



CHRIST IN EVERY PHASE
North Central Camp Cherith
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CHERITH CHATTER NEWSLETTER

FALL 2023 EDITION

THE STEADFAST PRESENCE OF THE LORD

IN THE DETAILS, FUN, CREATIVITY, TRAINING, FELLOWSHIP, WORSHIP AND LEADERSHIP



Camp Cherith is in compliance with the USDA policy which does not permit discrimination because of race, color, sex, age, handicap, or national origin.

Congratulations

2023 CILT & BUILT Grads

CILT/BUILT PROMOTION

It's never too early to think about joining our **CILT** (*Camper in Leadership Training*) program for girls or **BUILT** (*Boys Under Intense Leadership Training*) for boys. Campers can begin these programs the summer after 10th grade. For more info visit: <https://camp-cherith.com/camper-leadership/>.



CILT GRADUATES: BUILT GRADUATES:

Connie Buhl	Zeke Blow
Lauren Davis	James Jensen
Kelly Denker	Thomas Kroohn
Connie Dill	Owen Nelson
Claire John	Mateo Rodriguez
Jillian Kulzer	Micah Schmidt
Anna Linebaugh	Charlie VanWyk
Nadia Palmer	
Courtney Wojtowicz	



Camp offering 2023:

FUNDS GO TO SUPPORT OUR CAMP MISSIONARIES AND TO FUND NEW THINGS FOR CAMP.

Camp Missionaries:

Kelly Sundquist: Black Forest Academy in Germany
 Mark Gygi: Missionary to Germany
 Cheryl and Lizzy Alexandr: Missionaries to Taiwan
 Matzah: Working in the Middle East

Camp 2024 take note!

Boys Week 1: June 16–21 BUILT 1/2
Girls Week 1: June 23–28/CILT 2
Girls Week 2: June 30–July 5/CILT 2
Girls Week 3: July 7–12/CILT 1
Girls Week 4: July 14–19/CILT 1
Girls Week 5: July 21–26
Boys Week 2: July 28–August 2
Family Weekend: August 2–4
Mother-Daughter Weekend: September 13–15

Can't wait to see you!



Article by Laurie Lind, CILT 1977

Laurie has a background in missions and communication, she interviewed campers and staff at camp this summer.

Life felt pretty heavy to me, as I drove past those familiar gates, entering camp this summer.

I made two trips, one in July, one in August. Both trips felt clouded by sadness. A dear friend had recently learned she had cancer. Hard stuff was happening in my family. Fargo, my hometown, had experienced a tragic police shooting.

My first arrival happened to be the final day of Girls Week 4. I approached the dining hall to the sound of whistles, cheers and applause. Kendra met me outside the building, telling me the girls were watching the video of their week.

It was delightful to hear the girls sincerely cheering – not jeering – for each other. That sense of mutual love and encouragement permeated the day.

"newspaper." I sat in on a CILT meeting in The White House, watching how the girls and their leader laughed, loved and served each other. I joined some Pathfinders for their last-day bag lunch with their counselor. I hung out in the Dining Hall, recording story after story from adults who'd been campers and campers who were still campers. All of them, without exception, expressing their love for this place, for God, for one another.

More than one girl told me she had accepted Jesus as her Savior here.

That same kindness was on full display when I returned a month later, for the last day of Boys Week 2.

Teenage boys working patiently with younger boys, making doughnuts over a fire in their "outdoor cooking" activity. Older boys kindly letting little boys squirm past them to get off the bus first at the waterfront. Bigger boys helping smaller boys pull fish off hooks in the fishing group.

Lunch that day, the final day of Boys Week 2, included BUILT 2023 graduation. I'd interviewed some of those grads earlier in the day and been impressed by the depth of their love for God, their humble desire to serve Him and again, their remarkable patience with littler ones.

Some of the boys, too, described placing their faith in Jesus here.

Then came the singing.

On the last day of Girls Week 4, many girls locked arms, swaying, singing favorite songs one more time together, many in tears.

On the last day of Boys Week 2, the sound of singing was thunderous. Several staff had told me earlier that the boys' singing was something to behold. That was not an overstatement.



The boys, including those brand-new BUILT grads, sang at the top of their lungs. They did all the actions to every song, with more vigor than even the girls had. Less tears, far more volume.

