

CALENDAR

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

April 12, 2017:

Teleconference on Reformation Brainstorming

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)

- Pictures of the Staff Recruiting Event held at Morgan State University
- Pictures of the Environmental Education & Group Challenge Initiative Intensive
- Consultation Team at Bethel Horizons

On our website, check out who is on our board and committees here:

http://www.lomnetwork.org/about_us/committees.html

Good News From Board Includes the Naming of a Permanent Executive Director

The LOM Board had its first meeting of 2017 in January. Due to overwhelmingly positive feedback after the board asked for reflections on his first years or so in the position, the board officially voted to extend a permanent call to Don Johnson as the organization's first executive director.

Johnson is excited about the "new" designation and now not being in a term call. "I am very grateful to the Board and indeed all the members of LOM for this opportunity to serve on behalf of an organization with such an important cause. Thank you, one and all!" Johnson said.

In addition, more good news came out of this board meeting. A new strategic plan was also unanimously approved. Already, the opening initiatives of the plan are being implemented. The Member Relations Committee, Education Committee, Conference Planning Committee, Auction Committee, Development Committee, Curriculum Committee, and Technology Committee – all have met during the Conference in November and/or since that time and everywhere we turn there are exciting plans for continuing LOM's momentum in the year ahead.

The other piece of good news from the board meeting came from Treasurer Dave Jarvis. With the increase in organizational contributions and individual giving in 2016, we ended the year having spent just a little less than our income for the year and we have not yet had to dip into our reserve funds.

Just like so many of our LOM organizations are on a roll, all of us working together as LOM are on a roll! Congratulations, one and all! In a letter to members, the board expressed that gratitude. "Time and time again, the members of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries have proven themselves to be passionate, thoughtful and visionary. You are an extraordinary group of professionals and we are very thankful for your investment and ownership in LOM. Thank you. Thank you for your love of outdoor ministries, your honest and open responses and your involvement in LOM. We are truly grateful," stated the board.



LOM Overseas

Camp professionals from all over the world gathered in London, England, in mid-February for the Camp America's Christian Association Partnership International Camp Staffing Fair. It was the first time this special fair was open to Lutherans, UCC, Presbyterians, and Methodists. Two of our LOM camps were represented at the event: Pete Smith, Associate Director at Bear Creek Camps (PA); and Christa Drengler, Program Coordinator & Day Camp Director at Koinonia (NY). Thanks to Joel Winchip, Executive Director of the Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association (PCCCA) for the photo from the event!

Promote Free VBS Curriculum

You've probably heard that LOM is making available FOR FREE last year's VBS packet of the "Jesus Way" Curriculum. If you'd like to help in the effort to promote that, just print off some of these handy, dandy flyers and hand them out to ELCA congregations that you know. Use this link to download the flyer: http://lomnetwork.weebly.com/uploads/4/8/4/7/48474285/vbs_flyer_lom.pdf

PRAYER REQUESTS

The cook at Luther Point (WI) is Jenny Campbell. Her husband, Bobby Campbell, slipped on the ice, took a bad tumble, and suffered severe head and neck injuries in early February.

Rev. Paul Petersen resigned from his position as executive director of Bethel Horizons (WI), effective February 1.

Jon Hoyme is serving as interim executive director at Luther Point (WI). His wife, Ruth, fell on the ice just after Christmas and broke her arm.

Maggie Atkinson, until recently program director at Lutherdale (WI), has moved on to a new position as director of youth and family ministries at a congregation at Zion Lutheran, Iowa City, IA.

Jesse and Kelli Weiss have welcomed their son Arron Wesley Weiss to the family. He was born on Sunday morning January 29th, weighing in at 6lb 11oz, and 20 inches long. All are doing great. Jesse serves as capital campaign manager at Lutherdale (WI).

Phil Geleske, executive director at Briarwood (TX), became a grandfather for the first time on January 13.



From One of the LOM Ministry Partners...

**ENDING HUNGER
ENRICHING LIVES**



OutreachProgram.org

Donate. Volunteer. Receive.

Ending hunger in America...one meal at a time

17,000,000 Hungry People Fed!

