

Worship Center Dedication and Fundraiser with Eli Gable May 25th in the Worship Center



The Worship Center is almost complete!!!

We are immensely pleased to report that we still have no debt on the Worship Center. Parts of the building are nearing completion while others are still not as close. It is estimated that an additional \$450,000 will be required to finish the project. We want to dedicate this space to service to God. We reached out to Eli Gable, a Christian musician that our staff really appreciate on our Christian radio station. Eli was excited to come to Swan Lake to be a part of this time of praising our Lord for all that God has done. We want this to be an evening of celebration and possibly raise some money to help us complete the construction.

It is our desire that the first event in this new space is an intentional act of honoring the name of the Lord, dedicating it to be known as holy, peaceful, and connecting us to the most high God.

We are inviting you to join us in this celebration. Music artist, Eli Gable, will be with us as we give praise to God for the many ways He has provided throughout the entire building project. It will be an evening of worship, good music, and fellowship.

Tickets to this event will be free, but registration is required. Scan the QR code to register.



Register

We will be accepting free will donations at the event, but are looking for sponsors in advance to help cover the cost.

For more information, call Kianne at 605-481-2814 or email at kianne-rose@hotmail.com

You can donate any time through our website by scanning the QR code or by mailing a check to Swan Lake Christian Camp, with "concert" in the memo.



Donate

Donations of \$1,000 or more, will be mailed a VIP parking pass for the night of the concert.





Grades Based on 25-26 School Year

| | | |
|------------------------------|----------------|-------|
| Day Camp 1 (Age 5-2nd Grade) | June 4 | \$60 |
| Day Camp 2 (Age 5-2nd Grade) | June 5 | \$60 |
| Day Camp 3 (Age 5-2nd Grade) | July 10 | \$60 |
| 3rd/4th Grade camp 1 | June 1-3 | \$185 |
| 3rd/4th Grade camp 2 | July 6-9 | \$225 |
| 5th /6th Grade Camp 1 | June 28-July 2 | \$265 |
| 5th/6th Grade Camp 2 | July 26-31 | \$315 |
| 7th/8th Grade Camp 1 | June 7-12 | \$315 |
| 7th/8th Grade Camp 2 | July 12-17 | \$315 |
| 9th-12th Grade Camp | June 21-26 | \$315 |

Register by May 15th & Receive a \$25 Discount

SUMMER CAMP 2026



Swan Lake
Christian Camp & Retreat Center

The other day, I was removing a tree stump from our parking area. I had left the trunk about eight feet high so that I might push it out. This was proving difficult. So, I used the skid loader to dig the dirt away around the tree and had a trench almost a foot and a half deep. I carefully stripped the bark away to remove all of the dirt and then began to cut the stump out with my chainsaw. Almost immediately, the chain came off. One of the nuts on the sprocket housing that keeps the chain tight was missing. I looked everywhere. I even checked the bed of the Kawasaki Mule in case I had left it there for some odd reason. I checked the hardware store and, finally, online for a replacement. Two hours later, I had given up and decided that if I dug a little more, got a bigger tractor and pushed a little harder, that maybe I could still get it out. I then dug four, five maybe six more buckets of dirt out of the trench and, as I dumped the last bucket of dirt, **I saw the nut.**

Now, I wish that I could say that I prayed "Lord God, Creator of the universe, Most High, in the name of Jesus would you reveal the nut to me your humble servant." No, I did nothing. I just dug in the dirt. When God showed me the nut, which I truly believe that He did, I only had to recognize it. I also had to get out of the skid loader and receive it. The analogy with our faith is unmistakable. God does everything necessary for our salvation. He died on the cross. He rose again. He gave us the gift of the Holy Spirit. All that we have to do is to recognize the gift and receive it. Have a Blessed Easter.

~ Jerry



Camp Governance and You

Swan Lake Christian Camp is a 501c-3 non-profit organization that is governed by a nine member board of directors. I have served as the director since the camp structure changed from being owned by the Northern District Conference of Mennonite churches to the current structure in 2000. Incidentally, Judi and I were hired by the NDC and began serving in 1997. The board of directors are elected from the association's membership for a three year term at the annual meeting of the Swan Lake Christian Camp Association early in March of each year. People are often recruited by the current board members to replace outgoing members. Our goal is to have good representation from our supporting congregations and from other individuals who care deeply about the camp. The association is made up of all people who have made at least a \$25 donation to the camp or who have volunteered their time to serve at the camp. The threshold is intentionally low so that anyone who loves the camp and wishes to serve is eligible.

