

JOIN THE EXCITEMENT!

Help Us Build a New Dining Hall & Hospitality Center at Wapo



We plan to build a facility that will serve as the center for hospitality, community and fellowship for the ministry at Wapo. It will be a facility that boldly welcomes our guests, graciously poised to serve and engage. The plan includes an exciting expansion and renovation of the current dining facility.

Summer programs and increasing need for retreat space continue to grow and so must the resources that are in demand. We are excited for the ways this new space will enhance the way we do ministry. We know that a relaxed mealtime, with people gathered around the table, can be a very powerful time to foster conversations and develop relationships. It is time to create space that will amplify the ministry in creative and relevant ways.

Here, we will GATHER for:

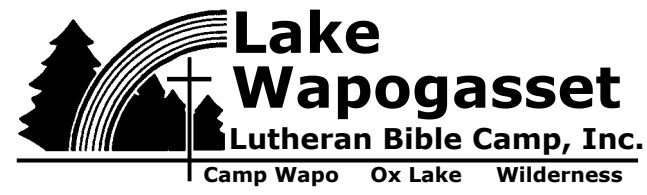
A HOLY MEAL: A space for the Body of Christ to unite unique individuals and groups through love and grace.

FOOD FOR THE MIND: A space to gather for learning and connecting with new ideas.

FOOD FOR THE BODY: A space to gather for a nourishing meal.

FOOD FOR THE SOUL: A space to gather for holy conversations and quiet moments.

Learn More at GatheratWapo.org



738 HICKORY POINT LANE, AMERY WI 54001

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COMMUNITY

Heather Eggert, Executive Director



COMMUNITY. This is a concept we understand well at camp. It's what we do - we gather people together and engage them in all kinds of fun and faith nurturing opportunities. We spent an entire summer

having conversations with kids about the importance of community. We listened to stories about how our families and communities might be different from one another, but yet we are all called to gather as one community in Christ. Each Sunday morning, our boat-in worship community read aloud our summer theme verse from Hebrews 10:24-25 "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another - and all the more as you see the Day approaching".

It has been a remarkable season. Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp, Inc continues to grow in the population of people it serves - upwards of 16,000 each year at our three sites. Just this past summer, the Wapo site alone served 4285 campers! This perfectly sets the stage as we now launch into our \$3 million Gather campaign for a new Dining Hall and Hospitality Center at Wapo.

We are so excited about this project! It will help us address three important challenges;

#1 MORE SPACE We've outgrown our ability to serve our guests in the current dining hall. During the summer, we are feeding around 500 people, and double shifting each meal, in a space designed to hold 225 at a time. In addition, we continue to lack adequate and flexible indoor meeting and recreation space.

#2 CONNECTIONS Throughout the entire building, we will focus on creating spaces for people to gather around tables, or in front of a cozy fireplace, or in comfortable seating areas. Relationship building is among our top priorities at camp. We want to invite campers and retreat guests to gather and linger while they are with us, providing opportunities for caring conversations.

#3 WELCOME CENTER The Wapo site is in need of a logical landing spot. A central place to turn up, have your needs met, and know you will be welcomed with gracious hospitality. This building will house our First Aid office in the summer, offer plenty of space for our summer camp registration process, and house our program and retreat staff offices.

This new building will serve as the center for hospitality, community and fellowship for the ministry at Wapo. It will be a facility that boldly welcomes our guests, graciously poised to serve and engage. This new space will help position camp for a strong and vibrant future. If you are interested in learning about how you can support this project, I would be happy to meet up over a cup of coffee. You can also find much more detailed information about the campaign at Gatheratwapo.org.

We are on track and hopeful that we will be ready to begin construction a year from now, and be utilizing the new space during the summer of 2020. We are grateful for the joys that accompany outdoor ministry, and for the large dreams that God places on our hearts. Thank you for being our community.



Places of grace forming people of faith!

Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp presents...

THE BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER Christmas Dinner Theater 2018 Nov. 29 - Dec. 2 & Dec. 6 - 9, 2018

The perfect way to welcome the Advent season is to spend an evening together with friends and family. Come and enjoy a scrumptious four-course meal, wonderful music, and a moving drama. Plan on 3-3.5 hours of festivities.