I watched tearful goodbyes between girls, a little less tearful but yet heartfelt goodbyes between boys.

Then, I too, drove back out between those familiar camp gates.

I fully experienced what one of the young men had said.

"It's always been such a blessing to come up, even when life's crazy, just to come here and take a deep breath. This is the Lord's place. Always has been. Obviously, He's everywhere, but this just seems different."

It does.

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.



Donate today: camp-cherith.com

BE STILL & KNOW SUFFICIENT GRACE

Imagine a quiet morning at camp. The sky is bursting open with light, and there is a coolness in the air. In the distance, a family of swans paddles across the lake. The sound of carpet balls clanking and the competitive shouts and laughter that follow echo over the rustling trees. After breakfast, you join flag raising. After a few cheers for the color guard, everyone disperses across the hill. As you quietly arrange your carpet square on the wet grass, you crack open your Bible and begin to read your devotion for the day.

Chances are you didn't start your day like this today. However, for our campers and staff this summer, their mornings at camp started just like this. How incredible is it that we had the opportunity to slow down and appreciate all that God has created and all that He has

for each of us! Even though we're no longer at camp, we still have the opportunity to be still and know. Your life likely looks different from an average day at camp, but that doesn't mean we have to stop seeking Christ.

We serve an excellent and sufficient God. His grace is enough. In Christ, there is much to be grateful for. Regardless of what is going on in your life, he gives you more grace. James 4:6a says, "And he gives grace generously..." How often do we take for granted the grace and peace our God has given us? Being still and knowing God is more than sitting idly. It's a personal choice to stop trying to do things on our own and wholly throwing ourselves onto Christ. It's trusting that he can do the



Girls Director
Meghan Westra
Camp Name:
Hans

work each of us requires.

As you go about your year, allow God to be a part of it. How will you allow Christ to be a part of your life this school year? How will you choose to "Be Still and Know," even in the challenges and busyness of life? Next summer is likely a distant thought, but being at camp is not a requirement to continue pursuing Christ. My prayer for each of us is that we wholly rely on Christ and recognize that he is an excellent and sufficient God.

I am so thankful for all God did this summer and all who helped make it happen.

Camp 2023 Year Re-cap:

- 56 girls and many boys either accepted Christ, recommitted their lives to Him, or desire to learn more about a relationship with Jesus.
- 590 campers
- 155 first time campers
- 164 round trip bus trips
- 138 campers in horsemanship class
- 180 Staff and Volunteers
- 65 Family Campers
- 70 Mother Daughter Weekend Campers



FUTURE CAMP PROJECTS

- Infirmary addition / replacement
- New fencing at arena and front of camp
- General painting of buildings
- Grounds and trail maintenance (many downed trees)

You can help with projects!
To get involved Contact:
siteteam@camp-cherith.com

Chris Kroohn, *facilities representative*
Jason Sannes-Venhuizen, *site manager*

- CAMP BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**
- President, Beth Davis-Salonek
 - Vice President, Molly Layer
 - Treasurer, Terry Westra
 - Secretary, Nikki Hoffman
 - Registrar, Gerri Wilson
 - Operations Committee Chairperson, Kim Westra
 - Site and Maintenance, Chris Kroohn
 - Member at Large, Nancy Stahel
 - Member at Large, Katherine Teigen
 - Member at Large, Lisa Tonder

SUSTAINED BY GOD THROUGH PRAYERS

Our mission at Camp Cherith has remained the same over the years: to show campers how to have Christ in every part of their lives. Every summer has its own joys and challenges, and this one was no exception. God is always faithful in providing what we need. Here are some highlights from 2023 and prayer requests for 2024:

Staff: Every year we start with a blank staff grid that needs to be filled. This summer God provided adequate staff in every area, including a last-minute lifeguard from one of our sister camps, and some horse staff from another area camp.

Prayer request: Pray that we will have an all-summer facilities manager.

Campers: We ended just shy of our goal of 600 camper weeks at 590. We maintained around 80-90 campers per week for most weeks this summer—these numbers maintain the "small camp" feel that we love at Cherith and allows most campers to get the activities they want without overcrowding our facilities. Many campers began a relationship with Jesus, and many parents commented on the parent survey about how much their children grow through their experiences at camp. From Pathfinders figuring out how to manage their Tuck Shop money to Explorers learning to navigate tough issues, camp is a great place to learn and grow.

