

Northwestern Ohio Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Office of the Bishop
1701 Tiffin Ave.
Findlay, Ohio 45840-6987
Phone: 419.423.3664
www.nwos-elca.org

July 7, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

This past week, youth and adult leaders from across Ohio gathered at HopeWood Pines for the All-Ohio Youth Camp. Together, we explored God's boundless love, shared meals and laughter, played games, and—of course—sang plenty of camp songs.

One of the most inspiring moments came during our final evening together, when we gathered for a candlelight chapel service. As the light of Christ filled the space, each camper and adult quietly placed their candle on the altar, beneath the cross of Jesus. It was a sacred and moving witness to the faith growing in the hearts of our young people.

Camp matters. In a world that moves quickly and pulls us in so many directions, camp offers a place to slow down, be present, and encounter God in creation and community. Here is a space where faith is formed, friendships are deepened, and lives are transformed.

HopeWood Outdoors is a vital ministry of our synod. It is more than a summer tradition—it is holy ground. For decades, HopeWood Pines (formerly Lutheran Memorial Camp) has been a place where seeds of faith are planted, where young leaders are nurtured, and where lives are shaped by the love of Jesus.

To ensure this ministry continues to flourish, I invite you to support the **\$2.5 Million Growing Hope** Campaign. The enclosed materials provide all the information you need. Your generosity will help us strengthen and sustain HopeWood Outdoors (HopeWood Pines, HopeWood Shores, and HopeWood Connect) for future generations. When you give, you are not just supporting a camp—you are investing in the spiritual lives of our young people and in the future of the church.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers, partnership, and financial support.

With deep gratitude,

Bishop Daniel G. Beaudoin

*Incline your ear, come to me; Listen so that you may live.
Isaiah 55:3a*



Dear Ministry Partners in the Northwestern Ohio Synod,

Greetings in Christ from HopeWood Outdoors, your statewide Lutheran outdoor ministry organization!

We are writing to share news of a new capital campaign through HopeWood Outdoors. This campaign is called **Growing Hope** and our desire is to expand the impact of Lutheran outdoor ministries here in Ohio. With a goal of \$2.5 million, the priorities of Growing Hope include projects at both HopeWood Pines and HopeWood Shores, as well as the expansion of HopeWood Connect.

God is already bringing growth to HopeWood's ministries, including 190% growth in campers since 2022. What a blessing to know that God is already Growing Hope among us! We want you to join us in Growing Hope, too. What will that look like?

At *HopeWood Pines*, priorities include completing fundraising for the new pool, renovating Cedar Lodge to increase accessibility, building an 8,000sf multipurpose facility, and reintroducing RV campsites. At *HopeWood Shores*, we're planning for a new Maple Grove shower house, a new staff cabin, upgrading sewer and electricity to enhance the camper experience, and restoring dock access to Lake Erie. For *HopeWood Connect*, this includes investments in portable activities, like inflatable gaga ball pits, so we can safely bring even more of the camp experience to every congregation across the state. There's so much more: accessibility enhancements, new mattresses, enhanced athletic facilities, energy efficiency upgrades, and the like. And this is all because, through HopeWood Outdoors, God is already connecting new people with nature and faith in ways that bless our changing world.

Why give a gift to Growing Hope? Because many of us—congregational leaders and members alike—were formed by the outdoor ministries of Camp Luther, Camp Mowana, and Lutheran Memorial Camp. A gift to growing Hope is an expression of gratitude for the legacy of God's work in our past.

A gift to Growing Hope is an expression of commitment to participation in God's ministry today. As we grow engagement with people of all ages, from newborns to senior citizens, people today will newly experience God's grace because of your generosity.

Further, a gift to Growing Hope is an expression of trust in God's care for the future. We know that God will sustain the future church long after we are gone. Leaving a legacy with Growing Hope is one way we all can participate in God's future ministry, continuing the legacy of faith formation for generations to come.

hopewoodoutdoors.org

HopeWood Outdoors

📍 2480 W Granville-Dublin Rd
Columbus, OH 43235
📞 (614) 890-2267
✉ info@hopewoodoutdoors.org

HopeWood Pines

📍 2790 State Route 61
Marengo, OH 43334
📞 (419) 864-8030
✉ pines@hopewoodoutdoors.org

HopeWood Shores

📍 3901 Lake Road
Conneaut, OH 44030
📞 (440) 224-2196
✉ shores@hopewoodoutdoors.org

HopeWood Connect

📍 2790 State Route 61
Marengo, OH 43334
📞 (419) 864-8030
✉ guestrelations@hopewoodoutdoors.org



God is already bringing growth to HopeWood's ministries, including 190% growth in campers since 2022. What a blessing to know that God is already Growing Hope among us! To meet the need for God's work, we need to grow our capacity, so we are asking for your help. What will that look like?

Attached to this letter is a list of ways you might support Growing Hope as a congregation. We know that every congregation in Ohio is different, and we want you to know that we value any and every kind of participation in this campaign! No gift is too small. We know that God works together all things for the good. Any effort you make to support Growing Hope will blossom like a mustard seed in God's hands.

You can visit www.HopeWoodOutdoors.org/GrowingHope to access digital resources for the campaign, including camper testimonies. You can schedule recurring gifts online at any time. If you prefer to send paper checks, there is a form available on the website to record your pledge so we can include your generosity in campaign projections. Please reach out to Tony Maggio, our Development Coordinator, with any questions you may have.

