

What's Inside

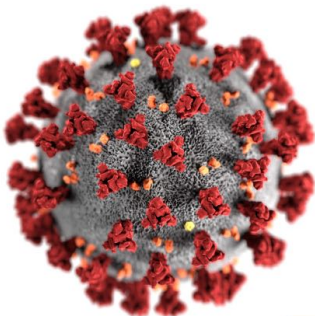
Don't have time to read the whole issue right now? Here's a quick summary from our Executive Director Don Johnson:

I'm writing these words in the early morning hours of the day after Inauguration Day. A day when our nation officially closes one chapter and starts a new chapter. This transition has been tumultuous in many ways and in this newsletter is a statement from the LOM Board of Directors reflecting on the tumult and some of the values that are at the core of our association. Nothing is more important right now than what outdoor ministries value: community; forming and cultivating long and enduring friendships; total inclusion of all people; formation of faith; faithful witness to the Prince of Peace; and the formation of bold and faithful leaders for the church and for the world.



In some ways, this newsletter reflects the closing of one chapter and opening the next chapter. We mourn the passing of two monumental outdoor ministry leaders – Jerry Manlove and Ham Muus. We celebrate the passion of hundreds of current outdoor ministry leaders exemplified by Dana Isaacson who reflects in this issue of how her ministry has been so positively impacted by her involvement in LOM.

We sure hope that this will be a year for closing the chapter that has included the pandemic. That chapter has been marked by the boundless energy of this network of leaders in navigating their outdoor ministry organization through these stormy waters. We thank God for you and your collegial engagement in the LOM community in order for all of us to help each other find our way through this storm. And, as this newsletter reports, we are so grateful for all who have been able to make financial contributions that have sustained all that we have been doing together through LOM. Thank you!



–Don Johnson

Also, Inside...



Camp MatchUp Launches

Two Beloved and Legendary Outdoor Ministry Leaders Have Died. The mark that each of them left on the world, on the church, and on outdoor ministries will be eternal.



Farewell, Mark

2020 Giving Report



Camp MatchUp Launches

The LOM Camp MatchUp App is live! Because of being slowed down by COVID, this resource has taken longer than expected BUT we are now so excited that it is here.

Camp MatchUp is a recruiting tool and way to connect with potential summer staff looking for a camp. Camps create a profile and then potential summer staff applicants can access information through the app to discern the best fit for them. Sign up your camp at <https://campmatch.prod.acts.media/>.

Coronavirus Response & Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act

This new law includes several provisions to support camps that have been suffering significant financial impact from the pandemic. The American Camp Association has published an article that answers questions related to the second round of Paycheck Protection Program loans. You will find this article at <https://www.acacamps.org/resource-library/public-policy/question-answer-coronavirus-response-relief-supplemental-appropriations-act-2021>.

Compass Points in April

The Compass Points certificate continuing education program for outdoor ministry professionals is being offered April 11-17, 2021, at the Pilgrim Center in Ripon, WI. LOM Events Coordinator Randy Youngquist-Thurrow, executive director, Agape+Kure Beach (NC), will be the co-instructor for "Articulating Our Mission, Role and Value, April 11-14. Then, Nonprofit Business Management will be offered April 14-17. You can sign up for both courses or either one of them individually. Compass Points is a next step, more in-depth educational opportunity for those who have completed the LOM Leadership Training Event (LTE) components. Financial assistance is available for applicants who have completed the administrative track and program track of the LTE - <https://www.lomnetwork.org>, click on the Events Tab, then Scholarship Form.



LOM Board Responds to Recent Events

Statement adopted January 14, 2021, by LOM Board of Directors: The divisiveness, turmoil, and conflict that our nation is currently experiencing, and that was so explicitly on display with the assault on the United States Capitol on the Day of Epiphany, 2021, heightens the necessity for bold and faithful leaders for service in the church and the world. Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (LOM) seeks to encourage, educate, equip, and empower bold and faithful outdoor ministry leaders for service in the church and the world. LOM affirms the social statements of the ELCA and condemns acts of violence, racist ideology, and assaults on democratic institutions. As followers of Jesus Christ, we believe deeply that love and justice are at the core of our mission and ministry. We believe that the name of Christ cannot be used to justify actions of hatred and racism. Outdoor ministry sites are spaces to come together and reconcile our differences. LOM remains committed to appreciation of diversity, promoting greater equality in our society, and reconciliation among groups with divergent viewpoints.

LOM Zoom Forum on Organization Responses to Unsettling Events:

Many of our LOM organizations have wrestled with the question of how to best communicate the stance of their organization in regard to unsettling events. This Zoom Forum will give us the opportunity to hear how others feel about questions such as this. One LOM member organization that responded to the events in Washington, DC, on January 6, is Voyageurs (MN). Joel Abenth, executive director of Voyageurs, has agreed to walk us through the process they went through for determining whether or not a response was appropriate and for developing their response. He'll be doing this, not to advocate for the correctness of their process, but to start a conversation among all of us around this issue.

Time: Feb 9, 2021 02:00 PM Eastern, 1:00 PM Central, 12:00 PM Mountain, 11:00 AM Pacific

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83325811611?pwd=Z1paRmQrRmV5anRsZWtKMfPkU3NiZz09>

Meeting ID: 833 2581 1611 Passcode: LOM2021



Exciting New LTE Format

The Leadership Training Event format of two tracks (program and administration) has served LOM well for 25 years, and we are thankful for the innovators who brought that vision to reality in the mid-90's. As we look to the future and the business of operating camp becomes broader, now is the time to look for a new exciting format to meet the growing changes and challenges of the people we serve. After much conversation about how to put more into an already full schedule, the LTE committee found energy and ideas around an expanded program – new core curriculum topics, more time for small group conversation, an opportunity to draw in professionals from LOM as well as other denominations with strong camping programs – and realized a two-track system wasn't going to work moving forward.

An ongoing goal of the LTE and Education Committees of LOM is to provide an educational program that empowers and equips all leaders within LOM, in any role. We are throwing off the restrictions of "Program" and "Admin", and developing a three-part model that will give anyone, whether new to Outdoor Ministry, or celebrating year 20, a renewed excitement for this work we do. Some courses will be similar to the past, and some will have a new twist or focus, but all will continue to use the tried-and-true methods of peer teaching and hands-on, small group discovery.

