Worship Leaders Announced for Gathering

Participants in the LOM Executive Directors Gathering are in for another awesome treat when they gather at Lutheranch in Georgia, April 23-26. The music and worship leaders for the event will be Matt Simpkins and Chandler Carriker. They are church leaders renowned throughout the ELCA and their roots in outdoor ministry are long and deep.

Chandler is a deacon in the ELCA and serves as the Associate Director for Outreach and Engagement at Lutheran World Relief. He worked for countless years at Camp Lutheridge and Lutherock.

Matt Simpkins is the Lead Pastor/Developer of Christ South in Charlotte, NC, and has been a mission developer for over a decade. A veteran of camp ministries, Matt still works heavily with camp programs at Lutheridge and Lutherock. Matt is the worship leader at Christ South, as well as having played in Boywonder and Starboarders.

Matt and Chandler played music for years as Boywonder, with their friend Jill Van Horne. Now Chandler and Matt are the co-creators of Blue Duck Vision, a consulting team for mission driven organizations.

There’s still time to register for the Executive Directors Gathering by going to – https://www.lomnetwork.org/event/lom-executive-directors-gathering/

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

April 23-26, 2018:
LOM Executive Directors Gathering

November 1-5, 2018:
Leadership Training Event

November 5-9, 2018:
LOM Conference

Did you miss these at facebook.com/lomnetwork

• Judy Smith from Calumet gets a promotion
• Seminary video release
• A new Facebook page for the Effective Camp Research Project

Check out our featured site! Mar-Lu-Ridge in Maryland is our latest camp to be shown on the LOM website at www.lomnetwork.org.

REMINDER: ACA Camps need to send their renewal dues to Jon Skogen by March 31 to take advantage of the discount, which is an LOM benefit!
Save the Date: LOM Conference

Join us for the LOM Annual Conference, which is held each fall. The annual conference is a gathering of LOM members and features continuing education, networking, fellowship, and time for renewal. This year’s annual conference will be held on November 5-9, 2018, at T Bar M Camp and Retreat Center in New Braunfels, Texas.

Gather with outdoor ministry professionals, speakers and leaders to dive into the theme of “Good Works in Grace Spurred in Love.” Together we will explore our theme verse from Hebrews 10:24. The conference schedule allows for plenty of time for discussion with peers in ministry, as well as dynamic worship and fellowship. 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 Texas.

Travel information and costs are on the next page. Registration for the 2018 LOM Conference should be live by July 1, 2018.

Morgan State Recruiting Night

On Thursday, March 15, LOM hosted a summer camp staff recruiting event at Morgan State University. Morgan State is an historically Black University in Baltimore, MD. Most of the students who participated are part of the Lutheran Campus Ministry program at Morgan which is led by Deacon Reggie Price. The event was held at All Saints Lutheran Church, adjacent to the Morgan State campus. There were representatives from five LOM organizations - Zach Weiss from the Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central PA (Kirchenwald and Nawakwa); Kathryn Schafer and Olivia Whitener from Cross Roads (NJ); Amy Sowers from Mar-Lu-Ridge (MD); Julie Kroll from Caroline Furnace (VA); and Rod Pearce from Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio (Camp Mowana, Camp Luther, Lutheran Memorial Camp). Also participating was LOM’s Ministry Partner member, Lutheran Volunteer Corps, represented by Kelsey Kaufman.

Your Spring Assignment: Think 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 2018 LOM Auction!

Another Journeys Reminder

Have you set your adventure camps and servant trips for 2019? If so, please submit them for LOM’s Journeys for Youth website. We’d like to list these camps by May 1, 2018. For more information about the website and to submit, go to http://journeys.lomnetwork.org/about
Educational Opportunities 2018

NOVEMBER 1-5, 2018: LTE – Leadership Training Event – Program Track
T Bar M Ranch, New Braunfels, TX

Travel Details:
Arrival:  Fly into San Antonio, TX (by 3:00 p.m. on November 1)
Departure: Fly out of San Antonio, TX (after 11:30 a.m. on November 5)
Round trip shuttle fee from and to airport - $15.00 per person (45 minute shuttle)
*You may also choose to fly into Austin, TX – You are on your own for transportation from Austin – NO shuttle service provided to or from Austin*

Cost Per Person: (Late Fee added $100.00 after Oct 10.)
Double Occupancy: $525.00 per person (paid in full by midnight EDT Oct 10th)
Single Occupancy: $600.00 per person (paid in full by midnight EDT Oct 10th)
*Sustaining Members are eligible for Scholarship Funding*

NOVEMBER 5-9, 2018: LOM Conference
T Bar M Conference Center, New Braunfels, TX

Travel Details:
Arrival:  Fly into San Antonio (before 3:00 p.m. on November 5)
Departure: Fly out of San Antonio (after 11:30 a.m. on November 9)
Round trip shuttle fee from and to airport - $15.00 per person (45 minute shuttle)
*You may also choose to fly into Austin, TX – You are on your own for transportation from Austin – NO shuttle service provided to or from Austin*

Cost Per Person: (Late Fee add $100.00 after Oct. 10.)
Double Occupancy: $525.00 (Paid in full by midnight EDT on October 10th)
Single Occupancy: $600.00 (Paid in full by midnight EDT on October 10th)

- Scholarship Funding available via application
- First time attendee & financial assistance scholarships by application only. If you apply for scholarship funding please do not register until you are approved and receive a code for registration!

