



THE PATHFINDER

NEWS FROM PATHWAYS LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES



WHOLLY LOVED SUMMER 2023 RECAP

Thank you to all of our campers, families and congregations who helped make this an incredible summer together! We are grateful for all the friendships that were made, the games that were played and the many songs we sang together in churches and around the campfire.

Each week we spend time learning and wondering about the Holy Trinity. Throughout our worships and conversations together, we got a deeper understanding of what it means to be wholly loved by God.

During water worships, clown worships and time spent in God's beautiful creation, we were reminded that we are all beloved children of God and made in God's image. Fully and completely loved.

It is a blessing to be in this ministry together and continue to see the impact camp makes on our youth - and children of all ages!

319 on-site campers
442 day camp campers
14 day camps
18 summer staff members



"I grew up in Poland in the woods, and I immediately felt like it was my home away from home when I first arrived at camp! It was definitely love at first sight! It is a beautiful place, full of nature and the presence of God which I felt countless times this summer." *(read more on pg. 3)*



Summer 2024
Registration Opens
December 15th, 2023!

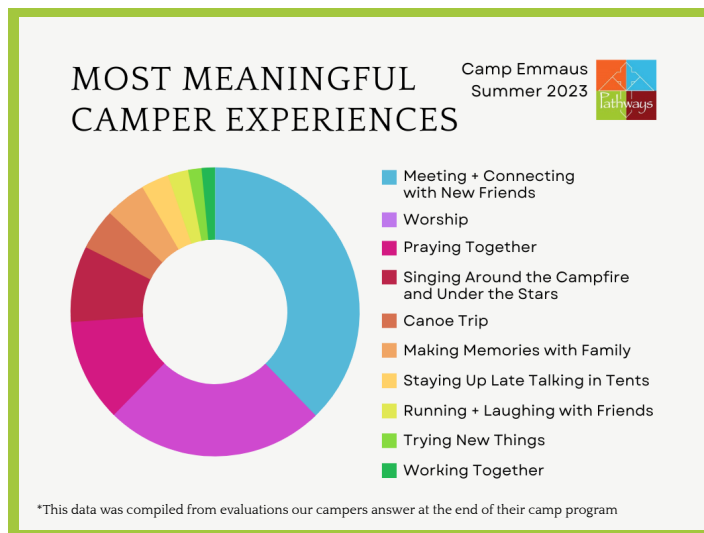
Welcome to our new Outreach Coordinator and Retreat/Event Manager, Paige Johnson! She started in her role on September 1st and can't wait to continue making connections and building relationships with our Pathways community! Paige worked on Pathways summer staff for 5 years and is excited to be a part of the year round team. She is looking forward to seeing you on church visits, at retreats and connecting with all who contact the office!

REKINDLE RETREAT

WITH ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH OF WARROAD

We were blessed to have a group of junior high youth and adults join us at Camp Emmaus during the last weekend of October! The overnight was spent singing camp songs, playing night capture the flag, taking in the beauty of creation, eating food together (including tortilla s'mores!) and learning more about the Road to Emmaus scripture. As we sat by the fire together, we thought about how we recognize Jesus walking with us and wondered about the times we feel "our hearts burning within us". Thank you to this crew from [Zion Lutheran Church of Warroad](#) for joining us and traveling down the road to Camp Emmaus!

If your church youth group would be interested in experiencing an overnight retreat like this one, please reach out to our office! We would love to talk about possibilities for partnering in ministry together.



A LOOK INTO RETREATS & EVENTS AT CAMP EMMAUS

NOW BOOKING FOR 2024

We have had a great start to our fall retreat season! Retreats are a wonderful way to spend time relaxing and experiencing the beauty of nature in a place set apart. Enjoying this time away with family and/or friends is so valuable. We are available for craft retreats, church leadership retreats, team building, youth/confirmation retreat, weddings and more!

Ope, you don't want to just take our word for it? Here are some quotes from guests so far this fall:

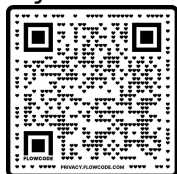
"This is a beautiful venue. I will recommend this place to more people looking to have a wedding!"

"Thank you again for a beautiful, memorable, fall retreat!"

Contact our office with any questions or ideas and let's get you & your group on the calendar!

Spots are already filling up for next year!

'Wholly Loved' Lyric Video



When our summer leadership staff gathered to train and prepare for this past summer, they were tasked with writing a song for our theme "Wholly Loved". Over the course of a couple days, in breaks between safety and leadership training, God moved through their songwriting sessions and this song emerged! It became a favorite among our summer staff and it was a joy to teach it to campers throughout the summer, as we dove into the daily themes: Who is God the Creator?, Who is Jesus?, Who is the Holy Spirit? and Who Am I?



Thank you!

We are grateful for the leadership, guidance and friendship of Jerry & Carolyn Fritsch! They joined Pathways as an interim director team from the end of March and stayed with us through September. We wish them well and praise God for all the ways they supported our Pathways ministry this year.

A NOTE FROM INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR IRA BAILEY



Greetings from Pathways!

