



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

May 6, 2020

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I apologize that this information is so late getting to you.

The most time-sensitive piece of information in this message concerns the LOM ZOOM Forum that will take place today, Wednesday, May 6, 2 EDT, 1 CDT, 12 MDT, and 11 PDT. Join Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87510195483?pwd=aWU1amlrK1hWR2F0cFVPQWdxNjlqdz09>
Meeting ID: 875 1019 5483 Password: LOM2020 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kdOB8cAqE> It will be for Old Lutheran to share their plan for helping LOM organizations get apparel out to your people this upcoming summer without having to create inventory and staffing problems.

There is another LOM ZOOM Forum planned for Tuesday, May 12, 2 EDT, 1 CDT, 12MDT, 11 PDT. Join Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84726764696?pwd=ZWISS3ZiAW5HOEIJbVvK0eVhWbzhDZz09>
Meeting ID: 847 2676 4696 Password: LOM2020 Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/keiRgeJ4dY> This one is to replace the one that had to be postponed from May 5 because the CDC Guidelines not being ready as early as expected. ACA has been a key collaborator in the development of CDC guidelines for resident camps, day camps and similar child care activities. Those guidelines are expected to be announced to the public before May 12. This ZOOM Forum aims to provide clarification for the CDC guidelines. Henry DeHart, COO of ACA, will make a brief presentation and then we will open it up to questions and discussion related to the guidelines. This Forum will be most helpful if you can review them prior to the Forum. When I see that they are available, I'll post them on Facebook as soon as I see they are available.

The LOM West Territory also has a ZOOM Forum scheduled for today, Wednesday, May 6, 10:00 AM MTD, 9:00 AM PTD. Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85266851819?pwd=Z1Bub2UwTETjQ3V0OHF4SFNxNWNKUT09>
Meeting ID: 852 6685 1819 Password: LOM2020 Find your local number:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kmskYxTmj>

The LOM East Territory ZOOM Forum will be on Thursday, May 7, 1:00 PM EDT. Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/97659542396?pwd=OC84bERPSXq0Q2NUU2VjA0Gk3ZjYyUT09>
Meeting ID: 976 5954 2396 Password: LOM 2020. One tap mobile +16465588656,,97659542396#,,#,660527# US (New York).

There are 16 (of 90) LOM Member Organizations that have now made a decision to keep their sites closed through the summer season. This amounts to 27 (of 119) sites being closed. During the next few weeks, many of our organizations have Board meetings

scheduled with the hope of making decisions about the summer camp season. As we are well aware from the multitude of discussions and presentations we've had together during the past two months, every situation has its own unique set of circumstances and this network will stand together in helping each other find the resources we need to make good decisions and support each other in the decisions that are made.

Please continue to let me know of the decisions your organization makes.

Don't forget the project we have going on right now - the LOM video project. We're asking every camp to send me a 10-15 second video clip of one person from their community of participants and stakeholders (camper, parent, counselor, retreat guest, pastor, Board member, etc.) saying why they love their camp so much (make sure they name the camp), or in the case of camps that have to be closed this summer, what they will miss most about camp. We are going to put it together into one video that all LOM organizations can use to uplift the importance of outdoor ministry, the importance of supporting their local outdoor ministry, and the importance of supporting the glue that keeps all our outdoor ministries connected - LOM. Please send the video clip (videos filmed on a phone are OK) to Don Johnson director@lomnetwork.org. We ask that you do this before May 15. Thank you. Finally, for today, I share with you these words of Jesus from the Daily Texts last Friday, May 1. As familiar as they are, they really caught my attention at this time. "Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. Therefore, do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?'" (Matthew 6:28-29, 31) I don't know about you, but for me, at times like this, I find it difficult to truly cast aside my worries. This much I know for sure, however, and that is the inspiration I have found in you, the outdoor ministry leaders throughout this LOM network, who have not allowed panic to take over. You have remained calm and steady and strong. You have kept your sights on those things that are most important about your ministry, and that in turn has allowed your constituents to catch the vision that your ministry fields are filled with very beautiful lilies. Thanks be to God for your leadership. I look forward to seeing you around the network!

Take care, stay well.

Don Johnson, Executive Director
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries