2020 ANNUAL REPORT
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GOD IS GOOD, ALL THE TIME

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT

The phrase which kept popping into my head throughout this year time and time again was, “God doesn’t simply call the equipped, God often equips the called.” We know this to be highlighted in so many stories of strife, trial, and triumph throughout the Bible. Noah, Moses, David, and Jonah all come to mind, as do others for you too I’m sure. In a year which challenged us to learn, grow, and lead in ways that we never expected nor even saw “in” ourselves; we are thankful for God and a community who supported us and walked alongside us through it all. God is good, all the time...

And naming the BLESSINGS of this year, and I truly do mean blessings, I find myself overwhelmed with gratitude. This great world came together and showed us support like we could have never imagined. I have spent considerable effort considering how best to say thank you to all who made this year possible. And with that, I of course need to flatly say thank you. So, “thank you!” But truly, I can’t come up with a better way to honor the generosity of individuals and congregations than to live out our call to mission in impactful and inspired ways that seek to match God's love for this world.

Now, "don't we work to do this every year?" is a fair question. Yes, we do. But I need to name that I’m inspired by the trials of this year, and the world's response. Jesus is needed. Always, yes. But this year ahead... like never before. You see it too I bet? At GLLM, ministry that happens in community with others (not in isolation), in relationship with God (not in fear), is of the highest priority. It will simply bring me to tears to see our chapel filled with kids this next summer.

The following report isn’t the message we expected to share at the beginning of the year. But nevertheless, it is one we are proud of and honored to share with you.

God’s Blessings,

Travis Aufderheide
Executive Director
2020 WAS NOT EASY.

0 SUMMER CAMPERS
-49 RETREAT GROUPS
-3,747 RETREAT GUESTS
$1.1 MILLION IN LOST REVENUE

BUT IT

1,252 DONORS, CHURCHES & ORGANIZATIONS GAVE TO CAMP
342 MADE THEIR FIRST GIFT
15 RETREAT GROUPS RENTED THE LEMON TREE & THE LOFT

MAINTENANCE STAFF ACCOMPLISHED MANY PROJECTS INCLUDING:
- RENOVATED THE CRAFT CABIN AT SHORES
- MADE A NEW TUBING HILL TRACK AT GLBC
- BUILT A NEW SWIM AREA AT SHORES
- REMOVED DOCK CRIBBING AND MADE BEACH IMPROVEMENTS AT CAMP HOUSE
- BEGAN WORK ON “THE COTTAGES” AT SHORES
- REPLACED 550 FEET OF FENCE AT GLBC

DESPITE BEING ENTIRELY ONLINE WITH HALF THE QUILTS, THIS YEAR’S QUILT AUCTION WAS THE 3RD HIGHEST EARNING TOTALING $64,102.73
WAS NOT ALL BAD.

STAFF USED THEIR CREATIVITY, HONED NEW SKILLS AND WORKED TOGETHER QUICKLY TO CREATE CAMP AT HOME.

THE DAY CAMP AT HOME CURRICULUM WAS USED IN DIFFERENT STATES.

WE KEPT GOING & NEVER COMPLETELY SHUT DOWN. STAFF FOUND NEW WAYS TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER THROUGH CUTBACKS AND TOUGH TIMES.

DONORS BECAME SUSTainers ON GIVE TO THE MAX DAY.

SUMMER STAFF MEMBERS HELPED TO MAKE CAMP AT HOME VIBRANT AND FUN.

1,200+ VOLUNTEER HOURS.

CAMP SINGALONGS THROUGH FACEBOOK LIVE HELPED LIFT OUR SPIRITS.

107 DONORS PARTICIPATED IN GIVE AT HOME MN, HELPING US TO “FILL THE CHAPEL”.

THE VIRTUAL DINNER THEATER WAS A HUGE SUCCESS:
315 MEATBALL DINNERS
110 DOZEN ASSORTED BARS
216 PERFORMANCE LINKS
136 DONATIONS

YOUTH AND ADULTS VOLUNTEERED WITH THEIR CHURCHES AT CAMP FOR SERVICE SUNDAYS IN OCTOBER.

167 YOUTUBE VIDEOS WERE CREATED BY THE PROGRAM TEAM, INCLUDING WORSHIPS, SONGS, ACTIVITIES AND MORE!

FAMILIES ATTENDED THE FIRST FAMILY CAMP RETREAT IN NOVEMBER.

MINISTRY ASSOCIATES HAVE SHARED RADICAL HOSPITALITY, WHILE KEEPING GUESTS SAFE.

THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF GLLM WAS RESILIENT: MINISTRY NO MATTER WHAT.
“FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS…”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

When I reflect on the year that has been and the years that are yet to come in the life of GLLM, I call to mind poignant words from the book of Esther.

As the story goes and as fate would have it, Esther finds favor with the Persian king and becomes his unlikely queen. This happens, serendipitously, as Esther’s people, the Jews, are being persecuted and are at risk of perishing. Throughout the story, Esther’s cousin, Mordecai, serves as an advisor and prophet to Queen Esther, helping her to discern how she can use her unique position to preserve her people in the face of an oppressive king. “Perhaps,” he wonders with her, “you have come to royal dignity for such a time as this.”

