# LIVING WATER MINISTRIES



FALL 2021 | THE WORK OF RESTORING COMMUNITY

### **RESTORED BY COMMUNITY TO RESTORE COMMUNITY**

Every program we offer at Stony Lake is free in 2022!

I'm still getting my mind around this fact.

As I think back to the onset of this pandemic in March of 2020, I would have never imagined I would be opening this newsletter with that statement after two years of program cancellations. Truth be told, I would have wagered that I'd instead be sharing with you that Living Water Ministries suffered severe financial losses and staff layoffs.

But that hasn't been our story.

Instead, our story has been about the power of community and what can be accomplished when we come together as people of faith.

When the Living Water Ministries Board of Directors decided to cancel our 2020 summer season, I had projected for them that our financial losses would possibly exceed \$200,000.00 for the 2020 fiscal year. Despite this sobering reality, the board leaned into our mission and core values, prioritizing the safety of the communities we serve over and above any financial losses we would potentially suffer.

However, those financial losses never materialized. Instead, the Living Water Ministries community rallied unprecedented financial support. Donations received in 2020 increased 108% over the year prior! This surge in generosity, combined with a PPP loan and interest earnings from our investment with the ELCA Pooled Trust (which holds the proceeds from the sale of Michi-Lu-Ca), meant that we ended the 2020 fiscal year with no financial losses!

From this position of financial stability, the Living Water Ministries Board of Directors was again faced with a decision about our 2021 summer programs. As before, I presented a financial forecast that now called for approximately \$170,000.00 in financial losses in the event of cancellation. Again, the board leaned into a priority for the safety of the communities we serve over and above the pain of projected financial losses. Again the Living Water Ministries community responded with remarkable generosity, and as a result we are also projecting an end to the 2021 fiscal year with no financial losses!

The generosity we have received has been a powerfully stabilizing force for Living Water Ministries and is a testament to what can be accomplished when community is prioritized. The generosity we have received has also laid the groundwork for the Living Water Ministries Board of Directors to dream about how we might return to summer programs in 2022.

Inspired by the generosity of so many throughout this pandemic, and with an intense commitment to community over and above financial risks, the board decided to make camp a gift freely given to all for the summer of 2022! What this means is that there are no registration fees for any program occurring at Stony Lake in 2022. In addition, each camper will receive a complimentary t-shirt and snacks from our camp store!

Making camp a gift freely given certainly invites new financial risks. In order to mitigate these risks, we are engaging congregations across the lower peninsula of Michigan, inviting them to financially support God's work restoring community through this free camp effort. We are extremely grateful for the generosity we have received, and we stand in awe of what can be accomplished when we lean into the power of community for the sake of the gospel.



Executive Director

...our story has been about the power of community and what can be accomplished when we come together as people of faith....

## THE GIFT OF CAMP FREELY GIVEN

### NO REGISTRATION FEES AT STONY LAKE IN 2022!

Making camp a gift freely given to all raises some questions. We've compiled a few of them we've been asked, along with our responses. You can also learn more at www.elcalivingwater.com/giftfaq/

### **ARE THERE REALLY NO REGISTRATION FEES?**

Not a single camper will be charged a fee to attend.

### WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?

**Answer 1:** Prior to the pandemic, Living Water Ministries was awarding approximately \$50,000.00 per year in scholarships to campers otherwise unable to attend. Making camp financially accessible to all feels like a natural evolution of our outreach approach.

**Answer 2:** The COVID-19 pandemic has interrupted well established patterns of participation for families, congregations, and partner organizations. It is our hope that the gift of camp freely given will help reestablish these connections as we return to programs.

**Answer 3:** Our partner organizations and congregations were also impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. It is our hope that the gift of camp freely given might help reinvigorate local youth programs and be used as an outreach tool by our partners and congregations.

### WHEN DOES REGISTRATION OPEN?

Registration opens December 1, 2021 for students attending from partner organizations and congregations. Registration opens February 15, 2022 for the public.

### WHO REGISTERS CAMPERS TO ATTEND?

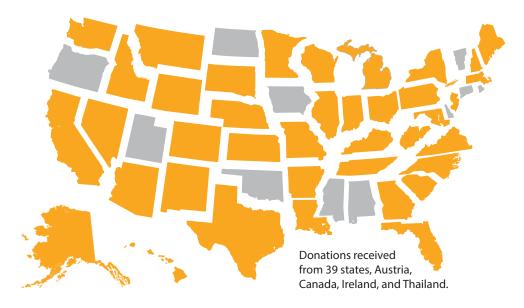
Parents or guardians must register their own children.