Vision and Identity, offered this fall, will focus heavily on the WHY we do what we do, with the thread of Mission and Vision running through the 12 courses being offered. As always, each concentration in the new model will seek to build a broad understanding that all elements of our ministry are driven by our call to provide program excellence.

Your LTE Committee is excited to share this new layout!



**Zoom on February 4, 12 E, 11 C, 10 M, 9 P:
Planning for Day Camps in 2021:** Sharing with one another to see what other LOM camps are doing for day camps and what kinds of protocol they might be implementing this summer:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86465171960?pwd=T25iZGkyZnRTQzZJM2NHNE9BZ0JoQT09>

Meeting ID: 864 6517 1960

Passcode: LOM2021

February 4-6, 2021:

ELCA Youth Ministry Extravaganza.

More information: <https://www.elcaymnet.org/ext21>

April 11- April 17, 2021:

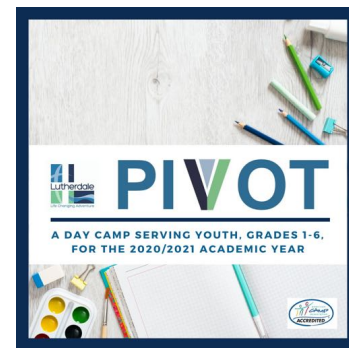
[Compass Points](#)

More information at www.lomnetwork.org
where you can also check out our featured site, Camp Lutherwood (OR)!

Innovative Program: PIVOT

PIVOT is one of the programs nominated for LOM's Innovative Program Award last year

PIVOT is a Day Camp program for the academic year, programmed by Lutherdale (WI). This is a program that merges camp and school! This week-long program includes a supervised, facilitated study time in the morning, followed by hot lunch and afternoon camp-style activities. The purpose of the program is to provide a childcare option for parents that need to return to work, even if schools are not doing in person classes. Whether school transitions to virtual learning or for families enrolled in virtual learning who may need an occasional week of care, PIVOT is a perfect solution for families. The parents get reliability and flexibility, and their child gets to socialize with other youth, complete required schoolwork, and enjoy camp activities.



In Memoriam: Gerald H. "Jerry" Manlove

Gerald Halwood Manlove, 94, of Custer, SD, and Mesa, AZ, left this life Wednesday, December 16, 2020, at Dobson House-Hospice of the Valley in Chandler, AZ. Jerry moved to Custer in 1981, where he established himself as a horseman, land conservator, and active citizen. Allegedly this move was for him to retire from his position as director of camping for the American Lutheran Church. Joining him on this adventure were wife Carolyn "Linde" Lindekugel and daughter, Meggan Hannah. Peniel Valley Ranch (PVR) welcomed 84 guests the first summer of their residency. While adapting to western living, Jerry served as designer and teacher for Discipleship in Society, a program resulting in extensive travel in the United States and Europe.



In the Spring of 1987, Jerry became director of Outlaw, Atlantic Mountain, and Klein Ranches, the western camps of Lutherans Outdoors of South Dakota. He had begun his career as a YMCA camp director at 23, so he brought many skills and leadership to the position. During this time, Jerry was working on creating a Habitat for Humanity Chapter in Rapid City. He served on the initial Wellspring Board and a community task force to address child sexual abuse. In his left-over time, Jerry ran some cattle, hiked, worked at restoring the land of PVR, took time to alpine ski, and followed the Boston Celtics and Minnesota Twins.

In 1991, Jerry resigned from Lutherans Outdoors, retiring again. However, in 1995 he began taking interim camp director calls in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Texas, Ohio, and California, often for a year or more at a time, and often with Linde. The next decade was filled with leisure travel, biking adventures, Elderhostels, house-sitting, and wonderful months at the ranch. Because he treasured the written word, Jerry spent his seventies and eighties writing newsletters, historical narratives, and camping manuals, including a second edition of *The Common Book of Camping* with Mary Kettl.

Jerry was born Nov. 10, 1926, in Hibbing, MN, and grew up in St. Paul. He served in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific during World War II and later graduated from Macalester College. His career began with the YMCA of St. Paul in the Fall of 1949 and eventually led him to direct Camp St. Croix in Hudson, WI. These memorable years are still honored by staff who worked with him including a recent reunion of 85-plus alumni. From 1957-1962 he was Director of Camping and General Secretary of the YMCA of Metro Detroit. In the Fall of 1962, he undertook development of a 1200-acre property in Highland Lake, NY, creating a new Lutheran outdoor ministry: Koinonia. And in 1969, he was called to Minneapolis to design strategies for 65 American Lutheran Church camps across the U.S.

Pastor David Zellmer, retired bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA, wrote, "Jerry was one of the foundational leaders in the new camping ministry of the Lutheran community in the 1960s. He shaped and molded generations of church leaders. He was a gift of rare proportions to the church."

Jerry was predeceased by his parents, Jenny Terhark and Howard Manlove; three older siblings; his first wife, Joanne Turner; his son, Mike; and his grandson, Seth. He will be sorely missed by his wife of 49 years, Linde; his children, Linda, Steve (Peggy Saunders), and Meggan; his daughter-in-law, Becca Brin; his seven grandchildren: Joy (Chris Armstrong), Kezia (Michael Lerch), Erin (George Henry), Joe (Leigh Spokas), Luke (Jami Erickson), and Celin (Sean Williams); three great-grandchildren; two sisters, Juanita and Marilyn; and the many nieces, nephews, and hundreds of friends who treasured his company over the years.

Pastor David Zellmer, retired bishop of the South Dakota Synod, ELCA, wrote, "Jerry was one of the foundational leaders in the new camping ministry of the Lutheran community in the 1960s. He shaped and molded generations of church leaders. He was a gift of rare proportions to the church."

Jerry is one of the namesakes of the Manlove-Howell Leadership Award for LOM and is considered a pioneer of Lutheran Outdoor Ministry. On behalf of LOM, we say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Memorial gifts may be made to: Lutheran Outdoor Ministries network (<https://www.lomnetwork.org>) (1218 W. Addison St., Chicago, IL 60631), YMCA Camp St. Croix (<https://www.ymcnorth.org/give/campgiving#close>) (Hudson, WI), or Koinonia (<https://www.koinoniany.org>) (165 Lakeview Drive Road Highland Lake, NY 12743)

In Memoriam: Rev. Herman A. "Ham" Muus



On June 20, 1929, Ham was born to Rev. Herman I. and Gladys (Trygstad) Muus in Fargo, ND. He died on December 18, 2020, at age 91 in Grand Marais, MN.

