

Camp Concordia NEWS!

Camp Concordia exists to provide opportunities (engage experientially) to encounter Christ in the midst of God's creation - building body & soul!

Fall 2023 Newsletter



New Year-Round Staff p. 3

2024 Summer Schedule p. 5



Showerhouse Update p. 6



From the "Doc"

Dr. Craig S. Oldenburg
Executive Director



What's cookin' good lookin'?

I read in a recent Facebook post that I had retired. I guess that is better than reading your own obituary. But truth be told - NOPE! I am still Camp Concordia's executive director as the board of directors searches for the next executive director! My family and I have spent almost 10 years at Camp Concordia and, although I get to look at retirement, we are cooking up some great experiences for 2024.

The new 36' tall **climbing tower** was a hit in 2023. Every full day of camp, trained summer staff belayed campers on the GREEN, or BASIC, side of the tower. And it was a wonderful challenge. Hours upon hours. A good dozen made it to the more difficult YELLOW, or INTERMEDIATE, side after learning some basic safety knots and being able to explain the belay technique.

Sailing!! Yep. We are going to test out an advanced "Add-On Option" that will allow a handful of campers to focus for 1-2 hours a day on real sailing skills for the smaller Sunfish Crafts.

And...even **MORE** Journey (Grades 3-5), Trails (Grades 6-8) & Venture (Grades 8-10) **sessions**. The summer after COVID hit, Camp Concordia was HOT and filled almost every bed. Then we experienced the lack of staff summer of 2022. With an increased staff in 2023, we hit another hot spot and we are thinking we can increase to a new high in 2024.

Pray for staff. Last summer, Camp Concordia experienced an incredible staff committed to sharing Jesus through word and experience. Camp Concordia has doubled the pay summer ministry staff are paid since our arrival in 2014, is one of the higher paying camps in Michigan and in the LCMS, but the cost of college and the pace of pay scales still makes it a difficult decision for college age candidates.

Another prayer: Please pray the road blocks we have encountered with architect and legal requirements before we can break ground for the new shower house will be obliterated.

And now you know what's cooking!
Blessed with the best.

DOC

CRAIG



"Doc's daughter, 'Manna,' mastering the Green side!"



NEW ADD-ON OPTION:
Sailing



Venture campers get to choose higher level challenges

NEW Staff

A Note from Ayla "Clover" Kennedy

Director of Programs

"God has created an amazing place and I am so glad to be here at Camp Concordia. Camps have always felt like home to me and that is no different here. This fall offers promises of making new connections and having fun with retreat groups. I'm ready to practice some skills & learn new ones! Looking ahead to the future, I hope for a fantastic Outdoor Education program to be born here so that kids get to experience nature in playful ways that we sometimes forget. Camp offers so many opportunities to learn anything from life skills all the way to environmental conservation. I am eager to see what God has in store for this ministry and to see how His will can be done through this new staff." Ayla



A Note from Sam "Uno" Schmidt

Director of Operations

"What an enormous blessing it is to be able to begin working in this ministry at Camp Concordia! I am constantly amazed at the beauty of this place, and I am excited to see that other groups are coming to enjoy Camp this fall. It has been a great first few weeks at camp full of LOTS of learning, but I am already beginning to feel more comfortable and confident in my new role. While much of my effort is currently being focused on setting a foundation by achieving a solid understanding of each aspect of my new role, one of my hopes for down the road is that we will be able to welcome more and more people to camp to grow in their faith not only in the summer, but in the "off-season" as well! God has done great things here, and I am thrilled to get to be a part of whatever is in store for Camp's future!" Sam



Campers by LCMS Schools & Churches

As an LCMS camp, we invite those who attend LCMS schools and churches to list them during summer camp registration. Here are the results for 2023. Our prayer is that we are a blessing to the school's and church's mission.