### MANY FEET MAKE LIGHT THE WORK

The Living Water Ministries community showed up in a big way to support our annual fundraising "Run the Race" relay race. Not only did we gather the largest community of runners and volunteers we've ever had directly involved in the event, but we were also supported by the largest community of donors ever to support these efforts! 36 runners, 19 volunteers, and 846 donors rallied together to raise over \$108,000.00 for Living Water Ministries! In addition, this community of runners, volunteers, and donors was gathered across 39 states and 4 countries outside the USA!

As a result of the commitment and generosity of so many, Living Water Ministries has been able to navigate these strange times of pandemic without incurring financial losses. In 2022, our focus at Living Water Ministries will be on restoring community as we return from two years of program cancellations as a result of COVID-19. Because of the stability provided by the Living Water Ministries community through our "Run the Race" efforts, we step into the future boldly pursuing our mission that calls us to bring together all of God's children for faith-filled experiences of service, leadership, and community.





### **BIG FEET. BIG CAUSE.**

Our team captains Chris Paliewicz, Nicole McCarthy, and C.J. Clark raised an additional \$8,421.78 toward our goal, and as a result had to wear a terrificially ridiculous foot costume for one of their runs! A joyously sweaty time was had by all!







### RUN THE RACE BY THE NUMBERS



36 RUNNERS, 200 MILES, 36 HRS



19 SUPPORT VOLUNTEERS



846 DONORS ENGAGED



994 GIFTS GIVEN



494 NEW DONORS



\$108,213.35 RAISED FOR LWM



# **PORATE SPONSORS**







### A NEW SPACE TO RESTORE COMMUNITY

Construction of our new duplex cabin continues! 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 accomodations.

Perhaps the most powerful experience of community available to our campers is the community that is formed in cabin groups. It's in the cabin group that each camper literally learns how to live alongside other people with stories that may differ from their own. It's in the cabin group where friendships are forged, where faith is explored through nightly devotions, and where campers experience Christ's love in and through each other.

As we look to our 2022 summer season and beyond, we do so with great excitement for how this new addition to our facilities will assist our efforts restoring community for years and years to come.



### **CABIN LIFE**

Living in intentional community for a week provides the opportunity to play together, laugh with one another, overcome challenges alongside each other, experience God together, and listen to each other's stories. In the cabin, memories are made that can last a lifetime!

### **CREATING INCLUSIVE FAITH COMMUNITIES** featuring Madelyn Smith

During the fall of 2021, Living Water Ministries invited a handful of young adults to create impact in the world with a \$200 mini-grant. Madelyn Smith from Bethlehem Lutheran in Lansing, MI stepped up to the challenge, requesting funds to create sensory toolkits for congregations to offer inclusion and support for neurodivergent members.

Madelyn was inspired to work toward creating a more inclusive environment at churches for neurodivergent people because of her participation in the LINKS program at her school. Through the LINKS program, Madelyn is paired each semester with a student with autism. This experience has shown her how impactful sensory objects can be to relieve stress through the addition or subtraction of sensory input. It's Madelyn's hope that these toolkits can support relationships between congregations and members who might need them.



### **EXTRAORDINARY ORDINATION** *featuring Kristin McCarthy*

November 19, 2021 Kristin McCarthy was ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA. Pastor McCarthy is a Living Water Ministries alum, serving on summer staff at Michi-Lu-Ca in 2014, and on summer staff at Stony Lake 2015-2017, and 2019. We are honored that Pastor McCarthy cites her time with Living Water Ministries as one of the influential factors in her discernment to answer God's call to rostered ministry.

Pastor McCarthy is passionate about the gospel's emphasis on inclusion and justice for the church and world, and will be serving alongside Pastor Joel Brandt at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Royal Oak, Prince of Glory Lutheran Church in Madison Heights, and Trinity Lutheran Church in Clawson. Pastor McCarthy lives in Farmington Hills with her wife Nicole and their son Parker.



PASTOR KRISTIN MCCARTHY SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN SYNOD, ELCA

GATHERING YOUTH GRADES 6-12 CHARGE 2007

### MARCH 18-20, 2022 GREAT WOLF LODGE - TRAVERSE CITY, MI

**JOIN US IN 2022!** We invite you to be part of our efforts to restore community in 2022 by putting together a group of students grades 6-12 and adult chaperones for a weekend of faith, service, and leadership! Groups will gather at Great Wolf Lodge for meaningful worship, engaging small groups, relevant workshops, and more! Students will spend time in grade specific tracks, build relationships with their peers, grow in faith, and enjoy all the amenities of Great Wolf Lodge! **Registration is open!** 

