

CALENDAR

For more information on these events, go to www.lomnetwork.org.

February 6-9, 2017:
Environmental Education and Group Challenges Intensive

February 26- March 1:
Compass Points (see article in this newsletter)

May 8-12, 2017:
Interim Executive Director Training at Lutherdale (WI).

November 2-6, 2017:
Leadership Training Event

November 6-10, 2017:
LOM Conference

SOCIAL MEDIA

Here's What You May Have Missed at [facebook.com/lomnetwork](https://www.facebook.com/lomnetwork)

- Don's Travel Log
- Region 5 Gathering
- Leadership Transition
- Camp Research Report

Looking Back on 2016

This past year has been a phenomenal year for Lutheran Outdoor Ministries. There have been many highlights of 2016 as we will attempt to recap in this newsletter. As with every year, the LOM Conference must be at the top of the list of accomplishments for 2016. Under the theme, "Kingdom Come," this annual event was held at Carol Joy Holling Camp in Ashland, Nebraska. Nearly 140 Lutheran camp professionals and board members at the conference.

This year's theme looked at how outdoor ministries need to see beyond the boundaries of their own sites and broaden their reach and increase their effect on their communities. The keynote speaker was Rozella White, former Program Director for Young Adult Ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The Rev. Louise N. Johnson, president of Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, was also present for the conference and was the preacher for the closing worship. Tangled Blue, a musical group, provided worship leadership for the event.

At the conference, during a session of the Annual Meeting, the LOM individual members present re-elected Casey Fuerst to a three-year term (the Board subsequently elected Casey as Board president for the ensuing year). The membership also elected Jake Sorenson to a three-year term and re-elected Dave Herder to a three-



year term. There are two members of the Board who are elected by the Board itself. One of these positions was up for election this year. The Board elected Branden Hunt of Living Water Ministries in Michigan to a 3-year term Branden is currently an MDiv student at Trinity Seminary. The following were also elected to the newly constituted Nominating Committee:

- 3 Year Term- Jeff Bluhm (will be serving as chair), CJ Clark
- 2 Year Term- Brent Seaks, Casey Backus
- 1 Year Term- Deb Roberts, Susan Troutman



Auction Sets Record

LOM held an auction on Wednesday night of the annual conference. Items donated by LOM organizations raised \$40,600 for LOM's operating budget. The father and son duo of Paul and Jake Hanson served as auctioneers.

Innovative Program Award

LOM also presented their 2016 Innovative Program Award at the recognition banquet on Thursday night. The winner this year, the fifth time the award was presented, was Living Water Ministries Bridge Building Project. This program is a ministry of Living Waters Ministries and the two ELCA synods in the lower peninsula of Michigan. The goal of the program is to develop young leaders for the church and world with a raised awareness and understanding of the realities of racism. In the grant application, C.J. Clark, executive director, stated, "It is our hope that raising young leaders in the faith formative community of camp can be a place where real change in the world and church can begin. By exploring systematic racism, we hope to inspire campers to a greater sense of responsibility to make change as they grow into adults of faith and leaders in the church and world." To learn more about this program, watch this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3x32AEZof90>

Words from Don Johnson

What an honor it has been to serve as the executive director of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (LOM). The ministries of the organizations that comprise LOM continue to repeatedly touch people in ways that inspire growing faith in Jesus Christ and proclamation of the Gospel throughout the world. The passion for this ministry of those who provide professional and volunteer leadership in these organizations is evident in their dedicated service. Those who serve on the governing boards are ever mindful of their responsibility for the stewardship and mission of these treasured resources of the church. And everywhere I turn in this organization, I am finding a commitment to combine our skills, resources, and experiences in ways that make outdoor ministry, for the church and the world, a movement that transcends and multiplies our strength and vitality beyond what any of us can do on our own. For me and I know for everyone engaged in the life of LOM, this is gratifying work, indeed!

