New Website Unveiled

LOM now has a new website! After nearly a year of development, we launched the new website in early September. The website has a fresh, new look and is mobile compatible. It features the same information that you’ve come to expect from our website but that information has been streamlined and new, easier to use registration and curriculum ordering have been added. There is also a new map on our sites page so that you can find a Lutheran Outdoor Ministry quicker and easier! And, a calendar on the home page will list upcoming events and lead you to more information for those events. The website is being hosted by Blue Moose Solutions in Pennsylvania. The address remains the same: www.lomnetwork.org. As part of the new website development, we’ve also consolidated two LOM databases into one which can track membership and development needs. If you have any comments about the new website, please direct them to webmaster@lomnetwork.org.

Some items that are now available on the new website:

- Registration for the 2017 LOM Annual Conference is now open on the LOM website. This is our once-a-year opportunity to gather together – to get and give good ideas; to network with everyone throughout this vast community that knows what we are all about; to work toward strong and vibrant outdoor ministry throughout the whole church; to re-charge the batteries; to have our own experience of the blessings of time, community, sharing and inspiration like we have been providing for others throughout the past year. See you in Colorado this November! To register for the conference or the Leadership Training Event, go to the Events tab in the main menu.

- “The Common Book of Camping” is now available as a PDF download on our new website. This classic “outdoor ministry text” has been updated by Jerry Manlove and Mary Kettl. The new edition was previewed last year by the LTE and BTE students and now it is available for purchase on our website for $15. When you download it, you are entitled to that electronic copy for your personal use. You may not make copies or share it with another person. Proceeds of the sale of this book will benefit the LOM Scholarship Fund!

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

September 11 – 13, 2017: Welcomed and Included

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)

SOCIAL MEDIA
Did you miss these at facebook.com/lomnetwork

- Don’s summer travels
- A new Bishop gives OM some big thumbs up
- New NovusWay retreat center opens
- Stories from around the LOM network
Words from Don

As summer camp programs concluded for so many of our LOM organizations, I’ve had the opportunity to check in with many of you. We can be so grateful that it’s been a season filled with faith forming experiences for many people, especially but not limited to children, teens, and young adults. And the trend I’ve been hearing about throughout LOM is, generally speaking, participant enrollment on the increase in many cases and at least holding its own for many others. And it appears to have been a safe summer for all our campers and staff with no catastrophes that I’m aware of.

As you enter this next season of the camp, conference, and retreat year, I hope you’ll take the time to refresh, recharge and plan for the year ahead. LOM provides you with some of the best opportunities in this regard – the Leadership Training Event (LTE), November 2-6, at Rainbow Trail (CO), and the LOM Annual Conference. Whether you are sort of new getting into outdoor ministry as a career or a veteran looking for a refresher on best practices, the LTE is one of the best outdoor ministry educational experiences you’ll find anywhere. And I’m looking forward to seeing everyone in LOM at the conference

LOM continues to grow as the platform for assuring strong and vibrant outdoor ministries throughout the church. We have seen this expansion in many ways during the past few years. At about the same time you get this newsletter, we’ll be seeing another significant improvement for LOM – our redesigned and greatly improved website. It includes the live registration for the LTE and LOM Annual Conference as well as all the details on another of the LOM signature resources – the 2018 LOM Curriculum (“This Changes Everything”).

One thing hasn’t changed about LOM – we continue to be an organization of people working with each other so that outdoor ministry everywhere will reach its full potential for the church and the world.

See you in Colorado this November!

--Don Johnson, Executive Director

THE AUCTION IS COMING

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!

Leadership Training Event
Set for November

Learning Events give Lutheran Outdoor Ministry professionals the opportunity to learn new skills, enhance their understanding of administration and programming of camps, and network with others across the country in similar job positions.

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/
Register Now!
The LOM Conference Is Just Two Months Away

Exciting fellowship, engaging discussion, meaningful worship and much more await you at the 2017 LOM Conference- join colleagues & friends of Outdoor Ministry in beautiful Breckenridge, Colorado, at the Beaver Run Resort from Monday, November 6, to Friday, November 10!

Gather with outdoor ministry professionals, speakers and leaders to dive into the theme of "Living Into Reformation: Practicing Relevant Faith". Together we will explore our theme verse, "Now the Lord is the spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom" (2 Cor. 3: 17). 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. Your conference planning committee is so excited to welcome you all to Colorado in just a few months.

Scholarships are available for first time attendees. Costs are from $575 to $750 depending on your housing option. A late fee of $100 goes into effect after October 10. Get more information, including about financial assistance, and register at https://www.lomnetwork.org/conference.
See you in November!
2018 Curriculum “This Changes Everything” Now Available

As people, we are born into a broken world. God’s desire for wholeness and life for us and the rest of creation was made known to us in the life and death of Jesus. This action by God through Christ literally changes everything - the world, us and how we live in community with one another. Through this curriculum, campers will learn how God’s grace changes these things and how we can work with others to show that grace to the world.

