

# CAMP CONCORDIA

Fall 2022

Newsletter

Jr. Staff: 2020, 2021  
Staff: 2022  
Career Goal: Dir of  
Parish Ministries  
Outcome met: Commu-  
nication, Problem  
Solving



Staff: 2021, 2022  
Career Goal: Dir of Chris-  
tian Education  
Outcome met: Leadership  
Skills

2023 Summer Theme

All things were made through [Jesus], and  
without him was not any thing made that  
was made. In him was life and the life  
was the light of men. The light shines  
in the darkness, and the darkness has  
not overcome it.

Let there be

John 1:3-5 esv

# Light



## What is FUN?

The group of 10 middle school boys were at the team challenge called the \*spool. Their task was to get from point A to point B - over the large wooden spool. . . and so they began with excitement.

The excitement soon turned into drudgery when they kept touching the "poisonous" sides - causing the entire team to begin again. Drudgery turned into blame of each other. Blame of the "stupid element." **"I hate this,"** one said. And the final stage was blame and anger directed at the facilitator - me.

**"You're a terrible facilitator!"** they said. Part of the training of being a good facilitator is to remain silent and let the group figure out their problem. So I waited. Oh they were in agony. And then one thing changed.

The boys got one, two, then three over the spool without having to begin again. With renewed hope they sent number four, then five, six, seven, eight. They became quite focused and quit their ranting. Nine. There was an intensity in the air. They pulled and carefully guided over number ten and all hoopla erupted.

**"This was awesome!"** they said. "I love this challenge." And then the ultimate statement, **"This was FUN! Can we do it again?"**

Can we do it again? If I had given in to these boys' initial rants, gotten involved and agreed to end their challenge they would never have gotten to these words and celebration of their gifts. Yet, staying quiet was hard. It smarted to hear, "You're a terrible facilitator."

Being a summer staff is never just about a camper's experience. It includes the staff's experience and opportunity for professional, personal and spiritual growth that they will never get under comfortable circumstances. Also, they will NOT find it in the fun, but in the challenge, in the skill building they experience and in the sticking to the plan.

**"Can we do it again? This was FUN!"**

# From The Doc

Dr. Craig S. Oldenburg  
Executive Director



## Be THAT Staff

Why do people serve on staff? Summer staff work hard. Staff battle the elements of weather - physical storms and emotional storms. They lead through the unknown. They show compassion in a less than compassionate environment (sick camper). They get stretched to ... the ... max. Well...

**Jesus said: "Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Matt 10:39 esv)**

**'...give, and it will be given to you. Good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap. For with the measure you use it will be measured back to you.'** (Luke 6:38 esv)

Across the USA, camps were short-staffed in 2022. I will not try to be the expert on this situation, but I can say that Camp Concordia operated with 9 of the 22 staff they had anticipated hiring (about 120 campers did not get to come in 2022), but **had one of the MOST phenomenal staffs in history**. They worked hard. Cared hard. Prayed hard. And saw changes in campers' lives and in THEIR lives. Come be part of that kind of staff in 2023.

**You need an internship? I've filled out the forms and done the paperwork. Experience hours? I've signed the documents.**

Struggle, difficulty, challenge and prayer changes our lives and our outlooks. There is, in fact, a tipping point in which too much fear and anxiety has a negative affect, but those who allow themselves to be stretched *beyond comfortable* are the ones who get to grow in skills and most importantly, in their faith in Jesus Christ. Encourage someone to be part of that kind of staff in 2023.

[www.camconcordia.org/employment](http://www.camconcordia.org/employment)



CRAIG



Summer staff have the opportunity to gain the skills necessary for group facilitation.



Staff can learn team skills for working with groups of all ages.



Staff can learn life skills that equip them to positively handle high intensity, fast paced work environments with prayer and purpose.

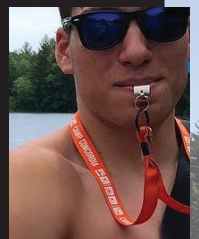
# Staff Reflect

As a Cabin Leader at Camp Concordia, I not only had the opportunity to see and facilitate growth in my campers, but I also got to grow myself. Over the summer, **sharing Jesus** became much more comfortable than it ever has been. I went to a public high school, so my faith was supposed to be kept quiet there, it got to the point where I had very little faith altogether. Over the summer this changed. My faith became a central part of my life because of the environment of camp. Furthermore, my professional skills



increased. I learned how to **communicate** with others, and how to problem solve in order to accomplish my goals. My time at camp truly helped me to develop skills and a mindset which will be beneficial to my life outside of camp. **Qu** (Abby Yakimow)

I spent this summer at Camp Concordia as a Cabin Leader for the first time in my life. I was part of a small staff, which made it necessary and fairly easy to form a bond with



my colleagues. ...I was both excited and nervous to have a new role at camp... As the summer began, I felt overwhelmed. There was so much to do, take care of, facilitate, etc. However, my teammates were always with me, and I always remembered that

