

CALENDAR

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

November 2-6, 2017:

[Leadership Training Event](#)

November 6-10, 2017:

[LOM Conference](#)

(Nov. 8 auction and Nov 10-11 board meeting)

December 5-7, 2017:

[Region 5 Gathering](#)

January 25-29, 2018:

[Youth Ministry Extravaganza](#)

January 28-31, 2018:

[LSA's CEO Academy](#)

February 19-21, 2018:

[Welcome and Included](#)

February 20-23, 2018:

[ACA National Conference](#)

February 25-March 3, 2018:

[Compass Points](#)

February 28-March 3, 2018:

[ALDE Conference](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

Did you miss these at [facebook.com/lomnetwork](https://www.facebook.com/lomnetwork)

- Two new podcasts on the LOM website
- Who is coming to the LOM Conference

The Conference is Coming!

We are super excited about the LOM Annual Conference that's coming up soon and so glad so many will be with us. It's going to be a thoroughly exhilarating program; a beautiful time to be in the mountains of Colorado; and best of all, the opportunity to share ideas and build collaborative friendships with some of the most creative, energetic people in the world. There are over 130 signed up for the conference. That means the energy in the room is going to be awesome.

AUCTION: A highlight of the conference is always the annual LOM Auction. The Rainbow Trail staff is putting together a catalog of auction items that will be available before the conference so that everyone has a good idea of what will be available to bid on and which items you may be most interested in! Before they can send out the link for the catalog, they need your auction item submissions! Please fill out the [LOM Auction Item Submission Form](#) so that they can include

your item in the catalog. Submissions submitted before November 5th will appear in the catalog, but they will accept some last minute auction items at the conference, as well. You can see last year's catalog [HERE](#). The sooner they get your item information, the sooner they can get the item online for people to view! Please contact Ben Jarvis with any additional questions you might have. His email is ben.jarvis@rainbowtrail.org

EXHIBITORS: We will also have exhibitors and ministry partners on hand for them to show their wares and services. A list of exhibitors that will be at the upcoming LOM Conference are posted on the conference app. You can view a list of exhibitors here: <http://app.lomnetwork.org/partners/>.

CONFERENCE APP: Speaking of the conference "app," you can view it on a web browser on your phone or other mobile device by visiting <http://app.lomnetwork.org>.

ELECTION DAY: November 7 is the first full day of the LOM Conference. Remember to vote before you leave home.



More Conference Reminders

Getting Ready: To prepare for the high altitudes in Breckenridge, there is a document on our “app” to prepare ahead of time for altitude sickness. View the document on this page:

<http://app.lomnetwork.org/info/>.

Travel and Dietary Needs: If you have not already done so, please complete the form at this link so we are sure to have your correct Travel and Dietary Needs Information: <https://goo.gl/forms/q5MglURhHQjaP1rg2>

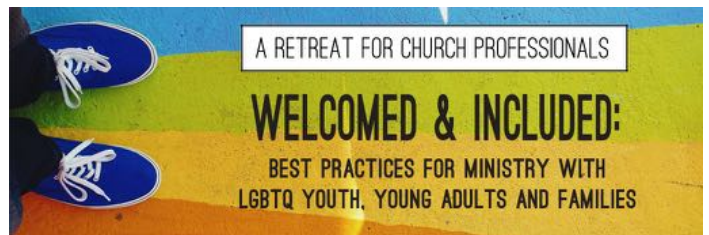
Upon Arrival at the Denver Airport: Exit your gate and follow the signs for the trains, following signs for "passenger arrival /baggage claim". Take the trains to the Jeppesen terminal (the main terminal), proceed up the escalators, get your bags and meet at the "Elrey Jeppesen statue" (big-can't miss it). At the Statue please look for someone with an "LOM CONFERENCE - Beaver Run" sign. Your airport greeters will be Kevin Dragseth [\(303\) 396-9395](tel:3033969395) and Ally Pluckcheck [\(303\) 250-8983](tel:3032508983). If you are lost or your flight is going to be late please call one of them. Please be at the statue at 2:15 in order to be escorted to the bus. Bus Departs promptly at 3:00. If you are renting a car, you can proceed directly to baggage claim and your car rental counter. If you have flight delays or complications along the way, please call Randy Youngquist-Thurow, Event Coordinator, at (919) 880-4512.

