

A 2020 Capital Appeal Challenge

– Stony Lake Camp and Living Water Ministries

This year Trinity Lutheran Church was challenged by the leadership of Stony Lake Camp and Living Water Ministries to raise \$50,000 as a leadership gift in the \$400,000 first phase of its capital facilities project. Take note of the profile of that capital facilities project on pages 3 to 5 and on the back cover of this brochure. We have already achieved that \$50,000 level of commitment and embraced a larger challenge, the raising of \$100,000 to support the dedication of part of the first facilities project at Stony Lake in loving memory of Andy Larson. The following testimonial was shared by Andy's mom Marcy Larson:



"Two years ago, when my son, Andy, was killed in a car accident, my whole life felt like it was over. The road back to find a little bit of joy again has been long and hard. There are twists and turns, and sometimes it even feels like I am moving backward. Regaining trust and hope in God is not easy, but one thing that I can say is that I have not lost my faith. As rocky as that faith sometimes feels, it has not disappeared.

"Part of the reason for that is really the great faith of my son, Andy. His faith had always been rock solid. There had never been a doubt in his mind that he would someday meet Jesus in heaven. A few months before his death, he was even talking about death with a friend. The friend was scared of death, but not Andy. Andy told this friend that he was so excited to go to heaven. To Andy, death was never something to be feared. That was the faith of Andy. It wasn't complicated in the least.

"I remember that first year when he was scheduled to go off to Stony Lake Camp with his older sister. I wondered if he would even make it through the week. He had never been away from me before and I feared he would be too homesick. I was so wrong! He loved every second of camp. He loved the relationships that he made. He loved singing camp songs and playing camp games. He loved learning more about God and growing his faith. Andy really grew to love his church family during those weeks at camp. Two weeks before he died, he returned from his first mission trip with the same great kids that he grew close to in camp. He seemed to grow up so much. I was so proud of him and of his faith in God.



"A few weeks ago, when Pastor Bob first mentioned the Stony Lake project to build new cabins for the camp, I knew that Eric and I would want to contribute. We have planned to donate money each year to causes that were important to Andy, and certainly, this would be perfect. I started thinking about all the kids like Andy who would be attending Stony Lake in the future, and I thought how Andy, more than anything, would want them to have fun. He would want them to learn about God and to get just as excited for heaven as he had been.

"The more I thought about this, the more that I realized that I was thinking too small. Our church had a goal of \$50,000 to raise for camp, but one cabin was going to cost over \$400,000, and there are so many cabins to build. I wondered if Eric and I promised a \$20,000 starting gift, if we could reach a goal high enough to raise enough money to get at least part of a cabin dedicated in memory of Andy. That is my dream now – I hope and pray that we can at least raise \$100,000 to get one room of one new cabin dedicated to our son, Andy. Someday, campers may see a plaque on the wall of that cabin and ask about him. Someone will then share that Andy was a kid who loved to run and sing at camp, and that someday, hopefully far in the future, he would be there to greet them in heaven."

Please consider a yearend gift to the Stony Lake Camp capital appeal. Let's remember Andy Larson in our generous support. Mark your gifts "Stony Lake Camp Capital Appeal."

"I was excited to take Charlotte and Isaac to Stony Lake for their first camp experience. (Okay, truth be told I'm excited EVERY year I take them.) I hoped they would have an amazing time of growth, connecting with people and God, singing songs, spending time in nature, and laughing, thinking and perhaps even crying as they learned about life. They were there for less than a week, yet I wanted all of that for them.

"I won't lie. There were some twinges of jealousy that I couldn't be their age and going to camp again, to fill my cup and heart. My personal connections to camp run deep. My formative years were spent in a way that not many experience. My dad was the director of Michi-Lu-Ca, a large Lutheran camp in NE Michigan. My sister and I spent all our summers from the ages of 5 to 20 at camp. There were no summer vacations for us, because that was my dad's busy season. I worked in the camp store, kitchen, on the maintenance crew and as a Family Camp Activities Director. Once old enough, I got to change roles for one week each summer, act like I didn't know my dad and be a camper! So, admittedly, woven into the excitement of taking my children to Stony was also a little sadness that I wasn't taking my kids to that same place where my camp experiences happened. BUT . . . they were not spending the week in the city. They were going to camp. All was good.

