

## CALENDAR

For more information & events, go to [www.lomnetwork.org](http://www.lomnetwork.org).

**December 5-7, 2017:**  
[Region 5 Gathering](#)

**January 21-26, 2018:**  
[Program Connection](#)

**January 25-29, 2018:**  
[Youth Ministry Extravaganza](#)

**January 28-31, 2018:**  
[LSA's CEO Academy](#)

**February 5-9, 2018:**  
[Maintenance Connection](#)

**February 19-21, 2018:**  
[Welcomed and Included](#)

**February 20-23, 2018:**  
[ACA National Conference](#)

**February 25-March 3, 2018:**  
[Compass Points](#)

**February 28-March 3, 2018:**  
[ALDE Conference](#)

**April 23-26, 2018:**  
[LOM Executive Directors Gathering](#)

**AND, MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR NEXT YEAR'S MAIN EVENT:**

**November 5-9, 2018:**  
[LOM Conference](#)



## Conference Focuses on Reformation

Under the theme, “Re-form, Re-store, Re-focus,” nearly 140 Lutheran camp professionals and board members attended the 2017 LOM Conference. This year’s theme looked at how outdoor ministries need to be constantly reforming and looking at new ways to do ministry.

Small group discussions occurred as part of the keynote presentations. Keynote speakers included Rev. Dr. Hans Wiersma, an Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) pastor and Associate Professor of Religion at Augsburg University; Beth Schwartz, who currently works in the capacity of operational excellence for organizations across different industries; and Rev. Lucille “CeCee” Mills, ELCA Program Associate Director for African Descent Ministries and Interim Pastor for A Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Rocky Mountain Synod Bishop Jim Gonia preached at closing worship. Members of the planning committee and staff from Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp provided leadership during worship.



## First Leadership Award Presented at Conference

As part of a new LOM recognition program, the inaugural Manlove-Howells Leadership Award was presented during this year's conference. It was given to two recipients this year, the namesakes for the award.

Mark Burkhardt, former director of ELCA Outdoor Ministries and current LOM board member, introduced the first recipient. Burkhardt spoke of his relationship with Paul Howells, the former Outdoor Ministry Director for the Lutheran Church in America. Howells, who fell in October and couldn't attend the conference, accepted via video. Howells talked about the importance of outdoor ministry and who leads us in this work. "We need to remember whose we are," Howells said in his speech.

Margie Fiedler, executive director of Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, introduced the second recipient. She told about her relationship with Jerry Manlove, former Outdoor Ministry Director of the American Lutheran Church. Manlove, who was in attendance to accept the award, said he is confident in outdoor ministries' future. "I am more excited now about the future of camping in this church than I have ever been," Manlove said.



*Jerry Manlove is surrounded by (from left to right clockwise): his daughter, Meggan; Don Johnson; his wife, Linde; Mark Burkhardt; and Margie Fiedler.*

## Auction Raises 33K

LOM held an auction on Wednesday night of the annual conference.

Items donated by LOM organizations raised \$33,605 for LOM's operating budget. This year, new auctioneers Logan Gooch and Brooke Klemetsrud got the crowd excited for bidding. The auction has become a highlight of the conference and continues to raise needed funds for LOM.



## Welcome to our newest Business Member of LOM

CORD, incorporated, is our newest LOM Business Member. Thousands of ministries have found relief by joining CORD. Your completely free membership in CORD saves time and money. By bringing together the purchasing resources of ministries across the country, CORD has negotiated the best possible pricing on products and services common to all ministries. No longer are you viewed as an individual property making purchases. Vendors now see you as part of a seven billion dollar buying power.

For a complete listing of the Business Members of LOM - <https://www.lomnetwork.org/business-members/>

## LOM Business

During the conference, LOM met in business sessions. The membership elected the following board members: Rev. Darryl Thompson Powell and Hannah Anderson. The newly-elected members will begin three-year terms on January 1, 2018. The following were also elected to the Nominating Committee: Joel Abenth and Deb Roberts. Also during business meetings, the organization adopted a budget for the coming year. Following the conference, the LOM Board met. At that meeting following the conference, the following were elected as officers for 2017: Casey Fuerst, president; Deanna Christensen, vice-president; Susan Troutman, treasurer; Lindsey Scheid, secretary.

Outgoing Board Members were recognized during the conference as well. They are Rev. CeCee Mills, Dave Jarvis, and Rev. Dustin Lenz. They are pictured with Casey Fuerst, LOM board president.



## Thanks to our Sponsors

A big thank you to our major sponsors of this year's conference.



*If you attended the conference and did not fill out an evaluation form, you can get one and give your feedback by going to*

<https://www.lomnetwork.org/conference/>

---

## More Research

During the conference, Jake Sorenson presented data from his summer camp survey that was done in 2016. Thanks to the 74 LOM sites that participated! Jake reported that we now have great data comparing our sites and ministry philosophy to those of eight other denominations connected to Outdoor Ministry Connection! Check out the report and more about Jake's research at

<https://www.lomnetwork.org/resources/research/>



## Welcomed 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>



### Words from Don

In the midst of all of the reflection that's part of the Advent season, I'm still smiling as I reflect on the 2017 LOM Annual Conference that's now history. What a great time it was! Just the opportunity to connect with close to 140 LOM members, friends, ministry partners, and business supporters is enough to make me smile for a good long time. The speakers were stimulating, the worship events were inspiring, and the Rocky Mountains were magnificent.

