



# 2021

# ANNUAL REPORT

**GREEN**   
**LAKE** LUTHERAN  
**ministries**

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chad Darr, *Champlin, Chair*  
 Pr. Laura Aase, *Fairmont*  
 Robert Anderson, *New London*  
 Pr. Justin Ask, *Willmar*  
 Barb Bornhoft, *New Ulm*  
 Kevin Elton, *Hutchinson*

Casey Fuerst, *Savage*  
 Mike Jacobson, *Raymond*  
 David Johnson, *Spicer*  
 Pr. Nate Luong, *Rochester*  
 Pr. Todd Nelsen, *New London*  
 Kara Nilius, *Kandiyohi*

Pr. Troy Pflibsen, *Litchfield*  
 Brad Rice, *Spicer*  
 Kelly Rodger, *Minneapolis*  
 Pr. Ann Rosendale, *Sioux Falls*  
 David Struck, *Moorhead*  
 Rich Westlund, *Hutchinson*

# STAFF



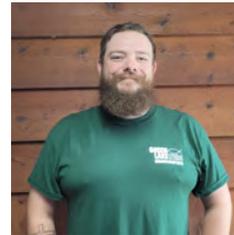
TRAVIS AUFDERHEIDE  
 Executive Director



TYLER DIETZ  
 Hospitality & Retreat  
 Associate



SONYA ERICKSON  
 Director of Finance  
 & Administration



JOHN EVANS  
 Ministry Associate



MOLLY HEFFNER  
 Ministry Associate



STEPH HOLME  
 Registrar



HOPE JOHNSON  
 Pastoral Intern



JOEL JOHNSON  
 Shores of St. Andrew  
 Property Manager



KARLA KINZLER  
 Food Service Director



DAVE LONG  
 Camp House  
 Site Manager



TINA MAGNER  
 Director of Retreat &  
 Hospitality Ministries



STEPH MEAD  
 Custodian



BRUCE NELSON  
 Green Lake Bible Camp  
 Property Manager



KIRSTEN PALAN  
 Marketing &  
 Development Director



KARINA RICE  
 Ministry Associate



LINDSEY SCHEID  
 Associate Director

NOT PICTURED: Jon Davidson, Program Director  
 Arturo Ruiz, Maintenance Specialist

# WELCOME

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

At an evening campfire worship in late June with a group of elementary aged kids, I found myself tearing up singing "The Hippo Song." As you might imagine, "The Hippo Song" isn't usually a tearjerker. In fact, the usual reaction is laughter, screaming, and joyous movements. But after not having summer camp for a full year, after our sites largely sat quiet for two years, after the trials and tribulations that we have all been experiencing... it hit me differently. **Welcoming kids back on site to hear the Gospel message shared through silly songs, fellowship, community, and worship – it felt so good!**

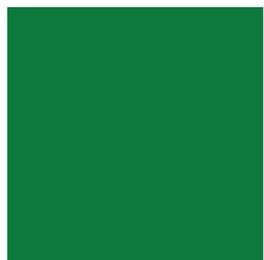
And it ended up being the case that the word "welcome" became the theme of our year...

In this annual report, we are blessed to share with you the true and honest excitement of 2021 and what is to come in the year ahead. And thank you for welcoming us as a partner in ministry.

God's blessings,



Travis Aufderheide  
Executive Director



# HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021:

## NOW OPEN: THE COTTAGES

**The Cottages at Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp hosted their first guests in June!**

Formerly used for staff housing, two cabins right on Lake Andrew were renovated and made available for families and small groups to rent year-round. Each cabin includes 3 bedrooms (sleeps 6-11), 2 bathrooms, gathering spaces, full kitchen, private Cottage beach access, dock, and camper pad with electrical hook ups.