Ham graduated from Fergus Falls High School, Saint Olaf College and Luther Seminary. He was ordained in 1956 to the American Lutheran Church (ELCA) in extended ministries. He was founding director of Plymouth Christian Youth Center (North Minneapolis) and its Wilderness Canoe Base (Gunflint Trail). He served Augustana Academy (Canton, SD). In a calling to the SE MN District ALC, he helped to shape youth and encounter outreach through Camp Amnicon (Central Lutheran, Minneapolis); Good Earth Village (an ecumenical association); Mexico Youth Encounter (cross-cultural mission); and Bighorn Spirit (parish youth adventure). He was active in the Bible Camp Association and the American Camping Association.

He brought advocacy to the human rights struggle and various Native American ministries. He received clinical training at Metropolitan Medical Center. He joined Golden Valley Health Center as a chaplain and spiritual director for more than a dozen years, working with psych and addiction recovery within the 12 Step program.

Ham was twice honored by Saint Olaf College: As an inaugural inductee to the Athletic Hall of Fame and as a Distinguished Alumnus. He authored *Wilderness Witness: The Founding Years (1957-1968)* and *Guidelines for Church Camping (BCA)*. Preferred memorials: Plymouth Christian Youth Center (Minneapolis), Wilderness Canoe Base (Gunflint Trail), Trinity Lutheran Church (Hovland, MN).

From the LOM Territories

East-Midwest: Jeff Thompson has stepped down from his position as program director at Lutherdale (WI), during which time he has also been serving as the LOM East-Midwest Territory Coordinator. At the time of his departure, Jeff had this to say about all of his involvement and leadership with LOM: "To all my friends and colleagues in LOM, keep up the amazing work. This ministry is so important, now more than ever, and I'm going to keep supporting you in every way that I can." As Don Johnson said to Jeff at the time, he announced his departure, we will miss seeing you as often during the time ahead. We are grateful for times shared and



for all your ministry. We wish you all the best in your new endeavors and remember - once a part of the LOM family, always part of the LOM family. We are now pleased to announce that the new coordinator for the East-Midwest Territory will be Jeff Bluhm, executive director of Lutherdale (WI). We are very grateful to Jeff Bluhm for taking this on - he is a natural for this role because he is a person who keeps so many of us connected and collegial. Thank you, Jeff Bluhm.



East Territory: The LOM East Territory has continued to meet frequently as the pandemic has unfolded. Recently, they have been working to support each other as they make plans for restoring summer camp operations in 2021. One of the documents they have prepared gives guidance to attending to the care of summer staff in light of COVID-19 precautions. It is available to the whole LOM network on the LOM website and has this link - <https://www.lomnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/LOM-Tool-to-guide-directors-through-staff-care-2021-2.pdf>. They have also gathered a collection of resources for considering all of the additional communications with parents that might be important to have in place during the summer of 2021. You can access this at: <https://www.lomnetwork.org/parent-communications/>. Coming soon: emergency response guidance in the event of a positive COVID-19 test during the time that summer camp is in session. Thank you, East Territory, for sharing the results of all of your research and resource gathering!

News from the ELCA International Counselor Program

The ELCA has informed us that they have made the difficult decision to suspend the **ELCA International Camp Counselor Program** for Summer 2021. This will mark the second year that they have suspended the program due to the ongoing effects of the global pandemic. As we know, the effects of the pandemic will continue to be felt across the world for some time, especially in countries where a vaccine is not yet available. Also, global travel continues to be a major obstacle as well as the impact of the pandemic on the U.S. J-1 visa application process. The plan is to resume the program in 2022.

In the meantime, leadership of the ELCA International Camp Counselor Program is changing. As many of you know, Mark Burkhardt, who has led this program for many years is retiring this month. We are very pleased to announce that Kaleb Sutherland has been named as the new lead staff person for this program. Kaleb will be joined by two associates, Zara Tunstill and Ann Hightower. Here is some information about each of these individuals:



Kaleb Sutherland serves as the Director of the ELCA's International Leaders Program, which accompanies global companion churches to build strategic leadership capacity for the sake of church and society. Kaleb has worked in various roles in the ELCA's Global Mission unit for the past six years and previously served as a YAGM volunteer in South Africa. Kaleb is a product of ELCA higher education (St. Olaf College) and of ELCA summer camps (Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp) and is thrilled to partner with outdoor ministry leaders to share the gifts of the global church. Kaleb's work centers on access to education, gender justice, internationalization of higher education, and LGBTQIA+ justice. Outside of work, Kaleb spends his time cooking, singing, hiking, and raising an energetic puppy.

Ann Hightower is the Coordinator for the ELCA's International Leaders Program. Prior to joining the staff of Global Mission, she worked with Women of the ELCA for 11 years in several roles including director of finance, executive assistance to the executive director, and administrative assistant to the program team. Ann loves making quilts in her spare time. She is inspired by music and women that have overcome obstacles in their lives. Her passion centers on justice, peace, and hospitality. Ann earned an associate degree in applied science from Wilber Wright College in Chicago. She is married to Sam Brown and they have two sons and one daughter.



Zara Tunstill is Coordinator for the Faith Formation Team that relates to outdoor ministries and other First Third of Life programs. Zara has been working in the ELCA churchwide organization for the past 33 years. She has also supported the International Camp Counselor Program from its inception in 1992. Zara is a native of Chicago and continues to live in the city. Zara enjoys interior design, dancing and flower gardening. Zara is the parent of one son, Melvin, and has three grandchildren Brooklyn (11), Jacob (12) and Joshua (17). Zara has been married to Lawrence Gray for the past 17 years.

Thank you for your continued interest and support for this amazing, impactful program! Please know that we are doing everything possible to resume the program as soon as possible.