One of the highlights for me was the opportunity to hear Jerry Manlove, outdoor ministry mentor for so many, reflect on all that has contributed to bringing Lutheran outdoor ministries to the level of impact where we find ourselves today. Jerry was the director of outdoor ministries for the American Lutheran Church, a predecessor body of the ELCA, and he was a guiding light for the development of outdoor ministry leadership and responsible for the respected role of outdoor ministry throughout the whole church that continues to be the case to this day. It was so good to have Jerry with us in person to accept the inaugural presentation of the new annual award for LOM – the Manlove-Howells Leadership Award.

And for all the reasons we love and admire Jerry Manlove, the same is true for Paul Howells, who served during the same era as the director of outdoor ministries for the Lutheran Church in America, another predecessor body of the ELCA. Paul was also an inaugural recipient of the Manlove-Howells Leadership Award for the many ways he mentored and encouraged the pioneers of Lutheran camp and retreat ministries – the first full-time camp directors. And now look at us today! Paul was not able to be with us at the Conference, but thanks to videographer Dan Scharnhorst (executive director, Bear Creek Lutheran Camp, PA) we were thrilled to receive Paul's greeting as it was recorded. Thank you, Paul Howells and Jerry Manlove, for the many and profound ways you have positively shaped LOM as it is today.

And thank you, one and all throughout this great network of outdoor ministers! We are continuing to make great strides in working together through LOM to assure strong and vibrant outdoor ministries everywhere. And, as we get close to the end of 2017, don't forget one of life's basic realities – we need resources, particularly financial resources, to make all of this work better and better all the time. If you and/or your outdoor ministry organization have not yet made your financial contribution for 2017, please go to <https://www.lomnetwork.org/donate/> and do it today.

Merry Christmas!

Don Johnson, Executive Director

## PRAYER REQUESTS

### Prayers during times of transition:

- Bethel Horizons (WI) has appointed Eric Knueve as their new executive director. Eric started on November 1.
- Sam Campeau has just started as the new executive director of Luther Point Bible Camp (WI).
- Congratulations to Deb Roberts, recently appointed executive director of Lutherlyn (PA).
- Rev. Sarah Erickson and Adam Erickson have been appointed co-executive directors of Mount Cross (CA) and begin on January 1.
- Travis Aufderheide has just been appointed executive director of Green Lake Lutheran Ministries (MN).
- Lavinia Wingert will retire on December 31 after 14 years as executive director of Camp Agape (PA). It was so good for all of us to have the privilege to acknowledge Lavinia's service at the Conference.
- Jake Czarnik-Neimeyer will retire from the position of executive director of Crossways Camping Ministries (WI) at the end of the year. Jake will be continuing on a part-time basis to shepherd the capital campaign into which Crossways is entering. Laurie Wilkinson has been named to serve as the interim executive director of Crossways beginning on January 1, 2018. Laurie is well known throughout LOM because of her many years of advancing LOM as director of church relations at Thrivent. More recently, she has been serving as the interim executive director of the Wisconsin Council of Churches.
- Jerry and Carolyn Fritsch will be retiring after 13 years of service as co-executive directors at Lutheran Lakeside Camp (IA).
- Dave McDermott has announced that he will be retiring on October 8, 2018, after 21 years as executive director at Riverside (IA).
- Bo Harris IV will begin serving as executive director of Novus Way (NC, GA, FL) on January 1.
- Keith Johnson will soon be retiring as executive director of NovusWay Ministries after 24 years in that position. Keith has served for 40 years in year-round, full-time outdoor ministry!
- Bob Gentile will retire at the end of 2017 after serving for 27 years as the executive director of Camp Herrlich (NY). Bob's successor will be Dean Stichbury.



## 2017 Leadership Training Event Recap

Twenty-two participants and 10 faculty gathered in November at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp in Colorado to learn about and discuss all things camp administration. Participants held a variety of positions at the 20+ outdoor ministry organizations that were represented in the group, which led to challenging questions, thoughtful conversations, and stellar philosophy statements! As a group they learned, worshipped, and played together. Evenings involved intense community building with the crowd favorite "House of Bunco" and the very popular John Denver Karaoke night - which quickly evolved to plain karaoke since only the faculty knew any John Denver songs!

The LTE planning team would like to thank our guest faculty for their time and expertise – Matt O'Rear, Dave Jarvis, Georgine Garbarini, and Tim Taylor. We also want to give a big shout out to the Rainbow Trail retreat staff who welcomed us graciously and worked incredibly hard to make our stay comfortable.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us November 1-5, 2018, for the LTE-Program Track at T Bar M Camp and Retreat Center in New Braunfels, Texas.