When I began serving as executive director of LOM in August, 2015, I made the commitment to visit as many of our 129 sites as possible during my first two years. As of December 31, 2016, I have visited 70 of our sites. I am committed to visiting all the rest in the days ahead. This has been a great way for me to "get a pulse" on the state of affairs throughout our network and to enhance the LOM commitment of keeping our leaders connected with each other.

During the past decade, our organizations have been through challenging times. In the past year or so, however, there's an emerging confidence in the future. For some, this is due to growing program participation; for others, it's due to getting good feedback from all the time-consuming work of cultivating relationships with congregations, synods, and other institutions of the church; and for others, it's due to good responses from reaching out to persons and communities that don't have traditional connections with the Lutheran church. *To read more, click here:*

<http://lomnetwork.weebly.com/blog/words-from-don-january-22-2017>



Mission Investment Fund
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Envision a growing outdoor ministry with a loan from the Mission Investment Fund. The Mission Investment Fund, the lending ministry of the ELCA, is honored to partner with Lutheran Outdoor Ministries.

For decades, Mission Investment Fund (MIF) loans have assisted outdoor ministries in building and renovating camp buildings and retreat centers across the country. A number of years back, for instance, MIF helped Pennsylvania-based Camp Agapé build a retreat center—a new site, conducive for learning, where campers come for special programs to improve their math and reading skills. More recently, MIF provided the loan to construct the beautiful new Leadership and Welcome Center and refurbish accommodations at Briarwood Retreat Center in Argyle, Texas—home to summer camps, retreats and leadership development for mission and ministry.

The Mission Investment Fund can provide loans to all camps and retreat and conference centers as they build and grow for the future—and continue providing opportunities for visitors to experience the beauty of God's creation and grow in their faith. MIF also offers an array of investment products with flexible terms and highly competitive rates.

For more information about MIF investments, loans and related services, visit the Mission Investment Fund's website, mif.elca.org, or call MIF Customer Service toll free at 877-886-3522. Or contact MIF's representative, the Rev. Donald M. Hallberg, at 708-822-4921.

Leadership Training Event Prepares Leaders

By Marianne Brock, Dean, and Andrea Scofield

In the days just prior to November's LOM annual conference at Carol Joy Holling Conference and Retreat Center, 22 students spent four and a half very full days soaking up and processing "just about everything they need to know." Seminars addressing core areas of outdoor ministry such as Lutheran Theology, Creation Stewardship, Risk Management, Staff Training, etc. at the 2016 LOM Leadership Training Event were presented by seasoned outdoor ministry professionals.

LOM (and its predecessor body, ALOMP) has offered the "100 level" intensive training events, designed primarily for folks new to professional outdoor ministry, since 1995. On alternating years, the LTE follows a programmatic or administrative track. Using the traditional classroom setting, small group meetings, fellowship, and worship opportunities, the LTE faculty works to ensure that the LTE flows smoothly and efficiently, modeling the hospitality and integrity valued by LOM and its membership.

The event at CJH was well received by the participants. Highlights of this year's LTE included contemplative and insightful worship experiences led by Chaplain CeCee Mills, a diversity seminar lead by Rev. Tim Taylor, and the austere and somber graduation ceremony on Sunday evening, at which LOM Executive Director Donald G. Johnson addressed the graduates. Also, there was Bunco. (We mustn't forget the Bunco...)

The 2017 LTE, scheduled for November 2-6, will follow the Administrative track. Information regarding registration will be available by late summer.

Along with the LTE in November, a Board Training Event (BTE) was also happening. There were eight organizations represented to discuss what it means to be a board member of a LOM organization. Discussions around best practices, fiduciary responsibilities and oversight, working with the Executive Director, and all the other good things that every board member should know. Thanks to Penny Christensen in Ohio and Bob Baker in Idaho for their leadership in training board members. Watch for more details for the next board training opportunities from LOM.