SPARK at Valparaiso Host Virtual Camp Employment Fair

Spark was founded in 2017 by two Valpo students and has continued to spread the power of camp ever since. They are a student-led organization that works to foster connection on three levels: Camp to student; Student to camp; and student to student. They are hosting, on February 11, a virtual Summer Camp Employment Fair, to which they are inviting LOM camps to participate and making it open to students from Valpo and other colleges. Here's what they say about their invitation: *While we will miss hosting you all in person, we are very excited about the opportunities this platform provides us! Valpo will be hosting 10 other campuses this year for our 4th Annual Camp Week, including our Virtual Camp Fair! This will be a career fair solely made up of camps and is a great opportunity to meet our awesome student connections at both Valpo and our guest campuses. The fair will be on February 11th from 3-5 pm CST; it is a free fair so there is no need to pay a registration fee! We will be utilizing our new website this year to help with registration and overall event organization. To register, please follow the following steps:*

- Fill out [this Google Form](#) to make your camp profile to help students decide which sessions to sign up for and this allows us to connect students with you beyond the fair, as this profile will be maintained year-round
- Visit [our website](#) and RSVP for the event entitled "Camp Fair 2021 Camp Rep Registration." This will allow you to reserve your "room" for the breakout sessions. When you register, in the field for indicating the name of your camp, please add "(member of LOM)."
- Mark your calendar for February 11th!

Outdoor Ministries Impact

Dana Isaacson serves as the program director at Camp Ewalu (IA). She currently serves LOM as a member of the Education Committee, and for several years Dana has served on the LTE Committee, where she recently became the chairperson. We recently asked her, Dana, why is LOM so important to you?



I am so thankful to be a part of LOM! The sense of community, the collaboration, creativity, worship, and the learning that happens are all things that continually help me grow in my ministry. It can be hard to work year-round at camp at times because of the isolation, the uniqueness of the job, and the strange hours. Being a part of a community that understands and supports what we do is so very important.

One of the things I care deeply about is the need to help program staff stay in outdoor ministry. Now that I am on the LTE Committee, I love being able to be a part of the process that teaches the next group of outdoor ministry professionals and gives them the tools and community to build on the great things that are already happening in their organizations and in the wider LOM community. It is also just incredibly fun! As a committee, we learn a lot from the sessions and presenters as well. I especially enjoy being inspired and challenged by the young program staff who are so passionate.

When I first started in outdoor ministry, I was only able to attend local gatherings and not the national conferences. I am so thankful for the opportunity to attend them now and I really admire organizations that value and find a way to send their staff to LOM events on a regular basis. One of the good things about the last year is our familiarity with meeting virtually. While we can't wait to get back in person, it is exciting to think that there will be more opportunities to stay in touch in the future and to reach more people. I hope that organizations can find a way to send their staff to LOM events because I think it greatly enhances the ministry that we do! I look forward to seeing you all in person at our next gathering!

Camp and Creation Stewardship: Perspectives from Three Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Leaders



This article was written by Colter Murphy as part of the Faithful Climate Action Fellowship, a cohort of young adults across the country seeking to engage their faith communities in climate advocacy. The Faithful Climate Action Fellowship is a collaboration of multiple religious climate organizations and is funded by the US Climate Action Network (USCAN). Colter served as counselor and wilderness leader at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp during the summers of 2014-2017. Colter currently serves as Director of Youth and Service at Faith Lutheran Church in Chico, CA. He can be reached at colter.g.murphy@gmail.com.

What's the earliest memory you have of being outside? I remember being in my backyard, under a large spruce tree whose roots sprawled out above the ground. With the garden hose at a trickle, I would wind rivers and streams of water over the topography of the roots, imagining landscapes and water. These early memories of creation are sacred. A young life of sacred play in Montana's outdoors formed me into the climate advocate I am today, and so I wondered what role my favorite Lutheran camp is playing in other young lives. To learn more, I spoke to three friends and mentors, all of whom either are currently or formerly employed by Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp (FLBC), a Lutheran Outdoor Ministries outreach in Lakeside, MT. I interviewed Luke Stappler, Jacob Kvale, and Kyle Lefler.

Luke Stappler served as the Environmental Education Specialist at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, where he created on-site environmental education programming for school groups as well as place-based educational resources for camp staff and guests. He has a Master of Science in Natural Resources through the University of Idaho's McCall Outdoor Science School Graduated Residency in Environmental Education and Science Communication.



Jacob Kvale oversees operations and the offsite and adventure programs at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, situated in the majestic Rocky Mountains of northwest Montana.

Kyle Lefler served on year-round staff at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp from 2014-2020, most recently serving as the Associate Director. Kyle is passionate about working with young people in God's Creation and striving to create intentional community spaces where they are unconditionally loved & accepted, empowered & advocated for. She loves early morning lake swims, handwritten letters & the Avett Brothers.



Here's what they had to say:

Tell me about your earliest memory of spending time outside.

Luke: I went digging for clams with my family in Valdez, Alaska. Everyone would come and do it together. I probably wasn't as interested in finding clams so much as I was looking at rocks or shells that washed up on shore.

Jacob: At 2 years old, I remember our big shady backyard with a lot of clover. There was a sandbox and a set of swings. The trees overhead were oak and maple. As I got older I would play t-ball and dig in the dirt and sit on the swing. I'm the middle child in the family, so I was out there with my siblings who showed me how to do those things.

Kyle: Being in my yard with my parents! My dad was always outside gardening, 9 months out of the year. I would sit next to him on a blanket in the grass while he gardened, and I remember the way sunlight would rest on different parts of the yard. My parents explained about the different plants, showing which ones were weeds.

Was your faith related to time spent outside growing up? Describe how those two things were related in your life when you were young.

Luke: My dad is an ELCA pastor, all that stuff was pretty intertwined. I went to ELCA Lutheran camps as a kid. The church in Fairbanks did a 3 day campout every year, it was a highlight of the year for our congregation. It brought all my church friends and their families together outside.

When I was 12 I attended FLBC as a camper and began to claim my faith as my own. I was a camper onsite for 2 summers, and then I did sailing camp. I made a great friend on the sailing trip, and we both wound up working together at FLBC as adults. When I returned to FLBC to work on summer staff, I became a sailing trip guide.