Local meal packaging movement spreading throughout the country

Did you know that there are 48 million hungry Americans, 15 million of which are kids? Since 2011, End Hunger NE has raised \$4,250,000 in 17 states and raised up over 100,000 volunteers to help feed them. End Hunger NE partnered with 623 Lutheran churches in 14 synods, primarily in the Northeast and MN, but have recently spread into TX. How do camps fit into this? Every one of the 192 counties they've worked in has had a **catalyst**. Here are three examples and the impact they have had on the meal packaging effort throughout their respective synods:

- Pinecrest Lutheran Leadership Camp, Sussex NJ: This is a just across the border get-a-way to train up the best and brightest youth for the Metro NY Synod, which has now fed 157,000 hungry people.
- Camp Mount Luther, Mifflinburg PA: They hosted the first event for the Upper Susquehanna Synod, which has now fed 535,000 and inspired the Lower Susquehanna Synod to feed over 800,000.
- Calumet, Freedom NH: They will be hosting two events this year for the New England Synod, which has now involved over 100 of their 183 churches and fed 2.7 million!

Will your camp be the next one to mobilize churches in your area to feed the hungry? This summer, Lutherhill in La Grange, TX, is partnering with two other camps in the state (Cross Trails and Briarwood) to feed over 100,000. You can help by:

- Donating (25 cents feeds a hungry kid in your neighborhood, \$1 a family of 4)
- Volunteering (one person can feed 160 hungry people in one hour)
- Receiving (connect us to another local food pantry, backpack program, or homeless shelter...their clients get the meals free of charge)
- Promoting (facebook.com/EndHungerNE)

While we've partnered with 78 different kinds of groups, Lutherans alone have fed 7.3 million. The first school YEAR, we fed 700,000 hungry people. During Martin Luther King WEEK this year: 350,000! We are on pace to feed 6 million this year! Unfortunately, while there are now over 200 million less hungry people on the planet (1 in 9) than when the movement started, there are only a million less hungry American children (1 in 5).

Think local hunger is just too big to tackle? Consider this: The average American family of 4 spends \$3,700 celebrating Christmas—whether or not they're Christian. If every such family who has food gave \$66 (1.8% of what they're already going to spend on Christmas) and packaged meals for 25 minutes ONCE PER YEAR, everyone else gets to eat every day. It's 4 cents and 4 seconds of effort daily. Thank you for helping us end hunger in America!

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

If your organization is accredited by **American Camp Association (ACA)** and a member of LOM, then you qualify for the 15 percent discount on your ACA annual dues, just by virtue of being a member of LOM! You should have received a letter from LOM administrator Jon Skogen outlining all the details. In order to get the discount, you will now send your annual dues to the LOM address in Chicago and you have to get them to us by March 31. This is a great deal and you don't want to miss it. If your organization is not yet accredited by ACA, we hope you will consider getting accredited in the near future. Keep in mind, you will get a 50 percent discount on your ACA dues for the first year you become accredited. We hope you will consider passing on some of your savings in ACA dues by increasing your organization's contribution to LOM.

LOM has entered into another great agreement with an organization known as **DonorSearch**. DonorSearch is a leading prospect research and screening firm, with a full range of screening and online tools to identify and research prospective major donors. In order to access the resources of DonorSearch, it would normally cost your organization \$3,000/year. Because your organization is a member of LOM, you can have access to these resources for \$650/year – an amazing saving. To join immediately, send a check payable to Lutheran Outdoor Ministries for \$650 to LOM, 1218 W Addison

St., Chicago, IL 60613, with a notation that it's for DonorSearch.

Dr. Jake Sorenson, co-leader of the **Effective Camp Research Project**," will do a 90 minute webinar titled "Camp is Sticky Long Term...And We Can Prove" on March 28th at noon. This webinar reports the results of the Phase 2 research done with six camps this past summer. You will learn how a one week residential camp experience for 11-14 year-olds has long-term impact on 16 of 17 different scales. This is ground breaking research, demonstrating for the first time ever, the "sticky" effects of camp long-term. This webinar will help camp directors, youth workers, and marketing staff better tell the story of camp. Plus, you will learn how similar research can be done in your camp setting thus helping you make a stronger case for your particular camp. The Effective Camp Research Project is sponsored by the Siebert Lutheran Foundation, GSB Fundraising, Paul Hill Outdoor Ministry Services and many generous camp friends. For further information on the Effective Camp Research Project go to www.effectivecamp.com, or contact Dr. Jake Sorenson at jake@sacredplaygrounds.com, or Dr. Paul Hill at paulhill@me.com. You must register for the webinar by going to the site noted above. The webinar is free.

SUPPORT LOM

To make a gift to LOM, 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