

# 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.) and maintenance requests to 863-264-9018
- **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.**  
**Transportation Coordinator: 863-350-3697**
- Information table in the foyer of the dining hall & Oak Hammock 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

We appreciate your input and want to provide the type of retreat that benefits, encourages, and strengthens you as a Christian sister.

## Opportunities Ahead

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

- Camp Open House - April 27
- Camp Friendship - Special Needs - June 29-July 1
- SUMMER CAMP - June 2 - August 2

Wi-Fi LAGuest  
Password: 149600LA



**Lake Aurora Christian Camp & Retreat Center**  
237 Golden Bough Road  
Lake Wales, FL 33898  
[www.lakeaurora.org](http://www.lakeaurora.org) 863.696.1102



**Lake Aurora**  
CHRISTIAN CAMP

presents the

**51<sup>st</sup>  
women's  
Retreat**

# created

EPHESIANS 2:10

April 4-5 & 5-6

Connecting  
creativity and faith

Keynote speaker:

**Kelly  
Brinkmann**  
Author & Artist



# created

Ephesians 2:10

## Welcome

Welcome to Lake Aurora Christian Camp. For many of you, this is your first time; for others, it is a yearly tradition that has been going strong for 50 years! All were planned by a group of volunteer women from our supporting churches. It is time to relax and be rejuvenated in your relationship with the Lord. You have been 'CREATED' for a purpose; we have prayed for you to precisely realize what that means for you. The strength of these retreats is that they encourage you to draw closer to Him during your time away.

This retreat is about more than just the speakers, workshop leaders, or the theme. It's about your personal walk with God and taking time to seek His purpose. Our theme verse, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared for us to do." Ephesians 2:10

As you step away for a few days, try to leave behind home issues, work situations, and the cell phone, as God wants to meet you here.

Remember, this is your retreat. You can engage as much or as little as you'd like, guided by your personal needs and the whisperings of God in your heart. The campus of Lake Aurora, with its serene beauty and tranquil surroundings, is a perfect place to reflect, recharge, and feel the peace that comes from knowing that God has blessed this space for your enjoyment.

In His grip,  
2025 Women's Retreat  
Planning Committee



## Personal Program Planner

### Friday evening/Saturday evening Options

7:15 pm Option: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

### Saturday morning/Sunday morning Workshops/Option

9:45 am Workshop #1: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

10:45 Workshop #2: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

11:45 Play/Relaxation Option: \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

### Coming 2026! April 10-11 & 11-12

Welcome back, Leigh-Angela Holbrook! She inspired us in 2022 as our keynote speaker, and we couldn't wait to have her back. Leigh-Angela's presentations move us—to laugh, to cry, and to remember.

She's not just a speaker - she creates moments. These moments are designed to help women feel a deep connection to the truths of Scripture.

Her desire is that the retreat will have you feeling valued, uplifted, and ready to live with purpose and joy.

Leigh-Angela is no stranger to Lake Aurora! As a Florida Christian College student (Johnson University, FL), she served on numerous camp teams, impacting lives for Christ!

She is now a Speaker, Life Coach, Christ Follower, husband's biggest fan, and lover of all things horse. She calls Tennessee home.



We are overjoyed for Leigh-Angela's return to Lake Aurora!

## Our thanks to...



### Kelly Brinkmann

We are grateful for the creative presentations and inspiration Kelly brings to our event as we celebrate our Creator and being 'created'.

### Worship Leader:

Jennifer Smith and  
Friends from Dade City  
Christian Church.



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

### Our 2025 Women's Retreat Committee...

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

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

The 2024 offering funded half the cost of the new dining room tables and a gracious anonymous donor funded the remaining half for a total cost funded of \$23K. Praise the Lord!!!

Continuing our tradition of funding the needs of the Food Service and program areas, we need to purchase green replacement chair shells that are cracking. We need to replace 100 chairs. We are also replacing tableware (plates, cups, flatware, bowls) Thank you for prayerfully considering your gift.



Online Giving on our donation page...  
Scan the QR code or  
[www.lakeaurora.org/donate/donate.html](http://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 Dining Hall.
- 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 13).
- 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 as doors open and be seated. **You will be dismissed by tables.** Outdoor seating also available. Salad is at the end of hot bars. Prayer of blessing at each table.
- Open Seating in Dining Hall. Please make room for new friends. Additional outdoor seating on the Miller Patio to the south
- Ice and water will be on Dining Hall porch mid-morning and afternoon.

