Camp Concordia NEWS!

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



From the "Doc"

Dr. Craig S. Oldenburg Executive Director Emeritus

Retirement? Yes. Now it is time. With a beginning and ending at ... Camp Concordia.

Camp ministry has been my major career. The inspiration for it began in the summer of 1969 when I attended *Camp Concordia* and stayed in the Sabatugee cabin (later changed to Faithfulness). Here the idea of serving a camp started.

In 1981-82, I completed my Director of Christian Education college INTERNSHIP at *Camp Luther, Wisconsin* and served with (my now wife) Mary that summer.

After a time teaching and being a DCE in Lutheran schools and church, Mary & I became "Texans" in 1987 - serving in leadership capacities at *Camp Lone Star.*

I had the privilege of serving with the icons of LCMS Outdoors Ministry: Jim Yagow (Camp Luther) and Garland Midgett (Camp Lone Star). Both early innovators in camp ministry in the 60's & 70's.

Then 1991 was the year Mary & I began directing small camps. First *Camp Dixie* in southern Alabama. Then *Lutheran Valley Retreat* in the mountains of Colorado. Success in LCMS camp ministry and a masters degree took us to Portland, Oregon and Seward, Nebraska to work at Concordia Universities as professors and program directors, finding our way back to camp as Executive Director and fundraiser for *Mt. Cross Lutheran Camp* in California.

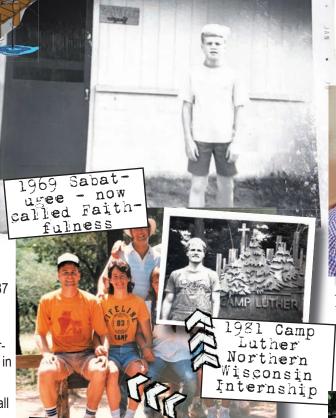
After one more stint as a DCE/children's minister, in 2014 Mary & I accepted the Call to serve at *Camp Concordia*. And now, a decade later, it's retirement time!

THANK YOU to those who have taught and mentored us since the early 1980s, those who have prayed for us and encouraged us and those who have made us a part of their family.

THANK YOU to everyone who has sacrificed financially to make Camp Concordia what is was meant to be, joined us in this journey, and watched it grow into a strong fiscally responsible ministry in Michigan. We have been delighted to see your families, churches and schools love having a quality LCMS camp.

I am a bit choked up as a sign this last "From the Doc" note to you all. But rejoice that you have a strong camp and a fine new set of leaders in place right now who will guide Camp into the future!





1987 Camp Lone Star. Texas. Program Coordinator (Doc) and Day Camp Director (Shadow)





"Doe" & "Shadow" 2024





EXecutive Director

BJ Fouts

M.Div.,

BA Theological Languages

(See more Page 6)



Dir. of Programs

Ayla Schmidt

BA Psychology/

Biology



Dir. of Operations
Sam Schmidt
BA Mathematics

2023 Amazing Donor List Thank you for keeping the mission of Camp Concordia strong. If your name or amount appear incorrect,

please contact the camp office. We appreciate you! See the next page for a full financial report.

\$10.000-\$25.000

Anonymous Evans, Ron

\$5,000-\$9,999

Holy Cross Lutheran, Jenison Humphries, Gary/Cynthia Wrede, William

\$1,000-\$4,999

Brower, Allen/Nancy Christ Lutheran, White Cloud Ernst, Troy/Kimberly First Lutheran, Charlotte Garchow, Eric Graves, Frank/Bev

Hope Lutheran, Grand Rapids

Humphries, Doug/Vera Korcek, Betty LaPlante, HC/Marie Marasus, David/Colleen Mt. Calvary, Greenville Oldenburg, Betty Oldenburg, Craig/Mary Palmer, Rachel Rexius, William/Margaret Smeeding, Dick/Sally Smeeding, Richard/Amanda St. Matthew Luth, Grd Rapids St. Peter Luth School, Hemlock

Trinity Luth School, Utica

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Gager, Ken/Judy Horstman, Chad/Jackee Koster, Michael/Susan Newkirk, Jay/Barb Randa, Sean/Erin Shepherd of Lakes School, Brighton St. John Luth School, Fraser St. Luke Lutheran, Ann Arbor St. Peters Lutheran, St. Johns Trinity Luth School, Trav City Vanderweide, David/Monica Wilson, Steve/Janelle Women of Holy Trinity, Lakeview

\$250-\$499

Carey, Norma **Camper Checkout Donations** Eggert, James/Elizabeth Esselman, Luke/Amanda Girls of Grace. Coopersville Guardian Luth School, Dearborn Immanuel Luth, Grd Rapids Kluba, Denis/Karen Knight, Eva