Jacob: Largely, I don't think so. When I was 5, I went to a day camp at the Lutheran church in town and spent the whole day outside doing stuff. It stuck out to me because it was a church thing that happened outside! When I was between 6 and 11, I spent a ton of time playing outside with other kids whose parents were also going to Wartburg Seminary. It was easy to go into the woods from where we lived, pretty much right out our backdoor.

It wasn't until I went to camp in 7th grade that I really spent time in a faith-based setting that prioritized being outside. That was pretty transformative. The camp was in northwest Wisconsin. I went water skiing for the first time. The lake had a lot of algae and was kind of gross! Sleeping outside was a big deal to me, and I really liked it. The camp also had a series of low ropes challenges which helped me and my churchmates, and the rest of our group that I didn't know as well, to bond. In what other setting would I have seen my home church community blend together so seamlessly with different youth? Spending time outside helped me connect with other kids. Ultimately, that camp experience was the seed that brought me to FLBC for my first summer on staff.

Kyle: My family has always believed in the concept of "earth church" in our lives. There's been very little difference in my life between being in church and tramping around in the woods, and often all of us would skip church in the traditional sense to spend sacred time outside. My faith today is rooted in creation: God is reflected in unique and beautiful ways in the world all around me. This helps me to see the beauty in people and human-created things as well. I know the world is a mirror for us of God's hope, and so too the impacts of our actions are evident: we're either caring for creation or we're not.

In your experience, how does time spent outdoors change young folks? Short term, and long term?

Luke: In the short term, kids that don't thrive traditionally really thrive in a natural sciences outdoor classroom. It can break down the usual classroom social structure because nobody is comfortable. Everyone is put into their "stretch" zone of learning. Kids gain confidence when they do stuff hands-on, outside. The process of self-realization gets sped up when kids are outside.

In the long term, there's an opportunity for increased climate literacy with hands-on, outside experiences as kids build a sense of place. The classic statement is true: 'If you care for a place, you're more likely to protect that place.' I guess the trick is extending that to the global scale, which can be done if a child is able to connect their experience outside to climate education.

Jacob: Spending time outside is a challenge! As much as I've spent time outside, when it comes time to be in an outdoor environment, it still makes me nervous, just because you have to be out there without the comforts of regular life. You are confronted with having to evaluate your place in the world and see that from a new perspective. Any changes that happen in someone's life are a result of that shift in perspective.

During a wilderness trip, there's a lot of chores to accomplish to sustain your life, from filtering water and cooking, to setting up camp. So there's also a new perspective on what it means to have those resources readily available after a trip is over.

Inevitably, there's storytelling that happens on a trip once folks feel comfortable with the routine. It's rare that we are given the opportunities to share our own stories out loud in such a way.

Once folks get back home, people are more concerned with being advocates in their communities, and more concerned with the wellbeing of the places they live. Young people build a sense of compassion for places they care about. Self-confidence comes with these wilderness trips too.

Kyle: In the short term, the freedom to be engaged and curious, and take risks and be your own person, is so much bigger for kids when they're outside. The ability to play and be outside of traditional rules and boundaries really help people reset and learn things. It's easy to see this when kids engage in creative play and freely move their bodies while outside.

In the long term, kids are able to establish their own boundaries in nature. They set up their own societies, build forts out of things they find, and create their own imaginative worlds! It all builds confidence. At camp, I've seen how access to true beauty and sacred space opens peoples' eyes to how the world could be. Folks are moved towards stewardship and conservation of the land, and also consider, in new ways, how we can all be more inclusive.

What place does outdoor ministry/environmental education have in the struggle for climate justice?

Luke: Climate justice and social justice are not separated: this concept is called intersectionality. Those most affected by climate change are those already living in the margins. You can't go do mission trips to Central America and then come home and not advocate for climate justice! The culture you just experienced is a culture that will be directly affected by the climate crisis. Separation is a pretense, and the separation of "us" from "the ecosystem" is false. People need to understand how we are a part of every interconnected system. Outdoor ministry and environmental education might not seem related, but they are both hands-on learning! They just take that learning toward science or towards spiritual growth.

Jacob: Concern for climate justice stems from an intense personal connection with a place. Once someone has a meaningful experience in a place, that's when they really start to get involved in the struggle. If we can create a community of people whose concern for climate justice comes from a deeply rooted sense of place, that can make all the difference in the world.

It's also important to share stories about the places we're a part of, and to share that certain places aren't protected by accident. Take the North Fork of the Flathead River, where FLBC does its week-long river trip, for example. That river is protected from destruction by an international agreement to not mine anywhere within the watershed. Kids can understand that places were cared for by other folks before they were there and understand the deep roots of the places we occupy.

Part of our role in bringing kids outside must be to engage them in the living history of indigenous peoples. The Salish and Kootenai tribes have lived in the Flathead Valley (where FLBC is located) for 12,000 to 15,000 years. That's quite a bit older than our Christian history! There is profound wisdom in knowing a place and living harmoniously in that place. The struggle for the health of our planet must be concerned with the current struggles of indigenous communities as well.

Kyle: It's difficult to be a steward of something you have no experience with. Access to creation gives them the tools to talk about why a place is meaningful to them. I think we sell young folks short when we consider how they think about the climate. When we don't give kids the chance to connect with nature, they miss out on that empathy! I think a week at camp is enough to start the journey because it gives them a window into the importance of this issue. Connection to a sacred space and learning about its history helps them to advocate. Kids will look back on their experience at camp when they think about climate justice.

If you could imagine a future where Lutherans are active climate advocates, what would that look like?

Luke: Lutherans need to understand that social justice and love for neighbor cannot be separated from the climate crisis. We need to ask ourselves why it's easier to make a quilt and send it to someone than to not eat beef or drive a car less.

Jacob: I would love for everyone who comes to FLBC, and especially our Glacier Wilderness program, to leave seeing the scriptural connection between Creation and how we are called to care for Creation. I would love folks to see how they can tangibly engage in stewardship. Maybe it starts with folks who leave camp knowing what their carbon footprint is and knowing about carbon offsets. Youth groups come to camp and have powerful experiences in the wilderness, and I want these groups to be better equipped to share that experience within their congregation once they return. Youth should feel like they can be leaders and advocates at home.

