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Heather Eggert, Executive Director

Hey 2019! It's a big year and we are ready for you. We have our eyes set on a remarkable year of ministry at our sites. We are in the midst of a robust winter retreat season at Wilderness and Wapo, and we are thoughtfully creating program and Bible studies centered around the theme of "Claimed - Wildly loved by God".

There are many, many tasks related to our vibrant summer ministry that happen in these cold and dark winter months. Program & Bible study creation, hiring 200+ summer staff, receiving registrations from thousands of kids. It's a wonderful season of preparation.

I'm so excited about this year's theme. I can't wait to hear the stories and conversations that bubble up. It is true. We belong to the King and He loves us with a love that just simply seems to be too good to be true. As the mom of 3 teenage daughters, I'm mindful of all of the ways the world tells us that we aren't enough, or that our self-worth is defined by material things or social media or mental health statuses. I'm embarrassed to say that in the midst of my mistakes and messy circumstances, I can so easily convince myself that I've somehow fallen outside of God's grace and love. That just simply isn't true. You and I are relentlessly and wildly loved by God and there's nothing that we can do or say to change that fact. "For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all of creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 8:38-39

What a gift we have been given. What a privilege it will be to invite our summer campers and staff to consider the

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magnitude of this love, and how we can empower that love to move through us and out into the world.

As many of you know, we're nearly at the halfway point of our \$3 million capital campaign called "Gather" for a new Dining Hall and Hospitality Center. We have been so humbled and inspired by these gracious gifts and pledges that have been given. It is with great joy that we jump into the public phase of this campaign. We have an ambitious schedule set for the next 11 months ahead. We aim to have 90% of the pledges and 50% of the cash in hand by September 2019, and 100% of the gifts and pledges secured by the end of the year. By meeting these timelines, we will then have paved the way for our board to approve the start of construction of the building in the fall of 2020. We are so excited about this project, and the ways it will positively impact people and programs for generations to come. We prayerfully ask you to consider making a financial commitment towards this project, or connecting us with people who believe in the power of these faith formational opportunities that occur at Bible camp. Please join us in 2019 - by attending events, praying for this ministry and with your financial support. It's going to be a great year!



You are invited to the Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp

# GATHER EVENT

Sunday February 24, 2019  
2:00 PM GATHER UPDATE AND WORSHIP  
Roseville Lutheran Church  
1215 Roselawn Ave W  
Roseville Minnesota

We are excited to share all the wonderful progress that has been made during the lead gift phase of the GATHER campaign for a new Dining Hall and Hospitality Center at Wapo.

Please think about people in your congregation or community that would be interested in hearing about and supporting this project - bring them along! We'll have refreshments, campaign info, and worship!

You can learn more about the Gather campaign at [www.gatheratwapo.org](http://www.gatheratwapo.org)

Please RSVP by February 20  
beckym@campwapo.org or call 715-268-8434



# GATHER

Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp  
Dining Hall Campaign

PLACES OF GRACE FORMING PEOPLE OF FAITH!



# CLAIMED WILDLY LOVED BY GOD

## SUMMER 2019

On January 15th registration opened for our summer camp programs. We could not be more excited for the summer season and would love for you to consider supporting or joining us in the many opportunities we have. Visit our website for more details and to register.

[register at campwapo.org](http://register.at.campwapo.org)



### Wapo

Over 120 partner congregations have reserved space for the Wapo Youth and Seeds programs this summer. We are excited to be adding 1st graders to the Seeds program and expanding our Wapo One Day program as well. We plan to welcome over 5,000 campers from 1st – 8th grade to Wapo this summer. We also have a new family camp opportunity at Wapo. Families can choose either June 19-21 or August 9-11. It is an open registration – all are welcome! Youth campers at Wapo can sign up for Soccer Club and Running Club (and Ox), which allows campers to stay connected to their sport while experiencing the fullness of camp.

### Ox Lake

Ox Lake is growing program opportunities for 9-12th grade campers. Last summer, in the first year of Senior High camp, we hosted 312 senior high campers. We are expecting that number to grow by 100 in 2019. We are thrilled at all the improvements and program development at Ox Lake...it is a special place for small group ministry.

### Wilderness Canoe Base

Wilderness Canoe Base is planning for an increase in the number of groups they host in 2019. With the newly renovated Stillwater cabin we are excited about the ways we can welcome more campers to the site. We are also offering 5 open registration canoe trips this summer. These are ideal for individuals or small groups of friends who want this experience but don't have a full group to attend with. The flexibility at Wilderness allows for so many program and group options...what a wonderful way to serve others! Contact [wboffice@campwapo.org](mailto:wboffice@campwapo.org) if you'd like to learn more about programs or to schedule a visit.

### Stillwater Cabin Renovation

We are thrilled by the progress on the Stillwater Cabin throughout this past year. After 30 years of use, Stillwater is experiencing its first major renovation and it's beautiful! Interior work will continue this winter so everything will be completed and ready for summer at Wilderness!

### Winter at Wilderness Canoe Base

When the lake freezes, the snow falls, and the temperature drops, there is no place to better enjoy winter than at Wilderness. We have several winter retreating opportunities available including a Writer's and Art Retreat taking place February 28 - March 3. All ages and experiences are welcome! Contact [wboffice@campwapo.org](mailto:wboffice@campwapo.org) if interested. More details can be found at [campwapo.org/events](http://campwapo.org/events).

### Rooted & Renewed

We have a new fundraising opportunity for Wilderness supporters! The Rooted & Renewed campaign will raise the funds needed to complete the Renewal project and for upgrades on the Cove buildings. Be watching for more details coming your way soon!

### Ignite Youth Retreat

In November 2018 we held our first Ignite Youth Retreat! We reached capacity with 95 campers returning to camp to grow in their relationship with Christ, engage in meaningful conversations and experience the fun of camp in the fall. Alumni counselors came to lead campers in Bible jeopardy, minute-to-win-it games and other classic camp games. We also engaged in worship, bible study and devotions focused on the verse in Romans 12:11 which says, "Don't burn out; keep yourselves fueled and aflame. Be alert servants of the Master, cheerfully expectant." It was incredible to see the Lord move through the campers to continue to fan the flame for Christ but also to encourage and rejuvenate the counselors that helped run the retreat. We look forward to expanding this retreat in the future!



### Renew Wapo Women's Retreat

We welcomed 26 awesome women to the 2019 Renew Wapo Women's Retreat on January 11-13. Pastor and artist Paul Oman was our Bible Study leader and he led us in an interactive study on the birth of Jesus through the beginning of His ministry from a Middle Eastern perspective. We also had time to make new friends and have fellowship with old friends. We went on walks, we worshipped together, we played games and we laughed. As a special treat we also were able to enjoy a Minnesota Boychoir concert at the local high school! Our time away with our sisters in Christ was so refreshing and our spirits were fed. We look forward to welcoming even more women next year!



## WE APPRECIATE OUR 2018 DONORS!

A complete list of donors can be found on our website: [campwapo.org/donate](http://campwapo.org/donate)

The generosity of our friends, partners, and community is astounding! Thank you for supporting a robust camper scholarship program, high quality staff and facilities, and a life-changing transformational ministry that reaches thousands of people each year. We couldn't do this important work without you!

To learn more about how you can support Wapo, Ox Lake and Wilderness Canoe Base visit [campwapo.org/donate](http://campwapo.org/donate). If you set-up a recurring monthly gift, you will receive some cool camp swag.

## ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

We have been blessed by the following families who have established endowed camperships in memory of their loved ones or to honor their commitment to camping ministry. Each summer these scholarships are given to campers who have financial need.

- Husby Family Scholarship (Wilderness)
- Ken Petersen Memorial Scholarship (Wilderness)
- Carl Feske Memorial Scholarship (Wilderness)
- Paul Hill Scholarship (Wilderness)
- Frank Ario Memorial Scholarship (Wapo)
- Lynn Stertz Memorial Scholarship (Wapo)
- Max Schwolert Memorial Scholarship (Wapo)
- Lois Wilmo Memorial Scholarship (Wapo)
- Gloria Knoblauch Memorial Scholarship (Wapo)
- Nielsen Family Scholarship (Wapo)
- Loren Teig Scholarship
- Norman Lorentzen Scholarship (Ox Lake)

## CREATING COMMUNITY WITH SUMMER STAFF

We have begun our search for around 200 young adults called to work at Wapo, Ox Lake and Wilderness Canoe Base this summer. Do you know a young adult that would love to have this life-changing experience? Send them our way! Our staff spends several weeks over the winter traveling the Midwest, meeting and interviewing summer staff candidates. It's an exciting time to meet so many young adults desiring to grow in their own faith journey along with the passion to impact others. We ask for your prayers in the entire staffing process and for the discernment of all those called to work at one of our sites this summer. Watch video testimonies and find out more about summer staff opportunities at [campwapo.org](http://campwapo.org)

