

Living Water Ministries

2026 Annual Report to Synod Assembly

In 2025 Living Water Ministries had a very significant year. It was the 80th anniversary of Stony Lake, we broke ground on our second modern duplex cabin, our programs thrived, and Run the Race hit a fundraising milestone. Our theme for 2025 was Lifting Up All of God's Children – and this happened in more ways than we expected.

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 lifted up by the 1,229 total people who engaged in LWM programs and events in 2025. This is where we were surprised by how the lift theme played out. We welcomed 10 pathfinders and 9 adults to our new pathfinders program pre-summer. We welcomed 539 campers and adult leaders (25% growth), 21 volunteers and 26 summer staff to Stony Lake (42% growth)! Then in the fall we welcomed 366 participants and 17 staff to Charge at the Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City (20% growth)!

For the 2025 season Living Water Ministries continued 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.

Another event that really fuels the mission at LWM is the Run the Race event. In 2025, 56 people participated 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 892 donors totaling 1026 donations from 34 states adding up to \$131,430.50 raised for Living Water Ministries. Since the start of the Run the Race event in 2018, participants have raised over \$745,000 for Living Water Ministries!

Not only was the Run the Race event wildly successful, 2025 was again our most successful fundraising year. I cannot say enough how thankful I am for this community, who continually

invests not only their resources but their time, energy and talents to ensure that the work God is doing through LWM continues for many generations to come.

Our 2026 theme is “Rooted,” 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