"I had the vantage point of both employee and camper as I watched the magic of camp unfold each summer. Much of it I just took for granted at my young age and didn't realize the importance until later in life. Reflecting back, I can tell you that the tears shed by many campers at the end of a week or staff at the end of the summer were because of the strong bonds that were built between people opening up to one another and God. Camp becomes a neutral ground of sorts where the struggles of school, social groups and stereotypes begin to melt away. A week of conversations centered around God while surrounded by his beautiful creation is powerful stuff. One of my closest friends was a camper and coworker at camp. We have laughed until we cried, cried together about life's struggles and reminded each other often of God's love and grace. That friendship started at camp and is grounded in everything camp.

"Singing that echoed through the woods or across the lake at evening campfires or worship services or throughout a dining hall traveled home to the towns and cities of campers and staff when camp ended. I often smile and sing a song in my head when a Bible verse that is read in a service at Trinity happens to be the lyrics to one of my favorite camp songs. The melodies and lyrics embedded in my mind have

helped me breathe a deep breath and remember God's goodness at many points in my life. It was even a camp song that I chose to be sung at our wedding with a simple guitar and solo voice just before I walked down the aisle.

"Isaac and Charlotte had a great time at camp. Our van was full of camp song singing as we drove back to Grand Rapids, and then suddenly it wasn't. Because camp is exhausting . . . in a good way. Camp is the people. It is also the place. Most importantly it is what happens when God is working through the people at that place. And it is powerful."

Amy Stephan



Three generations of Michigan Lutheran camp people. My Mom, a counselor at Gun Lake and Cook/Director's wife at Michi-Lu-Ca, my sister and I, Kitchen Crew/Maintenance/Canteen workers AND campers Michi-Lu-Ca and Charlotte, Isaac and Chloe (my niece) campers at Stony Lake.



The Table

a place for everyone

Every summer Living Water Ministries hosts campers, both youth and adults, from across Michigan and the United States at Stony Lake. Creating intentional Christian communities rooted in faith, leadership and service, LWM exists to share the good news of the gospel while creating a place at the table for all of God's children. We do this visioning a world transformed by the work God is doing through our programs, our campers and the grace of Jesus Christ.

Living Water Ministries is now embarking on its first major facilities renewal project and capital campaign in its 75-year history at Stony Lake. When complete, the camp will have 6 new duplex style state-of-the-art cabin facilities providing innovative design for better camper comfort, privacy and supervision, along with the opportunity for shoulder-season use. In addition, significant renovations will take place on the current dining hall, featuring an expanded dining room to increase capacity, updated kitchen facilities, an ADA bathroom, and air conditioning.

PHASE ONE

LWM's facility refresh begins with the building of the our first duplex cabin. Once funds are raised for phase one, ground breaking can commence. Construction is estimated to begin late summer 2022. Phase One completion is expected in the spring of 2023.

PHASE ONE AT-A-GLANCE

Square Feet:	2,183
Projected Completion:	Spring 2023
Construction Costs:	\$400,000.00



www.elcalivingwater.com



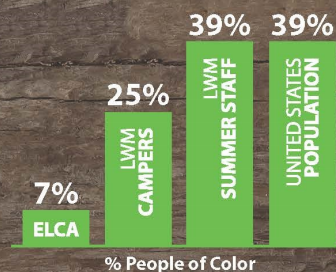
NATIONAL REACH

Since 2015, Living Water Ministries has hosted participants from 16 states!



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Living Water Ministries works to help form faith and shape leaders for the church and the world.



