



# Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp, Inc.

Wapo • Wilderness Canoe Base • Ox Lake

738 Hickory Point Ln Amery WI 54001 715.268.8434 [campwapo.org](http://campwapo.org)

## Congregational Report 2019

**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 2019, and look forward to an exciting year of ministry in 2020. Here are some highlights from 2019 that we lift up with grateful hearts:

**Summer Campers & Retreat Guests.** Our three sites served around 7,500 summer participants, and another 9,500 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.

**Continued investment in the infrastructure at Ox Lake.** New activity options, electricity at the 2<sup>nd</sup> village, and a new canteen are some of the exciting upgrades for Ox Lake. Plans are in the works for another new cabin, new bathrooms, and a new well and septic.

**Wilderness Canoe Base.** It was a full summer at Wilderness and we also added some new late summer/fall groups as well. The renovation of the Stillwater cabin at Wilderness Canoe Base is nearly complete and it is beautiful! This renovated space will offer gracious hospitality for our year-round guests. The Rooted & Renewed campaign has raised \$242,000 for Renewal and upgrades for the Cove. We hope to reach the \$400,000 goal in 2020. If you'd like to learn more, please contact Nathan Berkas at [nathanb@campwapo.org](mailto:nathanb@campwapo.org).

**The Gather campaign for a new Dining Hall and Hospitality Center at Wapo.** We have reached the 2/3 point of the \$3 million campaign. We are 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. Help us finish strong! Learn more at [gatheratwapo.org](http://gatheratwapo.org).

**Financial Gifts.** We are humbled and blessed by 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 us at [campwapo@campwapo.org](mailto:campwapo@campwapo.org) or 715-268-8434.

**Leadership Transition.** It is with gratefulness for his service, that we have accepted the resignation of Luke Halverson. Luke has served faithfully in his role as Director of Program and Operations for Wapo and Ox Lake for the past 13 years. We were incredibly blessed with his leadership and his commitment toward our mission and the creation of so many opportunities for kids to learn about their faith and Jesus. Luke will be greatly missed as he moves on to his next adventure. At this same time, we want to welcome our Interim Program Director, Pastor Jeff Barrow. Please keep both Luke and Jeff in your prayers during this time of transition.

**Youth Protection Document.** LWLBC has the primary purpose of providing opportunities for children to discover, build, and celebrate their relationships with Christ, the church and each other. We are passionate about proclaiming the good news of Jesus to kids in safe spaces. We are creating and implementing a Youth Protection policy, adding substantial training for year round and summer staff, updating all employee manuals, and making significant improvements to our Incident reporting procedures. We will be diligent in every effort to ensure the safety of all campers – with no exceptions.

**American Camp Association (ACA).** All three of our sites met and/or exceeded ACA standards to achieve accreditation again in 2019. Our organization has held this accreditation for over 20 years. ACA standards cover a broad range of topics; administration, hiring, risk management, sites and facilities, specialized programs, program goals, safe spaces, food services, health services and much more. Please visit [acacamps.org](http://acacamps.org) for more information about this valuable organization.

**Our theme for 2020 is HopeFULL: God's Unwavering Promise.** Romans 15:13 says "May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit". Amidst the details, challenges and distractions in life, it can sometimes be difficult to find hope. But God's abounding love transforms our difficulties into beautiful stories of grace and forgiveness. We are **HopeFULL** because we hold steadfast to God's promises in Christ Jesus.

We look ahead with eager anticipation and a sure sense of hope.