be elected. No meal will be served because of the open house.

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





In Other News

2024 SUMMER SCHEDULE

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

- 3rd and 4th Grade Camp #1 June 5-7
- Billy's Run 5 k June 8th at 8 a.m.
- 3rd and 4th Grade Camp #2 June 9-12
- Day Camp #1 (age 5-2nd Grade) June 13
- Day Camp #2 (age 5-2nd Grade) June 14
- Day Camp #3 (age 5-2nd Grade) June 17
- Senior High Camp (Grades 9-12) June 23-28
- 7th and 8th Grade Camp #1 June 30-July 5
- 7th and 8th Grade Camp #2 July 7-12
- 5th and 6th Grade Camp #1 July 16-21
- 5th and 6th Grade Camp #2 July 21-26

Kenna Joy Gilles

Daughter of program director Kianne and her husband Kenny. She was born January 8th, 2024



This donated custom bookcase was installed this past week in our prayer room in the Retreat Center. Many of the first books are from Erland Thieszen's collection. The books will be a revolving stock: donate, borrow, take as needed. All additions will be screened to bless our guests. Join us in this unique ministry.

Directors Jerry and Judi announce the engagement of their daughter, Melissa, to Ian Hoarty of rural Westington Springs, SD. The wedding will be on May 31st. Melissa is in her second year of teaching high school math and Ian farms with his father and brother

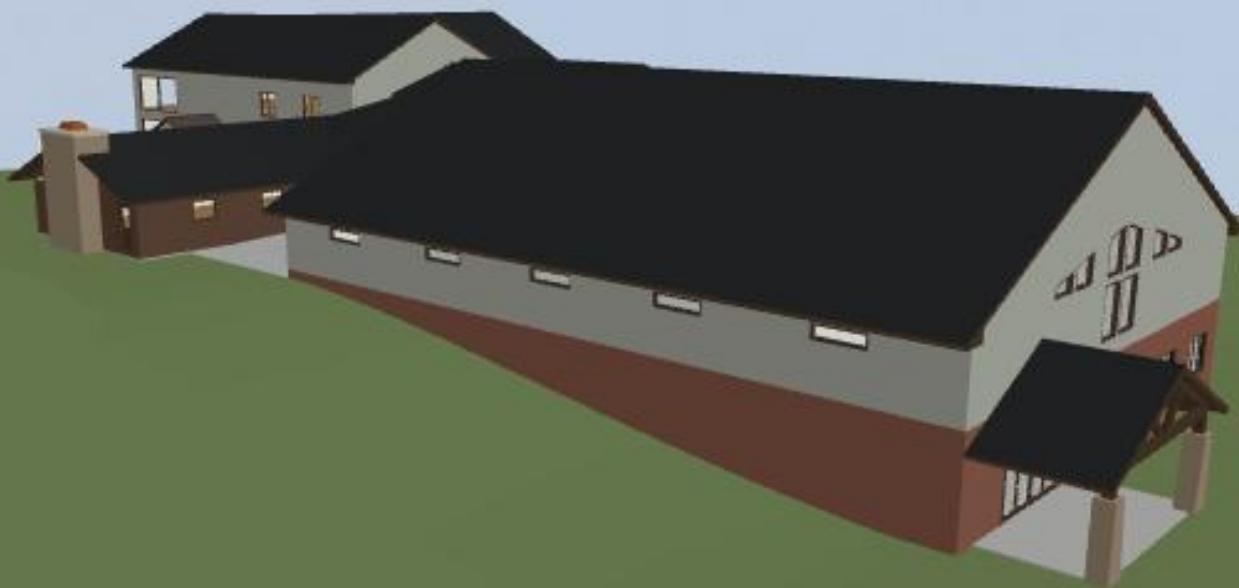




Worship Center Updates

This past fall, we began preliminary work on the new Worship Center and Dining Hall. We moved all of the underground utilities and excavated the hole in preparation for the real work to begin in the spring. We have raised approximately ten percent of the projected cost of \$3 million. I am asking you to join us in meeting this challenge. My promise is that we will do everything on our part to wear out this facility by sharing God's love and the message of salvation which He freely offers to all. We will not allow the building to rust out from a lack of use.

