



Koinonia is where God transforms and prepares people in an outdoor environment to love and serve one another.

**KOINONIA
MISSION STATEMENT**



**KOINONIA
NEXT**

FORWARD TO THE FUTURE

KOINONIA LEADERSHIP

Board of Directors (Includes outgoing Directors, 2021 board members and new 2022 board members)

2022 Officers



PRESIDENT
KATIE CUNNINGHAM
Brooklyn, NY



VICE PRESIDENT
GERRY FALCO
Harrison, NY



TREASURER
MARK WILSON
Briar Cliff Manor, NY



SECRETARY
PATRICIA ROSE
Bronx, NY

Members



JOSE
AFANADOR, JR.
New York, NY



CAROL
BLIEFERNICH
Highland Lake, NY



SHERRY
COSTELLO
Brooklyn, NY



SHIRLEY ERLAND
Seaford, NY



DR. ANTHONY
GERACI
New York, NY



REV.
CHRISTOPHER
MIETLOWSKI
Scotch Plains, NJ



REV. JIM
O'HANLON
Rye Brook, NY



KELLY KANDLER
New York, NY



REV. CHRISTOPH
SCHULZE
Brooklyn, NY



JD STRUCKMANN
Belfast, NY



REV. ROBERT
WOLLENBURG
New York, NY

A HALF CENTURY OF MINISTRY

2023 will mark 60 years since the Martin Luther Camp Corporation, aka Koinonia, was founded. The timeline that follows provides a summary history of Koinonia.

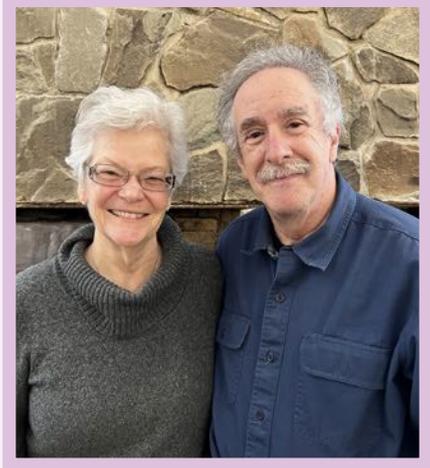
1959

A Bible Camp Committee is established by the Lutheran churches of NYC as a response to concern over youth ministry

Your Koinonia Staff



▲ Jean Sandberg (Office Manager/Registrar); Matt Baumhardt (Retreat Director); Lora Baumhardt (Development Associate); Kathleen Kristin Ruen (Executive Director). Also pictured is Emery Baumhardt, Matt and Lora's daughter.



“Koinonia has been part of our family life, and Kathleen’s professional life, for more than 40 years. As we anticipate a bright future for this ministry we treasure, we are thankful for new leadership and the faithfulness of long-time community members.”

–Pastor Kathleen and Gary Koran

Financial Position as of 12/31/21 (Unaudited)

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash and Equivalents	\$197,767
Fixed Assets	\$1,140,511
Other Assets	\$68,159
	\$1,406,437

LIABILITIES

Current Liabilities	\$55,122
Non-current Liabilities	
MIF Construction Loan	\$253,912
Vehicle Loan	\$1,310
Total Liabilities	\$310,344



◀ The first board and leaders of the Martin Luther Camp Corporation.

Front Row: Rev. Robert Nervig, President; Jerry Manlove, Executive Director; Margaret Horst; William Gordon; Arthur Fugelsoe; Kurt Heinrich; Arthur Johnson; Rev. Theodore Bartus.

Back Row: Rev. John Hove, Treasurer; Rev. Harold Jansen; Jerry Larson, Fund Consultant; Rev. Stan Stenson, Vice President; Rev. Stuart Ensberg, General Appeal Chairman; Rev. James Hofrenning, President N.E. Conference; and Walter Hed. **Not pictured:** Rev. Arnold Mathisen; Secretary, Lorentz Johnsen; Gerry Isaksen.

THREE DIFFICULT YEARS

For decades Koinonia provided inspirational ministry while also weathering storms and challenges. Beginning in early 2018, weather-related storms became overwhelming and in August caused the Camp to close. In May of 2021, Koinonia reopened. Described below are significant events that occurred in the intervening years.