For more details please visit **www.elcalivingwater.com/charge/** 



**REV. BRANDEN HUNT** SPEAKER

### **BEALEADER. FIGHT RACISM.** JUNE 25 - JULY 1, 2022 | LIVING WATER MINISTRIES AT STONY LAKE, NEW ERA, MI

### **BRIDGE BUILDERS** FAITH BASED LEADERSHIP & ANTI-RACISMTRAINING FOR STUDENTS GRADES 9-12

www.elcalivingwater.com/bridgebuilders/

### THE STREAM OF SUPPORT

Since the fall of 2020, donors have been providing a sustaining stream of support through their recurring generosity. Members of The Stream can select from a variety of intervals for their generosity, including weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, or quarterly. Stream gifts flow into our annual fund, providing critical support for Living Water Ministries to live out our mission.



### 65 STREAM MEMBERS



### \$28,428.16 IN ANNUAL GIFTS

**\$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** | Nourishes faith by covering food costs for approximately 50 campers.



### GET THE WATER BOTTLE.

Flaunt your Stream water bottle wherever you go! Get yours today by joining The Stream today with your recurring gift of \$10/month or more!

www.elcalivingwater.com/stream/

### the stream moving forward together

### REMARKABLE GENEROSITY. LIFE-GIVING COMMUNITY.

The generosity Living Water Ministries has and continues to receive has been transformational for our ministry. In the midst of two years of program cancellation as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the stability provided by our donors has had life-giving implications. The gifts we've received have inspired the gifts we now give as we focus our efforts on restoring community through our return to programs in 2022. Thank you!

### DONATIONS RECEIVED BETWEEN MAY 1, 2021 TO OCTOBER 15, 2021

### **The Stream Members**

Recurring Donors

Pastor Julie Bailey Brandi Bailie Nicky Bates Karen & Bob Beahon Barton & Cate Beebe Kathleen Boland Brian & Alison Boris Aubrey Bornhoff Chrisy Bright Mark Berkesch & Kay Butler Christia Butler Chad & Jennifer Campbell Dan Carlson C.J. & Amanda Clark Alex Clark Doug & Judy Cook Dylan Cook **Benjamin Darling** Judd Delancev Darrell Dennis II James Diehm William & Megan Floyd Michelle Groven Nelson Aaron Havlisch Dana Hendershot Kellie & Manuel Herdade Amy Higgs Branden Hunt Joe & Lisa Jeffreys Havla Joneson Amanda & Jason Kane Jennifer Kiefer Paul & Emily Klein Cassie Lane Nancy Laskowski Formal Name **Daniel Lichtenberger** Rachel & Erik Lunning Megan & Craig Mathes Nicole McCarthy Adam & Janet Michoski Susanna Muzzin Elisabeth Muzzin Michael & Amanda Opfermann Chris & Millie Paliewicz **Douglas Paulo** Beth Paulo Kim & Mike Quigley Julie Ratekin Sarah Samuelson Brian & Nancy Schroeder

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

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#### Congregations & Organizations

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church - Bloomfield Hills Christ Lutheran Church - Monroe Cross of Glory Lutheran Church - Detroit Episcopal Diocese of MI First Evangelical Lutheran Church - Muskegon Holy Trinity Lutheran Church - Livonia Lord of Light Lutheran Church - Ann Arbor Mount Zion Lutheran Church Foundation Northwest Lower Michigan Synod Prince of Peace Lutheran Church - Portage Russ Milne Ford, Inc Southeast Michigan Synod St. Paul Lutheran Church - Dearborn

#### \$500 TO \$999 Individuals

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#### Congregations & Organizations

Lutheran Church of the Master - Troy Emmanuel Lutheran Church - Livonia Immanuel Lutheran Church - Grand Ledge King of Kings Lutheran Church - Ann Arbor Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church - Walled Lake Steve's Auto & Truck Inc.

#### \$250 TO \$499

Individuals Robert & Kathy Anderson

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#### Congregations & Organizations

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#### Up to \$250 Individuals

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#### **Congregations & Organizations**

American Wood Moldings Bethel Lutheran Church - St. Clair Shores Grace Lutheran Church - Hastings Hope Lutheran Church - Farmington Hills Little Point Sable Association Prince of Peace Lutheran Church - Ida St. John Lutheran Church - Grayling University Lutheran Church - East Lansing

#### In Memory

In Memory of Cliff Anderson by Heather Morgan Carol Witt

In Memory of Julie Bates by Paul Bates Kristen Anderson

In Memory of William Biers by Marguerite Bird Teri DePlonty Sharon Mefferd Joe Butcha