Lakeshore Luth Fellowship, Spring Lake Owen, Fritz

Porter, Donald/Lois Scheel, Martin/Robin St. James Lutheran, Montague St. Luke LWML, Ann Arbor St. Luke Lutheran, Ann Arbor St. Peter's L S. Big Rapids St. Thomas Lutheran, Trufant

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Amazon Smile Anderson, Dwight/Marlene Bachman, Fred/Susan Bartzsch, Jim/Colleen Barz, Daniel/Ann Bickel, Jeremy/Lynda Blanchard, Jason/Danielle Bover, Todd/Marv Bruinsma, John/Debra Cebelak, Lisa Chapel of the Lakes Dorcas,

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Holy Cross Ladies, Belding Kamper, Jeff/Michelle Karagoulis, Mike/Lynne Krafft, Bob/Deb Krieger, Carol Kuhn, Alberta Laidlaw, Jera Leistner, Scott Lovatt, Judy Ludford, Terry/Beth Lytikainen, Paul/Cheri Messiah Guild, Grand Rapids Ohashi, John/Jane

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\$50-\$99

Anonymous Anonymous DeMaagd, Gary/Diane Dobosz, Paul/Martha Fritz, Jonathan/Georgia Graham, Steven/Rebekah Gustafson, Thomas/Emily Hemme, Seth/Patricia Hepper, William/Maxine Hirt. Doug/Shirley Kaminski, Jason/Heidi Karpenko, William/Michele Kogge, Jeanette Liden, Michael/Bonnie Lievense. Doris Meek, Janice Oisten, Sharon Oliver, Jake/Kelly Ruland, Richard Rynbrandt, Donald/Kathleen Schlueter, Jon/Corinne Seitz, Del Sharbaugh, Carolyn Shourds, Chris/Christina Spletzer, Bruce/Lorilei

\$1-49

Wilkinson, Donna

Anonymous Anonymous Anton, Michael/Charlotte Bielski, Victoria Butterfly House, Traverse City Crosmer, Walt/Mari Czajka, Mike/Patty DeGrez, Rebecca DeWitt, John/Marcia Family Camp Donation Fischer, Janice Hackman, Richard/Shawn Jabs, Rebecca Kelly, Robert



Mudie, Kent/Janet Quernheim, Tracy Ranville, Nick/Meghan Schmidt, Jay/Kim Schoolenberg, Dave/Deb Tauser, John/Lisa Taylor, Michael Weissmann, Wolfgang/Claire Woons, Brad/Kimberly

Grant & Other \$

Benevity Fund **Duke Energy Foundation** Fidelity Paris Giving Fund MI Church Extension Fund Michigan District-LCMS Pledgeling Foundation

Estate Gifts

Bill Braman Estate

In Loving Memory of

Arthur Kuhn by Albeta Kuhn Mary Liden by Michael/Bonnie Liden Mike & Sandee Lovett by Nancy Gaskell Carleen Overholt by Michael/Charlotte Anton Paul/Martha Dobosz Janice Fischer Jeanette Kogge Marie LaPlante Doris/Emily Lievense Tracy Quernheim Carolyn Sharbaugh Merlin Petzold by

In Honor of

Pastor Rob Appold by Owen Fritz Mary Petzold by Tom Petzold Meredith Vanderweide

by David/Monica Vanderweide

Donations In-Kind

Terry/Beth Ludford

ATC Belay Device (Bender) Telephoto Zoom Lens (Wrede) French Fry Cutter (Wrede) Giant Hammocks (Wireman) Two Way Radios (Maier) Program Supplies (Kamper) Lifejackets (Vanderweide) Kitchen Utensils (McKendry) Program Supplies (Oldenburg)

Donations of Services

Advanced Pest Management Evans, Ron Goetsch. Bill Schulz, Bill Thompson Well Drilling VanKempen Electrical

Volunteers

Nicholas Burns Corbvn Cook Pat Crow Andrew Evans Ron Evans Bill Goetsch Pastor Thomas Gustafson Mike Karagoulis Jeanette Koch Terry Ludford Pastor Sean McCoy Ed & Pat Newberg Mary & Whitney Oldenburg Kelly Oliver Bill & Margo Rexius Cori Scholtens Conrad & Joan Swanson Gabriel Voot Skip & Carol Young Faith, Grand Blanc St. John, Fraser West MI Lutheran High, GR St. Michael, Portage

