Third Email Blast of the Summer

We continue our tradition of sending out an “email blast” monthly during the summer to keep you updated on LOM happenings! Our regular newsletter will return in early September. We hope your summer has been going well so far.

The Impact of LOM

Hi! My name is David Larsen and I’m a member of the Camp Amnicon board of directors. I initially became involved at Amnicon as the father of a Camp guide, our daughter Amy. She worked at Amnicon two different times, and during that period my wife and came to appreciate Amnicon’s ministry, and the volunteers and staff that God works through to make it happen.

Almost six years ago I was elected to the camp’s board of directors, and it was then that I first became aware of LOM. I, along with another board member attended the “Board Training” event at the LOM conference in Wisconsin. It was an excellent class, and I recommend it to anyone serving on a Camp board, or any non-profit board.

A couple of years later, as the Board Chairperson, I had another opportunity to tap into the resources at LOM. Camp Amnicon was entering a transition period after almost 50 years in outdoor adventure ministry. We were in search of a new Executive Director and interested in prayerfully looking at the viability of our particular ministry, and how we could be the best stewards of the facility, staff, and supporters that we’d been entrusted with.

We reached out to Don Johnson for advice and counsel, and he was very helpful. We decided that finding the right interim director would be the best way to transition, and Don arranged for us to attend the Nebraska LOM conference, where we met a number of people that had the background that we needed. They were all excellent people, and we were led to call Jeff Barrow as our interim director. God led Jeff off “the bridge” at Wilderness Canoe Base long enough to give us a wonderful year at Camp Amnicon. Jeff was pastor and mentor to all of us, worked well with our staff, board, and campers, and along with Paul Hill, led us in a productive strategic planning process.

We have reaffirmed Amnicon’s mission to “equip people to experience grace beyond their comfort zone through adventure centered programming, life in Christian community, and access to wild places in God’s creation.”

Jeff attended LOM’s inaugural “Interim Director Training” event which was very helpful and demonstrates LOM’s commitment to help develop and support people to work as interim directors. LOM also assisted us in the search for our new Executive Director, and we’re very pleased that Jesse Weiss accepted our call to that position last year.
As a board member, I appreciate all of the resources, and the people, in this world of Lutheran outdoor ministry. LOM, to me, is the “glue” that holds us together, and they’ve been an invaluable partner with us. Please support LOM financially and prayerfully, and feel confident that they can, and will, help you when you’re in need.

David Larsen
Camp Amnicon Foundation Board member

A note from Don Johnson, executive director of LOM, to follow up on this powerful statement from David Larsen:

“This is one example of how our work together through LOM is ensuring strength and vitality for outdoor ministries everywhere. Thank you for what you have been contributing to the success of LOM through your prayers, your active participation, your volunteerism on behalf of LOM, and your financial contributions. In order to sustain the growing capacity of LOM, please consider contributing, now, to the 2019 LOM Annual Fund. And, one additional request in this 100th Anniversary year of outdoor ministry for Lutherans and their friends and neighbors – please consider adding $100 for the 100th to your last contribution to LOM. Thank you.”

Your contribution to LOM can be made by writing a check payable to Lutheran Outdoor Ministries and sending it to:

Jon Skogen, LOM Administrator, 1218 W. Addison St., Chicago, IL, 60613

Or, online: https://www.lomnetwork.org/donate/

Making your contribution online will make it possible to set up an automatic monthly contribution if you would like to use this option.

A Sneak Peek at the 2020 Curriculum

All the details are being finalized for the 2020 edition of the LOM Curriculum. It will be available for purchase this fall. Here’s a preview of what you can expect in this excellent resource.

From Generation to Generation

Theme verse: For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations. (Psalm 100:5)

With this curriculum, From Generation to Generation, campers and their leaders will explore the stories of familiar Bible characters and their responses to God’s call and promised faithfulness in the midst of life’s unpredictability and challenges. The promises of God, first made to Abraham and Sarah, include a place to live, a purpose to live out, and a posterity to carry on God’s promises to all future generations. Daily themes include:

