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We have such a good story to tell



Heather Eggert, Executive Director

"Let us pray for the grace to never grow tired of drawing from the well of the Father's mercy and bringing it to the world." —Pope Francis

It's May! And our sites are aflutter with activity. Spring retreaters, environmental education school groups, and all kinds of commotion in getting our sites physically readied to welcome thousands of summer guests.

Summer elicits many images in our minds; time by the lake, long, sunny, warm days, garden delights, vacation time with family. We pack a lot of expectations and happenings into our summer months. But I've come to know summer as the Season of Hope.

Honestly, if you ever feel yourself doubting that goodness resides in this world, you just get yourself out to camp. We feel beyond blessed to witness and participate in these moments: Whether it's being caught up in the spirit and movement of 400+ people in a lively worship at Wapo, or hearing canoe groups talk in reverence and excitement about their wicked portage or regale the majesty of the wilderness they maneuvered through, or hearing the conversations and questions about faith and life and God and goodness and purpose from kids in their cabin groups... the list just goes on and on.

These young people, and their gigantic capacity for hopes and dreams and faith and love spring to life in the midst of a camp experience. It's Church and Spirit and Holy Spaces and God moving in the midst of it all. It's nearly the Season of Hope, folks! We have a bright and unwavering future in the hope and promise of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Consider how you might be a part of our Season of Hope. Pray for us, come out and visit us, become a financial supporter of camp, spend some time with a young person in your house or church or community, and ask them about their life & faith. You will be blessed.

In just a matter of weeks, our camps will be filled with eager young adults who've decided to spend the summer working with us. They will spend 2+ weeks undergoing the appropriate training to carry out the enormous task in front of them. They will laugh and cry and sing and question and ponder and play and grapple. And it will be wonderful.

We know that whatever joys and challenges await all of us – that there is an ample and ever-present well of God's grace and mercy. It will cover every mistake, allow for forgiveness and tenderness to show up, and bless all those who come into contact with it. Let us pray for the grace to never grow tired of drawing from the well of the Father's mercy and bringing it to the world. We have such a good story to tell. ■



MEMORIAL DAY

Pancake Extravaganza

WITH ALL THE FIXIN'S

MONDAY, MAY 29 ~ 8 AM-NOON

Not your average breakfast. Enjoy buttermilk, oven, Finnish and "Cooks Choice" pancakes. Load up with toppings, maple syrup, sausage, fruit, and beverages.

Free Will Donation to Benefit Summer Camperships

Why Camperships? It has always been the policy of Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp that no one be denied an opportunity to come to camp because of their financial situation. With your support, countless more kids can experience the life-long faith formation that happens at camp.

2017 Boat In Worship at the Camp Wapo Beach

9:20 AM Sundays • May 28 - Sept 3

Bring a chair. Come as you are!

15th ANNUAL

WAPO HACKERS + WHACKERS Golf Scramble

SUPPORTING CAMBERSHIPS

MONDAY, JULY 17 ~ AMERY GOLF CLUB

Feel good about your play – no matter what your score. Take joy in knowing you are doing good, while you make a round with friends. A foursome covers one full Campership!

\$100/Person - Covers 18 Holes, Cart, Lunch & Dinner, Stair Aid

Contact: Heather Eggert heather@campwapo.org 715.268.8434

11AM-12:15PM REGISTRATION & LUNCH / 12:30PM SHOTGUN START 5PM DINNER / CAMPWAPO.ORG/EVENTS

Places of grace, forming people of faith!



A winter and spring full of visiting congregations, recruiting staff, and developing program has come to an end. Summer is here and we can't wait to welcome kids to Wapo and Ox Lake.



Registration update

We are so excited about the incredible response for registration this year. At Wapo, we reached capacity for eight of the ten weeks by the middle of April. Even though we still have a little ways to go to fill Wapo and Ox at full capacity, we can't remember a year that has filled so fast! Weeks that still have openings at Wapo are June 18-23 and August 13-18. And Ox Lake has room for more campers June 18-23, June 25-30 and July 23-28.

New For Ox Lake

We are excited for a new season at Ox Lake. One of our priorities for Ox Lake is to upgrade the facilities. We have started construction on a new camper cabin for Ox Lake youth campers which will be ready for use this summer. We have also added a new recreation activity for Ox Lake this summer, Bubble Ball, which kids are going to love. Kids wear a bubble suit while playing soccer and other games, where they can run into each other while staying protected. We hope to provide this as an activity for retreat groups in the future as well.



