

CALENDAR

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

October 2-4, 2017:

[Region 3 LOM Gathering](#)

October 3-5, 2017:

[Texas LOM Gathering](#)

October 15-21, 2017:

[Compass Points Classes](#)

October 22-24, 2017:

[Region 7 and 8 Summit](#)

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](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

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

- Who is coming to the LOM Conference
- Don's Travels
- Hurricane Updates from LOM sites



Getting ready for a session at "Welcome and Included"

Welcome and Included

A retreat to help church leaders and LOM professionals in being more inclusive was held in September at Carol Joy Holling in Nebraska. The purpose of the event was to guide participants in best practices for ministry with youth, young adults and their families that identify as LGBTQ.

According to Executive Director Don Johnson, who wrote about the retreat on Facebook, "It was intense. It was full of learning. It was an opportunity to advance all that we as a church, and particularly our outdoor ministries, do to welcome all." Topics surrounding gender and sexual orientation are big in society but often avoided in many churches and camps. Another goal of this event was to provide a safe space to educate and create dialogue around what the youth and young adults (and their families) need and how we as professionals can respond with welcome and inclusion.

The facilitator of our retreat was Austen Hartke. LOM President and Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries' Casey Fuerst was the architect of this retreat. Several LOM members attended including Sarah Lefler of Mar-Lu-Ridge (MD), Deb Brut Roberts of Lutherlyn, (PA), Kristin Kristen Bruner Baltrum, Kim Kelty, and RC Reiman (all Board members at Sky Ranch), and Jess McCallum of Camp Arcadia (MI), and David Dykes of Mount Cross (CA).

Words from Don

It's getting down to the wire for the most exciting time of year for LOM. The Annual Conference is right around the corner on the calendar. I'm sure looking forward to seeing you there! If you haven't already registered, I'm looking forward to seeing your name soon on the registration list. Breckenridge, CO, will be the only place in the world for all of us LOM folks during the time of November 6-10. Registering for the conference is super easy on our new website:

<https://www.lomnetwork.org/annual-conference-registration/>
And while you're at it, please also consider signing up for the Leadership Training Event (LTE). This year it's the Administrative Track. It's being held November 2-6, at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, Hillside, CO. Here's the link for registration: <https://www.lomnetwork.org/lte-registration/>

And now for a few additional notes and reminders! All LOM organizations have received a ballot for the election currently taking place for the member of the LOM Board of Directors who is or has been a member of the Board of one of the organizational members of LOM. These ballots were mailed on September 1 to the contact person for each organization, usually the executive director. If you don't remember getting that ballot, please contact me: director@lomnetwork.org. The ballot is intended to indicate the consensus vote of your Board for that position and it's important that this consensus is validated with the signature of **BOTH** your Board chairperson/president and executive director. The deadline for returning the ballot to Jon Skogen, LOM Administrator, is December 1.

The deadline for applying for the Innovative Program Award is September 30. Because the date of this newsletter precludes your last-minute preparation of an application, we will accept an application submitted to me by email by 1:00 p.m. Eastern, October 5. This link will take you to the application form and instructions: <https://www.lomnetwork.org/resources/innovative-program-award/>

This coming summer will be the time of the next ELCA Youth Gathering. For those of you associated with outdoor ministry organizations that are coordinating your synod's transportation to the event in Houston, you may want to take advantage of the offer of Lutherill Camp and Retreat Center, LaGrange, TX, to help you with lodging for transportation staff and similar support services. If you are interested, contact Matt Kindsvatter, executive director of Lutherhill Ministries, matt@lutherhill.org

Looking forward to seeing you in Colorado! --Don Johnson, Executive Director

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Bob Gentile, executive director, Camp Wilbur Herrlich (NY) – soon to retire after 27 years of service.
- Jerry and Carolyn Fritsch, executive directors, Lakeside Lutheran Camp (IA) – retiring at the end of the year after 13 years at Lakeside.
- Eric and Carol Olsen, recently left Luther Heights (ID) after 30 years of service there. Eric served as executive director and took a new call to parish ministry in Alaska.
- Bob Kuehner, recently appointed interim executive director at Luther Heights (ID).
- Keith Johnson, executive director, NovusWay (NC, GA, FL), who will be retiring early in 2018.
- Heather Lutz, who has been serving as interim executive director at Caroline Furnace (VA), since the beginning of this past summer.
- Lavinia Wingert, executive director, Camp Agape (PA) – retiring as of December 31, 2017.
- Joanne Knudson, recently appointed to the position of executive director, Koinonia (NY).