I would like to introduce myself. I am Ira Bailey and beginning October 1st, I became the Interim Executive Director of Pathways. I have been the Trinity of Moorhead representative on the Pathways board for the past three years. I have been a youth director in area churches, bringing youth to camp and spending time there. I retired from elementary and middle school teaching a few years ago and I am excited to serve in this new role and look forward to being of assistance to a great team of Board members and staff! We have great opportunities in front of us and we have to take advantage to grow our ministry!

When talking my vision for the organization, I have three goals. First and most importantly, we need to build our relationship with the churches and individual supporters in the Northern portion of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod. More information will be coming out to you over the next few months and board members are committed to talking to you about what you need and want from your camping ministry. The Board is mindful that we are an asset to our member churches and want to serve your needs so we can be faithful in ministry together. Please pick up the phone and visit or call back when we leave a message. Attend the meetings we schedule in your area. Your donations and your prayerful input and support are vital to our ministry!

Second, at our board retreat in August the board voted to put Minne-Wa-Kan up for sale. We are planning to have a vote by the Pathways Constituency at the annual meeting on **Sunday, March 17, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. @ Camp Emmaus**. As most of you know, we have not had summer camping at Minne-Wa-Kan for about twenty years due to declining attendance at the weeks Pathways offered programming there. Since that time Concordia Language Village has been leasing the site for their programming. We are hoping to sell Minne-Wa-Kan to Concordia or another ministry if we can reach a price that fulfills the needs we have at Emmaus. With the completion of our purchase of Camp Emmaus from Trinity of Moorhead this past spring, the board also voted to make that our home site for our camping ministry.

Third, the ownership of the camp requires our investment in updating and/or replacement of buildings and cabins at Emmaus. Our plan is to use the proceeds from the sale of Minne-Wa-Kan to pay our final contribution to Trinity for the purchase of Emmaus, pay off our other debt, invest in the infrastructure at Emmaus and invest in the endowment fund. My hope is to have plans in place to build new cabins by the end of 2024!

2024 will mark the 90th year of camping at Camp Emmaus! Dr. Frederick Schiotez and the rest of his team had a vision for the camping ministry. Churches throughout Northwestern Minnesota have all been delivering and supporting that ministry for ninety years. It will require all of our prayerful support to make sure the Pathways Ministry can continue for the next ninety years. As you can see, we have a great path forward!

Thank you for all of your actions that support Pathways Lutheran Outdoor Ministries!

Ira Bailey



CAMP THROUGH THE EYES OF AN INTERNATIONAL COUNSELOR

by Julia Ignys

What an amazing summer at Emmaus Camp it was for me this year! And as an international counselor I wanted to share some moments of joy! First of all it was a dream made true! I was watching all the movies and cartoons like Gravity Falls, Total Drama or Camp Lazlo in my childhood and now I could live it in real life?! Such a great experience. And I loved the place itself so much! Every one of my expectations about this summer were outgrown thousand times! I didn't know that deciding to be a camp counselor at Emmaus this year would be this life changing experience for me. I truly believe there are times and events in our lives that you just feel inside that they're special. The camp was like that for me. I grew up in Poland in the woods, and I immediately felt like it was my home away from home when I first arrived at camp! It was definitely love at first sight! It is a beautiful place, full of nature and the presence of God which I felt countless times this summer. I felt it in Lake Morgan, during our Worships, at amazing Day Camps, with my wonderful cabins, during my walks in the forest or while sitting by the dock or at the beach.

World is divided now and my sometimes troubled mind feels at peace in this amazing place. My heart was open to experience what camp can give me and I felt warmly welcomed and I just hope I gave at least a little bit of myself to this amazing place. Minnesota will always be my American home. But enough about me! Let's talk about campers and how happy and fulfilled I felt being able to lead my cabins and groups at Day Camps. I love how open and nonjudgemental kids are and how eager they are to share their positivity and joy with any other beings who are open to share that as well. The camp is a perfect place to experience that. Even though taking care of a group of energetic kids 24/7 for the whole week might be exhausting sometimes, the energy I could exchange with campers was precious and paid off all the minor inconveniences. Observing how they grow every week, how confident and open they become and how comfortable they feel at camp was so rewarding. **Camp Emmaus is just a Go(o)d place to be and I'm happy to be a part of it!**

**2024 Summer Staff Applications
Open December 1st, 2023!**

Ways to Get Involved

1

Pray

Your prayers are no small thing!
We are grateful for all the prayers you offer up for our ministry.

2

Connect

Scan the QR code to the right to follow our social media pages!
Reach out to our office for church visits and stay connected all year long.

3

Give

Prayerfully consider supporting our ministry by giving monthly or participating on Give to the Max Day and Giving Hearts Day! We also have an Amazon Wish List linked through the QR code on this page - feel free to check it out.

4

Share

We are looking to share more stories of Pathways' impact on the lives of our campers of all ages! Please reach out to our office or connect with us on social media to share how camp has shaped your life.

5

Volunteer

Be on the lookout for a spring work day retreat, and other upcoming opportunities to volunteer! If you are looking to volunteer on spring/fall work days, as part of a group, or in the summer - please reach out to us at the office.



This year's Give to the Max Day donations will go toward supporting our growing Day Camp and Adventure Camp ministries!



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“PATHWAYS OFFERS UNIQUE ENVIRONMENTS WHERE GOD ENCOUNTERS PEOPLE AND RENEWS THEM TO LIVE LIVES OF LOVE.”



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