Please use the application form and criteria forms found on the Annual Conference page on the LOMnetwork.org web site. Then please direct all scholarship inquiries to: Randy Youngquist-Thurow, Events Coordinator, at eventscoordinator@lomnetwork.org.

Find more information at www.lomnetwork.org
Anxiety. That’s the focus of these periodic words from me to LOM members by way of our monthly newsletter. Anxiety isn’t a very common theme for those of us whose programs, activities, and ministries provide so much happiness and comfort for so many people. All that we do reassures our participants and staff of God’s constant love and grace beyond measure.

But let’s face it, there’s plenty for all of us who provide leadership for outdoor ministry organizations to be anxious about. This was made abundantly clear to me when I posted recently on the LOM Facebook pages about some of the incredible challenges Koinonia (NY) has been facing this winter with trees down, extended power outages, and a fire that destroyed one of their beloved structures. Anxiety is inherent in so much of what that they are facing now and in the days ahead! Yet in my phone conversation with Joanne Knudson, executive director, she talked about how their challenges have brought so many people together and in so many ways they are experiencing crisis transformed into opportunity!

What they have been experiencing at Koinonia helps all of us to keep our own anxiety laden challenges in perspective. Yet there’s plenty of challenges out there that all of us are facing even in the best of times. Will we have enough summer staff to carry out our ministry in the ways we envision for our ministry? Will we be able to keep our ministry relevant in the face of ever-accelerating change in the culture that surrounds us? Will we be able to expand our donor base enough to cover even the most routine expenses of our ministry? Will we have enough in the checking account to pay the electric bill next month? It can go on and on.

Yes, the future and its uncertainty have the power to create limitless anxiety. And we know in LOM that one thing that can help turn anxiety into positive action is when we join together to help each other think through our options for positive action. The soon to be held LOM Executive Directors Gathering, “Navigating the Future”, is one example of the gift we can give to each other by sharing from our experiences and collective wisdom.

All of us in LOM are getting better and better all the time at developing LOM as the platform for helping each other deal with the challenges that could drive us crazy. As you well know, LOM needs financial resources that only your personal and organizational contributions can provide. So this is a shout out to you to remember to include the LOM contribution in your organization’s budget in 2018. That of course, will help to minimize my personal level of anxiety.

Most importantly, as you move through the uncharted waters of the days ahead, remember the promise of the words of scripture in 1Peter 5:7, “Cast all your anxiety on Jesus because Jesus cares for you.”

Don Johnson, LOM Executive Director
Innovative Program: Day Camp for Adults with Disabilities

This is one of the programs nominated for LOM’s Innovative Program Award last year.

Red Willow Bible Camp in North Dakota started this innovative program with the help of the pastors of Augustana Lutheran and University Lutheran of Grand Forks, ND. The idea behind this program was to offer a camp experience to adults with disabilities who would not be able to come out to their physical site due to physical or emotional limitations. The folks organizing this program wanted it to serve as an opportunity for a local congregation to reach out to individuals of their community to experience God’s grace, have fun, and learn more about what it means to be a loved child of God.

The Day Camp for Adults with Disabilities was the first time many of these campers ever got to have this type of experience. The program runs from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and opens and closes with worship. Staff and volunteers participate in a half-day training experience prior to the camp. Each day has a Bible Study time on the theme of the summer with an opportunity for conversation and discussion of how that story speaks to the camper. The program also includes craft projects that reflect the theme of the day and challenge the campers to explore their creativity. A recreation time that is geared to the physical abilities of the campers. Lunch and snacks are included in the daily schedule. The nursing staff is present for any medical needs and medications.

To read more about the Innovative Program Award and download an application, visit https://www.lomnetwork.org/awards/innovative-program-award/. Deadline for applications is in September.

What are you doing this fall?

Announcing a New LOM Ministry Partner

Keith Johnson is “The Board Coach” for LOM executives and boards who want to strengthen their partnership and improve their effectiveness. Keith will support and train boards and executives by putting the pieces together through offering three services: 1) Board governance workshops; 2) Off-site governance audits; 3) Consultation and support. Keith has 44 years of experience in Lutheran camps and a congregation. $50.00 per hour member discount for LOM members. Contact keith.allan.johnson2@gmail.com; 828-230-7282 for services and more information.
From one of our LOM Ministry Partners

From NH to MA to NJ to WI to TX, camps have been partnering with The Outreach Program to feed hungry kids in their counties. It all started Don Johnson asking Matthew Miller, Lutheran pastor turned meal packaging guy, to come to Gettysburg, PA, to feed hungry people with Project Connect. Now that Don’s with LOM and Matt is the National Faith-Based Coordinator for The Outreach Program, they’re trying to get more Lutheran churches and camps across the country involved. They are up to 680 from 19 synods so far! Here’s how it works:

Donate.
25 cents feeds a kid, $1 a family of 4. Money raised turns into people fed.