One of my favorite moments of the summer was when I observed a first-year camper putting some letters in the mailbox. It was a Monday, and she was so excited about all the wonderful things that had already happened that week and said that two

envelopes weren't enough to contain all that she wanted to tell her parents. This type of excitement happens a lot!

Prayer requests: Pray for effective camp marketing, and for a full camp during the 4th of July week, which is typically a small week.

Facilities and Equipment: We were able to do some upgrades this summer. We were blessed to have few issues with equipment and the right people onsite at the right time to help fix whatever was needed. Blessings this summer included the donation of an ATV for our horse staff and finding a great deal on a sailboat.

Prayer Request: Pray that we can do some upgrades on Shikari Hill.

Finances: We were blessed with 122 individuals and organizations who donated to camp this year.

Prayer Requests: Pray for God to raise up donors to help us keep camper fees down, and for donors who will give generously to our planned infirmary addition and remodel.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge a tragic occurrence at the start of this year's camp season. A young camper passed away in a boating accident on Lake Six. Your prayers for the camper, his family, his friends, as well as the camp staff, are greatly appreciated and have been strongly felt. We ask that you continue to pray for strength and comfort for all who were impacted by this tragedy.

Thanks for your involvement with and prayers for Camp Cherith. We hope to see you in 2024!

Kendra Mohn, *Executive Director*



MOTHER DAUGHTER 2023 weekend highlights

Mother Daughter Weekend Retreat was held at Camp September 15-17. It was a beautiful fall weekend, colors were beginning to change and the weather was absolutely perfect. We had a total of 71 participants—27 families, plus about 37 staff helping out. The weekend was filled with lots of camp activities from horses, woodworking, pontooning, canoeing, outdoor cooking, archery, riflery, and of course many options for crafting! Many mothers and daughters loved the range of options and got to see a glimpse of camp. But most of all, they loved spending time with one another; one mom commented, "The uninterrupted and non-distracted time with my girls was lovely!"

Along with activities, we had breakout sessions for Bible Ex with groups for elementary girls, middle/high school girls, and for moms. Every group had a different speaker that allowed the participants to think about God and their faith in a new way. The mom's talked about how to incorporate prayer into their everyday lives with their families, and one simple way to do that is the grateful game - going around and sharing one thing they're grateful for. The middle/high school girls learned about how to grow in their faith and the importance of making their faith their own. The elementary girls learned all about Esther.

Overall, it was a great weekend that gave mothers and daughters the opportunity to grow closer to each other and to God while being surrounded by His beautiful creation.

Rachel "Shades" Aubart

WISH LIST ITEM: HORSE HELMETS

We need to replace our helmets. Email info@camp-cherith.com or call Kendra at 218-841-2486 to help us purchase new helmets.

LOOKING TO JESUS WALK WITH HOPE

Camp is that special place where we get to pull ourselves out of the world for a bit, a place for fellowship, to be in God's Word, to be in prayer with others, and enjoying fun-filled times in His beautiful creation.

When Jesus is praying for His disciples in John 17:15, He prays, "My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one." I am drawn to what Christ prayed when I think of the campers and especially this time of year as both campers and staff who work in schools return for another school year. At

camp we share the message of Jesus, that He came into the world for each of us, and that He died for each one of us, and that it is also a time for us to encourage each camper who knows the Lord in their walk with Him.

We are called to share God's love with others, both with our actions and our words, to bring glory to Christ, and to share His love. I think of our campers as they walk the halls of schools with the wonderful opportunity to shine Christ's light.



Boys Director
Scott Taylor
Camp Name:
Taylo

As this new school year begins, let's pray for the campers, their walk with the Lord, for protection from the evil one, and that they may be light of Christ in the schools. I encourage us to pray for those who heard the message of Christ this summer, yet have not come to know Him as their personal Lord and Savior, that they would be reminded of camp, and more importantly the hope there is in Jesus.

THRIVENT?

Are you a Thrivent member? If you have Thrivent Choice Dollars, you can now choose to direct them to North Central Camp Cherith!

Thank You for your faithful
SUPPORT OF CAMP CHERITH

SHOP OUR AMAZON WISHLIST HELP CAMP FROM YOUR SOFA!

Purchase items from our wish list and they will be automatically shipped to our year-round office

