

# LIVING WATER

THE NEWSLETTER OF LIVING WATER MINISTRIES



**SPRING 2021** | REBUILDING & RESTORING HOPE



# HUMBLING GENEROSITY. RESTORING HOPE.

Running a camp has a lot to do with problem solving. It's about learning how to prioritize issues as they arise. It's about knowing who to call when something needs repair or replacement. It's about leaning into safety and healthcare protocols for the moments when they will be needed.

When the freezer breaks, the septic backs up, an injury occurs, or a flu bug starts spreading through camp we typically don't miss a beat. We follow our procedures and navigate the challenges as they arise.

However, like most folks, we didn't have a policy, protocol, or procedure to navigate a pandemic. We didn't have a playbook for how to respond to the cancellation of an entire year's worth of programming, and the idea of two years without camp, day camp, or hotel-based events was beyond our ability to comprehend.

Yet here we are.

If you had asked me in 2014 or earlier if Living Water Ministries could have survived the loss of two consecutive summer camp seasons I would have unhesitatingly told you that we could not. The loss of revenue from camper fees, a relatively under-developed donor base at the time, a deficit budget and the six-figure debt load we were carrying would have meant catastrophe.

But catastrophe has not been our experience during these challenging times. In fact, the opposite has been true. In 2020 we experienced a 108% increase in fundraising over the year prior. We've also been fortunate to receive two PPP loans, and have benefited from interest income from our ELCA Pooled Trust investment which holds the proceeds from the sale of Michi-Lu-Ca.

Financially, Living Water Ministries has thus far navigated this pandemic without incurring any losses while preserving our reserve funds, and maintaining employment for our year-round staff without interruption. Because of this financial stability, the generosity

of our donors, and significant gifts received from lead congregations, we've also been able to move forward with phase 1 of our facility renewal plan through the construction of a new duplex cabin that will be operational for our 2022 summer season!

This pandemic has and continues to turn the world upside-down. The losses for many have been immense. Here, the stillness of camp has been haunting. However, in the midst of the heaviness we have been extremely humbled by the generosity we've received from the Living Water Ministries community, and through that generosity we have been able to maintain our focus on hope instead of survival.

We are planning our official return to programming in January of 2022 with our hotel-based event known as the Great Lakes Gathering for high school students and young adults. While our mission has been alive and well during these strange times, we're excited about the possibility of returning to in-person experiences where we see that mission play out in the way God shows up in the hearts and lives of the people we serve.

Until that time, your renewed generosity is invited, welcomed, and greatly appreciated. Our hope is to navigate the remainder of 2021 with the goal of avoiding financial loss so that our attention can be focused on preparing for the glorious, problem solving work of camp in 2022.



  
Executive Director

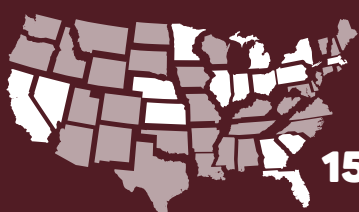
**“...we’ve been extremely humbled by the generosity we’ve received from the Living Water Ministries community...”**

# \$5K/5K A SUCCESS

Bringing together all of God's children for experiences of service, leadership, and community has been a challenge during the pandemic. However, in May of 2021 the Living Water Ministries community showed up big for our first virtual 5K event in support of our scholarship fund.

While there are no summer programs occurring at camp in 2021, our scholarship fund will be a critical component of our camper recruitment strategy heading in to our 2022 summer season. Runners, walkers, and rollers from all over the country chose hope as they participated in the \$5K/5K, making a way for campers who otherwise would not be able to attend the programs we offer.

Even though we couldn't meet in person, the \$5K/5K certainly created a faith-filled community of leaders practicing service in the hopes that both lives and the world might be transformed. The mission and vision of Living Water Ministries is certainly alive and well.



**15 STATES**



**149 PARTICIPANTS**



**\$8,427.45 RAISED**





# GET SWEEPED UP IN THE CURRENT OF SUSTAINING SUPPORT.

In the fall of 2020, Living Water Ministries introduced our new recurring giving program - The Stream. At present, 51 donors have regularly scheduled donations set up at weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or quarterly intervals. As a result of this repeat generosity, Living Water Ministries is able to count on receiving \$22,978.16 annually!

Stream gifts, which feed our Annual Fund, provide critical support for us to live out our mission. These types of general gifts are the lifeblood of most non-profit organizations, including Living Water Ministries. Regular giving through The Stream, provides LWM with sustainable resources, making our budgeting and strategic decision making more informed as we navigate an ever-changing world. In a similar way to how you may be paying your bills online through scheduled payments, you can plan and schedule your generosity, by setting up a recurring donation. We invite you to visit our website to learn more, to set up a recurring donation, and to get caught up in the current with other Stream members making a significant difference for Living Water Ministries and a significant difference in the world through the support of our programs.

[www.elcalivingwater.com/stream/](http://www.elcalivingwater.com/stream/)



**51 STREAM MEMBERS**



**\$22,978.16 ANNUALLY**

## **\$10/month**

Covers the cost of transportation for campers to attend service-learning sites during a week of camp.

## **\$25/month**

Develops leaders and covers the cost of a week's salary for a summer staffer.

## **\$50/month**

Creates community and covers the cost of program supplies for a week of camp.

## **\$100/month**

Grows faith and covers the cost of attending a week of camp for approximately 3 campers.



**the stream**  
*moving forward together*





## Why did you become a Stream member?

I'm a member of The Stream because as both a camper and a staff member, Living Water Ministries had an enormous impact on my life.  
- **Nicky Bates**



## Why did you become a Stream member?

I support The Stream because at a time when kids spend most of their days indoors on devices Outdoor Ministries are needed more than ever before. - **Alex Clark**



## BE A MEMBER. GET THE WATER BOTTLE.

What better way to let the world know that you support the work God is doing at Living Water Ministries than by flaunting your Stream water bottle wherever you go? Help build awareness about Living Water Ministries and join The Stream today with your recurring gift of \$10/month or more!





*The Table*

a place for everyone

## PHASE ONE



# LAYING A FOUNDATION FOR HOPE.

In February of 2021, the Living Water Ministries Board of Directors approved the implementation of phase one of our five phase facility renewal plan. Bids were solicited, a contract was signed, and construction of our first duplex cabin is underway!

This duplex cabin will feature electric baseboard heat, in-cabin bathrooms with private toilets and showers, and a great room equipped with a kitchenette. Once completed, this facility will house up to 24 people with bunk-style accommodations.

Hope is being restored at Living Water Ministries as we dream about, plan for, and literally construct a new foundation for camp programs at Stony Lake in 2022 and beyond!

To see construction updates, please visit  
[www.elcalivingwater.com/thetable/](http://www.elcalivingwater.com/thetable/)

## REMEMBERING ANDY

In January of 2021, the people of Trinity Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids made a generous gift of \$132,409.66 toward phase one of our facility renewal efforts at Stony Lake in memory of Andy Larson, a recent camper who lost his life in an automobile accident in 2018. Andy will be remembered in the cabin's great room.





# 5 PHASES

## Facility Renewal Plan

# The Table

a place for everyone

### PHASE 1 • 2020-2022

### PHASE 2 • 2022-2025

Phase 1 & 2 focus on the fundraising and construction of two duplex style cabins with shared meeting space. Cabin 1 groundbreaking scheduled for Spring of 2021. Cabin 2 groundbreaking scheduled for Fall of 2024.

Estimated Construction Costs Per Cabin:  
**\$400,000.00**



### PHASE 3 • 2025-2029

Phase 3 focuses on the fundraising, renovation, and expansion of the Dining Hall. Dining Hall renovations and expansion scheduled for Fall of 2028.

Estimated Dining Hall Costs:  
**\$1,000,000.00**



### PHASE 4 • 2029-2033

### PHASE 5 • 2033-2037

Phase 4 & 5 focus on the fundraising and construction of four duplex style cabins; two during each phase. Cabin 3 & 4 groundbreaking scheduled for Fall of 2032. Cabin 5 & 6 groundbreaking scheduled for Fall of 2036.

Estimated Construction Cost Per Phase:  
**\$750,000.00**



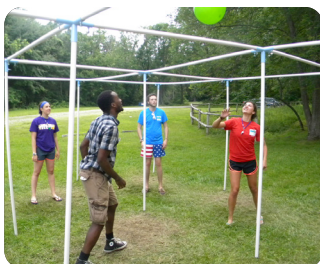
Living Water Ministries  
7898 W. Stony Lake Rd. • New Era, MI  
[www.elcalivingwater.com/thetable](http://www.elcalivingwater.com/thetable)



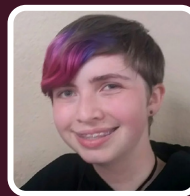


# NEW HOPE AND NEW MEMORIES

The facilities at camp are undergoing a transformation! Beyond the construction of a new cabin, we're spending the time we've been given during the pandemic to make needed updates, and to install new program features. When we convene summer programs again in 2022, there will be plenty of new stuff to see and do at camp including a new waterfront feature, 9 square in the air, giant chess/checkers, new low ropes course initiatives, hammocks installed at every cabin, and a sling shot course! We can't wait to show you what we've been up to when you come back to camp in 2022! It's going to be the best season yet!



## READY TO RETURN TO CAMP IN 2022!



**Kai** • Camper

The whole feeling of community and being together is the biggest thing about camp that I love. I've missed the things that you look at and go, "That's Stony Lake!"



**Chloe** • Camper

I miss camp so much! I want to meet some new friends and hang out with my counselor. I miss waterfront and Lake Michigan. It is so much fun.



**Charlotte & Isaac** • Campers

**Charlotte:** I miss the songs, the counselors, and making new friends, and I'm looking forward to the Mac & Cheese and Nuggets.

**Isaac:** I miss the activities like Nukem, waterfront, and campfire, and I'm looking forward to the new cabin and cookouts.



**Jesse** • Summer Staff

I miss the relationships you create each week and throughout the summer. I miss being part of a community where we all work to make a place for everyone to be loved and to feel safe. I'm looking forward to returning to that in summer 2022.





# RUN THE RACE

"Let us run with endurance the race God has set before us."  
Hebrews 12:1

**36 RUNNERS, 600 MILES, 36 HOURS,  
\$72,000.00 FOR LWM**

This sounds crazy, but it's going to happen at the end of September in 2021. Each of the 36 runners is responsible for raising \$2,000.00 toward our overall goal, and they need your help to reach the finish line.

To learn more or to donate please visit  
[WWW.ELCALIVINGWATER.COM/RUNTHERACE/](http://WWW.ELCALIVINGWATER.COM/RUNTHERACE/)

## WHY SUPPORT LIVING WATER MINISTRIES?

### OUTREACH

\$213,475 IN SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AWARDED TO 663 CAMPERS SINCE 2015.

### NATIONAL

PARTICIPANTS FROM 16 STATES HAVE ATTENDED A LIVING WATER MINISTRIES PROGRAM SINCE 2015.

### INCLUSIVE

25% OF CAMPERS AND 39% OF SUMMER STAFF WERE PEOPLE OF COLOR IN 2019. 25% OF SUMMER STAFF WERE MEMBERS OF THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY IN 2019.

### INNOVATIVE

LIVING WATER MINISTRIES HAS WON AWARDS, RECEIVED GRANTS, AND HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED NATIONALLY FOR OUR INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS.

Our first program in 2022 will be The Great Lakes Gathering! We're excited to again convene high school youth and young adults for a weekend of faith, leadership, service, and community!

Details about musicians and speakers are still coming together, but we're looking forward to reuniting with participants from all over the great lakes region. Mark your calendars so you don't miss out on experiencing the radical, transformational, and countercultural love of Christ.

**JANUARY 14-16, 2022**

AT THE SHERATON IN **NOVI, MI**

  
**great lakes  
gathering**  
for high school youth and young adults





# BELIEVING IN RESTORATION. COMMITTED TO HOPE.

The support of our donors makes the ministry provided by Living Water Ministries possible. God's work in and through the lives of thousands of people each year wouldn't happen without the generosity of the people listed below. While we still live in a world impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, these individuals, congregations, and organizations are investing in the hope found in our 2022 season and beyond. We can't thank you enough!

## DONATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN OCTOBER 15, 2020 TO APRIL 30, 2021

### **\$1,000 & UP**

#### Individuals

John & Kimberly Birmingham  
Mark Berkesch & Kay Butler  
Barbara Heidmann  
Jeff & Cindy Nussdorfer  
Dan & Alice Rustmann  
Brian & Nancy Schroeder  
Robert & Christina Veres

#### Congregations & Organizations

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church  
- Bloomfield Hills  
Christ Lutheran Church  
- Sterling Heights  
Episcopal Diocese of Michigan  
Feast of Victory Lutheran Church  
- Acme  
Henry & Dorothy V. Fischer Family  
Fund of the Community  
Foundation for Oceana County  
Hope Lutheran Church  
- Farmington Hills  
Lutheran Church of the Master  
- Troy  
Northwest Lower Michigan Synod  
Pilgrim Lutheran Church  
- Marysville  
Southeast Michigan Synod  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
- Grosse Pointe Farms  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
- Dearborn  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
- Grand Rapids  
Zion Lutheran Church - Ann Arbor

### **\$500 TO \$999**

#### Individuals

Mary Appelt  
Paul Archer  
Brian & Alison Boris  
John & Kris Burow  
C.J. & Amanda Clark  
Gerald & Suzanne Ferguson  
Jean & Deb Hart  
Paul & Barbara Kehnle  
Barry Osterbur  
Douglas & Beth Paulo  
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Pr. Matt & Michelle Smith  
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Steve & Amy Stephan  
Pastor Daniel Stoneback  
Andreas & Tracy Teich  
Jill Watras

#### Congregations & Organizations

OPEX Consulting  
New Life Lutheran Church  
- Spruce  
Peace Lutheran Church  
- South Haven  
St. Lukes Lutheran Church  
- Grand Rapids  
St. Mark Lutheran Church  
- Roseville  
Zion Lutheran Church - Freeland

### **\$250 TO \$499**

#### Individuals

Paul Bates  
David & Karen Bird  
Kathleen Boland  
Chad & Jennifer Campbell  
Brad & Pam Clark  
William & Megan Floyd  
Tim & Jennifer Gatz  
Linda Griggs  
Michael & Karen Hahn  
William & Nancy Harris  
Kellie & Manuel Herdade  
Joe & Lisa Jeffreys  
Hayla Joneson  
Jennifer Kiefer  
Kinda Makini Anderson  
Adam & Janet Michoski  
Bishop Craig & Cathy Satterlee  
Rev. Monica Villarreal  
Lynn & Carol Whittaker  
Julie Winklepleck

#### Congregations & Organizations

Emmanuel Lutheran Church  
- Livonia  
Harbor of Grace Lutheran Church  
- Muskegon  
Harbor of Grace Youth Group  
Immanuel Lutheran Church  
- Grand Ledge

### **Up to \$250**

#### Individuals

Beth Adams  
Heidi & Albert Albertson  
Melvin & Bernadette Arbaugh  
Amanda Arbaugh Henderson  
Sheri Aspeslagh  
Russell & Sandra Ayers  
Cathy Ayres  
Pastor Julie Bailey  
Richard Baker  
Megan Baldus  
Gary Barr  
Nicky Bates  
Karen & Bob Beahon  
Jim Bedell  
Judy Biboum  
William & Bonnie Biers  
Janet Blake  
Rachel Blanchette  
John & Betty Blohm  
Matthew Boris  
Amy Boris  
Aubrey Bornhoff  
Kathryn K. Bredwell  
Chris Bright  
Cheryl Bubolz  
Louise Bugg  
Stephanie Burchfield Clark  
Steven Burger  
Christia Butler  
Chuck & Jeri Campbell  
Kevin Campbell  
Dan Carlson  
Andrew & Katie Chavanak  
Greer Cherney  
Christina Cieslik  
Gary & Carol Clark  
Steve Clark  
Gina & Gary Clark  
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Monica Holman  
Branden Hunt  
Tim Jahn  
Diane Jamrog  
Erick & Delia Johnson  
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Amanda & Jason Kane  
Claudia Karpinkas  
Suzanne Kelly  
Mike & Kimberly King  
Paul & Emily Klein  
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Cindy Klum  
Gustav & Nancy Kopka  
William Korte  
Edward Kramer  
Bradley Kramer  
Rob Kropf  
Steven Kurtz  
Monica Lammert  
Kenneth Lane  
Tammy Lane  
Nancy Laskowski  
Christopher Laughlin



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 Rebecca Libhart  
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 Janice Locke  
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 Tess Lundgren  
 Arif Mahmood  
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 Nicole & Kristin McCarthy  
 Dan McConnell  
 Merri McGregor  
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 Kjersten McKinniss  
 Rebecca McPhail  
 David Meckstroth  
 Mike Morrall  
 Susanna Muzzin  
 Amy Myers  
 William & Janet Naymick  
 Zachary & Julia Nelson  
 Colleen & Tom Nieman  
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 Dolores Nyblad  
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 Stephen & Kathleen Samuelson  
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 Catherine Woolman  
 Debra Wosinski  
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 Nicole Yakimovich  
 Mackenzie & Liz Fast  
 Gregory & Kate Zywicki

#### **Congregations & Organizations**

American Lutheran Church  
 - Clinton Township  
 Bethany Lutheran Church  
 - Kaleva  
 Cross of Glory Lutheran Church  
 - Detroit  
 Grace Lutheran Church - Hastings  
 St. Peter Lutheran Church  
 - St. Clair  
 St. Stephen Lutheran Church  
 - Lansing  
 Unity Lutheran Church  
 Zion Lutheran Church - Chelsea

#### **The Stream Members Monthly Donors**

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 Pr. Kathi Boland  
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 Chrisy Bright  
 Mark Berkesch & Kay Butler  
 Christia Butler  
 Chad & Jennifer Campbell  
 Dan Carlson  
 C.J. & Amanda Clark  
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 Doug & Judy Cook  
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 Pr. Scott Torkko  
 Pr. Kate Van Valkenburg  
 Dr. Jill Watras  
 Alan & Jill Witucki  
 Debra Wosinski  
 Mackenzie Young & Liz Fast

#### **In Memory**

##### **In Memory of Sharon Clark by**

Julie Bailey  
 Amanda & C.J. Clark  
 Nancy & Bill Harris  
 Doug & Beth Paulo  
 Amanda Rasner

##### **In Memory of Andy Larson by**

Members of Trinity Lutheran Church  
 - Grand Rapids

##### **In Memory of Nancy McCarthy by**

John Blohm  
 Brian Boris  
 Matthew Boris  
 Craig Mathes  
 Kristin & Nicole McCarthy

##### **In Memory of Hilary Michalak by**

Kristin & Nicole McCarthy  
 Michael Fiedler

##### **Other in Memory of Gifts**

Angela Rowley by LeAnn Seto  
 Jill Heather Dunkerly  
 by Paul Archer  
 Julie Bates by Paul Bates  
 Jean Boone by Kimberly &  
 John Birmingham Jr.  
 Hilary Michalak & Rob Lemon  
 by Dylan Cook  
 Will & Cully Craig by James Craig

Beloved daughter Emily Hahn  
 by Michael Hahn  
 Rick Martin by Timothy Jahn  
 Lonnie Smith by Amanda Kane  
 Eleanor Stewart by Cindy Klum  
 Suzanne Pietenpol  
 by Nancy Laskowski  
 Margaret Pelegrino  
 by Rebecca McPhail  
 Terry Dawes by Beth Paulo  
 Our daughter - Keely Marie  
 by Steve & Amy Stephan  
 Ron Tyranski by Jill Witucki

#### **In Honor**

##### **Other in Honor of Gifts**

All campers! by Julie Bailey  
 Anna Birmingham by Kimberly &  
 John Birmingham Jr.  
 The LWM Board for making  
 the tough decision for the 2021  
 season. By Sara Cogsil  
 Sarah Stasilowicz  
 by Kellie Herdade  
 The Gathering's impact on our  
 faith by Timothy Jahn  
 Parker Leo McCarthy  
 by Lisa Jeffreys  
 Andrew & Katie Chavanak  
 by Rebecca Libhart  
 Elspeth Muzzin  
 by Susanna Muzzin  
 New Year 2021 Hope, Health,  
 Peace, Good Will and when  
 we gather again!  
 by Colleen Nieman  
 Krista Schafer Ewbank  
 by Duane Schafer  
 In confidence and hope for  
 continuing ministries  
 by Daniel Stoneback





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restoring **hope**

Romans 5:1-5