

Good Earth Village gratefully acknowledges the many faithful investments from our congregational members and partners. From your financial contributions to volunteer hours to providing program leadership to hosting our staff to your prayers and other service,
you all make the Village.

Congregational financial support was offered in monthly, annual, and special gifts/grants.

- **76** congregations made a financial, missional investment in this outdoor ministry through unrestricted donations, event sponsorships, and grants totaling \$94,343. This is an increase in participation of 31%, and a reduction in funds of 8% from 2023.
- **47** WELCA partners made combined contributions of \$12,374. This is a 9% increase in participation and an 8% increase in funds.
- **23** congregations held retreats at Good Earth Village. This is an increase of 21%!

Over 60% of annual financial needs are met by donations from individuals, congregations, WELCA groups, conferences, and businesses. The work of Good Earth Village would not be possible without the partnerships with our member congregations and the non-member ministry partners.

Your support is vital to fulfill the promise of keeping outdoor ministry affordable for every family and individual. **Thank you!**

Programming Highlights

Summer Camp 2024

1. Eighteen young adult leaders, including five international staff from Colombia.
2. We served 611 campers onsite representing 115 congregations.
3. We provided 8 off-site day camps at congregations.
4. We initiated a "Pastor of the Week" program and hosted eight volunteer pastors from across our synod who each served a week of training or camp as a chaplain, eating, worshipping, and playing with youth.
5. The Good Earth Village endowment covered the cost of six high school students in the staff-in-training program.
6. Provided financial assistance to 76% of campers in campership and discounts.

Lunch and Learn Series

We offered seven programs in 2024 that included themes of nature, the environment, creativity, leadership, and music.

Women's Day

Our topic was "Tuning In" and it was led by Pastor Marla Rotman of Gloria Dei, Rochester. We learned more about the spiritual practice of Lectio Divina. Fifteen congregations were represented by 29 women.

Community Sing Events

1. Beer & Hymns in Albert Lea – July 2024 co-sponsored with First Lutheran Church
2. Beer & Carols in Albert Lea – December 2024 co-sponsored with First Lutheran Church, Grace Lutheran Church, and 112 on Broadway
3. Beer & Carols in Rochester – December 2024 co-sponsored with People of Hope ELCA, Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, and Little Thistle Brewery
4. Beer & Carols in Chatfield – December 2024 co-sponsored with Chatfield Lutheran Church and the Chatfield Center for the Arts

Site Service Days

We hosted one public site service day and hosted three other youth service days sponsored by member congregations. In total, nine congregations were represented in site volunteers. Projects included firewood collection and distribution around the site, trail maintenance, cabin clean-up, and staining.

Mission

To EXPLORE God in creation, GROW faith in community, and ENGAGE the world as followers of Jesus.

Purpose

To be a place for Christ-centered retreat and community.

Core Values

Community, Faith, Friendship, Fun, Openness, Peace, Service

Join us for our **Annual Meeting** March 2, 2025.

Registration will begin at 2:00 and the meeting will begin at 2:30.

www.goodearthvillage.org for more information

Good Earth Village is committed to being an effective ministry partner and welcomes your ideas.

Please look for new and continued ways to lift up outdoor ministry to make faith formation stronger together. When we partner, our youth and families benefit by growing stronger in their faith and relationships.

Good Earth Village Staff are available to worship with you and/or present portions of your worship service. Please contact us at 507-346-2494 to arrange any of the following,

- Congregational or Special Music
- Pulpit Supply/Preaching
- Scripture Readings
- Youth Engagement/Children's Message
- A full GEV Service
- Outdoor Church Service at GEV