Service on the board level is critical to the success of the camping ministry. Board members guide and approve the summer youth curriculum. They provide policy direction. They serve as a sounding board for me in areas of staffing, projects, dreams and finances. I often call board members for advice. We schedule formal meetings each season of the year, getting together in person as often as possible and using Zoom meetings when necessary. We begin virtually all meetings with a time of devotional sharing which lends insight into the spiritual habits of the board members and of me as the director. I will call the board for help recruiting labor when many hands are needed. As the camp has grown and hired more staff, this type of board participation has greatly decreased.

One of the intended roles of a board member is to advocate for the camp within their sphere of influence. Board members often share at their churches about upcoming events or concerns of the camp. This role is vital for keeping the community informed. It is often board members who invite me to share at their churches. I am always willing to share what I see God doing here at the camp and in the lives of people who come here. My goal is to praise God for what He is doing and invite others to share in the excitement of the camp.

Back in 1991, when Elton and Denise Nickel were directors, the camp and its focus on God changed my life. The next year, when Rick and Denise Woelk were brand new and Denise Nickel was guiding them in their first summer, I saw prayers answered and I saw an enthusiasm for Christ that I wanted to be around. The board of directors have been quietly shaping the camp for many years and I want to thank them for their sound direction.

I cannot overstate the importance of having caring board members giving good direction to a camp that I love. A truth that I recognize is that the board of directors may one day inform me that they are looking for a younger person to lead the camp. I am not suggesting that I am actively looking to leave the camp, simply that time moves only in one direction. I hold my position loosely knowing that the board has the prerogative to guide the camp as they believe is best and that sometime in the next twenty years, they will be hiring a new director. My fervent prayer is that, on that day, that we have great board members who hire another director that keeps God central and arranges all of the camp around their faith in Jesus.

If you are interested in being involved at Swan Lake Christian Camp in this role, speak to a current board member or come visit with me at the camp. Jerry Kroeker

List of current board members:

President Joey Graber 605-360-5775

Blaze Killian 605-929-2925

Matt Troyer Miller 308-380-3852

Lori Rensink 605-323-7353

JayDee Janzen 402-362-0512

Tom Buller 507-822-2798

Erica Miller 605-323-9200

Jack Price 605-630-8409



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



Still Waters

Retreat Center

I want to share a couple of incidents where I saw evidence of God's presence here at the camp this past week. The first incident occurred when we hosted a women's adult spiritual renewal weekend. We host seven to ten of these types of weekends throughout the year. Each person participating in the weekend comes with their own story. Some are front pew of the church type of people. Others are coming out of deep hurts including failed relationships, addiction or incarceration. Most fall somewhere in the middle between a thriving faith and the memory of a relationship with God gone stale.

This particular woman indicated that she was rather new to faith in Jesus and had not yet found a church. She wanted to praise the camp staff for a feeling of peace and safety that she felt just as she entered the driveway. While I appreciate her sentiments, I responded to her with my belief that that feeling of God's presence is due to the generations of prayers which have been lavished over these grounds. Too many people have made similar comments for me to dismiss her feeling. I also feel God here at camp and I thank many of you for those prayers.

The second one involves the new worship center. I had commented to the staff members here at camp that we were going to need more chairs. I asked for prayers for chairs. Judi had priced the chairs that we have in the dining hall and noted that they had increased in price from around \$23 to just over \$40 each. Less than a week later, Shelley showed me a Facebook Marketplace post that Habitat for Humanity had 1000 chairs available for three bucks each. I was at their door when they opened for the week and was able to purchase 350 chairs at a bulk rate of around \$2.72 including the truck from another business in town for delivery. What a God ordained moment. I know that we cannot save ourselves to either wealth or salvation, but this is another incident where God's economy provides a clue into how great is His providence and how we will complete this building under projected costs. This miracle amounts to more than eleven thousand reasons to praise God.

The last incident involves bacon. Our oven had been periodically malfunctioning and we had not yet figured out what was wrong. Two weeks ago we had a men's group that requested bacon. To provide three strips each, it requires seventeen full baking pans plus the scrambled eggs and the rest of breakfast which taxes our eight or so oven slots. Shortly after the meal was complete, the oven really quit. It just would not maintain any consistent temperature setting. I called a dear friend of the camp and Mike the Genius successfully diagnosed the problem and ordered the parts. The bacon was done. The huge meal complete and then the breakdown and finally the fix. I see God even in that.

Several people have encouraged me to write down all of these stories. I can't. First there are too many to recall. Secondly, some stories are very personal to the individuals involved. I don't want to break any confidentiality. Those are their God encounters to share when they are ready. I do, however, want you to know that these happen regularly.

This morning, I was reading in Revelations chapter 4 which described a rainbow that encircled the throne. I have seen double rainbows and once I even saw a partial triple in the sky. I have never seen a complete circular rainbow. God gives us a partial insight into His glory and tells us that if we remain faithful, that one day we will see Him in full. These stories of God sightings help me through the valley experiences because I trust in a God that is greater than I have yet seen.