Kyle: We're good at talking about this, and good at doing small, one-time acts of service toward climate justice. There are awesome folks who want to push the church but they're hesitant to take bold risks. We should be challenging our synods to be carbon neutral. We should be pushing Lutheran Outdoor Ministry to incorporate climate education into its national programming. Too often these efforts are met by the tired response of 'we must be apolitical,' but the world is changing and shifting in our hands, and we're called to care for our neighbors and our earth. Those are things the ELCA has explicitly stated we value as a church!

Our youth are not ambiguously "the future," they are the present. We shouldn't wait until our churches are burning in forest fires to care about the climate changes that cause those fires. God is calling us to something that is earth-changing right now. We have to be brave in admitting to it and acting on it.

Big Changes at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio (LOMO)

The leadership team of LOMO is going through some significant changes now, in these first days of 2021. Rod Pearce is retiring; Jenny Frantz is moving from directing Camp Luther to directing Lutheran Memorial Camp (LMC). Penny Christensen, executive director of LOMO, has announced that they are looking for a LOMO program director who will serve at Luther during the summer and at LMC during the fall, winter and spring. Congratulations, Rod Pearce, on this milestone. Rod has spent 37 years in his career as an outdoor ministry professional, the last 11 of which have been with LOMO. All of LOM will be rooting for your continued success, Jenny, as you transition to your new responsibilities. Jenny has also served as the LOM Conference Coordinator. And best wishes to you, Penny, as you lead the way for LOMO with all of these transitions.



PRAYERS

For Jason Gerdes, executive director, Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (NLOM), upon the death of his mother, Cheryl Gerdes, on January 7, 2021.

For Penny Christensen, executive director, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Ohio (LOMO), whose husband, Glen Christensen, died on January 22, 2021.

For Joel Legred, executive director, Luther Park (Danbury, WI). Joels' sister-in-law died on November 20, 2020, and his father died on December 1, 2020. Joel is making progress in his recovery from COVID, for which he was hospitalized December 14-28, 2020.

For the community of Camp Agape (PA). Board president Jill Shook died recently of complications from COVID-19.

May God comfort all those who mourn and restore health to all who suffer from illness.

Farewell and Godspeed, Mark

Mark Burkhardt retired on February 1, 2021, from service to the ELCA. He's been involved in church work and more specifically outdoor ministries for over 40 years.

Two separate "Zoom retirement parties" were held in January for Mark. The churchwide offices held one for him and then LOM held our own the week after. Many people spoke of their memories of Mark and his impact on the church. At the ELCA gathering, members of his family also attended and his son, Brian, gave remarks about his dad.



Mark and his wife, Louise, at the first retirement party, hosted by the ELCA.

In an email prior to the LOM party, Executive Director Don Johnson said, "Over the years Mark has been for me and countless others throughout the outdoor ministry network a wonderful friend and colleague, and the icon of outdoor ministry in the ELCA and way beyond. In fact, all of us in LOM are having a difficult time getting our minds around the reality that we won't have Mark on the churchwide staff as our premiere advocate and champion. This is not to even mention Mark's faithful and invaluable presence on the LOM Board and for all his years of organizing and running the ELCA International Counselor Exchange Program."

As a college and grad school student Mark worked on summer staff at Mount Luther (PA) and summer camp director at Fortune Lake (MI) before going to Camp Beisler (now Cross Roads, NJ) as the full-time director. He served as the Assistant Director and then Director of Outdoor Ministries for the ELCA. Even before that, as a kid growing up in the LCA, Mark went to camp at the camp that was known as Jolly Acres, then he had experiences at Nawakwa (PA) and MarLu-Ridge (MD). Most recently he has been serving as the Director of the Congregational Centers for Mission of the ELCA. Since the formation of LOM, Mark has been serving as the person appointed to represent the ELCA on the LOM Board of Directors.



The Mark Burkhardt LOM Retirement Zoom

At his LOM party, colleagues and friends gave testimony to Mark's achievements in outdoor ministries. Rev. Conrad B. Youse, who interviewed Mark for his summer director position at Mount Luther, even talked about that first interview, which Mark admits was the hardest interview of his career. In giving some farewell remarks, Mark said, "I can't tell you how proud I've been to be part of this network. We've done incredible work together. I will be forever grateful of all the opportunities that we've had to serve the church. I'm so grateful for this whole experience. The only thing I ever wanted to do in life was be a camp director."

Mark plans to continue to do work as an ACA accreditation visitor and do some volunteer work in his area, especially at his church. He also told the gathered crowd that maybe someday in retirement he would serve as a volunteer in a park, maybe as a nature guide at a wildlife refuge, state park, or national park. We wish Mark and Louise all the best in retirement, knowing that their sails will always be filled with gentle breezes.

2020 Year in Review

Here is our look back at the past year's highlights. You can read Don Johnson's annual report from the conference at <http://app.lomnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/11/Executive-Director-Report-to-the-Annual-Conference-2020.pdf>

Coronavirus Response: LOM provided resources and support to organizations this year as they dealt with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. A resource page was created on our website, Zoom forums were held to check in with one another and share information, and a COVID-19 Response Team was formed. In addition, numerous podcasts were recorded to help decision makers in this difficult time.

Run4Camp: The first-ever Run4Camp 5K on All Saints Day, Sunday, November 1. The 17 participating camps raised over \$133,000. This was a joint venture between LOM and the participants, raising money for the outdoor ministries who have endowed us with the treasures of sites and ministries that we love so much.

Virtual LTE Successful: Like most things in 2020, the Leadership Training Event went VIRTUAL during the week of November 9. Sessions were held to offer conversation, insight, learning, and connecting with others. Some had a presenter with time for questions, others were facilitated conversations by the LTE Committee. We even got it all started with an LOM Social hour complete with get-to-know-you activities and ice breakers.

Recognitions: As part of the virtual LTE and annual meetings, the fourth Manlove-Howells Leadership Award was presented to Margie Fiedler, executive director at Flathead (MT). The second diversity grant was presented to Camp Ma-He-Tu (NY). Since 1937, Camp Ma-He-Tu has focused on empowering young women to become the best that they can be. The 2020 Innovative Program Award to Cross Roads (NJ) and Luther Crest (MN) who shared in the Innovative Program Award for their collaborative program – "Crest Roads" as part of the Bold Transformational Faith Initiative (BTF). The LOM Auction raised \$20,082.

