

Please Note...

- No smoking in any buildings or porches. Designated areas: gazebo by Dining hall, shelters in front of Flower Dorms, picnic table in front of cabins.
- Alcohol is Not permitted on campus. Firearms must be locked in vehicles.
- Please do not move furniture/beds OR move mattresses outside. (Earplugs available)
- Please text/call any needs (forgot pillow/blanket, etc.) to 863-245-6854
Maintenance requests: fixit@lakeaurora.org
- **Need a ride?** Golf cart shuttles available in between sessions/workshops.
Please notify driver if you need a ride back after your drop off.
Please note: Rides end at 11 pm. No rides available after the Movie.
Transportation Coordinator: 863-855-8306
- Information table in the foyer of the dining hall for questions or first aid.
- High Ropes courses have 250 lb weight limit and must be able to have upper body strength.
- Bring your camp/lawn chair to workshops to guarantee seating.

thank you!

Evaluations

Please use the QR code for our online survey. We take your suggestions seriously and want to provide the type of retreat that benefits, encourages, and strengthens you as a Christian sister. Paper evaluation available.



Opportunities Ahead

Many opportunities are ahead for either you or someone you know...

- Camp Open House - May 21
- Camp Friendship - Special Needs - July 5-7, 2023
- SUMMER CAMP - May 30-August 4
- Mother/Daughter Retreat - October 6-7, 2023

Wi-Fi LAGuest
Password: 149600LA



Lake Aurora Christian Camp & Retreat Center
237 Golden Bough Road
Lake Wales, FL 33898
www.lakeaurora.org 863.696.1102



Lake Aurora Christian Camp
presents its **49th**

Annual Women's Retreat

2023



*Keynote
Speakers*

Wendy Fitzgerald
&
Rebee Leeman

April 21-22 & 22-23

Even if...

DANIEL 3:18

Welcome

Welcome to Lake Aurora Christian Camp; for many of you, this is your first time, and for others this is a yearly tradition. We are so grateful we can take time with our sisters in Christ again this year and know the Lord is here for us "Even If" the world around us is trying to tell us otherwise. We encourage you to take time to draw closer to Him during this time away.

This retreat – the speaker, workshop leaders, the prayer walk, the theme – is to help you to focus more on God and draw closer to Him. Our theme verse is "Even If God does not deliver us, we will serve no other god."

We have experienced so much negativity of late in the world, you could feel pulled in many directions or hear many telling you that God is not there for you. We want to encourage you during this retreat to push the negative thoughts aside and focus on your walk with the God that "Even If" it doesn't seem like He is present, He has promised that He will never leave us. Try to leave behind home issues, work situations, and the cell phone as God is longing to meet you here.

Remember, this is your retreat. You can do as much or as little as you would like, and only you and God know what you need the most. The campus of Lake Aurora is a place where you can take in the beauty and know that God has blessed the surroundings for you to enjoy.

In His grip,
2023 Women's Retreat
Planning Committee



Personal Program Planner

Day 1 (Friday/Saturday)

7:15 pm Option: _____

Location: _____

Late Night Option: _____

Day 2/3 (Saturday/Sunday)

9:45 am Workshop #1: _____

Location: _____

10:45 Workshop #2: _____

Location: _____

11:45 Play/Relaxation Option: _____

Location: _____

Don't miss 2024!

April 14-15, April 15-16

What an amazing opportunity to celebrate our 50th Women's Retreat with a mother/daughter legacy team. Betty Gray and Love Lockman also share family, faith, and legacy with the Lake Aurora ministry.

Betty and Love are individually sought after featured speakers for women's events and together they are a dynamic duo for Christ.

Betty Gray, director of Encourage Me Ministries, has traveled over three decades delivering Bible based messages that have changed many lives. Betty gets her points across with skillful use of humor and down-to-earth messages. She is an inspirational speaker and dramatist doing women of the faith characters using music, prayer and scripture to inspire.

Love Lockman grew up a silly, fun-loving, preacher's kid, more tomboy than refined debutante. She battles the learning disability dyslexia, and wasn't diagnosed until late into adulthood. This left her childhood and early adulthood riddled with insecurity, inferiority and shame. Having overcome the hardships of dyslexia, Love has morphed into a gifted, encouraging and highly requested Christian speaker and author. She is a crusader for restoring brokenness to beauty.

