“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me: your rod and your staff – they comfort me.” – Psalm 23:4

LOM ZOOM Forum, Tuesday, August 11, 11 EDT, 10 CDT, 9 MDT, 8 PDT

The purpose of the meeting is to gather the network together for the sharing of ideas for the use of our camps and retreat centers as we look beyond the summer to a fall and winter in which we will undoubtedly continue to be challenged by the COVID-19 Pandemic. This comes in response to a request that has come from several of us. As Jeff Bluhm, executive director at Lutherdale (WI), stated it - "As our summer is coming to a close, attention to the fall is a demand that needs attention. PPP loans are gone. Groups are canceling. What to do? We have some ideas that we are looking into. Could we have another LOM zoom to brainstorm ideas?"

Yes, we sure can do some brainstorming together - here's the ZOOM instructions -

Don Johnson is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.
Topic: LOM ZOOM Forum
Time: Tuesday, Aug 11, 2020 11:00 AM Eastern, 10:00 AM Central, 9:00 AM Mountain, 8:00 AM Pacific
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83254754293?pwd=Y08vRTNPSzh6TVVhaHdoMWtIUFINQT09
Meeting ID: 832 5475 4293
Passcode: LOM2020
One tap mobile
+16465588656,,83254754293#,,,,0#,,4703807# US (New York)
+13017158592,,83254754293#,,,,0#,,4703807# US (Germantown)
Dial by your location
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
Meeting ID: 832 5475 4293
Passcode: 4703807
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kc7M1HC2gX
From Logan Gooch, chairperson of the LOM Curriculum Committee –

I want to give an update from our meeting today (August 4) and to lay out the plan moving forward with the LOM curriculum.

After much thought, prayer, and considerations, we will be holding off the release of the Boundless curriculum (scheduled for release now as the 2021 curriculum) until 2022. This is due to multiple reasons. First, the curriculum is intentionally crafted to parallel the National Youth Gathering which is now delayed until 2022. Second, there are a number of LOM camps which were unable to utilize the 2020 curriculum (*Generation to Generation*) due to COVID-19 necessitating they close for 2020 operations. In addition, camps which were able to operate were likely doing so at a significantly reduced capacity. As such, it is likely the sales of a 2021 curriculum would be abysmal. It is also important to note that the LOM budget will be greatly trimmed in 2021 in recognition that camps are facing financial hardships due to COVID.

Our suggestion for camps in 2021 will be to use the 2020 curriculum if they have not done so already. This could mean they purchase the curriculum for the first time. If a camp has already used the 2020 curriculum, we will suggest they choose any prior curriculum to use at their site for 2021. We will release the Boundless curriculum around this time next year as the summer 2022 curriculum.

As for future development of the curriculum, the LOM board has committed to honor all existing contracts for 2020. This means we will move forward with development of what will now be the 2023 curriculum this fall. My hope is to develop the initial framework for the curriculum and have an overall theme presented to Andrea (Andrea Lee, our LOM-contracted curriculum development manager) by October 1st. This will allow for the initial work which is typically done in the fall to be completed this fall. From there, we will put a hold on production and development of the 2023 curriculum for the 2021 calendar year. In 2022, we will resume curriculum development to keep us on schedule for a late August/early September 2022 release of the 2023 curriculum.

A big THANK YOU to the LOM Curriculum Committee and to Andrea Lee, LOM Curriculum Development Manager.

**JOURNEYS is going to be a very important resource for us during 2021**

As we are now well aware, the ELCA Youth Gathering has been postponed to July, 2022. As I’ve indicated to Molly Beck Dean, executive director of the Youth Gathering, LOM is very grateful for considering our concerns as they arrived at that difficult decision.

Molly has indicated to me that the leadership team for the Youth Gathering wants to advocate for LOM camps and retreat centers by promoting, with all the youth groups that would have
been going to the Youth Gathering, adventure camps and service learning opportunities provided throughout the LOM network, especially during the summer of 2021.

The LOM resource, *Journeys for Youth*, is custom-made for the promoting they are offering to do on our behalf. For that reason, I suggest that you update your listing in Journeys as soon as possible. If you don’t already have a listing there, I suggest that you consider adding one for your outdoor ministry, as long as adventure camps or service-learning experiences are part of what you will be offering next summer.

Here’s the link to *Journeys* on the LOM website: [http://journeys.lomnetwork.org/about/](http://journeys.lomnetwork.org/about/)

**2020 LOM Compensation Survey Report Is Now Available**

Thanks to Jake Sorenson of Sacred Playgrounds and LOM Board member, the 2020 LOM Compensation Report is now a reality.

We will happily send you a copy of the report upon request to: director@lomnetwork.org

**In case you missed it –**

The LOM Annual Meeting is customarily held during the Annual Conference. The Annual Conference for 2020 has been cancelled. So, the Board decided to conduct a virtual 2020 Annual Meeting. Please mark the date and time on your calendar. **Tuesday, November 10, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM Central Time. And, if an additional session becomes necessary, Wednesday, November 11, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM Central Time.** Agenda will include reports, approval of a 2021 budget, election of officers for the ensuing year.

**And…**

Watch for announcements soon from the LTE (Leadership Training Event) Committee. They will be having some exciting opportunities offered during the time that the Conference was to have taken place. They will be having online presentations, condensed versions of best practices for outdoor ministry leadership, with themes similar to those included in the in-person LTE.
PRAYERS –

- Thanksgiving for all the camps and retreat centers along the East Coast that remained relatively unscathed and with no injuries in the wake of Hurricane/Tropical Storm Isaisis. For everyone at Cross Roads (NJ) – we sure hope you get your power back soon.
- Thanksgiving for all the camps and retreat centers throughout LOM that have not completely closed down for the summer and have remained COVID-free.
- For Luther Glen Farm (CA), that they continue to be out of the reach of the Apple Fire in southern California.
- Healing, for Kristin, wife of Brent Seaks, executive director of Badlands Ministries (ND). Kristin suffered a stroke earlier this week. The prognosis is good, she has responded well to treatment, and they are optimistic for a complete recovery.

In conclusion –

Thank you, one and all, for your loyal service and ministry during these challenging and difficult times.