Total Inclusion! Program: It was announced in January that Nicole VanderDoes will be serving as the part-time program coordinator for Total Inclusion! The granting agency, the Cargill

Philanthropies, made adaptations to the grant which provided operational grants to outdoor ministry organizations to help during the COVID pandemic.

New LOM videos: A generic video about Lutheran Outdoor Ministries was produced as well as an "I Love Camp" video that our organizations could use to promote their ministries.

New Resource for Boards: An exciting new resource to help boards and executive directors was produced. At the request of LOM through the Education Committee, Keith Johnson, "The Board Coach," volunteered to develop seven 10-minute sessions to help grow the effectiveness, capacity, and capability of boards.

Statement Adopted: The LOM Board of Directors adopted the following statement as an official position of LOM: *"Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (LOM) commits to being an anti-racist association. As followers of Jesus Christ, LOM deeply believes that love and justice are at the core of our mission and ministries. We commit to the constant ongoing work of anti-racism. We believe unequivocally that Black Lives Matter. We condemn the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and too many others. We stand in solidarity with protestors doing the hard work of love in action. For LOM, the hard work will include identifying, discussing, and challenging issues of race and color, along with the impacts they have on LOM, its member organizations, its systems, and its people. Admittedly, LOM is a network made up of imperfect organizations and individuals. As such, we acknowledge that racist actions can be conscious/intentional or unconscious/unintentional. We also acknowledge that identifying racism as an issue does not automatically mean those involved in the act are intentionally racist or intending for a negative impact. We commit to identifying and correcting any inequities we discover and developing a better understanding of ourselves during this purposeful process. We resolve to explicitly and publicly affirm anti-racism as an important part of our identity."*

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Annual Giving Report 2020

Welcome to LOM's Annual Giving Report. This report will give you a list of donors of record for 2019. We are grateful for your support! Giving that grows out of our relationship to God is part of living as faithful servants and stewards. Evidence that LOM is part of people's stewardship is here in this report. We thank you for your continued support, through financial giving and your prayers.

Organizational Giving

Onward & Upward (\$5000+)

Badlands Ministries (ND)

Uplifting Circle (\$3500-\$4999)

Camp of the Cross Ministries (ND)

Empowering Circle (\$2000-\$3499)

Amnicon (WI)

Luther Crest Bible Camp (MN)

Equipping Circle (\$1000-\$1999)

Camp Shalom (IA)

Christikon (MT)

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries (MN)

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries IN-KY (IN)

Lutheran Retreats, Camps & Conference Centers (CA)

Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries (NE)

Sky Ranch (CO)

Upper Missouri Bible Camp (ND)

Educating Circle (\$500-\$999)

Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp (MI)

Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center (NY)

Lutherlyn (PA)

Bethel Horizons (WI)

Cross Roads Outdoor Ministries (NJ)

Encouraging Circle (\$25-\$499)

Ingham Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camps (IA)

Lake Wapogasset Bible Camp (WI)

Good Earth Village (MN)

Hungry Mother Lutheran Retreat Center (VA)

Lutheran Lakeside Camp (IA)

Camp Lutherwood (OR)

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp (MT)

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministries (MN)

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio (OH)

Run4Camp Organizations

Bear Creek Camp

Calumet

Camp Mount Luther

Camp Onomia

Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp & Retreat Center

Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp

Good Earth Village

Kuriakos (Canada)

LOM

Luther Heights Bible Camp

Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center

Mt Cross

Red Willow Ministries

Shetek Lutheran Ministries

Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp

South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministries

Individual Giving

(includes gifts, auction donations, tribute gifts, and in-kind reimbursements)

Top of the Mountain (\$3,000 and up)

Tracy Gullickson

Judy Smith

John and Sharon Wineman

Bold & Faithful Leaders Group (\$1,000-\$2,999)

Carol Bliefernich

Anthony Briggs

Mark & Lousie Burkhardt

Douglas & Amy Dockter

Richard Gall

Dave & Ellen Herder

Paul Hill

Don & Janet Johnson

Keith Johnson

David Larsen

Aaron & Terri Lindemann

Jerry & Linde Manlove

Ralph Yernberg

Visionary Group (\$500-\$999)

Jeff Barrow

Matt Baumhardt

Meredith Beall

Rod Boriack

David Brunkow

Craig Corbin

Wayne Harrison

Chad & Sarah Hershberger

Dave & Nicole Holtz

Dave & Nellie Jarvis

Bob Kuehner

Arden & Kathy Norum

Tom Powell

Amanda Rasner

Richard & Barbara Sayther

Jake & Anna Sorenson

Darryl Thompson Powell

Christopher Weidner

William Wilkins

Capacity Builders Group (\$300-\$499)

Gretchen Bachman

Tom Bley

Jeff Bluhm

Paul Evenson

Margie Fiedler

Jenny Frantz

Jerry & Carolyn Fritsch

Dianna Parks

Nathan & Angie Pile

Dallas Shealy

Jesse Weiss

Sarah Wendt

Deb Yandala & Sherman Bishop

Forward Progress Group (\$100-\$299)

Joel & Amie Abenth

Richard Alvord

Chris Andreason

Tim Bjork

Paul & Cornelia Briggs

Frank Brocker

Dawn Busch

Tim & Mary Canniff-Kuhn

Deanna Christensen

Penny Christensen

Michel Clark

Dave Coker

Sharon Cook

Mike Dismer

Jason Gerdes

Robert Gingas

Eric Golberg

Dale Goodman

Bobby & Barbara Griffin

Kris Hinkeldey

Dana Isaacson

Dick Iverson

Daniel Kirschbaum

Robyn Koehler

Maryls Larson

Steve Lee

Sarah Lefler

Kyle Lefler

Joel Legred

Paul Leslie

Meggan Manlove

Paul Marsh

Knute Ogren

Eric Olsen

Jerry Olstad

Dennis Orsen & Linda Theophilus

Kelly Preboski

Debra & Jeffrey Roberts

Warren Salvesson

Roy Satre

Lindsey Scheid

Forward Progress Group con't.

