

# Living Water Ministries

## 2025 Annual Report to Synod Assembly

In 2024 Living Water Ministries went through a significant transition. C.J. Clark, who gave LWM 18 years of exemplary leadership moved on to the position of Director of Evangelical Mission in the Southeast Michigan Synod. Transitions can be a challenging thing for any organization. The LWM community is unlike no other and rallied behind us. Our theme for 2024 was The Mission Is Real – and wow did the community surely prove this to be true.

The mission, “Bringing together all of God’s children to experience Christian Community, grow in faith, develop leadership skills and serve others” was made real by the campers, staff, and adult leaders who attended our summer programs or the Charge event. This mission was made real by the 987 total people who engaged in LWM programs and events in 2024. We welcomed 483 campers and adult leaders, 10 volunteers and 23 summer staff to Stony Lake! Then in the fall we welcomed 306 participants and 12 staff to Charge at the Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City!

For the 2024 season Living Water Ministries was able to continue Welcome to All Pricing where families can choose between full price, half price, or no price for camp attendance. This was made possible by the incredible generosity of donors, and we are planning to continue this pricing structure moving forward. One of our core values is, “welcome to all” and we are striving to eliminate financial barriers that could keep campers from attending our programs and experience the love of Jesus through the LWM community. In 2024, over \$98,000 was awarded to over 300 participants. We could not have done this without your help, so thank you for making the mission real!

Another event that really fuels the mission at LWM is the Run the Race event. This event brings together over 50 people to fundraise for LWM, but that isn’t even the best part. Through Run the Race, a unique community is built and the joy this community exudes is comparable to the sounds of campers in the summer. These people, whether runners, drivers, safety officers or members of team basecamp, live and breathe the mission of LWM and share it with their home communities. In 2024 the Run the Race community engaged 853 donors (381 of which were new to LWM), totaling 1016 donations from thirty-three states adding up to \$111,745.97 raised for Living Water Ministries. Since the start of the Run the Race event in 2018, participants have raised over \$615,000 for Living Water Ministries!

Not only was the Run the Race event wildly successful, 2024 was our most successful fundraising year since we fundraised for the Redpine cabin in 2021. I cannot say enough how thankful I am for this community, who in a time when it would be easy to disengage, engaged

even more fully to bring renewed life to LWM. We look forward to engaging with all of you in 2025!

Our 2025 theme is, "Lift," and throughout the year this will play out in a few different ways, so keep an eye on our social media, emails, and other communications to stay connected. Thank you, for your partnerships and support, and for joining us in the mission to bring together all of God's children to experience Christian community, grow in faith, develop leadership skills, and serve others.

Peace,

Nicole McCarthy

Executive Director