Campers by Churches

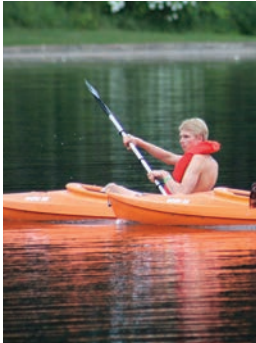
St. Matthew, Grand Rapids, MI	24	Holy Cross, Belding, MI	1
Trinity, Clinton Township, MI	15	Holy Trinity, Lakeview, MI	1
St. John, Fraser, MI	14	Hope, Dewitt, MI	1
St. Paul, Royal Oak, MI	14	Hope, Warren, MI	1
St. Peter's, Eastpointe, MI	14	Lakeshore Fellowship, Spg Lake, MI	1
Shepherd of Lakes, Brighton, MI	13	Prince of Peace, Howell, MI	1
St. Paul, Ann Arbor, MI	13	Shep by the Lakes, Syracuse, IN	1
Immanuel, Macomb, MI	12	St. Bartholomew, Kawkawlin, MI	1
Our Savior, Lansing, MI	12	St. Mark, Battle Creek, MI	1
St. John, Rochester, MI	12	St. Mark, Kentwood, MI	1
St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth, MI	11	St. Mark's, Flatrock, MI	1
St. Johns, New Boston, MI	8	St. Michael's, Richville, MI	1
St. Johns, Midland, MI	7	St. Paul, Fowler, MI	1
Trinity, Utica, MI	7	St. Paul, Sterling Heights, MI	1
Zion, Auburn, MI	7	St. Peter, Macomb, MI	1
Grace, Wyoming, MI	6	St. Peter's, Richmond, MI	1
Hope, Grand Rapids, MI	6	St. Stephen, Waterford, MI	1
St. Luke, Ann Arbor, MI	6	Trinity, Bay City, MI	1
St. Paul, Hamburg, MI	6	Trinity, Berrien Springs, MI	1
Cross/Resurrection, Ypsilanti, MI	5	Trinity, Conklin, MI	1
Our Shepherd, Birmingham, MI	5	Trinity, Lansing, MI	1
St. Johns, Grand Haven, MI	5	Trinity, Paw Paw, MI	1
Trinity, Reed City, MI	5	Zion, Petoskey, MI	1
Ascension, East Lansing, MI	4	Other Christian	66
Immanuel, Kalamazoo, MI	4	No Church Listed	25
Immanuel, Monroe, MI	4		
St. Paul, Millington, MI	4		
St. Peter's, Rockford, MI	4		
Trinity, Muskegon, MI	4		
Bethel, Howard City, MI	3		
Christ the King, Southgate, MI	3		
Faith, Grand Blanc, MI	3		
Heart of the Shepherd, Howell, MI	3		
Holy Cross, Jenison, MI	3		
Immanuel, Clinton Township, MI	3		
Our Savior, Grand Rapids, MI	3		
St. Luke, Haslett, MI	3		
St. Michael, Portage, MI	3		
St. Paul, Caledonia, MI	3		
Faith, Sullivan, IL	2		
First, Charlotte, MI	2		
Immanuel, Bridgman, MI	2		
Immanuel, Grand Rapids, MI	2		
Living Faith, Marine City, MI	2		
St. John's, Adrian, MI	2		
St. Luke, Cabot, PA	2		
St. Paul, Northville, MI	2		
St. Peter, St. Johns, MI	2		
Trinity, Jackson, MI	2		
Trinity, Manistee, MI	2		
Zion, Mt. Pleasant, MI	2		
Christ, Stevensville, MI	1		
Emmanuel, Cadillac, MI	1		
Faith, Bay City, MI	1		
Faith, Bridgeport, MI	1		
Faith, Troy, MI	1		
Good Shepherd, Midland, MI	1		
Gd Shep by the Lake, Stoughton, WI	1		