2018 – Difficult Times

- ◆ Late winter storms with cold, snow and wind caused extensive damage and cost.
- ◆ In March the Trail Building, beautifully renovated in 2017, burned to the ground during a nighttime storm.
- ◆ In August, severe mold in many buildings forced the Camp to close.
- ◆ In October, the Camp’s insurance was canceled.
- ◆ The NYS Department of Health did not renew the Camp’s operating permit.
- ◆ A New York State mold assessor estimated the cost of remediating the mold to be \$1.68 million.
- ◆ In December, Koinonia’s Board of Directors was told that \$3 million was needed to remove the mold and make subsequent repairs. The cost seemed impossible.



2019 – More Difficult Times

- ◆ The February Annual Corporation meeting ended without a plan to reopen and without a decision to close.
- ◆ In May, the Metropolitan New York Synod Interim Bishop called a special meeting of concerned individuals.
- ◆ By May, Koinonia was without an Executive Director or staff, and the Board had six remaining members.
- ◆ Following a special Corporation meeting in June, remaining Board members appointed new members and created new leadership.
- ◆ At the request of the new Board, the newly-elected Metro NY Synod Bishop appointed an 8-member “Advisory Task Force” to help decide Koinonia’s future. The Task Force first met in October.



1961

Approval given by Northeastern Conference of the American Lutheran Church (ALC) for incorporation of the “Martin Luther Camp Corporation” under the laws of New Jersey.

1962

Formal adoption of constitution
Election of Board of Directors
Acceptance of \$100,000 from Our Savior Lutheran Church, Staten Island
Property Purchased - \$10,000 for 1,063 acres
Jerry Manlove begins as full-time camp director
Master Site Plan completed

1963

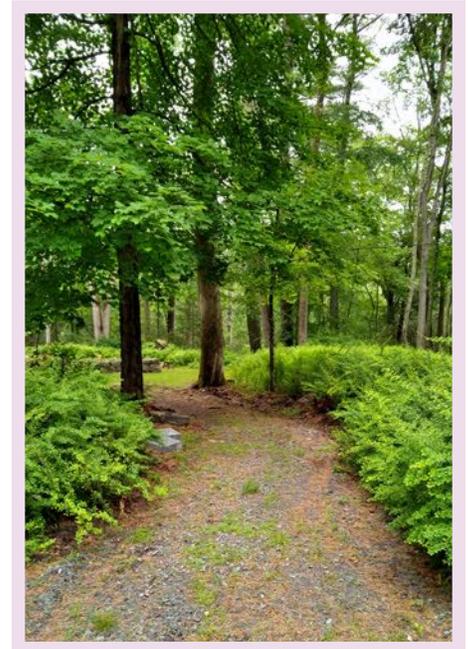
Tax exempt status obtained
Capital Fund Campaign raises \$500,000
300 acres purchased on north corner and one acre for main camp entrance
John Asdal hired as Camp Manager

2020 – Beginning With Uncertainly, Concluding With Hope

- ◆ At the February Annual Corporation Meeting, members support the Advisory Task Force recommendations to establish a special one-year Transitional Board and a mold remediation plan that will cost less than \$150,000.
- ◆ The Corporation members authorize the Transitional Board to borrow up to \$500,000, if a reopening plan is feasible.
- ◆ The Transitional Board selects mold remediators.
- ◆ The Board contributes 50% of funds needed to begin mold remediation.
- ◆ September 11th Koinonia receives a mold “clearance letter.” All mold has been professionally and officially removed.
- ◆ In October, the ELCA Mission Investment Fund, with backing from the Metro NY Synod Bishop and Council, awards a loan of \$300,000.
- ◆ Koinonia receives a new “Permit to Operate” from the NYS Department of Health.
- ◆ In December, Dr. Kathleen Kristin Ruen begins part-time as Acting Executive Director.