Mark your calendar for 2024!



Our thanks to...



Wendy Fitzgerald and Rebee Leeman

We are so blessed to have these two bring our keynote thoughts! Their insight, heart for Jesus, and delivery of the Word are on point!

Worship Leader: Tina Church and Bonnie Dorsey

This team of voices lifts us all in praise to our Father in unity!



- Our Workshop Leaders
- Our Play and Relaxation Personnel
- Our Craft and Activity Leaders
- Our Camp Personnel
- Stirring Waters Info Booth
- Natalie's Orchid Island Juice Co.
- Our Guest Bookstore....Kathryn's Christian Bookstore, Lake Wales



Our 2023 Women's Retreat Committee...

- Jolee Beamer, Lake Wales
- Kristen Beers, St. Cloud
- Anne Martinelli, Vero Beach
- Susan Prater, St. Cloud
- Tina Runnels, St. Cloud
- Cora Schwingel, Sebring (Chair)
- Tammy Weaver, Sarasota
- Lake Aurora liaisons: Emmalee Raigoza & Phyllis Bornemann



This year's Offering Goal.... \$10,000

The 2022 offering purchased a filtered water and ice dispenser for the beverage bar!

Our offerings help fulfil critical needs in our Food Serve and program areas. The last two year's projects (Double oven and water/ice machine) ended up costing quite a bit more than originally projected. Our hope is to cover the deficit of the cost from our operating funds. Our gifts also fund the annual music & video copyright licenses renewal.



Online Giving on our donation page...

Scan the QR code or

www.lakeaurora.org/donate/donate.html -Select "Designation- Other" and state "Women's Retreat" in Comment Section.

Your gift will be a blessing to thousands!



Enhancing Trust



Arrival Checklist

- Check in at the Redmon Ministry Center & receive name tag/meal ticket.
- Buy craft ticket(s) & Retreat T-shirts outside the Redmon Ministry Center.
- Locate your housing assignment, & get settled in. Please honor the bed assignments unless both parties agree to change. (Grace & Love!!)
- Plan your weekend (see schedule & options on page 3).
- Pray about and prepare for your offering gift. (see page 9).
- Enjoy, relax, and reflect on our Lord and His beautiful creation.
- Visit Kathryn's Christian Bookstore in Scrub Oak. See open hours on door.
- Take out a boat at Pt Aurora or take a dip at the waterfront.

During the Retreat:

- Please **ask questions if something is not clear.**
- Enter Dining Hall when doors open with clean hands and gracious heart. You will be dismissed by tables.
- Please sit according to housing unit or day use. Tables labeled.

Meal times: 6 pm, 7:45 am, 12:45 pm.

Prayer Requests:

If you have a specific need, please write it on the paper provided and place it in the prayer basket located inside the Dining Hall entrance. If you would like to pray for any of these requests or other needs, feel free to pick one up and pray over its needs.

Schedule Afternoon of Friday AND Saturday

- 3-5:30 pm Waterfront Open (Boats/Swimming)
Bookstore open - Scrub Oak Building (Lakeside)
- 4:00 pm **Check in Begins**
- 6:00 Dinner in the Dining Hall (Doors will open when ready)
- 6:50 Welcome
- 7:15-8:00 Workshop #1, Craft or Activity Opportunity
- 8:15 Worship, Main Session #1 in the Hillside Steel Tent
- 9:45 pm **Late Night Activities**
- Coffee House - Lower Deck (Lakeside)
 - Campfires- Lakeside & Hillside Lawn Chapel Ring
 - HayRide (last ride at 10:40 pm - p/u campfire ring)
 - Kathryn's Christian Bookstore- Scrub Oak Bldg.
 - Outdoor Movie: (Hillside Steel Tent) **No golf cart after 11pm**
 - Complimentary Snacks/Cold drinks - Circle Drive of Dining Hall

Midnight... Lights Out

If you like to laugh and have fun late at night, ***please be considerate*** of those who want to sleep. If you like to sleep, please be realistic of the fact that there are many women and only 75 acres... ***please respect those who have gone to bed earlier than you so they can respect you when they get up early.***

Day Two/Three (Saturday AND Sunday morning)

*Coffee available in the Dining Hall starting at 7 am

6:45 am Calm Stretching - Lakeside Steel Tent. Bring towel/mat.