**Meal times: 6:15 pm, 7:30 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 Oak Hammock foyer. 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 with Craft, Activity, and T-shirt Selections
- 6:00 Welcome in the **NEW OAK HAMMOCK**
- 6:20 Dinner in the Dining Hall (Doors will open when ready)
- 7:15-8:00 Bible Study, Craft or Activity Opportunity
- 8:15 Worship, Main Session #1 in the Oak Hammock
- 9:45 pm Late Night Activities
- Coffee House - Lower Deck (Lakeside)
  - Campfires- Lakeside & Hillside Lawn Chapel Rings
  - HayRide (last ride at 10:40 pm - p/u campfire ring)
  - Kathryn's Christian Bookstore- Scrub Oak Bldg.
  - Complimentary Snacks/Cold drinks - Oak Hammock

### 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.**

## Morning of Saturday and Sunday

- 6:45 am Calm Stretching - Lakeside Steel Tent. Bring towel/mat.
- 7:00 am Early Coffee available in the Oak Hammock
- 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 & Oak Hammock foyer. Please find a quiet area to be with God.*  
*Page 11 has some guiding thoughts.*
- 7:30 Breakfast (**Offering gifts**)
- 8:30 Worship and Main Session #2 (Oak Hammock)
- 9:45-10:30 Workshop #1
- 10:45-11:30 Workshop #2
- 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 (Scrub Oak)
  - The Lake Aurora T-shirt Shoppe (Lower Deck)
- 12:45 pm Lunch in the Dining Hall
- 1:30 Outdoor Praise & Worship - Hillside Steel Tent  
Closing Prayer

**Retreat 1 Only participants...** please clear housing units by 2:30 so we may get ready for new guests of Retreat 2.

# Communion Thoughts

Luke 22:7-27

by Jolee Beamer

Communion kits in  
housing areas  
and Dining Hall Foyer



We all have ideas that come to mind when we hear the word, communion. It's a practice many of us have participated in on a regular basis, while others have rarely or never participated. By definition, "communion is the act or instance of sharing." (Merriam-Webster) As a child, I always enjoyed the salty piece of bread and sweet juice, and I did my best to understand its meaning. As an adult, growing in my relationships with God and others, I've come to a deeper understanding of this special sacrament.

I was blessed to have a family that actually liked each other, so family dinners were quite common and enjoyable! My husband had a different experience in childhood: while his immediate family was close, much of the extended family were heavy drinkers, so family gatherings were usually briefly visited. When we married, it was odd for him to experience family that enjoyed each other's company! Think back to a few "table" experiences in your life... What made them good? What made them bad? I'm sure if you look back, you'll see a common theme of unity or disunity in those stories. These table experiences have shaped your thoughts on communion. WordPress.com says it well: "...What does community have to do with communion? Much in every way. The early church community broke bread from house to house...The word 'companion' is an interesting word. It comes from two Latin and French words 'Com' means 'with' and 'Panion' means 'bread'. A companion is one with whom we share bread, or share a meal. It says that these are people who put their feet under the same table...These are people who put their elbows on the same table and are in communication with each other."

When Jesus gathered His disciples for the first communion, He broke bread and shared wine with men he had spent years getting to know - and what an eclectic group! Of the twelve, two included a tax collector (Matthew) and a Zealot (Simon). The Zealots HATED tax collectors and violently opposed them. Then add Judas, who would betray Jesus, and Peter, who would deny Jesus, into the mix - it was a recipe for disaster, and that's only four of them! They even started an argument at the Last Supper! BUT GOD. He knew that sharing a meal with someone changed the game. I'm sure many times these men shared a table together, each time learning more about each other and their Rabbi, the Son of God. The days would be coming where their faith would be tested more than they had ever imagined, but they wouldn't have to do it alone.

Do you sometimes feel like you're facing the world alone? Like, you KNOW you have Jesus - but your feelings just don't line up? When was the last time you broke bread with other women in genuine community? Not just a girls night out, but actually connected to each other, confessed your sins to one another, shared each other's burdens, but also each other's joys? Even Jesus didn't face trials alone. He purposefully gathered a bunch of broken men to share with. Surely you know a few broken women? How can you begin to create a community built on love and Truth? I humbly suggest it takes a table; it takes being vulnerable; it takes being real.