Years of Service: We are collecting information on Years of Service in Outdoor Ministries. Please complete this form: <https://goo.gl/forms/EXeydMQPacSKEQVp2>

Live Tweet: We will live “tweet” from our conference in November. We invite others to also tweet from the conference and use this hashtag: #lomconference17. If you’d like to see what is happening at the conference, search for the Twitter hashtag or visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/lomnetwork. There is also a Twitter feed of the conference on the conference app.

Welcome and Included is Back!

“Welcomed and Included,” a retreat for church leaders, was so well received last September that Carol Joy Holling Camp (NE), is offering a similar experience once again, February 19-21, 2018. This retreat will guide church leaders and camp professionals in best practices for ministry with youth, young adults and their families that identify as LGBTQ. As it was in September, this new edition of the retreat is an officially endorsed event of LOM. For more details, and registration information: <http://cjhcenter.org/welcomed>



Caring for Creation Workshop

Do you believe your camp and its buildings could be more energy and water efficient? Do you want to find greater ways to connect sustainability to your camp’s programming? Not sure where to start? There’s a great workshop coming up that might just be for you. Detailed information is here:

<https://www.lomnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Caring-for-Creation-Workshop.pdf>.

Words from Don

The highlight of the LOM year is upon us! More than 140 outdoor ministry leaders, board members, speakers, and worship leaders will gather in Breckenridge, Colorado, in just a few short days. I, for one, am charged up and so excited about connecting with some of the most dedicated, kind-hearted, creative, fun-loving lovers of Jesus who walk upon the face of the Earth. This is much better than a full eclipse of the sun, and it lasts much longer. All of us who experience each other's company will, I'm sure, return home recharged, refreshed, renewed, and full of new ideas that will make us look like the brightest people on the sunny side of the eclipse to all those back home. So I'm looking forward to sharing this time together with all of you who will be there, and I assure you, that if you can't be with us, we will miss you and hope you get ready now to set the time aside for the Conference in Texas In 2018.

And I'm almost more excited to work with all of you to implement the exciting plans for LOM in the year ahead which we'll be announcing at the conference. LOM is on a roll, and the momentum will keep on building in the days ahead. Whether it's at the conference or my individual visits to you and your sites, I'm looking forward to seeing you again real soon.

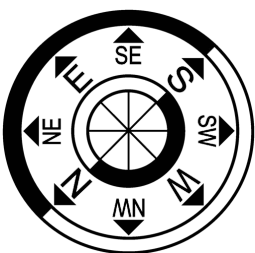
Don Johnson, Executive Director

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Paul Howells, who took a spill on October 9 and took a pretty serious hit on the back of his head. He was in the hospital for a few days and is now in rehab. Paul is the former director of outdoor ministries for the LCA from 1969-1987 and along with his counterpart in the ALC, Jerry Manlove, they were instrumental in spearheading the shape of outdoor ministry upon the formation of the ELCA. Paul and Jerry will be inaugural recipients of the Manlove-Howells Leadership Award at the 2017 LOM Annual Conference.
- Burke Hancer, director of camping ministries, St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, MN (Sprit in the Pines Camp, Hackensack, MN). Burke injured his knee in an accident at camp on Friday, October 13, and has had reconstructive surgery. As a result, he has had to cancel his plans to participate in the Annual LOM Conference.
- Mariel Spengler, who recently stepped down as chairperson of the LOM Curriculum Committee, has been undergoing treatment for stage 2 breast cancer. Mariel reports it was found early and is not aggressive.