Thrivent Action Team **Grants and Leaders**

(2023 - \$3500) Michael H - Spring Mailing Michael H - Camp Road Signs Aaron F - Fire Circle Benches Judy L - Trail Signs Judy L – Adventure Shed Roof Craig O - Painting Cabins Mary O - Painting Cabins Andrew L - Painting Cabins Melissa S - Painting Cabins William G - Painting Cabins &

Cori S - Painting Pavilion Matt S - Painting Bethesda Andrew L - Electrical boxes Mary O - Christmas Mailing

Bathhouse

Thrivent Choice Dollars



2023 Annual Report

				Unaudited 20	23 Annual Repor					
Yield	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014 5
Contributions to Operations	\$ 84,829.62	\$153,782.11	\$114,333.79	\$122,305.89	\$ 76,203.89	92,330.39	94,946.19	93,640.09	71,951.51	48,668.02
Summer Camps, Retreats	\$171,039.60	\$145,205.25	\$171,545.00	\$ 76,615.00	\$136,900.21	130,443.65	123,175.18	72,248.38	96541.7	66758.5
Designated Gifts to Operations 7	\$ 45,170.38	\$ 21,884.68	\$222,733.49	\$ 75,456.00	\$ 25,054.31	21,791.08	20,329.20	8,724.00	7,278.97	17,370.17
Other Income ¹	\$ 44,052.70	\$ 23,158.04	\$ 16,103.12	\$ 18,590.84	\$ 12,658.71	11,300.73	21,714.86	10,574.79	23,132.60	12,430.55
Total In	\$373,935.80	\$344,030.08	\$524,715.40	\$292,967.34	\$277,134.32	\$255,865.85	\$260,165.43	\$185,187.26	\$198,904.78	\$145,227.24
GO!										
Staff Salaries & Benefits 2	\$166,473.10	\$122,944.24	\$137,110.61	\$ 95,606.03	\$ 111,858.37	93,042.03	92,121.48	82,780.45	80,554.94	61,367.85
Payroll Taxes	\$ 11,847.16	\$ 8,744.39	\$ 9,966.21	\$ 6,854.52	\$ 8,073.80	6,384.51	6,639.14	5,417.27	4,521.65	5,362.44
Insurance	\$ 47,630.64	\$ 41,238.28	\$ 40,586.36	\$ 37,401.10	\$ 34,381.44	32,127.04	37,891.04	29,405.25	28,481.80	22,333.89
Building/Maintenance 3	\$ 36,662.86	\$ 34,383.04	\$ 31,774.83	\$ 92,762.15	\$ 22,274.57	30,494.55	35,316.19	10,025.33	16,639.17	17,164.25
Utilities	\$ 14,911.83	\$ 13,656.12	\$ 13,008.67	\$ 11,263.05	\$ 14,267.45	12,344.62	13,061.78	9,985.98	11,119.37	14,525.30
Food and Kitchen 8	\$ 13,867.86	\$ 9,413.59	\$ 14,091.66	\$ 6,379.38	\$ 10,609.99	7,866.29	8,584.29	4,678.99	6,857.53	5,660.83
Promotion	\$ 5,899.30	\$ 5,792.25	\$ 5,594.50	\$ 4,237.35	\$ 5,177.69	5,562.39	5,449.43	4,463.86	7,199.92	4,360.78
Program	\$ 4,663.48	\$ 2,487.25	\$ 14,255.90	\$ 6,854.14	\$ 4,869.89	8,759.83	7,306.96	3,298.97	4,044.68	1,474.45
Gov., Bank, Professional Fees	\$ 13,128.50	\$ 16,769.30	\$ 13,565.36	\$ 10,639.95	\$ 11,899.35	10,392.57	10,386.71	8,147.37	9,527.11	7,878.87
Other Expenses/Loss 4	\$ 11,762.31	\$ 17,086.27	\$ 17,391.32	\$ 11,207.56	\$ 15,343.06	7,770.51	9,665.03	6,311.96	7,725.12	13,835.17
Total Out	\$328,739.69	\$272,514.73	\$297,345.42	\$283,205.20	\$238,755.61	\$214,744.34	\$226,422.05	\$164,515.43	\$176,671.29	\$153,963.83
Net Operating Income 7	\$373,935.80	\$344,030.08	\$336,715.40	\$292,967.34	\$277,134.32	\$255,865.85	\$260,165.43	\$185,187.26	\$198,904.78	\$145,227.24
Net Income ⁶	\$ 45,196.11	\$ 71,515.35	\$ 39,369.98	\$ 9,762.14	\$ 38,378.71	\$ 41,121.51	\$ 33,743.38	\$ 20,671.83	\$ 22,233.49	\$ (B,736.59)