It can be very scary to let others know the real you. But it begins with letting God see the real you. Yes, He KNOWS the real you - but we arrogantly think we are hiding our dirty parts from Him. Sister, He knows, and He still loves you... He even died for you! Share your heart with Him. Pour out what you've been holding back. **As you take the bread and the juice, remember - His body was broken so yours could be made whole. He set up a new covenant so you could commune with Him. Taste and see that the Lord is good. (Psalm 34:8 NLT)**

## LAKE AURORA MAP



If you have an immediate need regarding the facilities, or an emergency, feel free to contact Lake Aurora staff by text/call 863-264-9018. Golf Cart shuttles will run between workshops and sessions for those with walking disabilities. Please notify drivers for specific needs.

# PLAY & RELAXATION ACTIVITY CHOICES

Coffee House (9:30 pm & 11:45 am) Lower Deck of Chapel (Lakeside)  
 Oak Hammock Hospitality Bar  
 Bookstore - Kathryn's Christian Scrub Oak - See posted hours  
 The Camp Store Lower Deck - 11:45 am/2 pm  
 Craft Tickets- \$7 Dining Hall Porch & Foyer  
 ● = See RED circles on map for locations of Option activities  
**Crafts...\$7 fee (Fri/Sat) 7:15 pm & (Sat/Sun)- 11:45 am**  
 FIMO Clay Project Lower Deck (Lakeside below Chapel)  
 Wall Hanging VG Gilbert Pavillion (Lakeside)  
 Modge Podge Flower Pot Lakeside Chapel - Studio B  
 Leather Craft Scrub Oak Shelter (Lakeside)

## Organized Activity Option...

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

More than a Foot Soak \$7 Oak Hammock South Porch  
 Archery Behind Dining Hall Path  
**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 for high ropes)**

## Late Night Options

Late Night Snacks Oak Hammock Sidewalk  
 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 2025 Prayer Journey is located on page 9. **Feel free to walk the campus and stop at your favorite spots.** New paths through woods.

**Women's '25 Retreat Shirts** 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!

### 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. They're only here for our women's retreats. Actual store located downtown Lake Wales at 205 Park Ave.

Colossians 3:23 tells us to work willingly at what you do. Be a light in dark places. Show up and give your best because we work for God. This means jobs, schools, grocery stores, restaurants, and especially our homes.

I Thessalonians 4:11-12 tells us to live our lives to win the respect of outsiders.

So, everywhere you go, make an impact, add value, and give 100%. This will earn you the respect of others, and they will listen to you when you share your faith.

### #4

Carry out Ministry  
 Ephesians 2:10: "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." See that - prepared in advance - a purpose!

Why do so many of us think ministry only takes place in the church? Yikes! If that were the case, how would anyone ever come to Jesus? Jesus was intentional in his ministry, and most of it took place out-side the "church."

Ryan Leak used this verse to talk about ministry. In Colossians 4:17, Paul says, "Tell Archippus, See to it that you complete the ministry you have received in the Lord" NIV. In this letter, he was called out by name! Imagine being in church, and the preacher called you out - "Be sure to carry out the ministry the Lord God gave you" NLT

There it is again - the ministry the Lord gave you - purpose! Is there ministry to be done in churches? Absolutely! Ask every children's director if they couldn't use more workers in the kid's ministry!!

God has given us different talents, gifts,

financial circumstances, available time, and circles of friends and acquaintances. Ministry big and small, inside the church and out, kindness to be doled out, and people to help and love. One of the ways I've added more ministry to my life is to say YES. Not necessarily to long-term commitments but to little everyday things. Can you babysit? Yes! Can you make a meal for someone? Yes! Can you drive someone to the doctor? Yes! Can you spend extra time with someone? Yes! Can you tip your server a little extra? Yes!

What can you say yes to? Make a list of ways you can minister - It's longer than you think!!!

### #5

What have you been through that can help someone else break through?

We have all experienced things that have tested our faith, grown our faith, and even wrecked our faith for a time. Is there a purpose in that season of your life? It can be used in ministry to others.

I lost my husband 1 1/2 years ago (I still can't believe it some days). Finding purpose in this new season of my life is difficult. One of the things I said YES to is helping facilitate the Divorce Care class at our church. And I haven't even been divorced. But divorce and the loss of a spouse to death have some parallels. My husband had been divorced, so we have experience with an ex and a blended family. I have facilitated classes before. In taking this on, I have gained new perspectives and empathy for those in divorce situations and can share Christ's love. So even when you think you might not have anything to offer - think again. God might see it differently!

Where can you use your past experiences to minister to others?

# Prayer Journey

By Anne Martinelli

# created

EPHESIANS 2:10



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

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

This year, our theme is “Created.” So why were we created, and what is our purpose? Let’s explore these ideas.