% People of Color

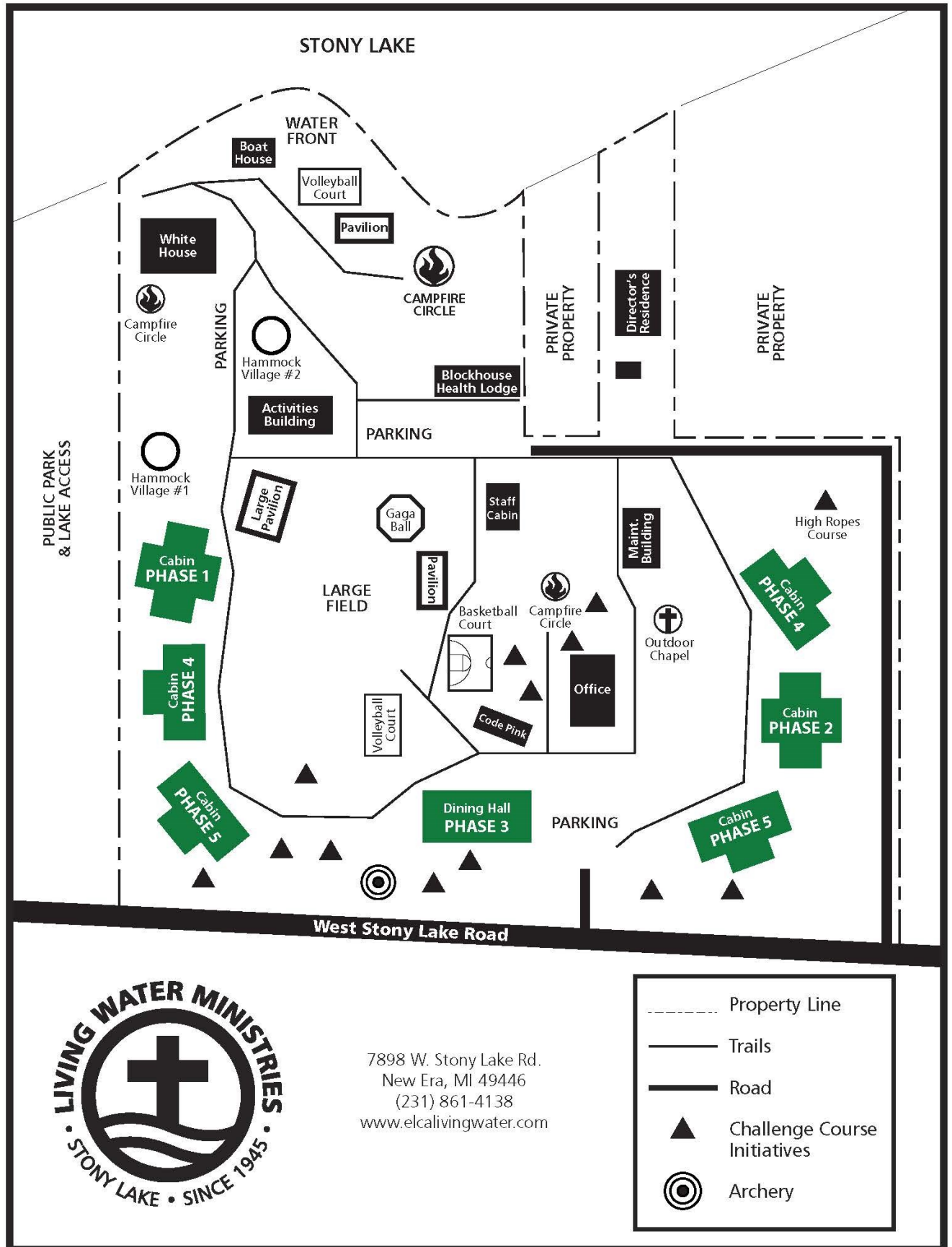
DIVERSE & INCLUSIVE

In a world polarized by division, Living Water Ministries strives to curate diverse and welcoming communities where stereotypes are destroyed.



INNOVATIVE

The unique and transformative work God is doing through Living Water Ministries has been funded, awarded, and featured nationally by the ELCA.



5 PHASES

18 years • \$3.3 million

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a place for everyone

PHASE 1 • 2020-2023

PHASE 2 • 2023-2026

Phase 1 & 2 focus on the fundraising and construction of two duplex style cabins with shared meeting space. Cabin 1 groundbreaking scheduled for Fall of 2022. Cabin 2 groundbreaking scheduled for Fall of 2025.

Estimated Construction Costs Per Cabin:
\$400,000.00



PHASE 3 • 2026-2030

Phase 3 focuses on the fundraising, renovation, and expansion of the Dining Hall. Dining Hall renovations and expansion scheduled for Fall of 2029.

Estimated Dining Hall Costs:
\$1,000,000.00



PHASE 4 • 2030-2034

PHASE 5 • 2034-2038

Phase 4 & 5 focus on the fundraising and construction of four duplex style cabins; two during each phase. Cabin 3 & 4 groundbreaking scheduled for Fall of 2033. Cabin 5 & 6 groundbreaking scheduled for Fall of 2037.

Estimated Construction Cost Per Phase:
\$750,000.00



Living Water Ministries
7898 W. Stony Lake Rd. • New Era, MI
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"Growing up I was not a church camp kid. It's not that I didn't like camping. I did a lot of camping with my family and the Boy Scouts. I was uninterested in church camp because of the kids in my community who went to it. They were very exclusive in how they interacted with each other. If you weren't part of their church camp group, then you were not worth talking to or being around. They had an air of elitism to them that I quickly learned I wanted nothing to do with.

"This attitude changed when I encountered Living Water Ministries (LWM). I first connected with LWM through the Michigan Gathering years ago. It was a huge diverse event where the community was filled with welcome and positivity at every level; staff, volunteers, and participants. It was incredible. I quickly joined the planning team and have been involved in LWM ministries since.

