



Encouraging, Educating, Equipping,
and Empowering Camp and Retreat Leadership

April 16, 2020

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

To reflect from the words of Jesus in Matthew 5:14-16 – You are the light of the world! You have been letting your light shine before others. The light of your good works is revealing and giving glory to God. Thank you for letting the light of your calm and steady leadership shine in ways that instill hope for those who have been saddened by the impact of Covid-19 on your ministries. We know we have a long, uphill, obstacle-strewn path in front of us. Never in the first 100 years of outdoor ministry by and with Lutherans have we ever been faced with the prospect that summer camp as we've known it might not be able to take place, and if it does take place, so much will be different. I continue to be inspired, though, by your resolve to make sure that outdoor ministry will continue to be a treasure for the church and its people for the next 100 years and beyond. Thank you for letting your light shine! Keep it shining!

One of the reasons this network shines is because we have so many ways of staying connected (THANK YOU, Dave Jarvis of Rainbow Trail, and Dave Holtz of Luther Crest, for your presentations this week). It's ironic that staying connected has been especially true during these days of quarantine, isolation, and social distancing. Here's the lineup for next week –

- LOM West Territory ZOOM Forum: Monday, April 20, 10 AM MDT, 9:00 AM PDT.
<https://zoom.us/j/851760930> Meeting ID: 851 760 930 Find your local number:
<https://zoom.us/u/arqc8step8>
- LOM East Territory ZOOM Forum: Thursday, April 23, 11 AM EDT.
<https://zoom.us/j/93627114701?pwd=ZnITcTJKTVNDRkxwR3FoQkE1VXQ2dz09> Meeting ID:
936 2711 4701 Password: LOM2020 Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/arqc8step8>
- LOM East-Midwest Territory ZOOM Forum: Thursday, April 23, 11 AM CDT.
<https://zoom.us/j/91201049068?pwd=ZnEwV0QwMUJsUXpEbWU1RGV6T2xqZz09>
Meeting ID: 912 0104 9068 Password: LOM2020 Find your local
number: <https://zoom.us/u/arqc8step8>
- LOM ZOOM Forum This one is for next week. It will be on Wednesday, April 22, 12 EDT, 11 CDT, 10 MDT, 9 PDT.
<https://zoom.us/j/99040425474?pwd=dGdlRzRBSGZ1OXVsN21UV3dteHhEdz09>
Meeting ID: 990 4042 5474 Password: LOM2020 Find your local
number: <https://zoom.us/u/arqc8step8> It will be of particular interest for those who are providing leadership for programs and group activities at our outdoor ministry sites. The focus will be on getting ideas for all the virtual camp programs that you are responsible for planning and leading. Campfires, Bible studies, craft activities, cabin group discussions - you name it. All the community building you do through interactive discussion and learning when you are live at camp but now on the internet. It will be done sort of live podcast style. Our guest will be Lyle Griner who many of us know because of his work in the Peer Ministry networks. Lyle Griner, Executive Peer Ministry Leadership Director. As Lyle himself says, "I am a lover of

uncovering methods that kick-start great heart-to-heart conversation. I look forward to sharing, even practicing some of these with you, many of which translate well to video chats." Please join us.

For those of you who had to miss either of the LOM ZOOM Forums this week, they were recorded.

- Tuesday with Dave Jarvis of Rainbow Trail (CO):
https://zoom.us/rec/share/xfZ_PpP993FOe43TxUvAUPQHE6PLaaa81CYer6cFz0wzAtF6fOi0TzwHSaE0XTJB (Access Password: g1&36Wu9) Dave's presentation outline:
<https://www.lomnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Jarvis-Dave-Outline-forLiving-in-the-Possibilities-LOM-ZOOM-Forum.pdf>
- Wednesday with Dave Holtz of Luther Crest (MN):
<https://zoom.us/rec/share/xM5JL7LM3H1OR9LkOUz7fY54JKjFT6a80yIKqPcKyxl8DZgVDjLQQAQyklFfOxzY> (Access Password: h1@q6F0=) Dave's slides from his presentation
<https://prezi.com/view/7hfgUHMtuLx7NrgnzaLZ/>

One question that was asked in the Tuesday Forum was in relation to summer camp staff deployed as off-site Service Teams. Art Weiss of Kuriakos (AB, Canada) has developed a model for that and has shared it. Thank you, Art. You will find it here: <https://www.lomnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Service-Teams-Model-from-Kuriakos.pdf>

Casey Fuerst, TicTacToe Marketing, and Jake Sorenson, Sacred Playgrounds, have collaborated on conducting a Camper Family Survey to guide Christian camps for their planning in the midst of Covid-19. It's an incredibly valuable resource that they have made available to us. Thank you, Casey and Jake. Here's the link:
<https://www.lomnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Survey-Finding-Direction-for-Camps-Report.pdf>

At the LOM Auction last November, the Auction Tithe together with the challenge match for the tithe, went to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) in order for LIRS to establish a campership fund for children of migrant and refugee families to go to LOM summer camps. Even with everything with which you are dealing, if you are aware of families who can benefit from such a campership, you will find the information at this link: <https://www.lirs.org/summer-camperships>.

Please contact me with information and resources that others might benefit from. Let me know how it's going for you and decisions you make about summer or any other aspects of your program. Let's make it a point to keep one another in prayer as each of us deals with the challenges that face us, unique to each outdoor ministry organization. Don't ever lose sight of the true light that comes from our Creator with the promise that, "There is nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus." (Romans 8:39)

Take care, stay well.

Don Johnson, Executive Director
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries