

July



Camp Okoboji in Milford, Iowa, where physical and spiritual refreshment occur through activities such as canoeing, swimming, arts & crafts, Bible Studies, campfire devotions, and so much 'S'more'!!

In 1939, several pastors and lay persons of the LCMS investigated the purchase of the 20-year old YWCA Camp on West Lake Okoboji, and a year later the 29-acre Camp was purchased for \$15,000 in the name of the Iowa West Walther League Summer Camp Association. A Board of Directors

was soon formed, consisting of three pastors, one commissioned minister, and five laypersons.

In preparation for the camp dedication in 1940, all the existing cabins were repaired and painted dark brown with white trim, as they still remain today. Although World War II put many plans on hold, after the war, updates and additions to the camp really began to amp up with new buildings, more land purchased, and constant improvements being made and this still continues today.

In 1988, the spouses of the board members created the Camp Okoboji Auxiliary. The Auxiliary completes several projects each year, with their largest fundraising event being the annual Quilt Auction, which began in 1994.

The camp now operates year-round, with very few weekend dates left open throughout the entire year, even in the winter. Families, congregation boards, auxiliaries and other church groups utilize the camp, also business meetings, and weddings are just a few of the events that are held in the Camp's facilities. The 2 largest facilities, Bethel Retreat Center and Joppa Hall along with 13 smaller winterized units, allows for a winter sleeping capacity of approximately 290, and in the warmer season, the camp can handle 400+.

Camp Okoboji offers various summer camps for children, kindergarten through high school, family camps, and camps for those with developmental needs. Other events include Summer Sunday worship services, monthly Omelet Brunches (May - Oct.), and Winter Games Family Funfest.

Camp Okoboji has been blessed with dedicated service by volunteers and staff for all of its 80+ years of existence.

Please keep Camp Okoboji, it's staff and volunteers, and all those participating in camps this summer in your prayers.

If you would like more information you can go to their website www.campokoboji.org, where you will find registration and scholarship information for the camps, as well as various donation opportunities.