7:15 am **Personal** Communion Opportunity

Pick up your individual communion in your housing unit.

If staying off campus, communion will be available at the Dining Hall entrance. Please find a quiet area to be with God.

Page 9 has some guiding thoughts.

7:45 Breakfast (**Offering gifts**)

8:30 Outdoor Worship and Main Session #2 (Hillside Steel Tent)

9:45-10:30 Workshop #2

10:45-11:30 Workshop #3

11:45 **Play or Relaxation Options**

- Coffee House - Lower Deck
- Craft or Activity Options (see page 4)
- Giant Swing (Ticket needed) or Double Zip (weight limitation of 250 lbs)
- Waterfront Swim, Disc Golf, Volleyball, Boats
- Kathryn's Christian Bookstore
- The Lake Aurora Camp logo T-shirt Shoppe

12:45 pm Lunch in the Dining Hall

1:30 Outdoor Praise & Worship - Hillside Steel Tent

Closing Prayer

Notes for Sessions



Notes for Sessions

Play and Relaxation Activity Choices

Coffee House (9:30 pm & 11:45 am) Lower Deck of Chapel (Lakeside)
 Bookstore - Kathryn's Christian Scrub Oak - See posted hours
 The Camp Store Lower Deck - 11:45 am/2 pm
 Craft Tickets- \$7 Check In & Dining Hall
 (after check-in)

● = See Pink circles on map for locations of Option activities

Crafts... \$7 fee (Fri/Sat) 7:15 pm & (Sat/Sun)- 11:45 am

Painting Project	Lower Deck (Lakeside below Chapel)
Prayer Journals	VG Gilbert Pavillion (Lakeside)
Bath Salts/Scrubs	Scrub Oak Shelter

Organized Activity Option...

(Fri/Sat) 7:15 pm and (Sat/Sun) 11:45 am

More than a Foot Soak \$7	Dining Hall Miller Patio
Archery	Behind Dining Hall Path
Light Workout	Blue Heron Shelter

Only Sat/Sun 11:45 am -

40ft Giant Swing	Downhill, East of the Office
Double Zipline	Cross brick patio of Dining Hall

(250 lb limit and closed toe shoes recommended)

Late Night Options

Late Night Movie & Snacks	Hillside Steel Tent & Dining Hall
Late Night Campfire	Lakeside/Hillside Lawn Rings
HayRide (last ride 10:40 pm)	Chapel Fire (one pick up area)

Please disembark after each ride to allow for as many as possible to enjoy.

Prayer Opportunities -

The 2023 **Prayer Walk** is located on **page 7**. **Feel free to walk the campus and stop at your favorite spots.** Prayer Basket in the Dining Hall if you desire to pray for another's specific need.

Women's '23 Retreat Shirts	At Check in/Dining Hall \$20
Waterfront Activities	Waterfront Swim Area/Pt Aurora

3:00-5:30 pm & 10 am-12:30 pm. "Swim at own risk"

Canoes/paddleboats/kayaks - please use a life jacket!

Late Night Movies...

Friday = "Mom's Night Out" (99 minutes, Comedy/Drama)

Friends need a short break from parenting duties and want to have a girls night together. However, in order for them to enjoy adult conversation and dining on food served on real plates instead of in paper bags, they have to rely on their husbands to watch the children for three hours. Everything that can go wrong, does, resulting in an unforgettable night for all involved.


Saturday = "Momsense" Anita Renfro (75 minutes, Comedy)

She has been described as a triple shot of espresso in a decaffe world, but there isn't a latte cup big enough to hold the party that Anita Renfro brings. Her inventive blend of musical comedy and inspiration leave audience with cheeks that hurt and hearts with humor and hope.

Kathryn's Christian Bookstore... Please take time to browse this local bookstore! Their time and commitment to bringing treasures for us to enjoy is greatly appreciated! Located just behind the dining hall towards the Lakeside campus in the Scrub Oak building.