2021 – New Beginnings

- ◆ In January, Koinonia secured the services of Gronlund Sayther Brunkow (GSB) and partner, Dave Brunkow, to guide capital funding efforts.
- ◆ At the February Annual Meeting of the Corporation, Transitional Board members resign (as planned) and a regularly elected board takes over.
- ◆ Keith Johnson is hired to guide the Board’s strategic planning and to develop good board practices.
- ◆ Dr. Kathleen Kristin Ruen is appointed full-time Executive Director in April.
- ◆ Dave Brunkow suspended the GSB contract in order for the Board and Executive Director to focus on the tasks involved in reopening Koinonia.
- ◆ In May, Koinonia officially reopens to guests.
- ◆ Koinonia ends the year in a healthy and stable financial position.
- ◆ After a mid-year hiatus, the Board resumes the GSB contract and a new capital campaign is announced - “Koinonia NEXT: Forward to the Future.”



1963

New buildings constructed: Retreat Center, Asdal House, Office, Garage

First phase of camping with 299 high schoolers attending

Dam improvements- lake lowered by four feet

Roads and bridge built to cross lake

1964

Five painted altar panels (Robert Aldern artist) placed in Trail Building (later in Conference Center)

Expanded programs and facilities

1964–67

Additional facilities and campground developed

WHAT'S NEEDED NOW?

Koinonia is now positioned to move forward into the future and to grow. Focused on serving children, families, adults, congregations and others effectively and safely, important needs will be addressed with funds received through KOINONIA NEXT: FORWARD TO THE FUTURE.

THE NEED FOR: **Strong Leadership and Creative Programming, Leadership that is “Christ-Connected”**

- ◆ Strong executive leadership that will connect Lutherans and diverse groups.
- ◆ Experienced and dedicated staff will again live and work at Koinonia.
- ◆ Strong programming that will invite individuals and groups for spiritual renewal.
- ◆ Programs that will meet the needs of the local community.
- ◆ Events and gatherings that will serve the needs of the present and future Church.

THE NEED FOR: **Rejuvenated Buildings**

- ◆ Safe and modern buildings will enhance Koinonia’s ministry to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. Deferred maintenance will not be deferred.
- ◆ Quality accommodations will equal generous hospitality.
- ◆ Comfortable “indoors” will enhance the experience of the “outdoors.”

THE NEED FOR: **Safe And Secure Infrastructure**

- ◆ Koinonia has extensive infrastructure to maintain and upgrade.
- ◆ Seven miles of roads and ditches
- ◆ Seven wells, water pumps, and miles of water lines
- ◆ Seven septic systems
- ◆ Miles of electric poles and lines
- ◆ New signage is needed
- ◆ Acres of grass that need to be mowed
- ◆ A lake, beach front, bridge, and dam to be maintained
- ◆ Numerous campsites and trails to be cared for

THE NEED FOR: **An Effective Communications Network**

- ◆ Communications and strong marketing will attract new guests, increase bookings and reach new participants.
- ◆ Social media and other communication channels will market a welcoming, comfortable and safe outdoor ministry open to all people.

1967

Jerry Manlove resigns
Rev. Bert Locker accepts call to be the new director

1972

Rev. Bert Locker resigns
Rev. Bob Nervig accepts the position of Director

1973

The Director’s and the Family Camp Director’s houses built

1977

Campaign launched: Coming of Age - A Dream Whose Time has Come
1,000 Creation Learning Center students and 472 youth campers



((KOINONIA)) NEXT

FORWARD TO THE FUTURE

Koinonia will move successfully forward into the future by focusing on improvements in the following key focus areas:

Network and grow strong collaborative partnerships

- ◆ Communications and Outreach
- ◆ Lutheran Witness Along the Delaware (LWAD)
- ◆ Strong connections with synods
- ◆ Phone lines upgraded for all buildings
- ◆ Outreach/Marketing Director

Environmental, prudent, transparent, and sustainable management

- ◆ Buildings and Grounds investments
- ◆ Facilities and Grounds Manager
- ◆ Bookkeeper and Office Assistant
- ◆ Development Director

Xenial: Inclusive, equitable, exemplary hospitality

- ◆ Strong Wifi in the Conference Center
- ◆ Endowment scholarships for retreats and individuals
- ◆ Adaptive and culturally relevant service
- ◆ Housekeeper and Cook Positions

Transformative ministry through innovative worship and programming

- ◆ Programming and curriculum development
- ◆ Recruiting and training staff
- ◆ Investment in camp leadership
- ◆ Program Director

Koinonia **Statement of Values** **JANUARY 2022**

Koinonia seeks to deepen and recast its historic commitments to outdoor ministry:

- ◆ **Spiritually Centered** – We are called to bring the Good News of the Gospel through regular worship opportunities for the community, both in person and virtual.
- ◆ **Sustainable** – We are called to determine the sustainability of our ministry and steward it through prudent management and transparent information.
- ◆ **Collaborative** – We are called to explore various collaborations and partnerships to expand our ministry.
- ◆ **Inclusive** – We are called to a ministry that actively works towards diversity, equity, and inclusion in all aspects of our ministry.
- ◆ **Reconciling** – We are called to provide a space for healing, forgiveness, and true connection.
- ◆ **Ecologically Active** – We are called to steward the land and protect God’s Creation.

1979

Conference Center Dedication

1984

Thirty Creation Learning Center schools - 1,592 students attend

1987

25th Anniversary Celebration

1988

Rev. Bob Nervig accepts a call to Trinity Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, NY

KOINONIA NEXT PROJECTS



“...I am so very thankful to witness the renewal and revitalization happening at Koinonia these days. I am grateful for the hard work of Pastor Bob Wollenburg and Kathleen Ruen, and so many other faithful laborers in rebuilding the camp.”

–Rev. Christoph Schulze

BUILDING REPAIRS

\$634,000

The campaign funds will restore and improve six key buildings, each critical for ministry.

- ◆ The Asdal House
- ◆ The Administrative and Staff House
- ◆ The Conference Center
- ◆ The Caritas House
- ◆ The Two-Family Cabin
- ◆ The Lakeside Cabin

INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

\$166,000

Campaign funds will keep all of these systems and equipment running so that guests will always and only experience a welcoming, hospitable and safe environment.

- ◆ Seven well and sewer systems.
- ◆ Roads, trails, bridges, dam, telephone and electric lines and poles, drainpipes and ditches.
- ◆ Equipment such as tractors, mowers, wood splitters, and more.

PROGRAM AND LEADERSHIP SUPPORT

\$200,000

Because Koinonia was closed for three years, program goals for the campaign include an initial three-year salary support for the new and future staff. This support will enable year-round creative programming and attract old and new constituents to enjoy a variety of transforming events and experiences.

After the initial three-year period, staffing and programming will be covered by Koinonia’s operational budget. This budget will be supported by guest occupants and users, grants, and donations.

1989

Pastor Jeff Barrow called as new Director

1991

Pastor Jeff Barrow resigns

Corporation members reject proposal to sell 500 acres to reduce debt

1992

Michael McElhaney hired as new Director

1996

Michael McElhaney resigns

Rev. Kathleen Koran Interim Director

FOR FUNDING

KOINONIA NEXT - GOAL \$1 MILLION (CHALLENGE GOAL \$1.5 MILLION)

The capital campaign to fund Koinonia Next will invite the generous contributions of individuals, families, and foundations. Gifts and pledges will be received over a three-year period. Gifts may be in the form of cash, marketable securities or other marketable assets. Contributions from qualified retirement assets are also welcome.

Once the campaign goal is met, a second \$500,000 “challenge” goal will provide additional support. If this challenge goal is met, the following projects will be funded:

Backup Generators	\$17,500
New Campground Shower House	\$100,000
Conference Center Upgrades	\$100,000
Seedtime Endowment Loan Repaid	\$237,500
Building Planning and Development	\$45,000

STANDARD OF GIFTS

The chart below shows the gifts and amounts needed to fully subscribe the \$1 million campaign and \$500,000 challenge goal.

Number of Gifts	Amount	Cumulative Total
1 gift	\$150,000	\$150,000
2 gifts	\$100,000	\$350,000
4 gifts	\$50,000	\$550,000
6 gifts	\$30,000	\$730,000
8 gifts	\$25,000	\$930,000
10 gifts	\$15,000	\$1,080,000
15 gifts	\$10,000	\$1,230,000
30 gifts	\$5,000	\$1,380,000
And many other gifts of other amounts		\$1,500,000

CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP



Dr. Anthony Geraci

CAMPAIGN CHAIR/
MAJOR GIFT CO-CHAIR



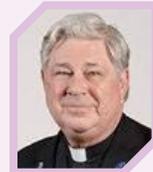
Rev. Robert Wollenburg

MAJOR GIFT CO-CHAIR



Rev. James and Ellie Sudbrock

CHAIRS FOR
CURRENT AND FORMER
BOARD MEMBERS



Rev. Richard A. Hill

CHAIR FOR
CONGREGATION GIFTS



Bunky Giddings and Elisabeth Isaksen

CHAIRS FOR
STAFF ALUMNI GIFTS



Dr. Kathleen Kristin Ruen

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

1997

Rev. Chris Christopher becomes Director

1998

“David and Goliath Campaign” is launched

1999

Rev. Chris Christopher resigns
Steve Lee is hired as the new Director

2002

In response to 9-11 terrorist attacks, Koinonia begins “New Ground” day camps with support from Lutheran Disaster Response of New York
32 one-week day camps serve 750 youth



“We have brought many, many others to be blessed there the way we have been. We couldn’t be more thankful that Koinonia is open once again. Our prayers and gratitude abound for all that you are doing.”

–Kathy Williams

FROM REV. RICHARD HILL, CHAIR FOR CONGREGATION GIFTS

I was first at Koinonia as a member of a youth group the year the camp was purchased 60 years ago. I remember helping to clear the fire road around the property. It was a very significant thing for us as teenagers because we were growing up in suburban Long Island. Koinonia was wilderness!



Our experiences at Koinonia helped us a lot in our spiritual development. My decision to become a pastor was because

of being in a camp setting with other believers and in a church with a pastor and lay evangelist that continually supported it.

I wonder what you have heard about the campaign now going on at Koinonia. It’s a campaign to raise funds to make significant improvements to the property in addition to the improvements that have been made in the past couple of years.

Our hope would be that we will get a positive response from presentations to churches and, that the congregation councils would see this as contributing to the positive spirit and growth of their congregation. Having the campaign can be a kind of rallying point for congregations. We’re doing something together instead of living in this isolation we have been suffering from.

The Metro New York Synod Council of the ELCA has granted permission to present the campaign to all congregations of the Synod. All Koinonia Association congregations that are not members of the Synod are invited to participate as well.

My hope is that, at this particular time, when people hear about Koinonia, they will start to say that it’s good to hear that we are doing something really positive that will bless a lot of people. I hope that the pastors will see the possibilities.

For me, Koinonia is something very new that is very old! I have great memories of camp but I also have great hope for the future.

2003

\$578,000 mortgage is paid off

2008

Hearts on Fire capital campaign

2010

Steve Lee resigns
Total for Hearts on Fire campaign reaches \$1,020,000

2012

Tom Ahlstrom, Paul Hinderlie and Carol Lund Hinderlie named Directors
Due to financial constraints summer youth camp canceled

Alternative programming begins dotting the calendar

THE PLAN FOR CONGREGATIONS TO SUPPORT THE KOINONIA NEXT CAMPAIGN

Koinonia member congregations and all congregations of the Metro New York Synod will be asked to participate in this challenging campaign effort through a careful three-step process:

- STEP 1** Receive a congregation council presentation to learn the specifics of the campaign projects, timetable and activities.
- STEP 2** Select a member of the congregation to serve as the campaign leader and have that selected leader attend an orientation and training program conducted by Koinonia leadership.
- STEP 3** Set a goal* for the congregation and then conduct a five-week campaign effort that offers every member family of the congregation an opportunity to participate through a contribution.

CONGREGATION GOALS *

Each congregation will be asked to set a non-binding, three-year goal for their campaign effort. Recommended goal levels are proposed on the basis of the average weekly worship attendance of the congregations since most pastors and lay leaders consider that statistic to reflect the effective size of their congregation. The following are the proposed goal levels for congregations.

Basic Goal	\$100 per worshipper
Advance Goal	\$200 per worshipper
Challenge Goal	\$300 per worshipper

For example, a congregation with an average weekly worship attendance of 100 persons could select from among the following three-year goals:

Basic Goal	\$10,000
Advance Goal	\$20,000
Challenge Goal	\$30,000

Presentations to congregations will begin in 2022 and congregations will have the option to conduct their campaign efforts in 2023 or 2024.



“I am so excited for what we can do together in this campaign. I pray we will transform more lives in the future with your generous support. God Bless you and your commitment to Koinonia’s Ministry!”

–Kathleen Kristen Ruen





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