1 Camp Store, Grants, Interest, Endowment, Misc.

2 includes summer staff, food service staff, maintenance and year-round staff w accountable plan (significant increase in 2015 reflects moving form 1 staff per cabin to 2 and a significant increase in summer ministry staff salaries in 2019; 2020 includes a 2nd full-time year-round staff for part of the year plus summer ministry staff pay increases again; we plan for a significant increase here again due to raising summer ministry staff salaries in 2021); in 2023 1.5 additional year-round staff positions were added causing a significant increase

2017 & 2018 includes kitchen upgrades to all stainless, dishwasher and epoxy floor; plus continued building repairs for health and safety; 2020 includes maintenance building addition and new Lodge roof; 2023 does not include expenses of \$50,750 for showerhouse architectural plans or approximately \$26,000 for fireplace restoration in the main lodge which were actually expensed out of prior designated gifts. It DOES include over \$3,000 of final expenses for the completion of the Climbing Tower, which was extremely popular in 2023.

4 Staff Recruit, Administrative/Office, Camp Store; in 2021 more than 50% of this was camp store expense (a large increase with a large increase of campers). In 2022, an endowment fund was established and, of course, it was a bad year for markets, so this line includes an undeclared loss of \$2,356.34.

5 New director started in April of this year

This was key to Camp Concordia hiring an additional year-round staff in 2021 Spring and for living through COVID-19 reductions in use; 2023 does not include \$50,750 in fees to architects (showerhouse) since it came out of prior donations into 2021 includes a \$188,000 one-time Estate Gift from the estate of Michael & Sandee Lovett designated for the future new shower house. Gift NOT reflected in Net Operating Income.

8 2023 increase in food expenses reflects the historic increase in food prices across the USA



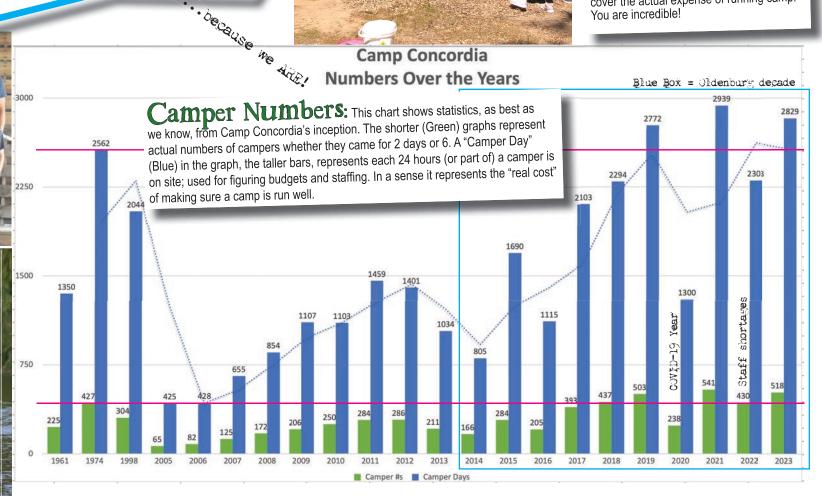
Net Worthy

Highlighting

2023 Annual Report Financials

- Old records are hard to come by, but for the graph below we found a 1974 statistic that reflects some of the "hay days" of camp numbers. 2019. 2021 and 2022 exceeded expectations in camper days and camper numbers. But what happened in 2020 and 2022?
- 2020, of course, was the nation's Covid-19 year. Most camps did not run. As a smaller camp, Camp Concordia was able to open right after July 4, 2020. In 2022, as an aftershock from 2020, staffing across the USA was difficult and many camps closed their doors completely. Camp Concordia was blessed with 9 incredible staff, but that meant 120 campers had to be turned away.
- Notice that since 2014, insurance has more than doubled. Yikes!
- Look at Utilities. Summer camp numbers have increased over 3 fold since 2014 and with creative efforts on the part of staff, utilities have stayed about the same.
- In 2014, a summer staff was paid \$180 per week. In 2023, summer ministry staff made around \$400 per week depending on roles. We want to be known as a <u>top of the line</u> children's ministry.





Hey BJ. Please Introduce Yourself...

CAMP CONCORDIA





PASTOR B.J. FOUTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello Michigan! I am an Illini turned Husker and I'm still waiting to decide about Sparty or the Wolverines. I grew up in Central Illinois, but our family has called Nebraska home for the past 16 years. I graduated from Concordia University Chicago with a degree in Theological Languages and then Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. I have been a parish pastor since 2008, serving as the Senior Pastor of St. John Ministries for the past 7 years.