Campers by LCMS School

St. Peter's, Eastpointe, MI	18
St. Paul, Ann Arbor, MI	17
St. John, Fraser, MI	15
St. John, Rochester, MI	15
Trinity, Clinton Township, MI	14
St. Paul, Royal Oak, MI	13
Immanuel, Macomb, MI	12
Our Savior, Lansing, MI	12
Shepherd of Lakes, Brighton, MI	12
St. John's, New Boston, MI	12
St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth, MI	11
St. Johns, Grand Haven, MI	9
St. Michael, Portage, MI	8
St. John's, Midland, MI	7
Zion, Auburn, MI	7
ISJ Academy, Grand Rapids, MI	6
Trinity, Reed City, MI	6
Trinity, Utica, MI	6
Christ the King, Southgate, MI	4
St. Paul, Millington, MI	4
St. Peter, St. Johns, MI	4
Trinity, Manistee, MI	4
Our Savior, Grand Rapids, MI	3
St. Paul, Northville, MI	3
Westshore, Muskegon, MI	3
Holt Lutheran, Holt, MI	2
Lutheran High North, Macomb, MI	2
St. Johns, Mattoon, IL	2
St. Luke, Cabot, PA	2
St. Michael, Wayne, MI	2
St. Peter's, Big Rapids, MI	2
Trinity, Jackson, MI	2



Ascension, Fort Wayne, IN	1
Christ, Stevensville	1
Faith, Bay City, MI	1
Good Shepherd, Midland, MI	1
St. Bartholomew, Kawkawlin, MI	1
St. Michael's, Richville, MI	1
St. Peter, Macomb, MI	1
St. Peter's, Richmond, MI	1
Trinity, Bay City, MI	1
Trinity, Berrien Springs, MI	1
Trinity, Conklin, MI	1



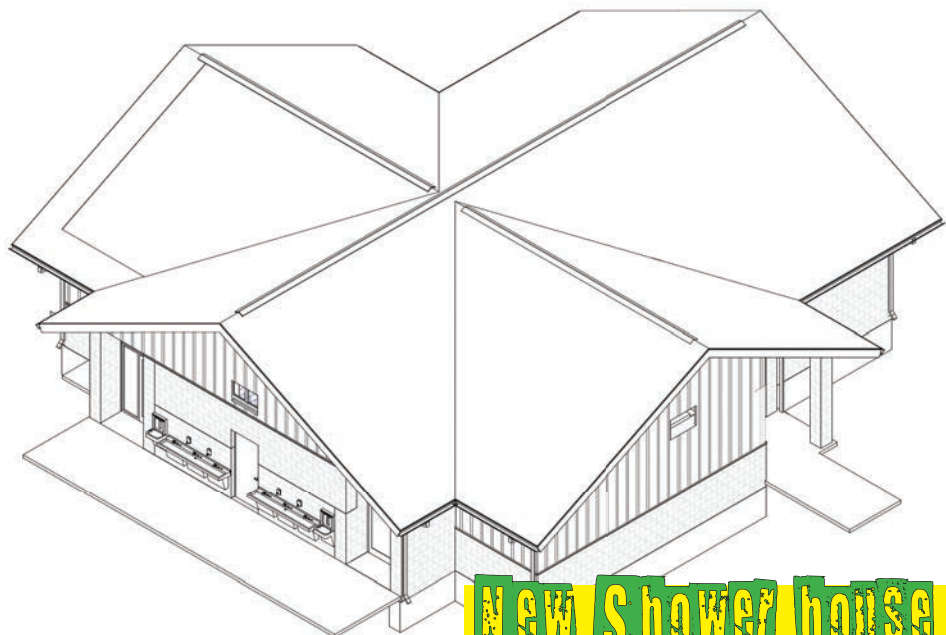
Summer Camp

Go Be [JESUS]

[Jesus said] "Rise, let us go from here." Matt 26:24 \ the Lord said to Phillip, "Rise and go toward the south..." \ "Go over and join this chariot." Acts 8:26, 29 \ "Go therefore and make..." Matthew 28:19 \ the Lord said to me, "Rise, and go into Damascus." Acts 22:10 \ And [Jesus] said to him, "Rise and go your way; your faith has made you well." Luke 17:19 \ "...Go with him two miles." Matt 5:41



