Swan Lake

Christian Camp & Retreat Center

Viborg, South Dakota | October 2026 | 605-326-5690

The Name of the Lord be lifted High!



God is moving in the lives of people that we know and love. Thomas Ding wanted to be baptized here at camp where Christ became very personal to him when he was a camper several years ago. This past summer, Thomas served as a summer staff member passing along the joy that he found in the saving grace of Jesus. It brings me great joy when people desire to express their faith in Jesus publicly here at the lake. Our practice is always to encourage folks to include their pastors and parents. Thomas' family is in China. So, his pastor Stuart Curry was honored to participate in this declaration of faith.

Kianne Gilles and Calli Barnes have served in the kitchen this past year. They will both be moving into more of a youth programming role this winter as Luke Patterson and his family will be moving back to Texas. Luke is looking forward to attending seminary where he will explore further God's call on his life.

Many of you will remember that Kianne was our Program Director a couple of years back. She stepped away after the birth of her child and is returning to a role that she absolutely loves.

Calli has also been around awhile serving as a cabin counselor and summer staff member before sharing God's love through caramel nut rolls.

These two women of faith share a unique friendship and promise to bring joy and unpredictability in their obedience to God's calling in their lives.





God is Good—All the time. All the time—God is Good!

Over Labor Day weekend, I was able to get together with several of my college friends. We have a special friendship that has grown stronger over the last 46 years. On Sunday morning, we all went to church together. West Zion was the church that Judi and I attended when we were living in Moundridge, Kansas. So, it was great to see people that we knew over thirty years ago.

Pastor Mike shared this message. There are three ways in which we receive healing: through divine healing, through the gifts of skilled physicians, or in eternity. Mike shared his personal story of having caught a nail through his eye as a young carpenter in an accident which he did not describe. The whole church came and laid hands on him and prayed for miraculous healing. Mike was not healed in this manner. Throughout the next year or so, he had three surgeries to restore his sight in that eye. Each one was anticipated with great hope and yet Mike was not healed through the hands of these very skilled physicians.

All throughout scripture, we are commanded to give thanks to the Lord. Psalm 9:1 says, "I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. Mike shared that he is confident that in his resurrected body, his sight will be restored. This was not an instantaneous understanding, but one that he has come to embrace through the faith of his parents, his study of the bible, and his own spiritual maturing. Mike has learned to give thanks even in his one-eyed vision. He made this statement that was so powerful to me. "You would not believe how many people I have been able to share God's goodness with who are blind in their left eye." That shared experience lends credibility to his faith in God.

Now, I have sight in both eyes albeit not at the level that I once enjoyed. So, I feel compelled to share of God's goodness in other areas. I have seen lives changed at camp through the miracles of the Holy Spirit. I have seen financial needs met when it seemed improbable. I have seen God take a group of nineteen-year-old knuckleheads and turn them into men who boldly proclaim God's sovereignty in the next breath after recalling some harmless but stupid prank pulled at the expense of the girls who lived one floor beneath us. God is good all the time and I feel uplifted when I share the stories of God moving in my life even in the times when I can't see Him.

~Jerry Kroeker

Building Update

I want to give a bit of an update on the Worship Center. For the last couple of months, I have been telling people that we had spent just over one million dollars of the projected three-million-dollar total on the project. I have been misleading people. Today I did a cash flow report covering the entire project, and we have spent a total of $866,000. My best guess, if I have any credibility left, is that we are within $400,000 of completion. Much of the difference is in donated time and materials. God has been so evident throughout the project. People with the right skills have shown up at just the right time and asked what they could do. The picture below displays the cross that was custom built from three different wood species and donated by someone who attends one of our spiritual renewal weekends. Two ladies offered to paint for a couple days. Still others have offered to rock the entry way wall. And too many others to mention.

Some of you are aware that I have been fascinated by the stories of Hezekiah this past season. He is known as one of the kings of Judah that did right in the eyes of God. He does so many wonderful things including bringing back worship in the Temple. But, towards the end of his reign, he made an alliance with another king. He was not fully reliant on God, and it tainted his kingship. I know that I could get a construction loan from the bank and finish the project by spring. There is enough collateral, and the banker is a neighbor. However, I want to be faithful to complete this project that I feel God placed on my heart in full obedience not just partial obedience. I do not want to deprive anyone from also yielding to the nudging of God to either offer their skills or perhaps their finances. I often tell people that I am a horrible fund raiser. I have seldom had someone write a check when I have asked for financial help. Rather, I find that people give when I am not looking. Other times God has caused me to notice a sale on materials that are needed. I want to share those stories of God's faithfulness.

A couple of times now we have celebrated and worshipped together during the building process. I want to throw a grand celebration when it is done and share God stories, allow others to share what God is doing in their lives. We have and will continue to worship a sovereign God who loves us and who has a plan to draw others into a relationship with Him. This building is a tool and nothing more. God's family is made up of those who love Him and those whom He is calling. Let us celebrate His goodness together.



Piano Night
Dinner and Worship
Fundraiser
November 8th at 6 PM

Mary Anderson (our famous retired camp cook) will bless everyone with her classical piano music talents while an extremely delicious meal is served.

Menu

- Smothered chicken breasts
- Rosemary potatoes
- Green Beans
- Outback Copycat Brown Bread
- Apple Cake or Pumpkin Pie bars

Following the meal, there will be a time of worship through song led by board president Joey Graber and friends featuring both hymns and contemporary worship songs.

Free will donations will be accepted to go to the completion of the Worship Center/Dining Hall.

RSVP by calling Judi at 605-326-5690 or emailing campoffice@myslcc.com

Winter Retreats 2027

10th—12th Grades	January 15th—17th
7th—9th Grades	January 22nd—24th
4th—6th Grades	February 12th—14th

Take note of some changes to the winter and summer schedules this year.

⇒ We are excited to welcome 4th graders to winter retreat!

⇒ Our goal for 10th-12th winter retreat is to be intentionally growing relationships and leaders.

⇒ We are returning to a single grade camps this summer. It is important to note that if the specific week for the student's grade conflicts with their schedule, they can either go up or down a grade—giving them 2 other options. Our goal is to foster deeper and long-lasting relationships between camp friends.



Summer Camps 2027

3rd Grade	June 1st—3rd
Day Camp 1	June 4th
5th Grade	June 6th—11th
Day Camp 2	June 14
Day Camp 3	June 18
6th Grade	June 20th—25th
7th Grade	June 27th—July 2nd
4th Grade	July 6th—9th
8th Grade	July 11th—16th
9th—12th Grades	July 25th—30th

Praise Reports

- The addition of Suzanne Koerner and Kayle Kroeker in the kitchen.
- Provision of retaining wall blocks for the beach expansion and retaining wall repair.
- The city park playset received for $0.
- Terry and Nathan moving dirt for the beach and preparing for the installation of the playset.

Prayer Requests

- Replacement brackets for the playset.
- Financial provision for the completion of the worship center and dining hall.
- Pray for the hearts of those God is preparing to be summer staff and counselors.

