

Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp

July 2-7, 2023

July, 2-7, 2023 Hands In Praise had the wonderful experience of interacting with the young and old attending Family Camp plus the staff of Sky Ranch teaching a signing workshop and performing at the evening worships. Approximately 30 people attended the workshop and learned to sign "How Great Thou Art" and actually performed it with the choir at one evening worship.

So let us share this journey where we crossed from small towns and rural farms to the mountains and vistas by sharing the bridge we crossed on the path from cabin to the main pavilion. How awesome is it that the shadow cast on the bridge in the morning light is "a cross?"



These are the memories of camp, signing in outdoor and indoor settings. In the outdoor settings as we practiced our songs, it seemed the breeze blowing through the tree tops gave the illusion of swaying in praise to the music.

Other times, Colorado Columbines seemed to raise their petals in praise and the misty morning after a rain was a picture of "calm and peace."

The beauty of God's creations surrounded us the whole time we were there, even when it rained and puddles left footprints of moose.

Every time you looked down there was a rock shaped like a "heart" so you couldn't help but know God's love was surrounding you all the time. Even the puddle after the rain (center) was in the shape of a heart. His love was everywhere.

The Beliefs of Sky Ranch and Hands In Praise were a perfect match.

Beliefs of Sky Ranch

First and foremost - God eternally exists in three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; and these are one in nature, attributes and perfection.

Faith Statement of Hands In Praise

We believe there is only one God, who exists eternally in three persons, The Father, The Son and the Holy Spirit. We believe the Bible is the holy and infallible word of God. We believe that Jesus, who is incarnate, is the way, the truth, the life.





Four members of the choir were able to clear their calendars to attend Sky Ranch Family Camp July 2-7, 2023. Front: Barbara Hetzel and Chris Arbergast. Back: Elaine Mainwaring and Kathy Rickart.

Sunday - July 2, 2023 - At the worship Service we signed "**We All Bow Down.**" We introduced our songs with the theme "God is like.....Don't Be Afraid to Belong to God."

Video - **We All Bow Down**
<https://youtu.be/MKzzO-Rxe1k>

God is like Icy Hot for sore muscles - He works wonders. Let's praise him for the wonders He does for us with the song "**We All Bow Down.**"



Staff presented a visual of the three in one and how it can only be complete just the same as the three things that are needed to grow a plant (soil, water, seeds) - Father, Son, Holy Spirit - so too, we grow.



Camp means you are always starved. Just ask "River" Bekah Boatwright, Camp Director's one year old son. He was the best dinner bell ever. You heard him, you knew food was soon to appear. There was time for fellowship, visiting, card games, or time to relax and read or crochet.



Monday, July 3, 2023 the evening worship was at The Wilderness Campsite.



We came prepared with a portable electrical plug-in battery supply for our PA system that we had to carry to the various campsites.



Camp staff did the worship service and it was always great to see the creative ways they shared worship - music, flip carts, skits.

Video - ***Old Rugged Cross***:
<https://youtu.be/Rp936LpXork>



Jesus died on the cross for us. Nothing brings that message home more than the song, *The Old Rugged Cross*. **So don't be afraid to belong to God for God is like Hallmark Cards. He cares enough to send the very best.**

Tuesday, July 4, 2023 to keep spirits high on the cold and rainy day, "***You Are My King/Amazing Love***" with its upbeat tempo was perfect for worship in the Backpack Center. All chances of an outdoor services were next to none. The Backpack Center was rich with lively worship music and games the whole evening.



Video - ***You Are My King/Amazing Love:***
<https://youtu.be/yslBh95opc0>

In tonight's song we see His love is never ending and always there.
Don't be afraid to belong to God! God is like Scotch Tape. You can't see Him, but you know He is there.



Wednesday, July 5, 2023

The rain just wouldn't let up. But despite the rain some went on hikes and others participated in craft workshops like Tie Dying and Candle making.



The evening worship started at the Seattle Campsite with music and some great and really funny skits.



"Amazing Grace/My Chains Are Gone" was the song for the evening, but this video was lost, just like we get lost at times.

This was the fitting introduction for this song (in lieu of losing the video).

Sometimes we get in our own way in search for God. When we find the way again we feel the shackles have been taken off. **Don't be afraid to belong to God. God is like General Electric - He lights your path.**

Thursday, July 6, 2023

Memories of teaching the workshop "**Learning to Sign How Great Thou Art**" was our privilege and joy. The video link below is of the attendees of the workshop signing at one of the evening worships at the end of camp. We were truly amazed at those who made the attempt to learn the entire song (not just the chorus) during just 4 workshop sessions. That is a major accomplishment. Hats off to each of the participants.



Video: ***Workshop Attendees performing with choir "How Great Thou Art."***

<https://youtu.be/SHzJ6BLD72E>

Because it was the last night for some attendees, we also performed The Lord's Prayer. ***Many people pray as if God was Alka Selzer; they come to Him only when they hurt. Be not afraid to belong to God - every day - good ones and bad ones.***



The Lord's Prayer: <https://youtu.be/M77hplZD3dc>

Friday, July 7, 2023

What can we say on the last day? The sun was shining and we were thankful for the memories. Our closing song at the outdoor chapel was "***Give Thanks.***" It had been a wonderful week enjoying the beauty, making new friends, singing (Yes, singing, too) praises, learning and feeling God's love. ***So don't be afraid to belong to God. We wish you well wherever life's journey takes you. Remember God is like Allstate - You're in good hands.***



Thanks for the FRIENDSHIPS



Thanks for the WORSHIP SONGS



Thanks and LET HIM LIGHT YOUR PATH!



Good bye and may our paths meet again sometime.



Elaine



Barb



Chris



Kathy