"At Trinity I've witnessed how amazing camp at Stony Lake is firsthand. I've watched our young people encounter God in community and nature and be changed. I've seen kids who feel they don't have a place be welcomed into community and blossom. I could share story after story of how I've seen camp change the youth of Trinity — many of them are on a camp stories playlist on our YouTube channel. I too have been changed by camp. There I have been blessed to build relationships with leaders from across the region who have helped me continue to grow as a person and pastor. There is a camp shirt that says camp changed me, and I can wear that shirt proudly."

Pastor Dan Schewe

"My family and I have a LONG history with our Lutheran camps in Michigan. Growing up, we often spent a summer week at family camp with our fellow church members at Pleasant Hill, a camp the church used to own on Bass Lake, near Gowen, Michigan. I was a confirmation camper at another former camp, Michi-Lu-Ca, and at our current camp, Stony Lake.

"I lived vicariously through my younger sister and brother, who were both campers and then counselors at Michi-Lu-Ca. In fact, my sister actually met and later married her husband at camp.

"As a camper, I learned wonderful lessons about God's love. In fact, one great memory is when a counselor, who heard me playing a camp song by ear on the dining hall piano, told me my musical ability was a gift from God that I could use to honor Him. I try to do so to this day, both at church and in my career as a music teacher.



Trinity Kids, leaving for Stony Lake, July 2015

"More recently, all three of my children have been campers at Stony Lake. They look forward to that summer week at camp all year long. They love being in nature and being in a place where they see God's love in action, with the acceptance and love that shines through their counselors and fellow campers. They come home singing camp songs and we often hear the Superman prayer or Johnny Appleseed before family dinners throughout the year.

"As I mentioned, there used to be other Lutheran camps in Michigan — in the 80's we had Stony Lake, along with Michi-Lu-Ca, Pleasant Hill, and Tecumseh Woods. Camping ministry and support for it has declined to the point where Stony Lake is the only camp left. The good news is that the programs and ministry at Stony Lake are going strong, and we have an amazing opportunity to support them.

"As you've likely heard, we are hosting a capital campaign to partially sponsor the first of at least two or more new cabins at Stony. This will be a very welcome upgrade, since the rest of the buildings at camp are the same rustic ones that were there when I was a camper in 1988 (and they weren't new then!).

"Our original goal as a congregation was to raise \$50,000. Hearing this, congregation members Marcy and Eric Larson have stepped forward with a lead gift of \$20,000 in memory of their son Andy who died in 2018. Their generosity, along with several other strong gifts, has led us to raise our goal to \$100,000.

"This is lofty! I'm here to encourage you to prayerfully consider the impact Stony Lake's ministry will have on the young people in our congregation and across the state and even the country for years and generations to come. This is God's work in action!"

"As I learned at camp, 'The Lord is good to me, and so I thank the Lord for giving me the things I need: the sun and the rain and the apple seed.' I thank the Lord for Stony Lake and for the opportunity to support them! Please join me in supporting our camp, and give as generously as you can. Thank you!"

Kate Bredwell

"Our family joined Trinity Lutheran Church in 2013. We were in search of a church family that was very active. We wanted a place for our kids to grow up that was very invested in the youth of the congregation. We found that here at Trinity. We got them involved and we sent them off to Stony Lake Camp that first summer. I was nervous. I remember Pastor Sarah telling me to take a deep breath and know that the girls would be fine and would have a great time. I was still nervous. Pete hugged me and told me he'd look after them.

"I spoke with Nicole, the Program Director, and Kristen, a camp counselor, at length when I dropped them off. I'm pretty sure I cried on my way home. I was not as worried about our daughters Nyki and Alaina; those two can pretty much hold their own. But our daughter Katarina has disabilities, and Stony Lake is not a disabilities camp. But they assured me Katarina would be looked after and would have a great time. This was the first time she had left my side for an overnight. Ever.



"I arrived an hour early on pick up day. I remember staying out of view but listening to closing ceremonies and seeing my girls singing, holding a piece of string, and hugging everyone afterwards. We'd all made it through the week, and it had changed us. The girls had fallen in love with Stony Lake, the counselors, the activities, the songs, and the feelings they couldn't fully describe. Stony Lake blessed our whole family – not only the girls but Tim and I had grown and stretched too. They gave Katarina a level of independence that she hadn't had before because they were willing to step out of their norm and make a place, a loving, safe place, for a girl with differences. The girls have attended every year. And each year, dropping them off and seeing the counselors welcome them back by name and with such warmth has made Stony Lake very Important to us all. This summer would have been our family's 8th year at Stony Lake.