Compass Points is Great for Your Professional Development

By Andrea Scofield

Looking for further professional development? LOM has an opportunity for you. AND...our very own Randy Youngquist-Thurrow and Susan Troutman are leading two courses you won't want to miss. Dates are February 26-March 1, 2017 at Bethelwoods Camp and Conference Center in York, South Carolina. LOM financial assistance is available for one half of each course up to four course tuitions. Contact Randy Y-T eventscoordinator@lomnetwork.org or Gretchen Bachman education@lomnetwork.org for details.

Compass Points is a cooperative program of the Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association, Outdoor Ministries Association of the United Church of Christ, and Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in partnership with Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. It is designed for those looking to deepen their understanding of camp and conference ministry. Prospective students may be considering a call to camp and conference ministry, may be new to the field, or may be seeking to widen their base of knowledge. Check out the website to register www.compasspointsprogram.org or call director Joel Winchip [803-322-0232](tel:803-322-0232) for more information. You won't want to miss this opportunity.

Free VBS Curriculum and New Outdoor Ministry Curriculum Available

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (LOM) produces the curriculum each year that is used in camp and retreat settings and for Vacation Bible Schools and day camps. This year, LOM is offering their 2016 VBS Bundle of "The Jesus Way" free to ELCA congregations.

To repeat: Special for this year only, the VBS Bundle of the 2016 LOM Curriculum "The Jesus Way" is FREE for all ELCA congregations—yes, free! Each year the LOM curriculum provides a quality alternative for VBS curriculum at an affordable price. The bundle includes Bible study activities, crafts, and games for preschool children, and upper and lower elementary aged youth. Also included are planning documents, including Biblical and theme background information. To order the curriculum, visit www.lomnetwork.org.

LOM has also released its 2017 curriculum entitled "The Water of Life." Three Christian education basics—God's creation, Christian community, and faith formation—come together in "The Water of Life." Participants will dive into five Bible stories and daily themes that shower them with new awareness of how water and life are gifts from God. The curriculum will also give participants an opportunity to reflect on baptism, the sacrament that overflows with meaning about being cleansed, invited into a faith community, and led to do God's mission in the world. Included in the full curriculum package are five day Bible study sessions for Preschool, Upper and Lower Elementary, Junior High, Senior High, and Adult, as well as games, crafts, worship resources, environmental activities, and team-building activities. "The Water of Life" is also available in other small bundles designed for Youth Ministry and VBS settings.

"The Water of Life" is available for purchase and download on the LOM website at www.lomnetwork.org. Lutheran Outdoor Ministries is an association of outdoor ministry organizations dedicated to encouraging, equipping, educating, and empowering bold and faithful outdoor ministry leaders for service in the Church and in the world. **PLEASE PROMOTE THIS TO CONGREGATIONS THAT THEY SHOULD ORDER THE FREE CURRICULUM FROM THE LOM WEBSITE!**

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Annual Giving Report 2016

Welcome to LOM's Annual Giving Report. This report will give you a list of donors of record for 2016. We are grateful for your support! Giving that grows out of our relationship to God is part of living as faithful servants and stewards. Evidence that LOM is part of people's stewardship is here in this report. We thank you for your continued support, through financial giving and your prayers.

Organizational Giving

51 organizations= \$61,340.32

Onward & Upward (\$5000+)

Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (NE)

Uplifting Circle (\$3500-\$4999)

Lake Wapogasset Bible Camp (WI)
Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp (CO)

Empowering Circle (\$2000-\$3499)

Calumet Lutheran Ministries (NH)
Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp (MT)
Luther Crest Bible Camp (MN)
Lutherdale Bible Camp (WI)
NovusWay Ministries (NC)
Sequanota (PA)

Equipping Circle (\$1000-\$1999)

Agape + Kure Beach Ministries (NC)
Amnicon (WI)
Badlands Ministries (ND)
Briarwood Lutheran Ministries (TX)
Camp Mount Luther (PA)
Camp of the Cross Ministries (ND)
Christikon (MT)
Cross Roads Outdoor Ministries (NJ)
Cross Trails Ministry (TX)
Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center (NY)
Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central PA (PA)
Lutheran Retreats, Camps & Conference Centers (CA)
Lutherans Outdoors in SD (SD)
Lutherhill Ministries (TX)
Lutherlyn (PA)