2024	Grades 1-3	Grades 3-5	Grades 5-6	Grades 6-8	Grades 8-10	Grades 10-12	Family Camps
<p>• ADD-ON OPTIONS & Individualized Activities: Bulleted items under camp session (i.e., Swim Lessons) are OPTIONS available for specific camp sessions. Most have an additional cost to cover specialized equipment (i.e., Water Sports), transportation or food supplies. These fees will be visible early in online registration.</p> <p>• Sleep in Week: During weeks with older campers, the entire schedule will be set an hour later. For example, breakfast at 9:00 am. It also means staying up later in the evening.</p>							
Jun 9-14		Journey • Swim lessons • Kayaking		Trails • Horse Rides+ • Water Sports		Jr Staff Session 1 • JCounselor • JKitchen • JLifeGuard • JMaintenance	
Weekend Jun 14-16	Explorer						
Jun 16-21 (Sleep in Week)				Trails • Horse Rides+ • Sailing+ • Survivor BOYS	Venture • Guitar • Sailing+		
Jun 23-28 (Sleep in Week)				Trails • Horse Rides+ • Water Sports+	Venture • Horse Rides+ • Climbing/Rap+	Jr Staff Session 2 • JCounselor • JKitchen • JLifeGuard • JMaintenance	
Jun 30-Jul 3 (4-day Sun-Wed)	Explorer	Journey • Swim lessons					
Jul 4-7	Family Camp (Thursday Evening-Sunday)						Family Camp
Jul 7-12			Quest • Swim lessons • Kayaking	Trails • Water Sports+ • Survivor GIRLS		Jr Staff Session 3 • JCounselor • JKitchen • JLifeGuard • JMaintenance	
Weekend Jul 26-28							Family Exp
Jul 14-19 (Sleep in Week)				Trails • Guitar • Water Sports+	Venture • Guitar • Team Challenge		
Jul 21-26		Journey • Swim lessons • Kayaking		Trails • Guitar • Water Sports+		Jr Staff Session 4 • JCounselor • JKitchen • JLifeGuard • JMaintenance	
Weekend Jul 26-28							Family Exp
Jul 28-Aug 1		Journey • Swim lessons	Quest • Swim lessons				



The New Shower House Committee has been working hard with local architects to create a building that would function well into the future and expand and compliment what already exists.