## COMPASS POINTS

### Continuing Education Certification Program for Camp and Retreat Professionals

The next Compass Points Courses are coming up soon! The Personnel Course and the Leadership and Development Course will be offered back-to-back during the week of February 25 - March 3, 2018 at Holmes Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center (Holmes, NY). Here's what John Gowan, one of our Methodist outdoor ministry colleagues, has recently shared in the United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministries newsletter:

Are you seeking to better understand your role and call in Christian camp and retreat ministry? Let me highly recommend the Compass Points certification program. I have attended various workshops at different conferences, retreats, and events that all sought to better equip us camp folks with knowledge and fun new ideas to take back to our camp. However, I have learned more from my time taking classes in the certification program than I ever did from these workshops.

First, the classes are more intensive because they last over a 3-day period. Most workshops are just an hour and you never get to interact with the speakers. With Compass Points, you have time and opportunity to ask all the questions you can think of. Our instructors teach on everything from fundraising to hiring summer staff counselors to creating a mission statement. I have learned so much from the wealth of experience all our faculty bring to the table. You also get the added benefit of hearing from your fellow classmates about how they are dealing with certain issues or have found solutions to common problems.



Getting to know Christian camping people from various denominations around the country has been my favorite aspect of the program. I have realized we are all asking the same questions and that there is more that brings us together in community than divides us. What unites us is our love for sharing Jesus and building His kingdom through camp and retreat ministry. The different ways we try and separate ourselves from others soon fall away as you hear other people's passion for the work they do day in and day out. The community I have formed through the Compass Points certification program has truly been a blessing to me and one of the best parts of my whole experience.

The Compass Points certification program will help you be a better camp and retreat professional. Whether you are just starting out like me or you have 20 years of experience, the classes offered will enable you to be the best that you can be. It will help you to continue building God's kingdom one camper, one activity, one encouraging word at a time.

*Jonathan Gowan is Director of Summer Camp Ministries at Sumatanga Camp & Retreat Center, Alabama. He formerly served the summer camp ministry at Lakeshore (TN) for 7 years and as a local church Youth Director prior to that. Jonathan feels strongly that camp and retreat ministry is part of the greater church, and believes it is his call to pour into young adults to help them see their part in the Kingdom. This article is copied with permission from the November 2017, newsletter of one of our denominational partners in the Outdoor Ministry Connection, United Methodist Camp and Retreat Ministries(UMCRM). For more details about the Compass Points Continuing Education Certification Program for Outdoor Ministry leaders: <http://www.compasspointsprogram.org/>*

## COMING SOON – LOM Executive Directors Gathering

“Navigating the Future” will be held on April 23-26, 2018, at the beautiful and brand new McKanna-Sandrock Retreat Center, Lutheranch, Tallapoosa, GA (an outdoor ministry site of NovusWay Ministries) <http://lutheranch.novusway.org/retreat-rentals/>. Join with other executive director colleagues from LOM to explore the most relevant and important questions facing your work today in a peer learning model known as World Café ([www.theworldcafe.com](http://www.theworldcafe.com)). None of us can know everything we need, so this effective tool brings together the collective experiences and knowledge of each of us to arrive at real-world solutions to make leading our ministries easier and more manageable.

Our World Café host for our time together will be Mary Kay DuChene, Lead Consultant and Founder of Leading Pastors, an organization dedicated to walking with church leaders to skillfully and confidently negotiate significant change for the sake of God’s mission in the world. Providing insight for the ways our navigational challenges and opportunities will connect outdoor ministries with “Called Together in Christ”, the future directions of the ELCA, will be Rev. Stephen Bouman, Executive Director of ELCA Congregational and Synodical Mission. All of this, together with inspiring worship, uplifting music, and plenty of time for informal conversation and networking, will provide you with an outstanding experience of continuing education and professional collegiality. The cost: \$525 (single occupancy) or \$425 (double occupancy) will include overnight accommodations, meals, program, and ground transportation to and from the Atlanta Airport. Register at <https://www.lomnetwork.org/executive-directors-gathering-registration/>. Feel free to contact Don Johnson [director@lomnetwork.org](mailto:director@lomnetwork.org) with questions. Members of the Steering Committee for this event include: Dianna Parks, Good Earth Village (MN); Brent Seaks, Badlands Ministries (ND); Heather Eggert, Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp (WI); Matt Kindsvatter, Lutherhill (TX); and Don Shunkwiler, Sugar Creek Bible Camp (WI).



LOM News will not be published in early January due to the Christmas Holiday. The next edition, our Annual Report, will be published in early February.

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year**  
***From the LOM Board and Staff***

### 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](mailto:director@lomnetwork.org) or 603-848-9904.



**LOM News** is a publication of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries. Permission is granted for organizations to reproduce this newsletter and share with boards and other supporters. Send information for the newsletter to LOM Webmaster Chad Hershberger by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each non-summer month at [webmaster@lomnetwork.org](mailto:webmaster@lomnetwork.org).

Don Johnson, Executive Director  
Casey Fuerst, Board President