CHRISTMAS DINNER THEATER RESERVATIONS 2018

Performance Times: Thursdays 6pm • Fridays 6pm • Saturdays 5pm • Sundays 4pm

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ C-S-Zip _____

Please reserve places on: (Number dates 1, 2, 3 etc. in order of date preference)

Thursday, Nov 29 _____ Friday, Nov 30 _____ Saturday, Dec 1 _____ Sunday, Dec 2 _____

Thursday, Dec 6 _____ Friday, Dec 7 _____ Saturday, Dec 8 _____ Sunday, Dec 9 _____

Number of Tickets: _____ Adults \$40 _____ Children (5-12) \$20 Total Enclosed: _____

Mail to: WAPO BIBLE CAMP • 738 HICKORY POINT LN • AMERY, WI 54001-5129
Reservations open October 22nd • Call With Questions: 715.268.8434 • nataliep@campwapo.org



Wilderness

WILDERNESS CANOE

BASE had a great summer and we loved the opportunity to talk about community and our interconnectedness with all who visited our site. From Canoe Trips to Island Camp and from Work Projects to Family Camp, we were blessed and so grateful for all of the amazing people who visited us this summer and took part in seeing and experiencing God in and around them. Our new "Open Canoe Trip" option was fantastic and we are excited to offer more of these trips in the future.

Thank you to all who have supported us this summer. From prayers, to spending time at Wilderness, to sending friends and loved ones to us, to financial gifts, we are always amazed by the love and generosity of those connected to Wilderness Canoe Base. We give thanks for the ways that your support continues to help lead us forward.

The Stillwater Cabin renovation is well underway and the progress is amazing. We have raised nearly \$50,000 towards our \$60,000 goal, and are nearly

finished with the renovation to the exterior of the cabin. Our goal is to continue working on the interior this fall as soon as we raise the remaining funds needed to continue. Thank you to all who have donated and worked hard on the renovation thus far. If you'd like to support this project you can do so at campwapo.org/donate. Use the special projects link and choose Stillwater cabin.

Wilderness was blessed with donations of the 'new' cranberry Evangelical Lutheran Worship books this summer. Those who have spent time at Wilderness know that we use hymnals most days of the week (from Vesper services to our Sunday worships), so we were really excited to receive hymnals from the St. Olaf Student Congregation and St. John's Lutheran Church in Northfield, MN, and from Luther Memorial formerly in Minneapolis.



RETREAT AT WCB

We love to host groups of all kinds...family reunions, friend retreats, men's and women's retreat, a writer's retreat, school group visits, church groups, etc. We are ready to welcome you to Wilderness Canoe Base year-round. If you're interested in learning more or in participating in one of our programmed retreats, please be in touch at wcboffice@campwapo.org.



Wapo

CAMP WAPO HAD A GREAT SUMMER

centered on Christ and community. We welcomed over 4,000 kids from 2nd – 12th grades. We are grateful to all the parents and congregations that entrusted kids to our care. We know this relational, fun and faithful experience has created memories that will last a lifetime! And that impact wouldn't have been possible without our incredible staff. The staff provided the relational focus for kids to be safe, grow in their faith and have loads of fun! Here are a few counselor reflections that speak to God's faithfulness working through the kids and staff community.

My first summer at Camp Wapo just ended and it had to be the best thing that's ever happened to me. Camp is such a special place filled with such special people. It's so surrounded by God's presence, words can barely describe it. I don't think I've ever felt stronger in my faith and felt the way God works in our lives more. I saw God at Wapo. I am beyond thankful that God called me into this place and that I accepted this crazy adventure. COUNSELOR - RACHEL S.

"TOGETHER: CREATED FOR COMMUNITY." Gosh, that could not be any more true. These past few months working at Camp Wapo have been some of the best (and hardest) moments of my life. Going into this summer, I wanted God to give me the most diverse and authenticating summer I had ever had. And trust me, he delivered. Not only did I get the chance to counsel this summer, I also got the chance to be a life-guard, a musician, a mentor, a friend, a seed planter, a crying shoulder, a laugh provider, a teacher, a student, and a child of God. My calling this summer to serve the Lord was not only a calling, but a challenge and gift as well. COUNSELOR – MEG N.



Ox Lake

WHAT A SUMMER FOR OX LAKE!