Volunteer.
We need hands to put the meals together. The average person can package 160 meals an hour. Volunteer hours needed are determined by the amount of money raised. Every $40 funds one hour of packaging for one person.

Receive.
Once packaged, the meals are given—free of charge—to regional food banks, local pantries, and school backpack programs. The group that raises the money and raises up the volunteers decides 100% where the meals go. The vast majority stay in the county in which they were packaged.

Like and Share.
www.facebook.com/EndHungerNE
www.youtube.com/watch?v=qimnoeM8ikA
www.OutreachProgram.org

If you would like more information or want to book an event, please email Rick McNary in our home office (rick@outreachprogram.org) and copy me (matthew@outreachprogram.org). In the Northeast, we’ve fed 22.5 million (with Lutherans providing 30% of the volunteer groups and packaging 40% of the meals). Nationally, we’ve fed 420 million. When this became a full-time regional effort 7 years ago, 1 in 4 American kids was going to bed hungry (now it’s 1 in 6). At the time, 1 in 7 people on the planet was hungry (now it’s 1 in 9). Please join the movement to end local hunger!
From one of our LOM Ministry Partners

From Farmers to Your Camp: A Coffee Journey
by Chandler Carriker, Associate Director for Outreach & Engagement at Lutheran World Relief

Coffee is the second most traded commodity in the world. Many of the families who farm coffee live in the poorest communities in the world. This is the story that brought me to the top of a mountain in Nicaragua surrounded by Gustavo Herrera’s coffee crop this past May, far from where my own journey in ministry started in the western North Carolina mountains.

At Lutheran World Relief, coffee has long been an important resource in our passionate mission of breaking the cycle of poverty around the world. Working with farmers to build resilience to climate change, bring a stronger crop to market. This in turn, allows farmers to secure greater income and build an important foundation in their communities. Families thrive. Children learn. The world of abundance which Jesus calls us to is more fully realized.

As I sat on that mountain in Nicaragua we at LWR were on the verge of bringing something new to U.S. Lutherans. LWR Farmers Market Coffee; a new coffee grown by the very farmers that Lutherans have been supporting over the years through their gifts to LWR. Gustavo and his family are among the first farmers proud to deliver the fruits of their hard work into this awesome partnership, a product which is available to you...NOW!

As I have gone on this journey with coffee farmers around the world and Lutherans in the US there are a few parallels I’ve seen with my experience in camping:

Hospitality – A great cup of coffee can be one of the most hospitable things you can give to a guest. In Nicaragua I learned that sense of hospitality comes naturally from the families who grow the beans. In every house we were welcomed with food and laughter, much like the welcome I’ve gotten at every Lutheran camping site I’ve been to.

Empowering Youth – Camping provides a place for youth and young adults to learn new skills and discover God’s calling. Around the world in LWR’s projects we are engaging young adults to learn valuable entrepreneurial skills to help the entire farming family and keep them in the community for the future.

Innovation – In the church our Lutheran Camps are often on the cutting edge of ministry, pioneering ways of creating community that our congregations learn from. LWR shares in that innovative spirit by brings the flavorful coffee beans of farming families into the homes and communities of the very same Lutherans who have supported them.

So how can your camp and conference center bring the empowering and innovative hospitality of LWR Farmers Market to your guests?

• Go to lwr.org/coffee to learn more about Farmers Market coffee and see a video of Gustavo’s family and his granddaughter we captured while with them in Nicaragua.
• Go to lwrfarmersmarket.org to order. We have options to meet many of your coffee service needs and discounted prices for bulk ordering.
• And if you have questions about how to incorporate LWR Farmers Market coffee into you hospitality you can connect with me at ccarriker@lwr.org.

Thank you for your innovative and empowering hospitality! We look forward to adding to that with LWR Farmers Market coffee!
Winter Compass Points Update

It's great to see a couple of well known LOMers in the photo of the February class in Outdoor Ministry Personnel & Leadership at the Compass Points event. Participating in this course was Jon Davidson, program director at Luther Heights (ID). One of the instructors was Susan Troutman, our LOM Board treasurer. Compass Points is an outstanding continuing education program for outdoor ministry leaders. Completion of the full set of courses earns a certificate from Columbia Seminary, Decatur, GA. It gets rave reviews from the LOM folks who have participated.

Judy Hakanson Smith (5th from the right) was among the participants and faculty at the March Compass Points class in Development for outdoor ministry leaders. Judy is on full-time staff at Calumet (NH) and serves on the LOM Curriculum Committee. The next courses offered will be Non-Profit Business Management, October 14-17, and Articulating Our Mission, Role, and Value, October 17-20. More details at www.compasspointsprogram.org/

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