



Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp, Inc.

Wapo • Wilderness Canoe Base • Ox Lake

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Congregational Report 2018

Thank you for being an Association Member Church! We cherish our role as an extension of the ministry that happens in your congregation. We are thankful for your partnership and support in 2018, and look forward to an exciting year of ministry in 2019. Here are some highlights from 2018 that we lift up with grateful hearts:

Continued investment in the infrastructure at Ox Lake. The road through the site has been widened and staged for future growth. A 2nd new cabin was constructed at the 2nd village in order to accommodate a growing high school program. Electricity has been run out to the 2nd village which will enhance food service, our first aid office and cabin/bathroom spaces.

The Stillwater cabin renovation. A \$60,000 renovation is happening in the Stillwater cabin at Wilderness Canoe Base. Exterior work has been completed, and interior work will continue over these next snowy months. We are eager to extend hospitality in this newly renovated space by late spring of this year. We are grateful for the financial gifts and volunteer hours in order to make this project happen.

The ½ way point of our Gather Capital campaign. We are nearly at the half way point of our \$3 million campaign for a new Dining Hall & Hospitality center at Wapo. We are so excited about the project and the positive impact it will have on people and programs for generations to come. Please prayerfully consider how you might be able to financially support this important project. Learn more at gatheratwapo.org.

Rooted & Renewed. Wilderness has launched this fundraising project in order to close the \$300,000 gap left from our Renewal campaign to purchase the property, and also includes \$100,000 to be used towards essential maintenance projects in the Cove. If you'd like to learn more, please contact Nathan Berkas at nathanb@campwapo.org.

Summer Campers & Retreat Guests. We continue to be amazed by the number of people who choose to come to Ox Lake, Wilderness Canoe Base and Wapo Bible Camp. We served around 6,800 summer participants, and another 10,000 retreat and special guests. Now more than ever, we believe kids and adults need this time away in these sacred spaces, with abundant fellowship opportunities in order to remember to Whom we belong.

Financial Gifts We are thrilled that people continue to support this ministry through gracious financial gifts. We couldn't do it without you. If you'd like to learn more about ways you can support camp through estate planning, monthly giving, or campaign gifts please contact Jen Hellie at jenh@campwapo.org

Strengthening relationships with congregations – We are pleased to welcome **Elizabeth Schoenknecht** as the Director of Major Gifts & Congregational Engagement. Elizabeth has served in professional ministry for over 20 years and she is no stranger to outdoor ministry. She grew up attending and working at Luther Park in Chetek WI and credits her camp experience as one that directly influenced her vocational path. We are thrilled to have someone in this role to engage in new and unique ways with our partner congregations and with donors.

Welcome! Here are a few other new faces we've welcomed to the team in 2018. **Melanie Burch** (accounting), **Jenny Stewart** (accounting), **Noah Ackermen** (guest services), **Cole Birkliid** (guest services)

We look ahead with eager anticipation and a sure sense of hope. Our 2019 theme is "Claimed! Wildly Loved by God". We can't wait to see how this lives out at camp. Isaiah 43:1 reads "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name, you are mine." We have a mighty Savior who knows us well... a Savior who will relentlessly and wildly love us. No matter what! We hope you can join us at one of our sites in 2019.