"The girls were so excited driving home that first year, telling lots of stories. Then Alaina piped up with a very emphatic, 'And we are coming back next year Mom! Don't forget to sign us up.' Stony Lake is always the first thing on our summer schedule before we start to make plans for anything else.

"So when the COVID Pandemic hit and things started closing down I was worried. A news report stated that church camps were hit hard and two out of every three camps were canceling programs. And most alarming is that some of those camps were closed permanently and the land sold. I reached out to Pastor Dan, who reassured me that the camp director CJ and Nicole were okay and that Stony Lake was going to weather this pandemic, but that we would be looking to support them. I know a lot of families like ours did not ask for a refund this summer but instead donated that money to support the camp through this hard time.

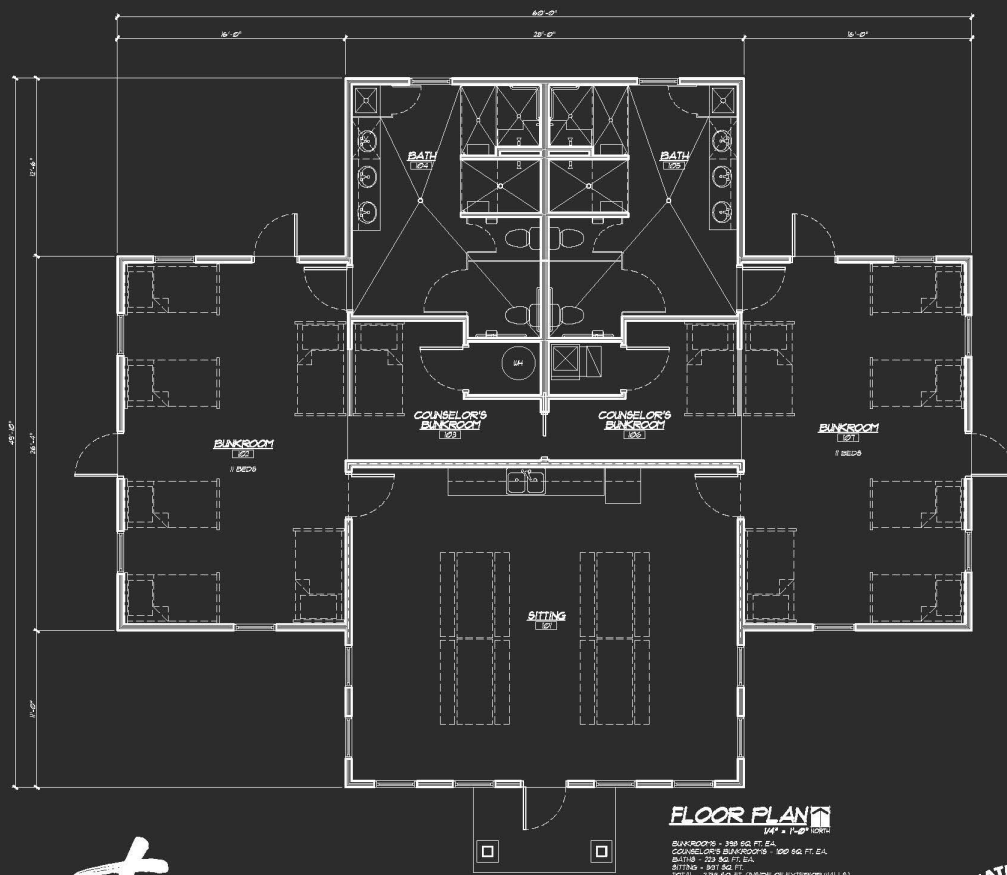
"CJ and Nicole put together a program called Quarantine Campfire, which was a Zoom meet-up with Nicole and the band playing camp songs and singing with all the kids and checking in with them. My kids looked forward to those meet-ups, which gave them a chance to experience a little bit of Stony Lake during the pandemic. It was something the kids really needed, a little piece of normal even if it was in a not so normal format.

"This is a big reason why we are supporting the capital campaign for Stony Lake. Renovating the camp is great, and adding new buildings will make the camping experience even better. But giving back to CJ and Nicole and all the counselors and staff who are the heart of Stony Lake is the biggest reason. Because they have been there for all our kids. And of course we have Stony Lake marked on our summer calendar for when they reopen."

Tess Lundgren



PHASE ONE



The Table
a place for everyone

