



2021 Congregational Report

We are absolutely blessed to report that Green Lake Lutheran Ministries had a fantastic year! With the return of summer camp, increased retreat ministries, exciting projects completed, and giant dreams for the future, we have so much to be excited about and thankful for!

In this report, you will find a brief summary of our year, but please watch for our official Annual Report. This will be mailed out to congregations in January, before our Annual Meeting on February 8, 2022.

Program Ministry

What a healing experience it was to be back around the campfire with kids from across the state this past summer! After cancelling the 2020 summer camp season, which paused an over 80 year tradition of running onsite summer camp ministry, there was an overwhelming joy that came with welcoming the first groups of campers back to camp. With COVID still being a significant and serious presence in our collective lives, we planned for roughly 50% of our record breaking numbers in 2019, but exceeded those numbers by almost 20%! And the 7 layers of risk mitigation put in place to keep campers and staff safe worked - no reported COVID cases from campers or within our staff teams!

2021 also marked the return of our programmed retreat schedule. We have hosted confirmation retreats, service weekends, crafting groups, elementary mini camps, a new grandparent and grandchild program, women's retreats, men's retreats, and so much more! The variety of faith-based and Christ-centered groups that returned to each of our three sites this year has been so joyful.

And lastly, our Dinner Theater was brought back in person this year! Guests enjoyed a four course dinner with over four dozen made from scratch menu items, while being entertained and inspired by a wonderful play and choral production by Dave Eliason and Brian Pearson. Although all was done in a modified format limiting numbers and risk, to see the community come together back at camp was incredible. Thank you to the dozens of volunteers who help share the Gospel in such a unique way, each year!

Properties

All three of the sites had projects happening in 2021. A signature project that was finished this year was the remodeling of two cottages located at Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp. Both cabins were rented out by staff alumni, pastors, church groups, and families all summer and well into the fall. And we can't wait to host some of our own program groups this winter and in the year ahead! At Camp House, we were blessed by a volunteer group who replaced the Lodge's shingles with a new steel roof and significant work on the baseball field commenced. At Green Lake Bible Camp, we had various infrastructure projects that really added up - water heaters, furnaces, well house remodels, septic work, staining, painting, and so much more.

We are so blessed to have such talented property staff and volunteers.

Financial Position

Although our year end financials are not finalized as of the writing of this report, we are projecting that we will finish the year strong without having to take on the debt which was approved for general operations at the 2020 Annual Meeting. Summer camp, retreat, and fundraising income have all exceeded expectations! Thank you all for the incredible support!

Water's Edge Strategic Process

At our Annual Meeting in February, we will be sharing the final report from our pre-campaign work which will include updated master site plans, concept drawings for key buildings, and a recommendation for the corporation to consider regarding a capital campaign.

We feel so great about where we are in this process!

Closing

As we consider the year ahead, we have so many reasons to be optimistic about what is to come. We expect that as was the case in 2021, we will again take another step forward in regaining our footing before the shutdowns of 2020. It is clear that our style of ministry is still incredibly relevant and needed in this ever changing world.

The format of this report doesn't allow near the space needed to process the entire year nor thank all that contributed to its success. The almost 200 congregations and thousands of people who are connected to this organization are a special group. Thank you so much for partnering with us again this year as we share (together) the life-changing love of Jesus in vibrant settings in community and creation!

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Travis Aufderheide', written in a cursive style.

Travis Aufderheide
Executive Director
Green Lake Lutheran Ministries

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