In Memory of Joey Burke by Kellie Herdade Joanne Burke Sarah Stasilowicz

In Memory of Sharon Clark by Linda Daniel Elizabeth Horen C.J. Clark

In Memory of Coliss Cousino by Dean Cousino Rachel Hinz

In Memory of Michelle Cutting by Beth Cutting Clyde Cutting

In Memory of Jill Heather by Paul Archer Amy Barnhart Joel Christensen

In Memory of Rob Lemon by Jackie Martin Kristin & Nicole McCarthy Dylan Cook

In Memory of Nancy McCarthy by Brian Boris Virginia Ditty Megan Mathes Kristin & Nicole McCarthy Waynette Hostetler Norma Wells Maria Casaceli Matthew Boris Rachelle Welling Aaron McCarthy Scott McGillivray Lindsey Hinz

In Memory of Andy McGregor by Lindsey Hinz Alice McGregor

In Memory of Hilary Michalak by Dylan Cook Kristin & Nicole McCarthy Emily Klein Brandi Bailie Judy Cook

In Memory of Lonnie Smith by Amanda Kane Bethany Cousino Jane Kury Mary Fitzpatrick Jennifer McIlvaine Rachel Hinz

In Memory of Logan & Nathan Staib by Kenneth & Joyce Staib Tiffany McCafferty Rhonda Smith Jennifer Kopacz Bradley Ross

In Memory of Danielle Stislicki by Robert Sackleh Nancy Kemp

In Memory of Ed & Joann Van Overbeke by Millie Paliewicz Chris Paliewicz

In Memory of Walter Wangerin Jr. by Sarah Byrne Shannon Henry Laurel Goetzinger Mary Sauger Paul Wangerin Ruthanne Wangerin Terri Kowal Dena Wangerin

Other in Memory of Gifts Deanna D. Darling by Benjamin Darling Frederick W Lee by Jean Smith Peter Samuelson by Sarah Samuelson Ron Tyranski by Jill Witucki Suzanne Pietenpol by Nancy Laskowski All the Clarks by Sarah Colaw Ardath & Duaine Deming by Dan Deming Art, Mim, James & Joyce by Julie Schneider-Thomas

by Cynthia Johnson Bob Karschnia by Nicole Smart Bob Zorn by Julie Sullivan Darlene McGuire by Shaun McGuire Dennis Blumke by Gina & Gary Clark II Don Stinson by Francesca Turnage Douglas Olson by Mark Olson Gabe Mattison by Tess Lundgren Gearry Morril by Treffle Helm Gozer the Traveller by Jacob Lehman Gram E by Kathryn Lemke Hildegard Paliewicz by Barbara Losoncy Stephanie Barshaw by Steve & Lenore Barshaw Kathleen Harris by Linda Wilber Joe & Elsa Hughes by Theresa Cleveland John Schroeder & Megan Schroeder by Mary Schultz Juanita McGuire by Shaun McGuire Karl T. Spade Jr. by Melissa Gary Karla Ketelsen by Emily Olsen Kevin Lien by Kevin Lien Kim Mott by Kimberly King Larry Sauger by Michele Sauger Lee R Letarte Jr. by Lisa Livia Letarte-Popovich Lisa Bowen by Lisa Bowen Louis & Arvella Martz by Kay Hendricksen Luella M. Harden by David Harden Margaret Forzlev by Kathryn Spawr Margaret Pelegrino by Rebecca McPhail Marilyn McGough by Nancy Laskowski Millie Gruetzner by Joan Laginess Helga Anderson, my mom, my best friend by Karen Cubba My Sister – Bridge's Aunt, Megan by Aileen Baker Nathan Osterbur by Barry Osterbur Neva Hodge Lemorande by Judith Johnson-Philipsen Owen McGough by Nancy Laskowski Rafa Rexford by Robert Rexford Rev. Paul Gateman by Barry Osterbur Rev. Thomas A Wilson & Rev. Dale Deames by Margaret Deames Robbie Schooler & Justin Lee by Shannon Goodwin **Rosaline Brennan** by Brenda Durham Rose Turnage by Joyce Smith Sabrina & Chucky by Tammy Schilk Sharon Riffert by Linda Riffert Too many to name by Sommer Janis Todd Holle by John Schleicher