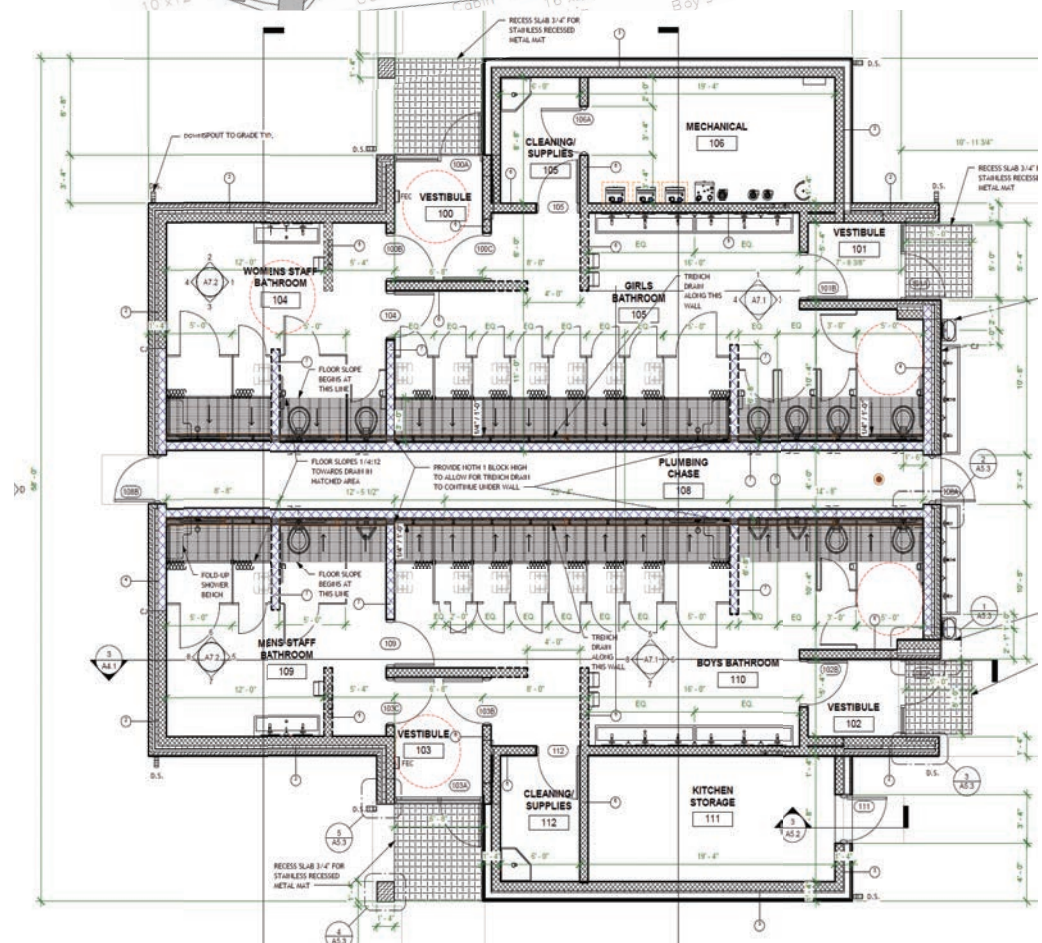
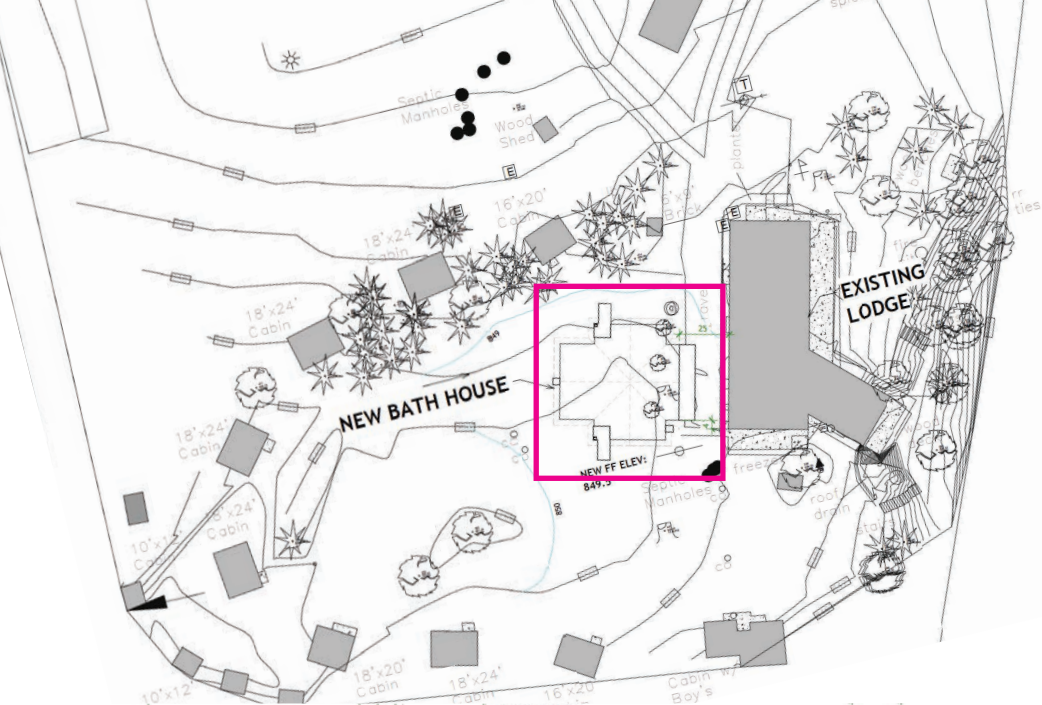
The goal was to receive finished plans by April of 2023. As of early September the plans are not complete with additional engineering information still up in the air - BUT the good news is...what is complete is incredibly detailed so when contractors are able to be sought after they will have a complete handle on the structure. And...as it goes with state and local governments there is some legal haggling that need to be completed, including the need for a lawyer and accountant who need to update camp's standing with the state. Who knew how much work goes into making something better.

The GREAT news is that staff and board members have been diligent about saving and the financials might look like this:

Total Estimated for Shower House	\$700,000
Total already raised	\$350,000
Will Need to raise	\$350,000

Thanks to **Mike & Sandee Lovatt** who placed the ministry of Camp Concordia in their will and whose estate contributed almost \$180,000 toward this vision.

The placement solves the long treks to use the toilet in the middle of the night and long treks to use the campground showers because there were never enough.





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