- **Abraham and Sarah** (Day 1 focus) were called to step out in faith with a destination unknown, but a promise to assure them of God’s grace and blessing.
- **Joseph** (Day 2 focus) stepped beyond anger to embrace God’s gifts and use them to bless more people than expected. His story emphasizes that what others might mean for harm, God can use to bring promised blessing.
- **David’s** story (Day 3 focus) reminds us that God has a propensity for choosing the least expected person to do the most difficult job. God does not call the qualified, but instead qualifies the called. Each one of us can be God’s agent of blessing.
• In that same manner, the story of Mary the mother of Jesus (Day 4 focus) shows us that God goes beyond cultural conventions and our understanding to keep the promises made to Abraham and Sarah and their offspring. Mary's courageous trust is an example of a life narrative to follow.
• The stories of Paul, Timothy, and Lydia (Day 5 focus) extend the promises beyond the descendants of Abraham and Sarah to all the world, including us. We are invited to experience God’s promised blessing, love, and grace and also to share it with those in our world today.

Thank you, LOM Curriculum Committee, for another job well done!

**It’s time to register for the Great Gathering**

Registration for the OMC Great Gathering is in full swing. There are a limited number of single and premium location rooms so registering early would be the best option. You won't want to miss this ecumenical event that will bring together camp and conference professionals, board members, and volunteers at Lake Junaluska in Western North Carolina this November 10-14 under the theme "RelationSHIFT.” Find details for the event and register now at omcgreatgathering.org to guarantee your housing preferences.

**Exhibitors Needed for the Great Gathering**

Has your favorite company or organization registered for the exhibit hall at the OMC Great Gathering in November? Here is the current list of registered exhibitors. If a company or organization is not on the list, please send them to the exhibitor/sponsor information as soon as possible. As of today, only 10 of the 76 booths are remaining.

**Lutherlyn (PA) Donates to LOM’s Outdoor Ministry Emergency Fund**

Recently, Lutherlyn was the recipient of a bequest. At the suggestion of Deb Roberts, executive director, the Lutherlyn Board donated a portion of this bequest in the amount of $2,000 to LOM, designated for the Outdoor Ministry Emergency Fund. This fund was established in 2016 at the request of Mar-Lu-Ridge (MD) when they made a similar contribution. The fund is still at a very modest size, but many have expressed hope that it will quickly grow. Because of this fund, LOM recently contributed $500 to Lutherwood (OR) because of the devastating loss of their Main Lodge and Dining Hall just a few weeks before the start of the summer season.

**The 100th Anniversary**

In case you missed the birthday greeting we sent to everyone in our email mailing lists on the actual day of the outdoor ministry birthday – July 5 – here it is again: This is the 100th anniversary of Lutheran Outdoor Ministry! Today, we begin a year of celebrating a century of outdoor ministry for Lutherans and their friends and neighbors in the USA. We send best wishes from everyone who's part of LOM to everyone connected with LOM! Enjoy this short video birthday card to commemorate the occasion! And because this milepost is being observed with as much of an eye to the future of LOM as it is to celebrate the past 100 years, this video greeting includes some wishes for LOM in the days ahead.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4A9nBoMDnT8&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4A9nBoMDnT8&feature=youtu.be)
Compass Points Classes for 2020

Four certificate courses have been scheduled for 2020. Two will be offered at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center (Little Rock, AR) in March and two will be hosted by Pilgrim Center (Ripon, WI) in September/October. You can learn more about these classes (and the whole certificate program) by going to www.compasspointsprogram.org.

New LOM Podcast

There’s a new podcast that is posted on the LOM website: https://www.lomnetwork.org/podcasts/. This podcast is with Hans Wiersma, assistant professor of religion at Augsburg University, one of the ELCA-related colleges and universities. Hans has a rich background and continuing involvement in outdoor ministry. In 2017, he was a keynote presenter at the LOM Annual Conference in Colorado, “Living into Reformation”. He currently serves as a member of the LOM Education Committee. The general theme of this podcast is, “in an increasingly secular culture, how do we keep our Lutheran camps and retreat centers – Lutheran?” It covers a range of specifics including the big major challenge of our day-recruitment and retention of summer camp staff. The Direct Link to this episode: http://traffic.libsyn.com/lutheranoutdoorministry/LOM_Hans_Wiersma_.mp3

Coach Training Opportunity

Jill Beverlin is the ELCA Coordinator of Coaching. She has personally and graciously extended this invitation to the outdoor ministry network...