Our Executive Director, Drew Tucker, and our Development Coordinator, Tony Maggio, are both glad to visit you, your council, and your congregation to share more personally. This could be during worship, during a council meeting, or any other event where you'd like to amplify Growing Hope.

We especially want to thank Bishop Beaudoin and your synod staff for their support in sharing the news of the Growing Hope Capital Campaign. Ministry prospers through partnerships and we are grateful for partners like the Northwestern Ohio Synod!

At HopeWood Outdoors, we're committed to sharing the good news of God's love throughout the year. Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel!

In gratitude for you,

The Rev. Andrew (Drew) Tucker
Executive Director
Drew@HopeWoodOutdoors.org

Tony Maggio
Development Coordinator
Tony@HopeWoodOutdoors.org

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HopeWood
Outdoors

Fundraising Goal



at least

\$2.5 Million

in gifts and pledges by

December 31, 2029



PLANNED PROJECTS

HOPEWOOD PINES

New Pool

8,000sf Multipurpose Facility

Cedar Lodge Renovations

Updated Campsites

New Retreat Center

HOPEWOOD SHORES

New Lodge Deck

New Maple Grove Showerhouse

New Staff Cabin/Retreat Center

Upgrade Sewer and Electric

Restore Water Access

BOTH SITES

Upgrade Mattresses

Upgrade Sports Surfaces

Accessibility Ramp Installations

Garden Installation and Expansion

You can give to the campaign in general or to any specific project!

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✉ pinest@hopewoodoutdoors.org

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📍 3901 Lake Road
Conneaut, OH 44030

📞 (440) 224-2196

✉ shores@hopewoodoutdoors.org

HopeWood Connect

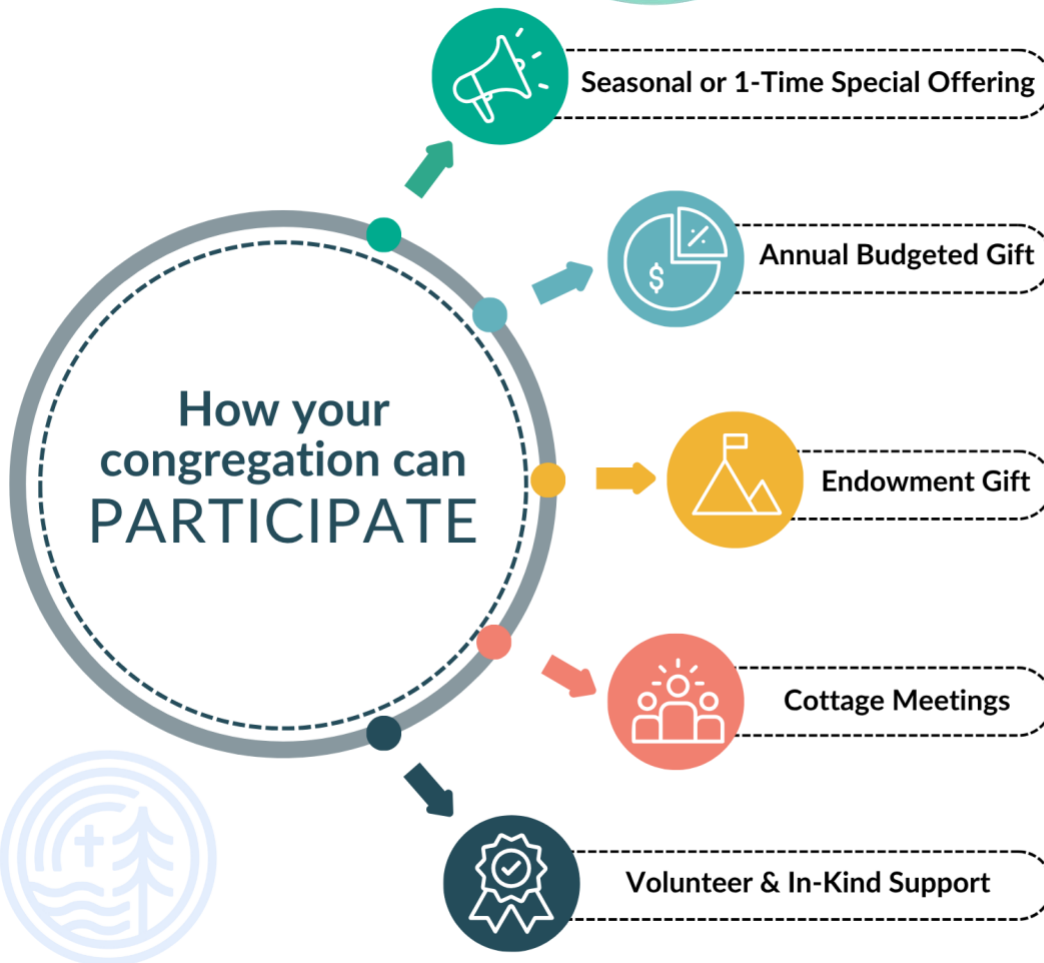
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HopeWood Outdoors



DID YOU KNOW?
 Between 2022 and 2024, the total number of campers with HopeWood Outdoors grew by more than **190%** and we project at least 10% annual growth for the next five years!

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