

# Swan Lake

Christian Camp & Retreat Center

May, 2024

Viborg, South Dakota

605-326-5690

## An update on the Worship Center

The much needed rains have delayed the project some. All of the utilities have been relocated and the work site has been leveled. We are ready to begin digging the footings and then we will pour the basement walls. Already, the cement floor for the second level has been completed and is stacked on a yard in Sioux Falls waiting to be delivered. The framers are adjusting their schedules to account for the weather delays. God has this project exactly where He wants it and I am striving to be okay with that. We have about \$350,000 to begin with and I expect that we will need another \$150k to enclose the structure. Financial partners are my most pressing concern. If you are wanting to help in this way, let me know. Several volunteers are offering their particular services when the project gets to that point. It's exciting to see how God is moving mountains for this.

## VOLUNTEER

What is more valuable than money?

Your time! There are a variety of opportunities to volunteer at Swan Lake. We are always looking for help.

Do you like to cook? We would love the extra help serving, washing dishes, and preparing food.

Are you a nurse? We strive to always have a qualified person available to care for scraped knees, hand out medications or take care of the kids in other ways. Those who have served in this way have found it to be a rewarding experience.

Some outdoor opportunities are mowing, maintenance, or just help camp run smoothly so the kids can have the Best Week Ever!

## 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 & 4th Grade Camp 1..... June 5-7
- Billy's 5K Run ..... June 8
- 3rd & 4th Grade Camp 2..... June 9-12
- Day Camp 1 (Pre-K—2nd Grade)... June 13
- Day Camp 2 (Pre-K—2nd Grade)... June 14
- Day Camp 3 (Pre-K—2nd Grade)... June 17
- Senior High Camp (Grades 9-12) ..... June 23-28
- 7th & 8th Grade Camp 1 ..... June 30-July 5
- 7th & 8th Grade Camp 2 ..... July 7-12
- 5th & 6th Grade Camp 1..... July 14-19
- 5th & 6th Grade Camp 2..... July 21-26



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## Prayer for SLCC

- We continue to look for the right people to serve as staff and counselors for the summer.
- I ask for your prayers for our kitchen crew. They are trying to fill the void left by Mary's retirement and those are big shoes to fill.
- Pray for the personal devotions of each of our staff members. The urgent has a way of crowding out the important and our time with Jesus is the most important.
- Pray for the building project. The rain has caused delays and this messes with schedules. Pray for patience.
- Pray also for the finances of the camp. Costs are going up and some of our groups have been a bit smaller.
- Praise God for the ministries that are thriving here at the camp. One woman share this week that she gave her life to Christ here at camp in 1964 and came back now because of that miracle.
- Praise God for Judi in the office. She juggles the calendar, the set up for groups, the banking and the executive director.
- Praise God for the vision that the board of directors cast for the future of the camp.
- Praise God for the beauty of His creation and the canvas he painted here at Swan Lake.

## A Place to Pray

This week, I had two encounters that I wish to share with you. The first one was a lady who contacted the camp because of a conversation with one of our board members. She was looking for a place to pray, and Joey mentioned the recently completed prayer room at the camp. Coincidentally, I had one class in seminary with this lady back in 2005 and had not seen her since. Somewhat recently, she had lost her husband and simply did not have the spiritual or emotional bandwidth to continue her prayer regimen in the way she had before. She came here looking for a place where she could commune with her Lord in a deeply personal way.

That same day, Judi took a phone call from another contact that I had made while at seminary maybe twenty years ago. This woman also was looking for a special place for personal prayer. Two people in one day, both from a very long time ago, calling the camp for a place to pray. Recall that, in February, a man from Kansas who would rather remain anonymous donated a fantastic bookcase with a back lit stained glass image of Jesus for a prayer room off of the balcony in the Still Waters Retreat Center.

Now, you have heard and probably read in the Bible of several times when God uses the number three to call attention to something important. Remember Peter denying Jesus three times and the Jesus restoring him three times after the resurrection. That morning, I took my devotions to the prayer room and I got down on my after-market knees and I prayed aloud to God for my concerns of the day. I don't think that my prayers were in any way out of the ordinary. But I don't often pray aloud by myself. I once prayed aloud in the Bethany sanctuary as our church was going through stuff. I prayed aloud another time at the furthest corner of the camp to confess a specific sin. And I prayed aloud that morning. There have probably been others, but those are the ones that I remember.

I am not trying to make this into something more than it was. But this was a day of prayer for me. These times give me the strength to get through each day. Now, I am not judging any one else. I just wonder why I take these times with my savior for granted and fail to prioritize this time continually. This prayer room is a special room but it is by no mean the only place to talk with and listen to our Lord. Today, may I encourage you to find your special **place to pray**.



God makes all things new. This will be our summer theme this year. Daily, we see sunrises or more often sunsets. None of them are copies of the day previous. Each day they are new. In a similar manner, God is growing and stretching each one of us so that we too are created new. What the caterpillar saw as the end of the road, the butterfly recognized as just a beginning. This summer, our bible leaders, staff and counselors will be calling our attention to God's unique penchant for making something new out of rubbish. Recall the city of Jericho and the walls that God tore down. Out of that rubbish, God saved Rahab and, through her, God raised up David the king. God also drew Ruth out of the nation of Moab and grafted her into this same lineage that would one day be the earthly ancestors of Jesus of Nazareth. God is in the habit of taking broken people and restoring them into right relationship with him to accomplish the good things that he has for them to do. He makes all things new.

We will be inviting the kids who come to camp this summer to consider what God has in mind for them on a personal level. What would life look like if we allowed God to reshape us completely in his image, for his good works? How would we experience heaven while still here on earth if we more perfectly reflected his image? Consider your child's friends. Is there a child or youth that God has placed on your heart? Consider sending them with your child. There is still room to get them in the same cabin. Sign up today.

<https://myslcc.campbrainregistration.com/>

## **Psalms 65:8**

*“They who dwell in the ends of the earth stand in awe of your signs; you make the dawn and the sunset shout for joy.”*

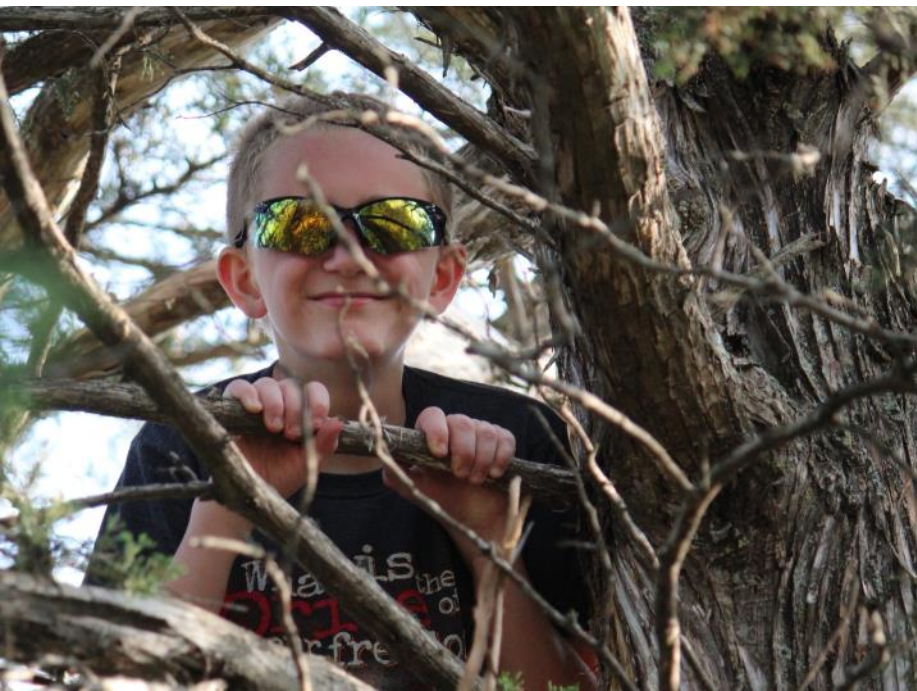


I met last night with our couples small group that meets each Sunday evening for bible study. We were watching a Louis Giglio study on the book of Joshua when he made a statement that profoundly affected my understanding of God. In the passage, God had assured Joshua that he would be victorious in a battle with five kings mustered against him. When Joshua's men arrived at the battlefield, the soldiers from the other armies were confused and were fighting against each other. As is stated elsewhere, this battle belonged to the Lord. That day, the primary weapon of destruction was large hail stones.

Louis pointed out other places in scripture where God was already at work before his people even arrived. I was thinking about II Chronicles, chapter 20 and King Jehoshaphat, but the bible is filled with these stories. Then, Louis took us back to the creation story. "There was evening, and there was morning—the first day." We tend to think about the day as beginning with morning and ending with evening. But, all through the night, God is at work. When we get up in the morning, sit down with our coffee and open our devotions, we should not be thinking that we are inviting God to be a part of our day. We should realize that God is already at work. We should be coming to Him to ask Him how we might fit into His plans for the day. "There was evening, and there was morning—the next day." This understanding changes my level of angst when I face the unknown. God has already been working on my problems. How shall I come along side of him and align my will with His? Mind blown! Mic dropped! Spirit of uncertainty calmed.

As the camp has grown in the past couple of years, Judi and I found ourselves hosting groups on more and more Sunday mornings. So, we specifically sought out a place to worship that was offering small groups on times other than Sunday morning. I am involved with a Monday evening men's group. Judi meets with her ladies also on Monday. Sundays we drive to this couples small group. We burn some gas making Christian fellowship a priority. We laugh with each other. We learn together. We pray together.

I want to encourage each of you to find that community. For some of you, it may be convenient to attend that Sunday School class on Sunday morning. That's great. Wherever you need to go, find others that have fun together discovering new truths about the God of creation. God is not changing. He is waiting to reveal more of His character to us. Know this: God is already invested in your problems and He will battle your enemies for you if you will be obedient and listen to His direction. ~ Jerry



*Be Still and Know that  
He is God:  
Rest, Fellowship and  
Grow*

Mission Statement