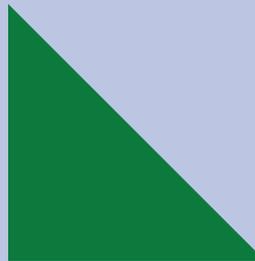
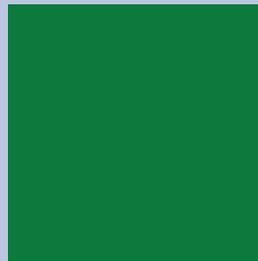
## WELCOME BACK TO CAMP

**In March, we were able to once again host large overnight retreat groups!** We were overjoyed to return to radical hospitality and this important part of our ministry!



## YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

**The GLLM Board of Directors and Staff created a new welcome statement, reaffirming our commitment to embracing God's incredible diversity and inclusion.**



## RECORD BREAKING QUILT AUCTION

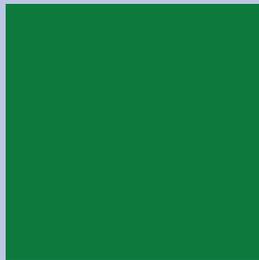
**The 37th Annual Quilt Auction raised \$85,588.91!** The Quilt Auction was held both in person and online, with live, online, and silent auctions, as well as other events. Over 200 people bid on items in person and online. This year's totals broke our previous records for highest auction total and highest Moment of Giving, raising funds to replace a John Deere Gator stolen from Green Lake Bible Camp in June.



# INCREDIBLE MEMORIES

## BACK TO SUMMER CAMP

**Summer campers and staff returned to camp after a summer away!** This brought so much joy, laughter and fun back to our sites! With COVID still being serious and present in our lives, we planned for roughly 50% of our record breaking numbers in 2019, but exceeded our goals for 2021 by almost 20%! Our restrictions to keep campers and staff safe worked - no reported COVID cases from campers or within our staff!



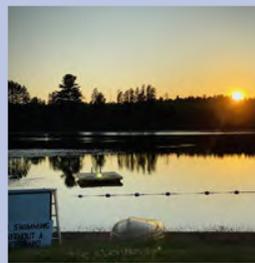
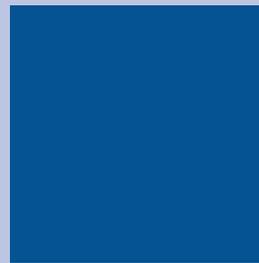
## NEW STAFF JOINED OUR TEAM

**In 2021, 5 year-round staff and 3 Ministry Associates joined our staff!** We are thankful for them, their passion, and their gifts!



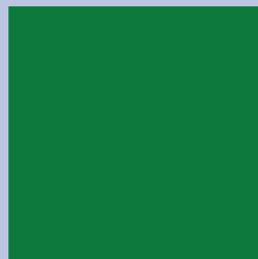
## DINNER THEATER: PERT'NEAR HOME

**The 7th Annual Dinner Theater was hosted in person again** with 5 shows, 288 guests, 43 takeout meatball dinners and 30 dozen assorted Christmas bars, raising \$25,563.17!



## SITE IMPROVEMENTS

**All three sites completed projects in 2021!** At Camp House, a great group of volunteers replaced the Lodge's shingles with a new steel roof and accomplished significant work on the baseball field. At Green Lake Bible Camp, we had various infrastructure projects that added up - water heaters, furnaces, well house remodels, septic work, staining, painting and more! At Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp, water mitigation projects to protect our cabins and the Cottages were completed!



# CAMP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

One of my favorite camp devotions is The Starfish Story. The story is an adaptation from *The Star Thrower* by Loren Eiseley and is often told like this:

Early one morning an old man was walking down the beach. In the distance he saw a young girl picking up starfish and throwing them back in the ocean. When the old man caught up with the girl, he asked what she was doing.

The young girl replied, "The sun is rising, and the tide is going out. The stranded starfish will die if they are left out in the sun."