Workshop Locations

Workshop 1 7:15-8:00 pm - Friday pm/Saturday pm
Workshop 2 9:45-10:30 am - Saturday am/Sunday am
Workshop 3 10:45-11:30 am - Saturday am/Sunday am

 See yellow circles on maps for workshop locations

“A Living Hope”- Bible Study

James/John Building (Hillside)

Sherri Stiles

A study of Romans 4:18-25 and Phillipians 4:11-14. Identifying the proven character of faith while relying on the strength of Christ for empowerment

Encouraging and Ministering Others

Big Oak lakefront of Dining Hall

Pam Davidson

Do you need: an energy drink, a shot in the arm, a pep talk, a hug or a piece of chocolate? Come to this session to be encouraged in our walk with Jesus. As sisters-in-Christ we know how difficult the battle can be. We need each other to help heal, and to hold on. In this session we revisit the marvelous tools God has provided for us. We win the battle through Him.

“Caregiving 101”

Quail’s Roost Shelter (Lakeside)

Brenda Taggart

The goal of this training is to help attendees appreciate the complex role of the family caregiver, provide them with an understanding of the impact caregiving has on their loved ones and themselves, and teach them the personal care training, self-care strategies, and record keeping skills needed to excel as caregivers.

“Firm Foundations”

Lakeside Steel Tent

Deedy Tripp

How’s your faith? Are you standing firm? Isaiah 7:9b says, “If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all.” What was the secret behind Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego’s ability to stand firm in their faith, Even If? Look at the practices that prepared them, and the steps you can take to be prepared for the hard times facing you.

“Focus on Victory”

Eagle’s Perch Shelter (Lakeside)

Sally Guy

When we focus our hearts and minds on Jesus we find that our needs become what He wants for us, not what we want for us. Come delve into God’s word and we will share how the road to victory in Jesus often seems to be paved with difficulties that are really blessings in disguise. When Jesus is our focus the race has already been run, the battle is over, and the victory is already won... YOU ARE VICTORIOUS!

“Shattered Expectations”

Chapel- upper level (Lakeside)

Jill McGaffigan

The path of life does not always end up in the direction or destination that we intended and our response may be anger, sadness, confusion, resignation, or all of the above. We may turn to God for resolution or we may complicate matters by handling disappointment in our own way. Offers of Biblical insights that can help mend the devastated heart that has experienced shattered expectations.

Canopy High Ropes Challenge

Sat/Sun morning

“Ticket” pre-sign up activity. Option to workshops only. 40 ft eight sided high ropes course with 350 ft zipline dismount. *Weight limit: 250 lbs - need closed toe shoes.*

Notes for Sessions

Communion Thoughts

by Cora Schwingel

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered King Nebuchadnezzar, "Your threat means nothing to us. If you throw us in the fire, the God we serve can rescue us from your roaring furnace and anything else you might cook up, O king. But even if he does not, it would not make a bit of difference, O king. We still would not serve your gods or worship the gold statue you set up."

Daniel 3:16-18



Communion kits in housing areas and Dining Hall Foyer

One Saturday morning in January, my husband received a phone call from our Children's Director. As she finished her grocery shopping, she began to feel weak. After checking out, putting her groceries in her car, and getting in the driver's seat, she realized that she could not/should not drive home. My husband quickly went to Publix and found that she was very lethargic and unable to get out of her car and into his. He called 911, and the ambulance was there within minutes. He followed the ambulance to the hospital and called me to start praying. In the emergency room, they ran tests and immediately started medication for a stroke. When the tests returned, they discovered she had an aortic tear and was bleeding internally. The medication they gave her for a stroke made the bleeding worse. They almost lost her twice before airlifting her to Tampa. She was coherent enough to give the surgeon permission to do the 7-hour surgery. People around the world began praying for her. Her parents started a 400-mile drive. Her brother boarded a plane in Houston. Her best friend traveled from Tennessee. Everyone waited anxiously for the outcome of the surgery.