In early January, I needed to accept a bid for more than \$50,000 for one part of the structure that is needed early in spring. I had a real sense of peace about committing to such a large expense even as the year end donations had been a little less than perhaps I had hoped for. Then, that same evening, I picked up the mail and there was a really nice note from someone who had attended the piano night. She expressed her pleasure for the evening and wrote about the hopes that she had for her own great grand children. She, too, had seen the impact that Swan Lake Christian Camp had on her grandchildren and other members of her church. I know that part of the legacy that she is referring to happened long before Judi and I were a part of the camp. So, it was with profound gratitude and humility that I looked at the enclosed check. It covered the contract that I had accepted in the morning and it covered it well. Today, I shared with our staff about God's faithfulness. It has not been my experience that God provides what we need well before we need it. The children of Israel had to step into the flood waters of the Jordan river before the waters receded. I know that I am being asked to step out in faith with this project. And having experienced God's faithfulness in the past, I find it easier to step out in faith in the present. Now, don't hear me say that I never have doubts, because I do. But, I am learning to look for His blessings even in the midst of my doubts.



EASTER IS COMING

Even in late January, when we happen to see a bit of melting, I begin to think about spring. And spring means Easter and the resurrection of my Lord and Savior. It is a time of new beginnings and for me this year, perhaps of new understanding.

Our senior high winter camp bible leader, Sam Mallet, shared with me about how Jesus has a pattern of beginning to quote an old testament passage and expecting the hearer to know the rest of the passage. I see him doing that in Mark chapter 4 where he quotes from a longer passage in Isaiah chapter 6. This fascinates me and piques my curiosity as to Jesus' purpose.

Another example of this is when Jesus is hanging on the cross. He cries out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Notice how some passages just sound better in the King James) To the common Roman soldier of the day this would simply sound like the anguish of a disillusioned religious imposter. It may have sounded like a defeated prophet even to some of the Jewish people gathered close enough to hear him. However, to those who immediately harkened back to Psalm 22, these words had the power to change their whole perspective. Verse 16 says, "they pierce my hand and my feet." In 18 they are dividing my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment. There are other references that show that David is actually writing a foreshadowing of the crucifixion. And when you read the Psalm with those eyes, this is a psalm of ultimate trust and faith in God the Father. David is saying in verse 3 that Jesus is enthroned as the Holy One; that you are the one Israel praises. Our ancestors put their trust in you and you delivered them. The rest of the Psalm lays out how this was ordained from the very beginning.

Jesus was not simply betrayed by a disillusioned disciple, rejected by a mob and killed by a scared and jealous political figure. Jesus is hanging on the cross and still he is offering proof of the divine plan of salvation. We can live boldly in the confidence of who God is. God loves us so much that he devised a plan that included the ultimate sacrifice of his son, Jesus. And Jesus, being fully man, cries out. And Jesus being fully God, continues to draw us to him. No doubt this was excruciatingly painful, but I wonder if even in the midst of his pain, whether Jesus had a full measure of joy knowing that what he was doing was necessary and that many would accept His gift of eternal life.

God loves us. He wants us to live in new life just like spring even smells like new life. Won't you accept him today. Future generations will be told about the Lord. They will proclaim his righteousness, declaring to a people yet unborn: He has done it! - Jerry Kroeker



PRAY REQUESTS

1. Pray for Mary that she might find new meaning and much joy during retirement.
2. Pray for the staff, who work hard every day to ensure that this site and programs are the best that we can offer.
3. Pray for the retreat groups who will come here, that they might find what they are looking for and meet God in this place.
4. Pray for the campers who will come this summer, eager to have fun, but also to grow and learn.
5. Pray for the summer staff who will be role models and leaders for the children and youth.
6. Pray that all those who come to this camp would find the same wonder, joy, safety, and peace that you found.