Bob & Ginny Johnson

William Ward by Susan Schmidt Zach Baker by Nancy Laskowski

#### In Honor Other in Honor of Gifts

Aimee Quigley by Kimberly Quigley All campers by Julie Bailey Elspeth Muzzin by Susanna Muzzin Judy Neese Cook by Stephen Cook Lisa Schleicher by Carolyn Mann Mason Staib by Kenneth & Joyce Staib My Grandchildren Reid, Logan & Claire by Cassie Lane Nicole, Kristin, & Parker McCarthy by Karen Beahon Sarah Stasilowicz by Kellie Herdade The marriage of Christine & Dylan Cook by Cheryl Phillips 2021 Ragnar Team Runners by Kinda Makini Anderson 2021 Ragnar team by Lisa L Jeffreys Alex Phillips by Rebecca LeDuc All the LGBTQ+ children whom God beautifully created by Lisa Gizzi C.J. Clark & the ministry we share by Haley Vay Beaman Anita Bath by Jonathan Bay Art Jalkenan by Rebecca LeDuc Ascension Lutheran Church by Julie Bailey B.B. Jones by David Lyons Brian Deames & his faithful support of Trinity's music program during COVID by Eunice Phillips Camp staff past & present by Nancy Laskowski Dan McGuire by Shaun McGuire **Dorothy Neumeyer** by Lorraine Jackson Doug & Lynne Kane by Diana Mavis Edie & Lucy by Rebecca LeDuc **Emily Olsen** by Darlene LaFave Emma Hicks by Matthew Hicks Franny, Ted, & Lyndon Turnage by Sarah Turnage George by Rebecca LeDuc Edie & Lucy by Rebecca LeDuc Inger & John Oswald by Rebecca LeDuc **Jeffreys Family** by Connie Rose-Kmaprath Jessica the light in my life! by Rianna Goetting Capelj Joann Steinhoff by Frances Beers Katarina Bayer by Dorothee Bayer Keegan Sullivan's Birthday by Carol Zorn Kellie Herdade & her ministry at Christ Church Cranbrook by Manisha Dostert

Lilly by Sarah Biernacki Lindsey Anderson - the coolest, best pastor in the world! by Kristina Bee Marty & Sally Kope by Lois Miller My boys who came to us through Samaritas foster care & for all the other kiddos still fighting to get out. by Laura Smith My hero...Emma by Sheila Iding My late husband, Ken Klem by Deborah Klem New Mexico Ragnar team by Dan Carlson Oliver Lunning by Mary L Cross Oliver Lunning by Deana Fisher Our awesome kids by Gail Anderson Packard Doodle Muzzin by Elisabeth Muzzin Parker McCarthy by Robert Anderson Parker Leo McCarthy by Mary Duerksen Pat Sylvester by Anthony Ritter Patti & Tommy Hamilton family by Lisa L Jeffreys Patty Lindlauf by Deirdre Honner Rebecca Arbaugh by Erik Lunning St Mark's Lutheran Church by Patrick Fish St. John Lutheran & Martha Smith by Amanda Kane Susan Doherty by Richard Doherty Team McCarthy! by Karen Beahon Teng Vang by Paul Vang All those unable to run by Robin McCants Utah Ragnar worker by Dan Carlson

### **SPECIAL THANKS**

Our annual "Run the Race" fundraising event happens because of our dedicated runners and volunteers. We owe them an endless amount of gratitude!

### RUNNERS

Jeff Spanky Amlotte Jesse Barr Chad Campbell C.J. Clark Amanda Clark Sara Cogsil **Brian Deames** Jon Deming Sophie Dettling Lydia Feld **Bob Feld Bobby Feld Elizabeth Friedman Hunter Gandee** Matt Hicks **Branden Hunt** Lisa Jeffreys Amanda Kane Rebecca LeDuc Erik Lunning **Nicole McCarthy** Merri McGregor Sumner Musolf **Rosemary Nnangobya Emily Olsen Chris Paliewicz Anthony Ritter** 

Mary Sauger Kirsten Schoensee Erin Schultz Joshua Scott Rachel Silcox Sarah Stasilowicz Keegan Sullivan Monique Taylor-McCants Sarah Turnage

### DRIVERS

Lindsey Anderson Tia Butler Matt Cutting Brendan King Craig Mathes Joe Monetta

### **SAFETY OFFICERS**

Rachel Blanchette Willie Caldwell Dan Carlson Andrew Chavanak Caitlin King Megan Mathes

**SOCIAL MEDIA** Kristin McCarthy

### **COOKS** Alison Boris Anna Taylor-McCants

**CHILDCARE** Frannie Turnage

FUNDRAISING SUPPORT Beth Paulo

#### **JOY BRINGERS**

Ezra Laynee Parker

### HONORABLE MENTIONS

Katie Butler Alex Clark Jessica Cummings Christin Fawcett Shannon Goodwin Bridget Reno Bonnie Schippling



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### RESTORING COMMUNITY