I have long believed that outdoor ministries like GLLM serve a unique role in the larger church. Places like Green Lake Bible Camp, Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp, and Camp House make God, grace, and Christian community tangible. Parish pastors marvel at the impact that a college-aged counselor can have on a group of campers in just one week; making a mark that well-trained preachers spend entire careers striving to do. Perhaps it’s the magic of leaving the Gospel in the hands of kids and young-adults whose age, energy, and wild-abandon is far-closer to that of Jesus’ first ragtag disciples than it is to those of us too comfortably in middle age. It likely has something to do with taking church, literally, outside the walls of a standard sanctuary. No one would dispute that sleeping out under the Milky Way stirs more awe than even the finest stained glass.

As Green Lake Lutheran Ministries looks ahead, our organization is perfectly positioned “for such a time as this.” As a vaccine becomes more readily available and the COVID-19 pandemic becomes more manageable, people will be clamoring to be together. As the weather gets warmer and summer approaches, we know that being outside is the safest way to gather. These two things are at the heart of GLLM’s mission, “inviting all to experience the life-changing love of Jesus though vibrant settings in community and creation.”

Despite the challenges behind us, the list of blessings is undeniable: a gifted and committed staff, overwhelming support and prayers from congregations, so many generous donors who far exceeded expectations for giving this year, and an exciting strategic vision, “At the Water’s Edge,” that charts a course for an innovative and faithful future of camping and retreating.

Thank you for the tremendous ways you have cared for GLLM in the last year, and for looking forward with hope and enthusiasm for what’s to come. In the years ahead, I am certain that this ministry will be balm for weary souls longing for the good news of a God who is known through the beauty of creation and promise of community.

Sincerely,

Rev. Ann Elizabeth Rosendale
Chair, GLLM Board of Directors
Looking forward, does the strategic vision for Green Lake Lutheran Ministries as outlined in the “At the Water’s Edge” process still have relevancy in a post COVID-19 world? Yes, more than ever!

COVID related uncertainty delayed plans and a feasibility study this year, but did not delay or in any way abandon our need, commitment, or passion. In fact, just the opposite.

In February through May we will be finalizing our master site plan from an architectural and programmatic standpoint, along with having architect concept drawings of our major projects, likely consisting of:
1 - Green Lake Bible Camp lakeside retreat center (presently Chrysalis House)
2 - Green Lake Bible Camp lakeside small group retreat center
3 - Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp recreation center
4 - Signature entry, signage, landscaping, and branding at all three locations.

We had to step back a little bit but believe the more comprehensive master site plan together with concept drawings will provide us a great design underpinned with facilities assessment, sites analysis, sustainability, construction costs, and operational cost planning.

We are excited to be in a position to do a feasibility study early summer plus bring plans to our constituents – including you! We expect the master site plan and concept drawings to be available in various forms of modeling.

Our network of congregations and individuals who supported us with such fervor in this wild year give us a ton of confidence and feeling of solidarity moving forward. Thank you.

The truths that pushed us to launch the “At the Water’s Edge” strategic process in 2019 are truer than ever today. The radical love and hospitality of Jesus drives our vision and stirs our imagination for how we might welcome everyone as Christ. We strive to listen carefully to the needs of others, and to go above and beyond to serve generously, graciously, and humbly.

Bottom line is we’re beyond excited about our building project and ministry, and very thankful for you.

Brad Rice
The Water’s Edge, Committee Chairperson
EVENYONE DESERVES THE CHANCE TO GROW AT CAMP.

On the first day of a camp week, campers find themselves in a new place, unsure of what the week holds for them. As they take in their surroundings, counselors are playing new games, unfamiliar peers are sharing meals with them, and worship is held around a campfire rather than their usual church sanctuary. The unknown can be intimidating, but exciting!

As the week progresses, timid singing voices become louder and more joyful. Through challenging faith conversations, campers are given opportunities to grow into their personalities and become confident children of God. Campers leave on that last day transformed by the love of God and given a faith community to return to the following summer, or maybe even for years to come. Summer camp offers children a safe space to learn about themselves and their gifts, impacts their future and encourages them to grow into faithful leaders of the church.

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries firmly believes that everyone who wants to experience a week at camp should be able to. Financial concerns should not be a barrier to participating. Green Lake Lutheran Ministries has established a scholarship fund and has been joyfully sharing these resources through an application process. Each year, we receive over 100 scholarship requests and approve each and every one. To make this possible, we need to raise 100 scholarships of $480, ensuring that camp is available for everyone. This is an integral part of the ministry happening at camp - and you can help.

Please consider sponsoring a camper, which will impact their life in amazing and unimaginable ways.
Give generously now at www.gllm.org, by calling our office, or by mailing your gift.

320-796-2181 • Green Lake Lutheran Ministries, 9916 Lake Avenue S, Spicer, MN 56288

100 SCHOLARSHIPS • $48,000