Metigoshe Lutheran Bible Camp (ND)
Red Willow Ministries (ND)
Sky Ranch (CO)
Voyageurs Lutheran Ministries (MN)

Educating Circle (\$500-\$999)

Agape Ministries (PA)
Bear Creek Camp (PA)
Camp Frederick (OH)
Camp Lutherwood (OR)
Camp Shalom (IA)
Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp (MI)
Hungry Mother Lutheran Retreat Center (VA)
Living Water Ministries (MI)
Luther Heights (ID)
Luther Park Camping and Retreat Center (WI)
Luther Park/Luther Woods (WI)
Luther Point (WI)
Lutheran Lakeside Camp (IA)
Lutherhaven Ministries (ID)
MAR-LU-RIDGE (MD)
Mt Cross--Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of N. Calif. (CA)
Shetek Lutheran Ministries (MN)
Sugar Creek Bible Camp (WI)

Encouraging Circle (\$25-\$499)

Crossways Camping Ministries (WI)
Good Earth Village (MN)
Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps (IA)
Koinonia (NY)
Onomia (MN)
Pathways (MN)

Individual Giving

[includes gifts (\$40,800), auction donations (\$10,357), and in-kind reimbursement donations (\$997.52) of 162 individuals= \$52,254.52]

Bold & Faithful Leaders Group (\$1000 and up)

Anthony Briggs
Paul & Cornelia Briggs
Marianne Brock
Paul Hanson
Paul Hill
Dave & Nell Jarvis
Donald & Janet Johnson
Keith Johnson
David Larsen
Evan Moilan
Anonymous #1
Anonymous #2

Visionary Group (\$500-\$999)

Richard Andersen
Jeff Bluhm
Korey Breutzmann
David Brunkow
Mark Burkhardt
Deanna Christensen
Craig Corbin
Casey Fuerst
Dave Herder
Chad & Sarah Hershberger
Dave & Nicole Holtz
Layne Nelson
Nathan & Angie Pile
Richard Sayther
Jim Schade
Brent Seaks
Kristin Wiersma
William Wilkins

Capacity Builders Group (\$300-\$499)

Gretchen Bachman
Nathan Clements
Judy Engh
Margie Fiedler
Phil Geleske
Wayne Harrison
Dana Isaacson
Melissa & Eric Kornkven
Dustin Lenz
Gerald & Linde Manlove
Rachel Nelson
Eric Olsen
Dianna Parks
Dan Scharnhorst
Russ Senti
Janis Sloka III
Susan Troutman
Roberta Wentworth

Forward Progress Group (\$100-\$299)

Krista Blair
Brad Abbott
Travis Aufderheide
Jeff Barrow
Diane Beckwith
Stephanie Berkas
Tom Bley
David & Jen Box
Penny Christensen
Dave Coker
Aaron Colwick
Robert Coon
Jonathan Davidson
Hannah Demaree
Heather Eggert
Ingrid Floersheim
Jason Gerdes
Logan Gooch
Dale Goodman
Maddie Gray
Lisa Haines
Larry Hamrick
Donald Hayn
Ben Jarvis
Bob Kuehner
Kyle Larson
Jess Larson
Sarah Lefler

Kyle Lefler
Joel Legred
Paul Leslie
Meggan Manlove
Angel Marrero
Paul Mittermaier
Keith Newman
Knutte Ogren
Jessica Pina
Kelly Preboski
Debra & Jeff Roberts
Kathryn Schaefer
Gary Schaeffer
Lindsey Scheid
Andrea Scofield
Bob Severson
Dallas Shealy
Don Shunkwiler
Jon Skogen
Judy Smith
Neil & Kari Anna Sorenson
Andy Sprain
Bob Stover
Gordon Straw
Mary Stutz
Jeffrey Thompson
Jesse Weiss
William White
Deb Yandala
Randy & Mir Youngquist-Thurrow
Mike Youse