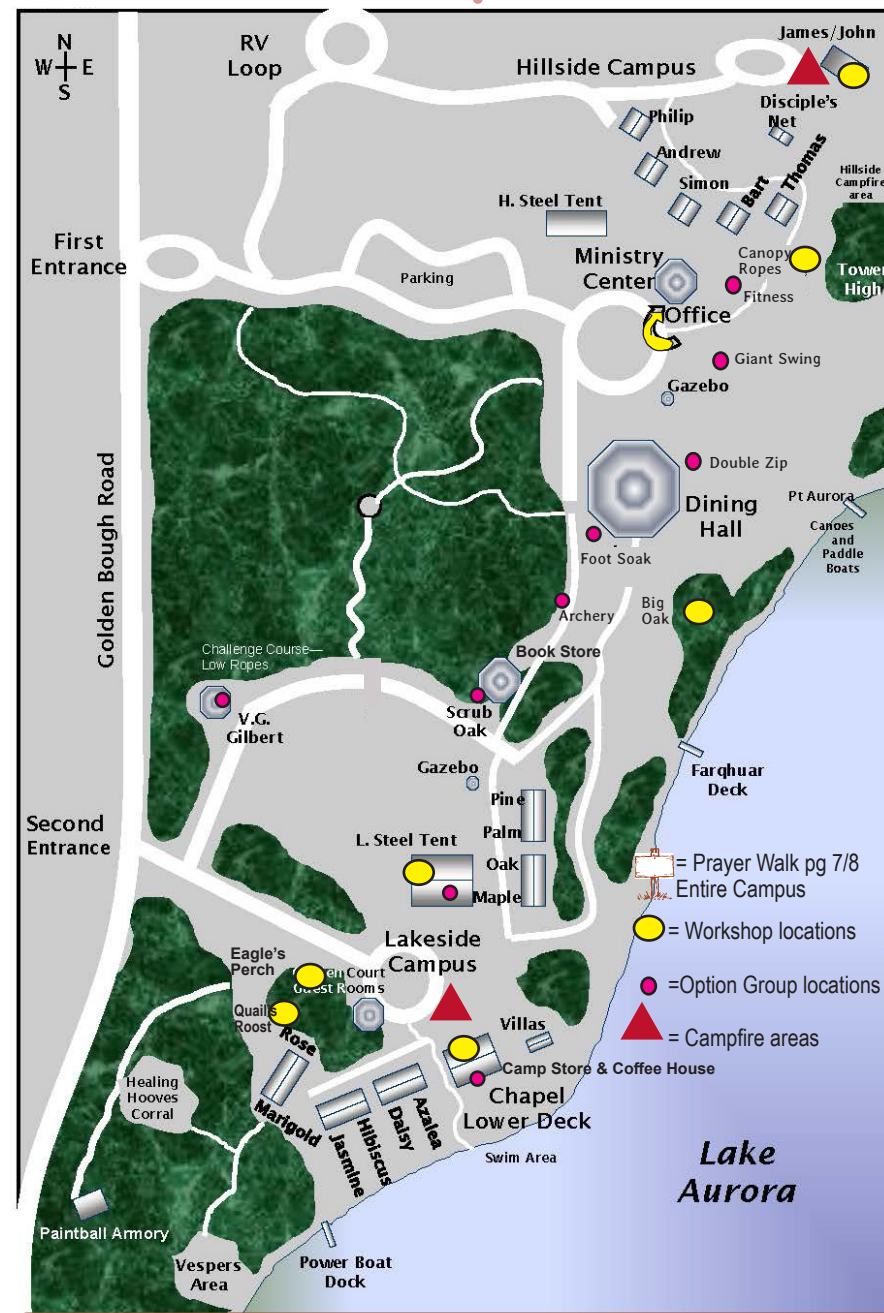
We knew she was a faithful servant of the Lord and He would bring her through. But EVEN IF He did not, she was ready!

Three weeks later, her parents decided if she did not wake up, they would take her off all life support. They believed God would cause her to wake up. But EVEN IF He did not, they would still praise Him!

Now after three months and four surgeries, she has begun physical therapy, and she believes God will enable her to walk again. But EVEN IF He does not, she will not blame Him.