New Journeys for Youth Website Unveiled

A new *Journeys for Youth* website was unveiled this month as part of our web redesign of lomnetwork.org. The new address for *Journeys* is www.journeys.lomnetwork.org. For a while, the old domain name of www.journeysforyouth.org will redirect to the new site. And, of course, it is linked from the main LOM website.

Journeys for Youth is a website supported by LOM to share adventure and service journeys for youth groups. Its purpose is to help connect outdoor ministry organizations and youth groups looking for these experiences. It has a history that goes back many years, originally being a printed resource and then website supported by the ELCA.

Camp programs that are listed in *Journeys for Youth* need to meet certain criteria and there are guidelines for submission. You can find that information on the new *Journeys* website!



Order the 2018 Curriculum “This Changes Everything”

The LOM Curriculum for 2018 continues to be available on the LOM website for purchase. This curriculum has the same title as the theme for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering. It has been written in collaboration with the gathering team. The lessons are not the same but compliment those that will be used for the gathering. There are several new features for 2018, including one elementary and one youth Bible study and more graphics.

You can now purchase the curriculum on our website at <https://www.lomnetwork.org/curriculum/>. The curriculum ordering is more user-friendly this year, and a link to download the final product will be emailed to you. LOM Members get a discount, so be sure to click the right price when ordering. And, multi-site organizations will use a discount code, listed on the website, to get the multi-site discount.



LTE Is Worth Your Time!

Perhaps reading “LTE – Administration” doesn’t pique your interest, but it should. Buried inside this abbreviation is an event of inestimable value to outdoor ministry leaders, especially those new to full-time outdoor ministry. The Leadership Training Event is like summer staff orientation on steroids, however, we sit at tables more than you probably do at your staff orientation.

In five(ish) days, participants will drink from the fire hose of knowledge and deep wisdom of the LTE faculty, (who collectively have hundreds of years of outdoor ministry experience), and will emerge from the event affirmed, inspired, challenged, and exhausted.

You won’t learn EVERYTHING you need to know about professional OM work, but we’ll touch on most of it. And you’ll be given ample opportunities to ask your questions or talk with other professionals (new and seasoned) about those things you’ve wondered and worried about. We promise you will leave the LTE with new ideas and new tools that will benefit you AND your organization.

AND... you’ll get to experience all this in a setting of people who will encourage, equip, educate, and empower you to be the bold and faithful leader God is calling you to be... not just during the LTE, but for years to come.

We said the LTE has inestimable value, but it does have a registration fee... and discounts are available to those who qualify. The LTE– Administrative Track will take place at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp, Hillside, CO, on Thursday, November 2, to Monday, November 6, 2017. Cost is \$480 with a late fee of \$100 in effect after October 10. Shuttle service of \$60 to and from the Denver Airport is also available. Get more information, including about financial assistance, and to register, go to <https://www.lomnetwork.org/lte/>

Please don’t hesitate. Due to the intimate setting at Rainbow Trail, registration will be limited to 18 participants this year. We look forward to seeing you (or members of your team) at Rainbow Trail!

--Marianne Brock for the Education Committee

What’s it like to be an LTE participant? Read some testimonials on the next page

LTE Provides Valuable Knowledge

Testimonials from Leadership Training Event Participants

My experience with the Leadership Training Event was hugely positive. I so appreciated being able to connect with folks from around the country, brainstorming ideas about everything from camp programming to social media to better ways of teaching theology and practicing hospitality. The LTE created a space for me to build my professional network while comfortably asking questions and being challenged. --Kyle Lefler, Program Coordinator, Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

The LTE is a five star opportunity to join with colleagues in ministry from across the country to dive into various topics pertinent to outdoor ministry. Seasoned outdoor ministry professionals offer up a wealth of knowledge and advice. Fellow participants become a delightful network to pose questions to, discern best practice in outdoor ministry, and to simply enjoy each other's fellowship. Mark your calendars and plan your travel to the most important training you will receive this year - you will not be disappointed. --Logan Gooch, Program Director, Metigoshe Ministries

