



Lake Wapogasset
LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP, INC.



Camp Wapo



Ox Lake



**Wilderness
Canoe Base**

715.268.8434

lakewapo.org

Congregational Report 2025

Thank you for being a Partner Congregation! We are deeply grateful for the ongoing support and dedication of so many congregations that enable thousands of individuals each year to experience community and deepen their faith at Camp Wapo, Ox Lake, and Wilderness Canoe Base. We celebrate a year full of impactful moments with campers and retreat guests, and we are thankful for the generosity of our donors, the prayers of our supporters, and the commitment of YOU - our partner congregations.

Across all three sites: Camp Wapo, Ox Lake, and Wilderness Canoe Base - we continue to see how essential this ministry remains in the lives of young people, families, and congregations. In a world that feels increasingly fragmented, our camps are still places of belonging, joy, spiritual grounding, and honest community.

God is moving powerfully through this ministry and the work happening at our sites remains profoundly impactful - forming resilient young leaders, nurturing faith in an unplugged and grace-filled setting and offering sacred experiences of creation and community that cannot be replicated anywhere else.

Summer 2025 - This summer, we had the privilege of welcoming 4109 campers and families to Camp Wapo, Ox Lake, and Wilderness Canoe Base. Our summer staff brought flexibility, leadership, and servant hearts to every corner of camp. They met challenges head-on and helped create a community full of energy and care.

Hiring for Summer 2026 is underway! If you know a young adult who would be a great fit, we'd love an introduction. You can contact Michael (Ox Lake) at michaelw@campwapo.org or Hazel (Wapo) at hazelb@campwapo.org, or Stephanie (Wilderness) at stephaniec@campwapo.org or visit lakewapo.org/employment to apply. Working at camp is the best work experience to include on a resume.

Deferred Maintenance Projects This year brought significant progress on long-awaited deferred maintenance. The new exteriors on the Lodge and Hill cabins at Wapo, the upper level addition to the chapel at Ox Lake, and the funds available for ongoing research and planning for Trailshack were all tremendous blessings. While we still have a list of deferred projects ahead of us, 2025 represented a giant leap forward, and we are grateful for the faithful stewardship that made this momentum possible.

Facility upgrades at Ox Lake have made it possible for us to bring back the High School Roots program for 2026. The upper level chapel addition is gorgeous and multifunctional. It will be a great blessing for that program and all the greatness planned for Ox Lake this summer.

Donor Engagement In 2025, annual giving reflected the caution many donors are feeling in an uncertain economic climate. At the same time, congregational giving and designated giving remained steady, resulting in overall contributions that look similar to 2024. This pattern reflects both careful discernment and deep commitment from those who continue to support this ministry.

We are still in the leadership phase of the **Room for More** campaign to complete the dining hall and meeting space project at Camp Wapo. Steadily, in the coming months, we will expand this effort through a congregational phase, inviting our partner churches to participate in this important next chapter. In time, we will move into a public phase for this campaign to broaden the reach and ask.

Joel Abenth, Director of Donor Engagement, will be working closely with congregations, individuals, and families who are discerning how best to support camp - through gifts, pledges, or other creative approaches to generosity. If you would like to explore ways to be involved, please reach out to Joel at joela@campwapo.org

Retreats and Events in 2025. In 2025, we hosted 7363 retreat and special events guests. All three sites offer a range of options for both programmed retreats and facility rentals if you're looking to organize your own event. Retreat opportunities can be found at lakewapo.org/news-events. For more details or to schedule your retreat, please contact Ryan at ryanb@campwapo.org. Anything from weddings to yoga, Quilters to Youth retreats! Additionally, we welcomed over 500 guests for our Memorial Day Pancake Extravaganza, celebrated the 23rd year of the Wapo Golf Tournament, and hosted over 1,200 guests and volunteers during Advent, including 8 sold out performances of the 36th annual Christmas Dinner Theater, "Star."

2026 Theme: WONDER *"With God all things are possible."* Matthew 19:26

At camp, we move from curiosity to calling - from *"What if?"* to *"Here I am."* Each question becomes a doorway into deeper relationship with a God who invites us not to certainty, but to awe, trust, and transformation.

Together, we stand in wonder of community, curiosity, calling, identity, mystery, and possibility. Camp is holy ground - a place to ask real questions, discover belonging, and listen for how God is at work within and among us.

We look ahead with eager anticipation and a sure sense of hope. See you at camp in 2026!