**we are all in this together.** Weeks passed, and campers came and went, and all of the sudden, the summer was coming to a close. Looking back on the summer, there aren't many single instances where I saw myself immediately improve as a worker at camp, but I can see now that I came a long way from the end of May to the end of July. I was immensely **more comfortable and confident in my faith**, how I could interact with children in Christ and

in everyday activities, and my overall **leadership abilities**. I will always remember this summer at Camp Concordia, it was a very meaningful and powerful experience for me. **Swift** (Grant Rhode)



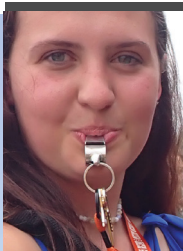
# Tower Update

Building a tower is as easy as 1, 2, 3 ... ummm ... 4, 5... well, the Camp Concordia climbing tower - which many of you contributed funds toward - has support cables in place, two of its essential walls completed, an upper platform built, and roof rafters started. As of this writing there is still the roof to complete, climbing holds and belay bars to install, as well as ground work before installing the third side (so we can get a "boom" in place for inside work).

If you would like to donate to this amazing structure, about \$7,000 is needed yet in materials and additional money will free us up to feel good renting the lift for construction.

[www.camppconcordia.org/donate](http://www.camppconcordia.org/donate)

# Proposed 2023 Schedule



Camp Concordia summers never disappoint me. This summer (2022) I had the opportunity to be the Program Coordinator as well as the Waterfront Director. These jobs have given me so many skills that I could take with me in the future. I am studying to be a Director of Christian Education someday and this summer helped me grow tremendously in my **leading skills**. Most importantly, I grew closer to Jesus. Camp has and will always hold a special place in my heart.

**Tallawah** (Chloe Dahn)

2023	Grades 1-3	Grades 3-5	Grades 5-6	Grades 6-8	Grades 8-10	Grades 10-12	Family Camps
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>ADD-ON OPTIONS:</b> Bulleted items under camp session (i.e., Swim Lessons) are OPTIONS available for specific camp sessions. Some are at no additional cost and others have program requiring additional cost (i.e., Water Sports+).</li> <li><b>Sleep in Week:</b> 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.</li> </ul>							
Jun 11-16		<b>Journey</b> • Swim lessons		<b>Trails</b> • Horse Rides+ • Water Sports+		<b>Jr Staff Session 1</b> • JCounselor • JKitchen • JLifeguard • JMaintenance	
Weekend Jun 16-18	<b>Explorer</b>						
Jun 18-23 (Sleep in Week)				<b>Trails</b> • Horse Rides+ • Water Sports+ • Survivor BOYS	<b>Venture</b> • Guitar • Water Sports+		
Jun 25-30				<b>Servant Event</b>	<b>Servant Event</b>		
Jun 30-Jul 3				Family Camp (Friday Evening-Monday)			<b>Family Camp</b>
Jul 5-8 (4-day Wed-Sat)	<b>Explorer</b>					<b>Jr Staff Session 2</b> • JCounselor • JKitchen • JLifeguard • JMaintenance	
Weekend 1-night Jul 8-9							
Jul 9-14			<b>Quest</b> • Swim lessons	<b>Trails</b> • Water Sports+ • Survivor GIRLS			
Jul 16-21 (Sleep in Week)				<b>Trails</b> • Guitar • Water Sports+	<b>Venture</b> • Guitar • Water Sports+	<b>Jr Staff Session 3</b> • JCounselor • JKitchen • JLifeguard • JMaintenance	
Weekend Jul 21-23							<b>Family Exp</b>
Jul 23-28		<b>Journey</b> • Swim lessons		<b>Trails</b> • Water Sports+			
Jul 30-Aug 3 (5-day Sun-Thu)		<b>Journey</b> • Swim lessons (5-day Sun-Thu)	<b>Quest</b> • Swim lessons (6-day Sun-Thu)			<b>Jr Staff Session 4</b> • JCounselor • JKitchen • JLifeguard • JMaintenance	



Now is the time to consider who you will nudge or encourage to experience invaluable ministry and growth opportunities.

[www.camppconcordia.org/employment](http://www.camppconcordia.org/employment)



13400 Pinewood St.  
Gowen, MI 49326  
www.campconcordia.org  
office@campconcordia.org  
616-754-3785

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Gowen, MI  
Permit No. 5



## Proposed 2023 Summer Schedule **INSIDE!**

Staff: 2022  
Career Goal: Sign  
Language Interpreter  
Outcome met: Bringing  
Christ to kids, gain-  
ing professional  
skills



Jr. Staff: 2020, 2021  
Staff: 2022  
Career Goal: Teacher  
Outcome met: More confident  
in faith and leadership



### **Camp Needs List**

- Staff for the 2023 summer (\$4,000 each. Need 22)
- Seat Harnesses\* for Climbing Tower (\$40 each. Need 12)
- Chest Harness\* for staff belayers (\$40 each. Need 4)

\* = Headwall Harness from Adventure Experiences

Prayers for work on new shower house, architects and obtaining a contractor (Need thousands of prayers)

Our Amazon Wish List has additional ideas <https://a.co/00r410S>