She looks forward to the day when she recovers fully, and God restores her to her children's ministry. But EVEN IF He does not, and EVEN IF she cannot serve the same way as before, she will still serve her Lord and Savior. Stand firm on your faith, EVEN IF God does not do what you want Him to.

Lake Aurora Map



If you have an immediate need regarding the facilities, or an emergency, feel free to contact any of the Lake Aurora staff. You may also text/call 863-245-6854 or 863-528-9360. Golf Cart shuttles will run between workshops and sessions for those with walking disabilities. Please notify drivers for specific needs.



Prayer Walk

By Anne Martinelli



Use the thoughts that follow on your own prayer path through campus.

Move to **your favorite spots** with each number and spend time in the Word.

Begin by reading Daniel 3. Pray that you worship and obey, "even if."

#1

To begin, Daniel 3:12 has Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (SMA) refusing to serve Nebuchadnezzar's (Neb) gods or his gold statue and in v.16 telling Neb they don't need to defend themselves before him. God may put authorities in our lives that we are to respect due to their positions, that doesn't mean they are worthy of our worship. SMA immediately answer with no hesitation. They had predetermined their loyalty and conviction to God.

"In other words you have already answered the question in your own heart and mind about whether anything could make you turn away from Him. Could any circumstance (such as an unhealed disease, unanswered prayer, loss of a loved one, an incarceration in a country where Christianity is illegal or other situations) make you renounce your faith in Christ?" - Beth Moore

Pray to stand firm in your conviction to follow Christ and defend your faith.

#2

In Daniel 3:17-18 we see SMA acknowledge that God is ABLE to deliver them and WILLING to save them.

Many years ago I studied Beth Moore's DANIEL. One thing stuck in my mind about how God responds to our trials is this (All from her study). There are 3 scenarios when people of God face a fiery trial.

- 1) Gods delivers us FROM the fire
Ex. Cancer just gone
Our faith is built.
- 2) God delivers us THROUGH the fire
Ex. Cancer is gone after treatment
Our faith is refined
John 11:4, 1 Peter 1:6-7, Is. 48:10-11
- 3) God delivers us BY fire INTO His arms
Ex. Death results from disease, conviction
Our Faith is perfected.
Heb. 12:1-2, James 1:12

Pray to accept God's will for your deliverance in your trials.

#3

What are our fiery trials?

- Suffering - disease, physical or psychological pain
- Loss of a loved one, divorce, expectations
- Standing up for our faith in Christ
- Failure
- Consequences of our own actions or decisions

How can we deal with these trials?

Different people have different ways of processing suffering and trials. First and foremost-RUN to the Father. Be open and honest with God in prayer. It's ok to question why or how long. David often expressed his fear, anger and grief in the Psalms, but then he shifted his mindset to God's holiness and faithfulness. In John 16:33 Jesus tells us that in this world we will have trouble. God answers our prayers. He can make a way out of no way. He is still God.

Pray to always run to the Father first.

#4

Another way to deal with trials is to make sure you have a relationship with God beforehand, strong in the good times. Knowing the comfort of the Holy Spirit can bring us out, strengthen us, give us backbone and tenacity. The Holy Spirit can bring scripture and songs of encouragement to our minds. The ministry of community can encourage us through prayers and uplifting conversations with Christians who remind us who Jesus is, that He is still God and will keep his promises. It is sometimes necessary to accept that the only way is through it.

Be available for your friends in trials.

Pray for them now.

#5

After you have come out on the other side of trials, be thankful and remember that Jesus was the "4th man" with you in the fire. In Daniel 3:26 Neb orders SMA to come out of the furnace. So they stepped out. So we step out and give God the glory. Let others know that God was with you, He sustained you, and gave you strength to walk through it. Be an example, comforting and encouraging others who are suffering trials you have been through.

Pray your testimony can glorify God and encourage those around you.

Pray for God to send those sisters to you.



Additional verses for reflection:

- 2 Timothy 4:18
- Romans 8:38-39
- Job 36:15
- Psalms 34:19
- 1 Corinthians 1:10

Credit due:

- Beth Moore's study of Daniel.
- "The Other Side of Suffering" a TBN video featuring Chrystal Evans Hurst, Victoria Osteen, Priscilla Shirer, Laurie Crouch and Elaine Fisher