We built a new cabin, kicked off a new program for Senior High campers and had an increase in the number of Ox Lake Youth campers. We are excited for the continued development of the Ox Lake program but more importantly, grateful for the Lord's work in transforming campers and counselors in the summer months. Here is a glimpse of God's presence at Ox Lake highlighted in this counselor's reflection:

"This summer was one of connecting with past campers and counselors, developing a program for those that were new, opening a space for ALL, ANY, and EVERY emotion--most importantly though, this was a summer of looking to God despite not knowing exactly what to do, of leaning on others for support and encouragement, and of recognizing that sometimes when God feels far, He's simply standing quietly beside you...waiting for you to trust yourself. Again, like always, God reminds me that He is good and that He's got me and that I can trust that I know who He is and, though not always how, I know THAT He's working in my life.

From bubble soccer, to Wild Mountain, to fitting 80 people in the Earth Chapel, to showering in D.D. Kennedy, to screaming camp songs, to Spikeball, and Gaga, and studying God's word; from the first, first word to the last, last word, here's what I can say--God is with you through it all; and, boy, does He make some pretty special humans. And, boy, do they blow my mind, Him and them both. What a pleasure it has been just to see a glimpse of how He is shining in their lives." – ELLEN SCHMIDT, SENIOR HIGH COUNSELOR



Make A Difference



SUSTAINING ROOTS MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM

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

Monthly gifts are a faithful and convenient way to partner with camp year-round, year-in and year-out. It's so easy to set up your monthly gift!

1. Visit campwapo.org/donate
2. Select "click here to donate online"
3. Click on Annual Fund, choose a site
4. Set up your monthly gift using your checking, savings, or credit/debit card.

SHARING YOUR LEGACY WITH A PLANNED GIFT

How will you choose to continue sharing your faith story and commitment to ministry for years to come? We invite you to consider your own legacy and establish a planned gift that supports Wapo, Wilderness Canoe Base, or Ox Lake. All planned gifts can be directed to support the endowment fund, special projects, staff positions, programs, and/or the unrestricted fund.

For more information on planned gifts or monthly giving, contact Jennifer Hellie, at jenh@campwapo.org or (715) 268-8434.



THE STORY OF THE PACK

Canoe groups from Wilderness Canoe Base are easily recognizable when out on trail in the Boundary Waters because of their distinctive equipment packs. A former WCB guide once said, "You can see the shape, size and color and know they are from camp." All of the WCB packs are handmade by our good friend, John Onkka. The design of these packs is a classic and has been a workhorse of the camp for many years.

John Onkka and his wife Mary live in Baldwin, WI where John is a potter and Mary, a retired art teacher. Three of John's kids worked at Wilderness for a total of 12 summers! John's mother taught him to sew when he was in high school and his first project was making neckties. When John was in high school he spent a summer working at Outlaw Ranch Bible Camp in Custer, SD. He recalls this summer being a remarkable learning experience where he was treated like an adult and had excellent role models.

Because of John's personal growth gained from his summer at Outlaw, he always wanted his kids to experience it too. They started by bringing their kids to family camp at Wilderness in 1983 and they've been closely connected ever since.

In May of 2007, the Ham Lake fire swept across Horseshoe and Dominion Islands causing major damage. One of the most significant losses was the Trailshack building and all of the outfitter gear including 125 canoe packs. John was a part of a group of volunteer sewers who took immediate action and quickly created enough new packs for the arrival of campers in June.

In January 2009, then camp director Jediah Scharmer and John met to discuss the Pack Replacement Program. The plan was built on 3-concepts: 1] 28 new packs [4-brigades] are made every year. 2] The 28 oldest packs are removed & sold in the Blockhouse (camp store) 3] Implementation of color-coded packs. Green: camper personal gear Wine & Blue: food, cooking equipment & staff personal gear

We start each summer with 126 packs (18 brigades). Resupplying new packs every year insures high quality for the campers and allows us to resell the "old" packs in the camp store while they were still in very good condition. The packs are made using high quality materials. They are durable and can be trusted by all who use them. All packs have an ID, a WCB patch and a "made in the USA" tag. Making the packs in-house has become a treasured tradition and a substantial savings for the camp. By the start of next summer John will have made 344 packs to date!

The story of the WCB pack is a perfect example of how people love and care for Wilderness Canoe Base. The rich history and steadfast traditions are woven over six decades and through generations of families.

We are so grateful to the Onkka family for their commitment to Wilderness and for the many ways they love and support this ministry.