What: You are invited to ELCA’s Level 1 Coach Launch Training
Where: Baltimore, MD
When: Aug. 19-20, 2019; 8:30am - 4:30pm both days
Why Coaching?
"The Uniqueness of Coaching" http://www.metrodccoaches.com/crossingmountainsblog/the-uniqueness-of-coaching

Coaching is a skill of:

- encouragement by walking alongside another,
- listening with a purpose,
- empowerment by asking powerful questions,
- identifying our God-given gifts,
- equipping others by connecting dreams to actions,
- facilitating growth and transformation through Christ and our potential as children of God.

Transform your leadership by signing up for this training: https://community.elca.org/online-registration/elca-coach-launch-baltimore-2019
Cost: $250 for registration; transportation and lodging are extra
Questions: Contact ELCA Coordinator of Coaching Jill Beverlin @ jill.beverlin@elca.org or (920) 209-1933
**The LOM Auction: A Really Fun Way to Make An LOM Donation**

The LOM Auction is coming! There are two easy ways both you and your organization can be involved. Consider putting a trip package together that your organization can provide as part of the auction. We had some great trip packages last year, but we love to add even more for this year’s auction. This could be a week at a beach front cabin, a backpacking trip, a canoe trip, a mountain ski trip, or something that your organization specializes in - you get the idea. Be creative and let’s add some new adventures for people to snare. OR you could provide items for the silent auction that will take place at the same time as the live auction. These items can really reflect your camp or the area that you come from. Anything from locally crafted beers to coffee to custom pottery, and jams and jellies. Again, be creative! We would love to offer a wide variety of items for the silent auction.

Please contact Dave Jarvis at auction@lomnetwork.org for more details and to get a form to register your auction items. Let’s make this the best auction ever!

The LOM Auction catalog will start being filled as items come in. Keep checking for updates. See you in North Carolina!!

**Prayers**

- For smooth transitions for **Rev. Sharon Cook**, who recently began serving as executive director of Crossways (WI). Sharon – welcome to the LOM family!
- Thanksgiving, for the guidance and competent leadership of **Laurie Wilkinson** to Crossways during their time of executive transition. Laurie has now concluded her time at Crossways as the interim executive director. Laurie – thank you so much for all you have done over the years to ensure strength and vitality for the LOM network!
- Congratulations, to **Rev. Yehiel Curry**, executive director of Rescue, Release, Restore (Camps Simba, Simsa, and Myla), upon election as Bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod.
- Congratulations to **Rev. Paul Egensteiner**, who served for many years as executive director of Pinecrest (NY), upon his election as Bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod.
- God’s peace and comfort for the community of Spirit in the Desert (AZ) as they continue to mourn the sudden loss of their beloved executive director, **Rev. Richard Andersen**. And as they embark on the Search for their next executive director.
- Healing, for **Jeff Bluhm**, executive director of Lutherdale (WI), as he continues his battle with lymphoma. On July 4, Jeff reported in a Facebook post, “I came home on Monday evening after spending 12 days in the hospital for pneumonia. I am feeling pretty good right now and pulse ox is back to normal. The lung biopsy confirmed that one of my chemo drugs caused the lung inflammation. So that drug has been removed from my cocktail. I will be having my 4th round of chemo on July 10th and getting back on schedule with the goal of remission come September.” Jeff – everyone in the LOM network is rooting for you!
- Congratulations to **Jesse Klosterboer**, currently serving as associate director at Ewalu (IA). On September 1, Jesse will begin serving as executive director of Sugar Creek (WI).
- Gratitude, for the service of **Jeff Barrow** as interim executive director of Sugar Creek during their last several months of executive transition. Thank you, Jeff, for all you do for this LOM family!!!
- Healing for **Jon Hoyme**, now retired, former executive director of Shetek (MN) and more recently served as interim executive director, Luther Point (WI). Jon has been battling cancer. He writes, “Done with chemo, I hope. Surgery was supposed to be the 1st but they double booked the operating room so now it’s the 29th. Trying to get in better shape in the meantime and praying a lot.” We’re right there, praying with you and rooting for you, Jon.
- Continuing recovery from major heart surgery for **Arden Norum** who was for many years the executive director of Luther Crest (MN). Arden reports that he feels like he’s about 80% back to full strength.

--From Don Johnson, LOM Executive Director