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.

Daily Themes:
Monday: “Our Hearts”
Tuesday: “Our Identity”
Wednesday: “Our Purpose”
Thursday: “Our Community”
Friday: “Our Perspective”

New for 2018:

• One **Elementary** Bible study for elementary aged campers with activity options for lower and upper elementary campers. This gives counselors the flexibility to adapt their Bible study time to the needs and developmental stages of their group.
• One **Youth** Bible study for junior and senior high campers. This gives counselors and youth leaders the flexibility to adapt their Bible study or devotion time to fit their group’s needs and interests.
• More graphic options for publicity

*Muti-Site Discount: If you are an organization with more than one site, you must purchase the entire curriculum or the curriculum development bundle for each site. Pay full price for your first site and get a discount on your other sites.*

You can now purchase the curriculum on our website at [www.lomnetwork.org](http://www.lomnetwork.org) under the “resources” tab. The curriculum ordering is more user-friendly this year, and a link to download the final product will be emailed to you. Products this year include:

• The entire curriculum
• Curriculum Development bundle
• Youth Ministry bundle
• Supplemental bundle
• VBS bundle

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.
Lutheran World Relief has a program called “Farmers Market Coffee” that they believe is one of the most tangible ways that camps and conference centers can engage with them in their ministry of hospitality.

LWR Farmers Market Coffee is a new line of coffee sourced directly from farmers participating in Lutheran World Relief projects. Every delicious cup helps transform poor communities that depend on their coffee crop to feed their families. With LWR Farmers Market Coffee, farmers aren't just suppliers of coffee beans, they are partners in the coffee business. Farmers are given a stable, predictable, and high price upfront for their beans. Go to lwr.org/coffee to learn more about how you can serve your camp’s guests delicious coffee that makes a real difference. For more information contact Brandi Monroe-Payton at BMonroe-Payton@lwr.org.

The CEO Academy, LSA’s signature event for chief executives, is a highly interactive, three-day conference that brings together 60 chief executives from leading Lutheran social ministry organizations to share, learn, and build connections. Held January 28-January 31, 2018, in sunny Safety Harbor, Florida, the CEO Academy features prominent subject matter experts and seasoned LSA CEOs leading sessions in their area of leadership and management expertise. Each year, we are excited to welcome LOM members to join in our fellowship – and hope to see many familiar faces again this year! Registration will open in mid-August at www.lutheranservices.org/CEOAcademy2018. Please contact Kim Roque at LSA with any questions: kroque@lutheranservices.org or 202-499-5824. See you in Safety Harbor!

For a complete listing of all the Ministry Partner Members of LOM, click here: http://lom.lwlbci.com/index.php/partners/ministries/

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- **December 5-7:** Region 5 LOM – Stoney Creek Hotel and Conference Center, Onalaska (La Crosse area), WI.
- **January 25-29:** Youth Ministry Extravaganza – Hyatt Regency, Houston, TX
- **January 28-31:** LSA’s CEO Academy – Safety Harbor Resort and Spa, Safety Harbor, FL.
- **February 20-23:** ACA National Conference, Orlando, FL.
- **February 25-March 3:** Compass Points (Articulating Mission and Business Management) – Holmes Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center (NY).
- **February 28-March 3:** ALDE’s Ignite International Conference – Hyatt Regency, Minneapolis, MN. ALDE has already donated one free registration ($810 value) for this year’s LOM Auction.
- **April 23-26:** LOM Executive Directors Gathering – Location TBD
A Wonderful Opportunity to Help Your Donors Meet Their Financial and Charitable Goals

Each year individuals who are 70 1/2 or older and have an IRA must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). The RMD counts as income for the individual and is taxed accordingly. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 began to allow qualified individuals to roll their RMD directly to a charity; for years this allowance had to be renewed by congress annually. However, on December 18, 2015, the President signed the PATH Act making this provision permanent. While this may only affect a subset of your donors, it can make a big impact for them. The reduction of income will save them significant tax liability, and the rollover will allow them to make the impact they desire for your organization. Here's how it works:

- The donor is age 70½ or older on the day of the gift.
- Working with their adviser, the donor transfers up to $100,000 directly from the donor’s IRA to one or more qualified charities. This opportunity applies only to IRAs and not to other types of retirement plans.
- The donor does not receive any goods or services in return for the rollover gift in order to qualify for tax-free treatment.
- The gift needs to be made by Dec. 31, 2017, for the gift to qualify this year.
- The donor does not get a tax deduction, but avoids the income all together resulting in a net tax benefit.

Here's a great article with more details: [https://www.cof.org/content/analysis-ira-charitable-rollover-extension](https://www.cof.org/content/analysis-ira-charitable-rollover-extension)

And, while you’re explaining this opportunity for giving to your organization, please remember to suggest another worthy recipient for your donor’s generosity: LOM.

SUPPORT LOM

To make a gift to LOM, visit [http://www.lomnetwork.org/donate.html](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