The old man looked up and down the sandy shores and exclaimed, "But the beach goes on for miles, and there are millions of starfish. You cannot possibly make a difference."

The young girl picked up a starfish, tossed it back into the sea, and said, "**It makes a difference to this one.**"

The history of Green Lake Lutheran Ministries is full of stories just like this. Stories of staff members and ministry partners making a difference and changing lives. Perhaps we don't have starfish on the shores of Green Lake, Lake Andrew, or Lake George, but the impact made on others is much the same. Over the years I have noticed a common experience among the staff, board members and the many donors and supporters of GLLM: camp makes a difference! And we are fortunate to be able to continue that tradition.

The summer of 2021 saw the return of summer camp for the first time in two years. Even as we prepare this annual report, our staff is working hard to prepare for another year of sharing God's grace, lessons of faith and the life-changing love of Jesus with our campers and guests throughout 2022.

We are grateful for the support you have given to GLLM. To our congregations, our donors, staff members and volunteers: we thank you for your prayers, your overwhelming support and your faith that camp makes a difference!

Sincerely,



Chad M. Darr  
Chair, GLLM Board of Directors



# AT THE WATER'S EDGE

## PROGRESS REPORT

Over the past year, Green Lake Lutheran Ministries has been engaged in a comprehensive planning process we've named "At the Water's Edge." Our Board of Directors and several working committees have developed a renewed vision for how this organization might serve the next generation of campers and retreaters.

At its November meeting, the Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Board of Directors considered detailed recommendations for the implementation and funding of the priorities that have emerged from its planning work, including master site plans for all three sites and building plans for some feature projects. At the same time, the Board of Directors also authorized a feasibility study to consider a potential \$10 million capital campaign.

Our development consultant, Brenda Moore, is conducting interviews with approximately 40 friends and congregations who represent a broad cross-section of GLLM's constituency to ask for advice and feedback. While the Board of Directors and GLLM staff are near ready to move this project forward, we are asking if the friends of GLLM are ready, if our ministry inspires their partnership in these new ventures, and if we will have the broad base of support needed to confidently pursue a campaign. Their input will help the Board of Directors make informed decisions about how and when we might move these projects ahead.

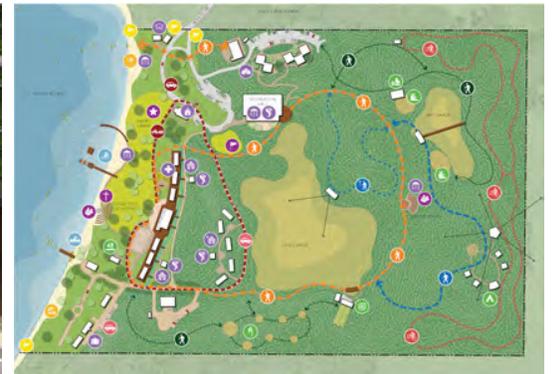
The Board of Directors will consider its final recommendations at its next meeting in late January, with hopes that our plans can be introduced to our constituency at the Annual Meeting in February.

## SNEAK PEEK OF PROJECT PROPOSALS



**ALLIANCE** studioOutside

Left: view of new entry to Green Lake Bible Camp Retreat Center  
Top right: site plan for Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp  
Bottom right: site plan for Camp House



# SUMMER CAMP 2021: WELCOME BACK!



During a week of camp, a camper spent an average of over **100 HOURS** with their counselor.



# 90%

of campers said they would bring a friend to camp with them.



# 94%

of campers said they would like to come back next year.



**1,381** campers attended summer camp over 7 weeks in 2021!



In the past 5 years, staff have joined our teams from **13 states & 11 countries.**



# 116 camper scholarships

were funded by donors and congregations through Impact 100.



# 96%

of campers reviewed their counselor as "great" or "awesome."



**17** congregations hosted Day Camp teams, bringing camp to their home communities.



In the course of the summer, staff members participated in and helped lead **80 worships & campfires.**

