



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

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June 1, 2020

Dear friends and colleagues,

I'm sending this message with the primary and original intent to remind you of the LOM ZOOM Worship coming up soon – this Wednesday. As we have announced, a worship gathering for the people of LOM to focus on God, grief, and gratitude. The pandemic that the world has been going through and its impact on what we all hold in common – our outdoor ministries – gives us plenty of reasons to gather in this way.

Now, one week after this worship service was for the most part planned, it all of a sudden seems to be only partially relevant because of the killing of George Floyd last Monday on a Minneapolis sidewalk. Once again, our nation has been torn apart by the ugly consequences of racism.

A few days ago, Margie Fiedler, executive director of Flathead (MT), forwarded to me an email from Tom von Fischer who, back in the 70's was the director of Lutheran Memorial Camp (OH), one of the LOMO camps. Tom spent a significant amount of time living in the neighborhood where George Floyd's life was taken from him. As Tom stated about this horrific event, "It begs us to cry out in the biblical tradition of lament. When God's people have found themselves in the midst of situations that make no sense, searching to understand what is going on, they have called out to God: *"Why do you stand so far off, O Lord, and hide yourself in time of trouble. Lament, we do ... out of pain ... out of confidence that God is listening."*

In the grief and lament that will be part of Wednesday's service, there will be the lament that encompasses the pandemic and now much more.

For all of us in outdoor ministries, the pandemic has given us cause to cancel much or all of our summer camp seasons. We have been encouraged to experience a good part of this as a hiatus, a respite, a time of sabbath. We have also been advised that life might never go back to what it was before the pandemic. Let's hope and pray that our life that emerges on the other side of this pandemic is not plagued by the horrors of racism that preceded it and make plans now for how our camps can more intentionally and more effectively be ministries of inclusion;

ministries that are instruments of God's peace; ministries that overcome whatever sinister forces are pushing some of those created in God's image into the margins.

As we gather together on Wednesday, there will indeed be grief and lament! And we will pray that George Floyd will rest in peace, realizing it is not yet our time to rest. "No justice, no peace". Let our time together strengthen our resolve for our outdoor ministries to prepare the way to "let God's justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-ending stream". (Amos 5:24).

Please join us on the ZOOM -

Topic: Liturgy of Word, Song and Prayer

Time: Wednesday, June 3, 2020 04:00 PM Eastern, 3:00 PM Central, 2:00 PM Mountain, 1:00 PM Pacific

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88619990670?pwd=Rnh4a3U2Ry83RklaTDFQT2YzL0czZz09>

Meeting ID: 886 1999 0670

Password: LOM2020

All are invited – year-round staff, summer staff already at camp, LOM Board members, LOM committee members, contributors to LOM. We are hoping that our increase in capacity to 500 for this event will be sufficient to accommodate everyone.

See you at worship.

Don Johnson, Executive Director