



Swan Lake

Christian Camp & Retreat Center

September, 2024

Viborg, South Dakota

605-326-5690

A Letter from the Director at Swan Lake Christian Camp

I ought to be putting together a polished newsletter with colorful pictures, inspirational articles, and updates on the building project. But, I really want to just tell you of the goodness of Jesus.

This summer was really difficult. In early June, Kianne realized that the demands of her family with a new baby were more than she could handle while serving as program director. She needed to prioritize her family. While the timing was difficult, I supported her decision to leave our staff. Lexi Meilke filled in for the rest of the summer as program director. We are still working out the kinks of life after Mary in the kitchen. Shelley Fox is doing an admirable job as she learns many of the aspects of the job that, I'm sure, Mary did by habit. Our two other cooks for the summer each have full time jobs with the school. They also did good work, and have now returned to their school jobs. One of them dealt with some health issues throughout the summer, but praise God, He sustained her. While many days were stressful, God sustaining power was fully displayed.

Then came the flooding. In early June, the camp received maybe 15" of rain over a three day period. All roads to the camp were under water and we were forced to cancel senior high summer camp. Two cabins flooded about a foot deep. We were able to move all of the mattresses to minimize the damage. However, sheetrock and insulation had to be removed. This also affected our worship center building project. Everything is more difficult when working in wet, sticky, slippery clay.

At this point, I felt overwhelmed. I reached out to my board of directors, my men's bible study group, our couple's group. Judi used facebook. Basically, I recognized my own inability to cope with so much at once. People from all over showed up to help. A carpenter from California who had just moved to South Dakota two weeks prior showed up to work on the cabins. South Dakota Mennonite Disaster Services sent men from the Freeman area. In the midst of the chaos, God showed that He is in control. About two weeks after this, I recognized that, although the work was exacting long hours, I felt no anxiety. Outside of God, I cannot explain this.

As school begins, I still need to repair the cabins. I still need to hire additional help in the kitchen and I find myself looking for a program director. And, oh, by the way, we are still building a worship center. I know that we need funds to continue that project. This week, we poured to concrete on the upper floor so that we can now frame the building. The lumber and trusses are arriving soon and I know that we will need to pay for all of this. It is a \$3 million project that I believe is being built in obedience to God's plans for the camp.

I am asking for your prayers and your support. A year ago, I was challenged to chase lions after the example of Benaiah in 2 Samuel 23:20. What happens to your faith when you go down into the pit on a snowy (or in this case, rainy) day and the lion gets in the first really good licks? Is our faith strong enough in our God to emerge victorious? Everything that I have seen and experienced this summer and through past trials suggests an emphatic Yes!!! Please join us in meeting each of these challenges. I am trusting God and I covet your prayers and whatever other support you may offer. Praise God.

Director Jerry Kroeker

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Prayer for SLCC

- A full time program director. God has just the right person he is preparing to come and serve in this position.
- Additional kitchen personal. The job is too big for just one person and so we need some additional help.
- Pray for the financing of the new worship center/dining hall. We know that it is all part of God's plan, but sometimes it is hard to wait and trust.
- Pray for the building project. There is much to be done and Jerry's time is divided between regular camp director duties, maintenance, hiring new staff and the oversight of the building process.
- 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. Pray that as those ministries are being planned, lives will be changed.
- Praise God for the vision that the board of directors cast for the future of the camp.
- Praise God for the children's lives who were touched here this summer, and that they would continue to grow in the Lord.

WINTER RETREAT DATES

Mark your calendars!
Registration will open in November.

Senior High January 3-5

7th & 8th January 10-12

5th & 6th January 17-19

Job Openings

Now Hiring:

Youth Program Director: We are looking for someone who loves Jesus and wants to share that love with kids. Job includes planning for summer and winter camps, hiring staff, lining up camp speakers and running the program for the summer. Other jobs as assigned.

Lead Cook: Able to prepare a full meal for a guests, read a recipe and follow directions. Full or part-time options available.

Call the camp office for more information. 605-326-5690

***Be Still and
Know that
He is God:
Rest, Fellow-
ship and
Grow***

Mission
Statement

