

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.

- **58** congregations made a financial, missional investment in this outdoor ministry through unrestricted donations, event sponsorships, and grants totaling \$102,047.73.
- **43** WELCA partners made combined contributions of \$ \$11,450.89.
- **19** congregations held retreats at Good Earth Village

Around 70% 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 2023**

1. Fifteen young adult leaders, including three international staff from Colombia.
2. We served 654 campers onsite representing 134 congregations.
3. We provided 8 off-site day camps at congregations.
4. We delivered a new confirmation camp curriculum written for and taught to campers from multiple congregations, rather than the traditional confirmation camp taught by campers' pastors. The intention was to allow pastors a reprieve from summer teaching, and to allow campers from smaller congregations or congregations where their pastor was on sabbatical to attend confirmation camp.
5. Offered Staff-in-training program to high school students at no cost to them.
6. Provided financial assistance to 90% of campers.

### **Lunch and Learn**

Offered seven programs in 2023 that included themes of nature, travel, family, and music.

### **Women's Day**

Our topic was Compassion, with breakout groups:

- Compassion for Self
- Compassionate Caregiving
- Compassion for Community

The closing worship was led by summer staff leaders.  
More than 18 congregations were represented by 33 women.

### **Community Sing Events**

Beer & Hymns – July 2023 co-sponsored with First Lutheran Church, Albert Lea

Beer & Carols – November 2023 co-sponsored with First Lutheran Church, Albert Lea

Beer & Carols – December 2023 co-sponsored with People of Hope, ELCA, Rochester and Rochester Civic Theatre

Beer & Carols – December 2023 co-sponsored with Chatfield Center for the Arts

### **Work Days**

We hosted two public work days and received help from members of six member congregations.

### **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.

### **Values**

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

Join us for our **Annual Meeting** March 3, 2024.

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

[www.goodearthvillage.org](http://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