Summer staff

Winter recruiting is one of the best times of the year, because it is the beginning of relationships that shape the energy and excitement for summer. This summer we are thankful to have over 130 summer staff that have accepted the call to work at Wapo and Ox Lake. About fifty percent of the staff is returning from last year, so campers returning for another year should recognize a few faces while also having the opportunity to interact with a great group of first time staff members.

A huge thanks...

to all of our partnering churches and families that will entrust their youth to our care this summer. We cannot be more excited to welcome them into a safe, really fun and faith-filled camp experience. We invite you to join us in praying for the summer staff, all preparations left ahead and that the youth attending will encounter the grace of Jesus in a powerful way at Wapo and Ox Lake this summer.



Welcome!

We are so pleased to announce that we have hired Nate Berkas as our new Wilderness Canoe Base Site Director. Nate and his wife Stephanie currently live in Chicago, and both work for the ELCA. His position with the ELCA involved managing operations and program for ELCA Global Church Sponsorship. Nate brings a deep respect and love for outdoor ministry and he is eager to begin working with the Wilderness Canoe Base community. Welcome Nate and Stephanie!

Worship at Wilderness

It's hard to beat! You are welcome to join us for worship this summer. Come as you are, Sunday mornings at 10:00, starting June 18th and running through August 13th. The pontoon leaves the Cove at 9:45 and brunch is served immediately after worship.

Visit Wilderness

We always love visitors! Stop by before or after your canoe trip, spend some time at camp with your family, or simply join us for a meal and a tour of camp! Our staff would love to help make your visit possible. Give us a call at 218-388-2241 or email wcboffice@campwapo.org. The 2017 summer calendar is bursting with groups...come catch a glimpse of the action!



We are grateful for...

- Living into our new governance structures and processes; board, committees, delegates.
- The beginning steps of our strategic plan.
- Strong summer registrations at all of our sites.
- The opportunity to invite special guests out to camp this summer – to witness the fun and faith-formation in real time.
- A new camper cabin being built at Ox Lake .
- New staff. Nate Berkas, Wilderness Canoe Base Director, and Micaella Petrich, Wapo/Ox Program Associate Director.
- The new Wapo parking lot being constructed!



Help support

us through your prayers...

- Please hold our summer staff in your prayers. Pray for their energy and enthusiasm to be replenished as needed. That their lively faiths would be nurtured and stretched and shared in ways that will amaze them. Pray for their health & safety.
- Pray that all campers and retreaters feel welcome and safe and encouraged in faith. Pray that their little lives are protected from all harm. Pray that God's word comes alive for them as they worship, play, pray, canoe, sing, question, and giggle in these faith communities.
- Pray that we continue to identify and have fruitful conversations with people who want to be in support of our ministry. We have exciting dreams for the future, and now need to be intentional in identifying and prioritizing our needs, and then communicating those needs to people who can help us fulfill them.
- Our theme this summer is "Fearless". Pray that the conversations, Bible studies, worships and dramas will all serve as reminders of who is really in charge of our lives. That we can be sure and certain in a world that is full of things that can provoke fear.

Have you remembered Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp in your estate planning?

Many friends of Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp like to leave a gift for this ministry in their will. When you update your will, trust, IRA or other asset beneficiaries, please consider including a gift for ministry, using the following legal directive:

"I bequeath ____% of my estate (or my fund) to Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp, located at 738 Hickory Point Lane, Amery, Wisconsin 54001 (designated for _____)"

For more information, or to notify us about your generous decision so that we may recognize you through our Hope & Heritage Society, contact Jennifer Hellie, Director of Development, at jenh@campwapo.org or (715) 268-8434.

Sustaining Roots



MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

"Rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith and overflowing with thankfulness."
Colossians 2:6

★ A faithful and convenient way to partner with camp year-round, year-in and year-out

★ A secure, automatic, recurring monthly transfer from a bank account or credit/debit card

★ Continuous, until you decide to increase, decrease, or discontinue your gift

Monthly gifts engage you as a partner in these and many other ways...

★ \$100 per month provides supplies for wacky field games and servant fair activities.

★ \$70 per month provides scholarships for two campers

★ \$21 per month sponsors a counselor for one week of the summer

Double your gift! In 2017 all new recurring gifts will be matched dollar for dollar by Thrivent Financial Foundation up to a total of \$30,000!

Visit campwapo.org/donate

NEED HELP?

715.268.8434 or email jenh@campwapo.org