Compass Points Looking for a Home Next Fall

Compass Points is a cooperative program of the Presbyterian Church Camp and Conference Association, Outdoor Ministries Association of the United Church of Christ, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, and United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministries in partnership with Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. The Compass Points courses are intended for learners who would like to expand and deepen their knowledge in camp and retreat ministry. The participants come from a wide variety of positions, facility types, and program models. Persons of all denominations are welcome. We invite you to [learn more](#) about the structure and content of this certification program. One year from now (October 14-20, 2018) there will be two Compass Points courses offered. The site has not yet determined. The Compass Points Coordinating Council is inviting bids from outdoor ministry sites to serve as the host site. Information and bid document for serving as a host site are here: <https://www.lomnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Site-Selection-Criteria-and-Bid-document.pdf>



Lutheran, Presbyterian, Methodist Camps Partner in PA

It started with a phone call. Following a board retreat in 2014 that focused on new initiatives their Lutheran camp could start, Chad Hershberger, executive director of Camp Mount Luther (PA), called Gene Joiner, executive director of Camp Krislund. Krislund, a Presbyterian camp, is located about a half hour away from Mount Luther. Hershberger told Joiner that his board was talking about ways that perhaps the local camps, including Wesley Forest, a Methodist Camp, could work together. They weren't sure how it might look, but knew that each camp had resources the others did not. Joiner said he had been thinking about the same thing, so the two directors met to talk.

One of the first ideas the two explored was doing joint trip camps together. Joiner had a rich background in adventure programming and both knew that if they got just a few campers from each camp, it would be more advantageous to put a few from each camp together to make a critical mass. Because it was too late in the season to schedule those trips for that summer, that idea was put on the back burner for the next summer.

The first week of that particular summer, Hershberger got in a bind when one of his lifeguards lost her father to cancer. His only other lifeguard that summer was on a trip camp that week. "I called Gene to see if he had any lifeguards he could send my way for our afternoon pool time. He said he had about a dozen certified guards and would happily send one my way. I never would have thought to call him if we hadn't talked about ways to partner," Hershberger said.

The following summer, the two camps offered their first joint trip camps, including a whitewater rafting and kayaking trip to Canada and an arts trip to New York. Despite some kinks to work out that are the normal part of a new partnership, everything went wonderfully. The next winter, they invited Emily Sliski, the new director at Wesley Forest, to join in the conversations. She jumped on board and the three camps offered four joint trips in the second year of this partnership.

"The thing that we try to do is to showcase the best of what each camp has to offer. Whether it is night walks and creek studies at Wesley Forest, high ropes course at Krislund, or small group canoeing at the Mount Luther, each camp can expose campers from the other camps to something they otherwise would not experience," Sliski said.

This summer, a day of joint training with all three camps was held at Krislund. Staff got to know each other and shared some of their best practices.

"That event proved valuable as the staff knew each other for the six joint camps that we held together this past summer. It's so exciting to be able to work on this ecumenical partnership. Not only do we get to provide experiences for our campers, but the collegiality and comradery that we experience as directors has been an important element in this partnership," Joiner remarked.

The three camps are planning six joint camps this coming summer, including the second offering of "Nomads." That program allows campers from all three camps spend a day at each camp, doing the best each camp has to offer.



Camp staff from Mount Luther, Krislund, and Wesley Forest at their joint training day this past summer.

From our newest LOM Ministry Partners...

The Fund for Leaders of the ELCA is our newest Ministry Partner Member and they have this message for us. They know that we are connected to many of the people who can benefit from the opportunities addressed in this message! Starting in December 2017, all prospective ELCA seminary students are invited to apply online to receive a full-tuition scholarship from the ELCA Fund for Leaders. Applicants must be planning to enroll full-time in fall 2018 and be pursuing rostered ministry as a pastor or deacon in the ELCA. Recipients will have full tuition funding for the duration of seminary coursework and may apply their scholarship at any ELCA seminary to which they have received an offer of admission. To apply, visit elca.org/fundforleaders. Application deadline: mid-February 2018. Questions? Please contact fundforleaders@elca.org.



Faith Formation Summit Includes LOM Leaders! On October 22-24, Regions 7 and 8 held a Faith Formation Summit at Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center (NJ). LOM leaders combining with campus ministry (LuMin) leaders, youth ministry leaders and several synod staff persons gathered for discussions. Mary Kay Duchene of "Leading Pastors" facilitated a process of applying the principles of Adaptive Leadership to contexts for ministry. Crossroads staff Anthony Briggs and Kathryn Schaefer served as hosts

and Don Johnson from LOM, Angie Pile from Camp Sequanota (PA) and Karen Hesper from Bear Creek (PA) attended.

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