The LOM-LTE was extremely beneficial to me as it provided a foundation upon which to build a better understanding and greater knowledge of all aspects of outdoor ministry. The insightful sessions by all experienced leaders of LOM were not only educationally valuable, but also enjoyable! Also, the network developed amongst colleagues within the LTE has been far more helpful than I would have ever imagined. I feel that attending the LTE helped me incredibly in the career of outdoor ministry and highly recommend it to all beginning their careers in or looking to rejuvenate themselves in outdoor ministry. --Stephen Krupicka, Director, Ebert Ranch Camp

Looking back, I'm not sure what my career would look like if not for the LTE. The amount of experience and the wealth of knowledge that is available as a resource is staggering, and each time I left, both from the program and the administrative track, I felt so much more equipped and prepared for the curveballs that inadvertently come with Outdoor Ministry. However, the absolute greatest take-away from the LTE is the relationships that I developed with other classmates and fellow members of the LOM, no question. I formed life-long friendships, and I know that we can all count on each other to support and strengthen each other's ministries. Going to the LTE isn't really something you should wonder if you should go to or not. If you're in Outdoor Ministry, you need the LTE. --Aaron Colwick, Program Director, Briarwood Retreat Center

Testimonials from Executive Directors whose staff participated in previous Leadership Training Events

For at least the last ten years each time we have brought on a new director for one of our sites or programs, we have been very intentional about sending them to the LOM Network LTE's. We find that by attending they get a bigger picture of what it is to be a professional in camp and retreat ministry, and develop relationships with other Lutheran Camp Professionals that they can rely on for support in the years to come. --Deanna Christensen, Executive Director, Cross Trails Ministry

I've been involved in outdoor ministry as a supporter and board member throughout my thirty years of parish ministry. When I became the Executive Director of Briarwood I discovered how little I really understood about the day to day ins and outs of this specific ministry. Both the program and administrative tracks of the LTE proved invaluable in bringing me up to speed in my new role. After my experience we sent both our operation and program directors and they gained both knowledge and insight from the experience. The LTE helped us to strengthen our ministry and enhance its effectiveness; it made us a more cohesive team, and led to strong relationships with other outdoor ministries throughout the LOM Network. As a result, I highly recommend the LTE to all outdoor ministry professionals. --Phil Geleske, Executive Director, Briarwood Lutheran Ministries

Worth Repeating...



Register Now!
**The LOM Conference Is Just One Month
Away and Late Fees Start October 11**

If you haven't already registered for the LOM Conference, now is the time to do it. Late fees of \$100 go into effect on October 11. Get more information, including about financial assistance, and register at <https://www.lomnetwork.org/conference>. Exciting fellowship, engaging discussion, meaningful worship and much more await you at the 2017 LOM Conference in beautiful Breckenridge, Colorado.

Conference dates are Monday, November 6, to Friday, November 10, under the theme of "Living Into Reformation: Practicing Relevant Faith." Join in conversation about reforming, restoring and refocusing our ministry practices, in the freedom of the Spirit, to engage in relevant, Christ centered ministry in today's world. Keynote speakers include the Rev. CeCee Mills (African Descent Ministries, ELCA) and the Rev. Hans Wiersma (Augsburg University). The conference schedule allows for plenty of time for discussion with peers in ministry, as well as dynamic worship and fellowship.

The annual conference is the perfect time to connect with old friends, meet new partners in ministry, share ideas and get excited about all the opportunities that our work in Lutheran Outdoor Ministries has to offer. Learn more about all the amazing projects taking place around LOM, spend time getting to know exhibitors and partners in ministry, bid on amazing items at the annual LOM auction and enjoy beautiful Breckenridge.

Speaking of the auction... continue thinking about a cool donation for this year's LOM Auction! It could be a small item you could bring for the silent auction that showcases your camp OR it could be a bigger item you bring for the live auction. Or, how about a trip or excursion that everyone will be talking about? So, get thinking about who you know and what resources they may have to donate cool, new items to the 2017 LOM Auction

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