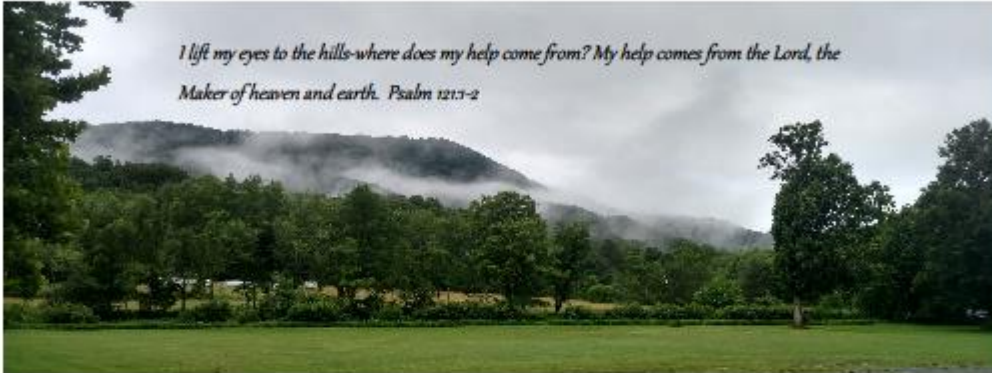




## ***Hungry Mother Lutheran Retreat Center***

### ***2019 General Assembly Report***

***June 7-8, 2019***



*I lift my eyes to the hills-where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. Psalm 121:1-2*

*As David wrote this psalm, he may have looked unto the hills and they reminded him of a place of refuge. When he was a young man, a jealous Saul and his men sought to kill David. Or perhaps those hills may have reminded him of a dark time in his life when he had to hide out for his own survival. Whatever David's feelings were when he looked unto those hills is unknown but his answer is quick when he writes "My help comes from the Lord", as he knows God was there all along, leading him and protecting him.*

*For over 60 years, Hungry Mother Lutheran Retreat Center has also been a place of refuge for many. Fortunately not from a maniacal king but rather a refuge from the grip that everyday life can sometimes place on us. Hungry Mother is the perfect setting to enjoy the beauty that surrounds these hills and offers the visitor the opportunity to disengage from their routine and participate in a planned program, enjoy the fellowship of family and friends, or simply enjoy quiet time alone.*



### ***Hungry Mother Lutheran Retreat Center Report (Cont.)***

*Each year groups of all sizes visit our property for a variety of reasons. We offer primitive camping, rustic cabins, and a bunkhouse with dining hall for larger groups. Outdoor amenities include hiking trails, activity field, team building course, and two outdoor worship spaces. We also have our Prayer Path which meanders through the forest and offers seating along the way where one can just simply be. We also offer a picnic shelter perfect for reunions, picnics, weddings, or just about any outdoor group function. Held annually are the Highlands Conference corn-roast, Walker Mountain Parish/St. John-Abingdon joint Sunday worship, and the Beer and Brat fundraiser.*



*Aside from offering our facilities for group rental, Hungry Mother also partners with local businesses, agencies, and other groups to provide summer camps and other planned events. Below are some of the events that we hold annually through these partnerships.*

***“Stepping Out” Healthy Camp -Goal:*** To help combat the growing rate of child obesity in SW Virginia

***Overview:*** Two separate weeks of resident camp open to Smyth County 4th and 5th graders. Tuition is free by way of a grant from Smyth County Community Health Trust. Campers participate in week long lessons, activities, and crafts designed to promote healthy lifestyle choices. Campers spend time in our Sprouting Hope Garden where they make recipes using harvested vegetables. Camp fills quickly on a first come basis.



***Partners:*** Lifetime Wellness Center, Smyth County Community Hospital, Smyth County Schools, Emory and Henry College of Health Sciences, Sprouting Hope Garden



## ***Hungry Mother Lutheran Retreat Center Report (Cont.)***

### ***Social Services Camp Week -***

**Goal:** To provide a week of fun camp for children dealing with a family crisis.

**Overview:** One week of resident camp where activities are planned to be fun. Swimming, hiking, and field trips are part of the programming with lots of structured free time. Tuition is free to the campers through funds from the DSS.

**Partner:** Smyth County Department of Social Services



### ***Bible Camp:***

**Goal:** To provide an outdoor community setting where campers are encouraged to express and grow their faith.

**Overview:** A long tradition of week long resident camp for 3rd - 12th graders. Many campers return each year to reunite with friends while also making new ones. Bible study, songs, and devotions are the order of the day with plenty of time for games, crafts, and lake swimming. Evening activities include campfires, smores, songs, and skits. Always held during the 4th of July week with a fireworks display. A 17 mile down hill bike trip on the rails-to-trails Virginia Creeper Trail is the highlight activity.



**Partners:** Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp, Hungry Mother State Park

### ***Marion Survivor Group Camp***

**Goal:** To help those battling addiction.

**Overview:** Occurring each Memorial and Labor Day weekend, this is a family friendly event for those who suffer with addictions to come together to hear speakers and participate in group activities. The entire camp is reserved on these weekends with the cabins reserved well in advance and many tents are seen around the grounds. Other than the cabins, a free will offering is all that is asked.

**Partner:** Marion Survivor Group, local chapter of NA

## **Hungry Mother Lutheran Retreat Center Report (Cont.)**

### **Diabetes Day Camp**

**Goal:** To support diabetic youth through community building, education, and empowerment

**Overview:** Provide nutrition, exercise, and education to build community among diabetic youth and their families. Expose participants to healthy adults living with diabetes and empower them to manage their diet and exercise through healthy lifestyle choices

**Partners:** Ballad Health, Lifetime Wellness Center, Sprouting Hope Garden



As we reflect on the theme for this year's Synod Assembly, **Faithful+Bold+Serving**, we find it to be at the core of our ministry at Hungry Mother as stated in our Mission Statement;

***"To satisfy the world's hunger for God's presence in our lives and nurture the Spirit of Christ with gifts of the natural world".***

**+Faithful** towards our commitment to discern God's purpose for us as we look to serve His greater church. Hungry Mother welcomes all groups and visitors with Christ-like hospitality as we strive to help satisfy the world's hunger for God's presence in our lives.

**+Bold** to proclaim our mission of faith and trust in the Lord to provide peace and guidance, through the Holy Spirit, to nurture the Spirit of Christ.

**+Serving** God's church by providing a place of refuge for the mind, body, and soul through the offering of gifts of the natural world.

**Thank you for your interest and to God be the glory!**