## #1

Created for God’s Glory

Isaiah 43:7 “...everyone who is called by my name, whom I have created for my glory, whom I formed and made.” NLT.

This verse gives us the very reason why we’re here... for his glory. He didn’t make us his playthings but to provide Him with glory, to make Him known. Not to make ourselves known or more famous - but Him. It’s why He created the universe and all that’s in it - to reflect that glory.

This next part is drawn from *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren. What is God’s glory? “It is who God is. It is the essence of His nature, the weight of His importance, the radiance of His splendor, the demonstration of His power, and the atmosphere of His presence.”

Proverbs 16:4, Romans 11:36

Where is the glory of God? Everywhere  
Rev. 21:23, Psalm 19:1

## #2

God’s glory is best seen in Jesus - Hebrews 1:3  
We are called to “recognize his glory, honor his glory, declare his glory, praise his glory, reflect his glory, and live for his glory”. Why? Because God deserves it. Rev. 4:11a

We bring glory -

- by loving others: Romans 15:7, John 13:34-35,
- by becoming like Christ: 2 Cor. 3:18
- by serving others with our gifts: 1 Peter 4:10-11
- by telling others about Him: 2 Cor. 5:6
- by worshiping God: 1 Chronicles 16:29, Ps. 29:2, Rev. 15:4

## #3

So now we need to lean into that purpose. How do we live out giving God glory? This next idea comes from a sermon by Ryan Leak.

Go everywhere with purpose. 1 Corinthians 10:31 says, “So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”  
At a youth conference, one of our students made up a little song: “I’m picking up trash for Jesus...” (Add your own tune—I’m not musical).

## Workshop Descriptions/Locations

Workshop 1 9:45-10:30 am - Saturday am/Sunday am  
Workshop 2 10:45-11:30 am - Saturday am/Sunday am

### “He is the Potter” Romans 9- Bible Study Lakeside Chapel (Lakeside #1)

Sherri Stiles

It is all God’s choice, and everything depends on His Mercy and Grace. Our part is to be the clay- have faith and surrender. For we are His workmanship, created in CHRIST JESUS for good works, which GOD prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

### “Created... to Trust” Lakeside Steel Tent #4

Jenni Littiken Wood

God doesn’t promise us an easy life, but He does promise to be with us through the ups and downs. In this workshop, we’ll look at practical ways to nurture and deepen our trust in God, whether on the mountain, in the valley, or somewhere in between.

### “Created...For His Glory” Eagle’s Perch Shelter (Lakeside #3)

Kellie Spencer

This breakout session will focus on embracing our true purpose—being created for His glory. Sometimes, we may feel like imposters, questioning our worth or place. But the truth is, we are designed with divine intention to reflect His greatness. In this session, we’ll explore how our lives are meant to glorify one person—Jesus—and how embracing that truth can free us from the pressure of living for anyone else’s approval. Let’s uncover the freedom of living fully for God and His glory!

## To help find your way...

See Numbered yellow circles on map for workshop locations

### “Created... To connect; using your story for God’s glory” Quail’s Roost-(Lakeside #2) Kimberly Mitchell

We all have a story, but many of our stories are messy. Yet, sometimes, the messiest stories make for the most meaningful messages! Let your light shine, and learn how to use your story to connect with others and encourage a deeper connection with Christ. You will be involved, enlightened, and inspired by the finer points of using your story for God’s glory.

### “Created...To Be Still and Listen” Hillside Steel Tent (Hillside #5) Pam Davidson

“Do you ever feel like your batteries are running low or out of power? No time to recharge or even catch your breath? Join us as we examine God’s plan for “taking a break.” We’ll share ideas for recharging our spiritual lives.”

### “Created...For the Next Season” James/John Building (Hillside #6) Jill McGaffigan

Like the regularity of the seasons in nature, there is some predictability in each phase of life. But, like the seasons, there are unique elements, seemingly arbitrary and sometimes quite frightening. We will look at how we can be a Light for Jesus even in the strangest aspects of our lives. Afterall, we were created for this!

### Canopy High Ropes Challenge (Hillside #7) Sat/Sun MORNINGS LACC Staff

“Ticket” pre-sign up activity. Option to workshops only. 40 ft 13 sided high ropes course with 350 ft zipline dismount. Weight limit: 250 lbs - need closed toe shoes. Limit to 20 participants per session. Offered only during morning Workshop times.

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