I grew up going to Camp CILCA, near Springfield, IL, and it was there that I learned to love Jesus and where He showed me just how much He loved me. My experiences from camper to Summer Program Director ignited my heart to want to serve God. I have been an advisor and retreat leader at Camp Luther of Nebraska and now, I am so very excited to serve the Lord as a leader at Camp Concordia.

Jessica and I met as camp counselors and have been married for 20 years. The Lord has blessed us with four amazing children, Hannah, Nathanael, Abigail and Lizzy.

I am excited to serve at Camp Concordia so I can participate in its mission to provide opportunities for children, youth and their families to encounter Christ in this special place.

The Holy Spirit is going to reach hearts and minds and it is my prayer that I, and Camp

Concordia can be His instruments.

I look forward to getting to know you and working together to help more people know Christ.
I'd love to have a conversation with you at camp, your church or even if you see me at a
football game next fall. I'm usually wearing stripes.







Financially Supporting the Work of Camp Concordia

Camp Concordia was established in 1957 as a premier children's ministry - supporting families and congregations in their task of influencing faith. A crowd of donors and volunteers worked hard over the next few decades to create a sound and safe environment for this goal. You can see on page 4 that contributions and designated gifts **make up about 30% of the operating budget** of Camp Concordia. You can also see that the board of directors and staff have spent responsibly and Camp Concordia is a worhty and sound investment of your annual contributions. We really could use a few large donors (See page 3) and hundreds of moderate donors (\$600-\$1200 per year). Be one of those in 2024 as we continue to expand space and facilities (new million dollar showerhouse plans are drawn up and contractors are being sought out).

www.campconcordia.org/donate

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· ADD-ON OPTIONS & Individualized Activities: Each day campers get a time to choose Individualized Activities. Usually cabin groups choose activities together, but during this time a camper can focus on an activity being led by various staff. It could be an extra time of normal camp activities (i.e., archery), to learning a special skill unique to a staff (i.e., sign language). As an alternative, bulleted items under camp sessions (i.e., Swim Lessons) are OPTIONS available for specific dates. Most have an additional cost to cover specialized equipment (i.e., Water Sports), transportation or food supplies. Fees will be visible in online registration.

	• Sleep in Week: During weeks with older campers, the entire schedule will be set an hour later. For example, 8:00 breakfast is moved to 9:00 am. This also means staying up later in the evening.										
Jun 9-14		Journey . Kayaking . Swim lessons		Trails · Horse Rides · Water Sports		Jr Staff Session 1	000				
Weekend Jun 14-16	Explorer					JKitchen JLifeguard JMaintenance					
Jun 16-21 (Sleep in Week)				Trails . Horse Rides . Survivor BOYS	Venture Guitar Sailing	Ţ					
Jun 23-28 (Sleep in Week)				Trails . Horse Rides . Water Sports	Venture Climbing/Rap Horse Rides	Jr Staff Session 2 . JCounselor . JKitchen					
Jun 29-Jul 2 (4-day Sat-Tue)	Explorer	Jr Journey . (Grades 3-4) . Swim lessons		í.	another Week of Venture Camp	 JLifeguard JMaintenance 					
Jul 4-7	Singer/Song	writer (and LCMS	School Teache	r) Aaron Rohde	Family Camp (Thurs returns	sday Evening-Sunday)	Family Camp				
Jul 7-12			Quest . Kayaking . Swim lessons	Trails · Survivor GIRLS · Water Sports		Jr Staff Session 3					
Weekend Jul 12-14						JKitchen JLifeguard JMaintenance	Family Exp				
Jul 14-19 (Sleep in Week)		Kayaking Add- On Option for Journey		Trails . Guitar . Water Sports	Venture Guitar Team Challenge	Ado Exp	litional Famil Dorer Weekend				
Jul 21-26		Journey · Kayaking · Swim lessons		Trails Guitar Water Sports		Jr Staff Session 4 . JCounselor					
Weekend Jul 26-28						JKitchen JLifeguard JMaintenance	Family Exp				
Jul 28-Aug 2		Journey . Swim lessons	Quest - Swim lessons				Page 7				

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Camp Concordia

13400 Pinewood St. Gowen, MI 49326

616-754-3785 office@campconcordia.org www.campconcordia.org



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Complete list on Amazon.com https://a.co/00r41OS

28' High Visibility Orange Safety Cone (\$115, Need 1 pack of 6 - these will be used for field games)

100 ft 10 Gauge Extension Cord (\$130, Need 1)

Marine Wall Mounted Ship Hanging Bell (\$9.49 ea., Need 3 - one for each top of climbing tower to ring once camper has reached the top)







www.campconcordia.org