LOM Advocates Group (\$25-\$99)

James Addy
Katherine Albin
Casey Backus
Clark Baldwin
Rod Boriack
Phil Bramley
Frank Brocker
Aaron Burnside
Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer
Betsy & Kyle Debertin
Mike Dismar
Mark Donald
James Doyle
Paul Frantsen
Jenny Frantz
Rick Frederick
Ruth Hanson
Kathy Haueisen

Jen Hellie
Jon & Ruth Hoyme
Dick Iverson
Jordan Jensen
Jody Johnson
Paula Kent
Brooke Klemetsrud
Robyn Koehler
Liz Locke
Jeremy Maahs
Scott Miller
Lucille Mills
Marv Nysetvold
Troy Olson
Dennis Orsen
Frank Peak
Paul Petersen
Steve Peterson
Adriana Plocinski
Tracy Polzin
Jennifer Prinz
Jenn Roetman
Roy Satre
Gregory Shepherd
Amanda Silva
Mariel Spengler
Dayna Weltzin
Ava Whitehead

Other Contributions

ELCA (Partnership and Grant)-
\$10,000.00
ELCA (Meeting Travel)- \$3,000.00
Region 5 LOM (\$7,623.15)
Shetek (Shared Bequest)-
\$20,000.00
Mar-Lu-Ridge (Summer Camper
Offering for Emergency Relief
Fund)- \$420.55

Thrivent Choice

*Those who designed Choice dollars to
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries = \$892*
Rod Boriack
David Herder
Gerald Olson
Paul Howells
Donald Johnson
Amy Kusta
Glen Vaci

Auction Item Donations

Joel Abenth [Voyageurs Lutheran Ministries (MN)]
Jeff Bluhm
Anthony Briggs
Penny Christensen
Dave Coker
Margie Fiedler [Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp (MT)]
Dave Holtz
Dave Jarvis
Donald Johnson
Kyle Larson
Meggan Manlove
Evan Moilan
Layne Nelson
Debra Roberts
Richard Sayther (Gronlund Sayther Brunkow)
Dan Scharnhorst
Andrea Scofield
Brent Seaks
Dallas Shealy
Jon Skogen
Janis Sloka III
Susan Troutman
Randy Youngquist-Thurrow

Auction Purchasers

50 purchases Total \$25,922.91 for items purchased

Brad Abbott
Clark Baldwin
Ian Bartling
Sam Berglund
David Box
Korey Breutzmann
Anthony Briggs
Dave Coker
Aaron Colwick
Rick Frederick
Ben Fulton
Jason Gerdes
Maddie Gray
Jonathan Halvorson
Jake Hanson
Paul Hanson
Dave Herder
Paul Hill
Dave Holtz
Dana Isaacson
Ben Jarvis
Dave Jarvis
Jordan Jensen
Donald Johnson

Jesse Klosterboer
Kyle Larson
Sarah Lefler
Jeremy Maahs
Noah McCoy
Evan Moilan
Marv Nysetvold
Troy Olson
Dianna Parks
Frank Peak
Paul Petersen
Nathan Pile
Jessica Pina
Jenn Roetman
Dan Scharnhorst
Andrea Scofield
Brent Seaks
Don Shunkwiler
Janis Sloka III
Gordon Straw
Jeffrey Thompson
Susan Troutman
Jesse Weiss
Dayna Weltzin
Grant Winter
Randy Youngquist-Thurrow

PLEASE NOTE: Auction Donations and Auction Purchasers listed here are reported based on the year in which LOM received the income. Some listings here are for donations and purchases made at the 2015 auction; some 2016 auction purchases and donations have not been received in 2016 and therefore not listed in this report.

SUPPORT LOM

To make a contribution to Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, visit <http://www.lomnetwork.org/donate.html>. If you would like to explore the possibility of including LOM in your will or other planned giving strategies, please contact Executive Director Don Johnson at director@lomnetwork.org or 603-848-9904.



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Don Johnson, Executive Director
Casey Fuerst, Board President