Jim Schmidt
 Brent Seaks
 Steve & Myrna Sheie
 Jon Skogen
 Michael Statz
 Nicole Vanderdoes
 Tom & Becky VonFisher
 Ruth Warmanen
 SharmonDeiter Wirtzfeld
 Robert Wollenberg
 Randy & Mir Youngquist-Thurow
 Mike Youse
 Mike Zolnosky

LOM Advocates Group (\$25-\$99)

James Addy
 Juanita Amundson Trust
 Jim Cherry
 Paul Christenson
 Susan Christoffersen
 Edward Felton
 Gene Fennell
 Todd Gothberg
 Jan Graham
 Lorna & David Halaas
 Mark & Gwen Halaas
 Nathan Hall
 Ruth Hanson
 Kathy Haueisen
 Phyllis Hettlinger
 Jon & Ruth Hoyme
 Al Judson
 Barry Keith
 Eric Knueve
 Lee Lindeman
 Raymond Purtell
 Scott Rice
 Steven Roenfeldt
 Richard Sitts
 Jon Skaar
 Jana Swenson
 Kyle Terrio-Johnson
 Kristen Tibben
 David Van Kley
 Hanna Weimer
 Roberta Wentworth
 Laurie Wilkinson
 Marianne Wilkinson
 Charles & Lavinia Wingert

(\$1-24)

Karen Caves
 Patricia Davis
 Cozette Dorton
 Kirsten Palan

Other Contributions and Grants

Camp Kuriakos (Canada)
 East Central Synod - ELCA
 East Midwest Territory
 ELCA
 ELCA Endowment for Outdoor Ministry
 Greater Milwaukee Synod
 Gronlund Sayther Brunkow (GSB)
 Luther Seminary

Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Service
 Metropolitan Chicago Synod
 Mission Investment Fund
 Northern Great Lakes Synod
 Pymont Trinity Lutheran Church,
 Stover, MO
 Safe Gatherings U inc
 Seminaries of the ELCA
 South-Central Synod of Wisconsin
 The Insurance Board

Auction Item Donations

Joel Abenth
 Amnicon (WI)
 Paul Briggs
 Caroline Furnace Lutheran Camp &
 Retreat (VA)
 Cross Roads Outdoor Ministries (NJ)
 Cross Trails Ministry (TX)
 Crossways Camping Ministries (WI)
 Claire Embil
 Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp (MT)
 Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp (MI)
 Holden Village (WA)
 Hollis Renewal Center (KS)
 Don and Janet Johnson
 Daniel Kirschbaum
 Lake Wapogasset Bible Camp (WI)
 Kyle Larson
 Living Water Ministries (MI)
 Luther Crest Bible Camp (MN)
 Lutherdale Ministries (WI)
 Lutherlyn (PA)
 Mar-Lu-Ridge (MD)
 Paul Marsh
 Evan Moilan
 NovusWay Ministries (NC)
 Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp (CO)
 Sequanota (PA)
 Shetek Lutheran Ministries (MN)
 South Carolina Lutheran Retreat Centers
 Susan Troutman
 Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry (MN)

Purchased Auction Items

Matt Baumhardt
 Korey Breutzmann
 Dalton Bunnell
 Sharon Cook
 Cory Dellenbach
 Daniel Ditmanson
 Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp (MT)
 Jake Hanson
 Ross Hardie
 Jen Hellie
 Michael Hutsell
 Dave Jarvis
 Donald Johnson
 Daniel Kirschbaum
 Eric Knueve
 Sarah Lefler
 Hannah Loeffler-Kemp
 Luther Crest Bible Camp (MN)
 Lutheran Outdoor Ministries in Ohio (OH)
 Noah McCoy
 Paige McGrath
 Evan Moilan

Angie Pile
 Amanda Randall
 Amanda Rasner
 Debra Roberts
 Kathryn Schaefer
 Lindsey Scheid
 Timothy Schroeder
 Brent Seaks
 Sequanota (PA)
 Jon Skogen
 Jan Veuthey
 Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry (MN)
 Christopher Weidner
 Anne Whitney
 Laurie Wilkinson
 Carlee Wood
 Randy Youngquist-Thurow

Tribute Gifts

In Honor of Dawn Busch
 Edward Felton

In Honor of Don Johnson
 Margie Fiedler

*In Honor of Grandsons Roy Winters and
 Dean Herder*
 Dave & Ellen Herder

*In Honor of Jerry Manlove, Margie
 Fiedler, Deb Yandala & Tribute to Don
 Johnson*
 Tom & Becky Von Fisher

In Honor of Jerry Olstad
 Paul Hill

In Honor of Lydia and Derek Holden
 Bobby & Barbara Griffin

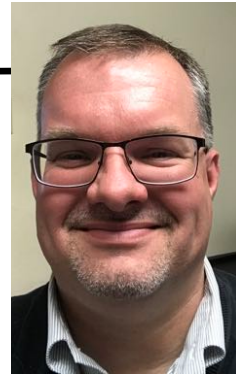
In Honor of Paul Evenson
 Amanda Rasner

In Memory of Randy Gullickson
 Tracy Gullickson

In Memory of Jerry Manlove
 Juanita Amundson Trust
 Tim & Bonnie Bjork
 Paul & Lois Christenson
 Patricia Davis
 Cozette Dorton
 Gene & Linda Fennell
 Jerry & Carolyn Fritsch
 Lorna & David Halaas
 Mark & Gwen Halaas
 Kathy Haueisen
 Dave & Nellie Jarvis
 Don & Janet Johnson
 Sherman Bishop
 Steve & Myrna Sheie
 Richard & Mary Sitts
 Jon & Jane Skaar
 Michael Statz
 David Van Kley
 SharmanDeiter Wirtzfeld
 Deb Yandala

In Conclusion

*Parting Thoughts
from the LOM Webmaster/Communications Coordinator*



Truth and Service

As we continue our look at leadership through the lens of the Book of Nehemiah, I see two areas Nehemiah shows us in Chapters 6 and 7. And, interestingly enough, both of these areas have been on my mind recently.

Chapter 6 shows us how leaders resist underhanded politics. Some of Nehemiah's adversaries tried smear tactics to try to shut down the building of the wall. Opponents who are frustrated often resort to that approach. But Nehemiah dismissed it. We don't know why, but maybe it was because Nehemiah knew he was trustworthy in the sight of the king. He knew none of what they were saying against him would stick.

When thinking about this principle, I am reminded of President Biden's inauguration speech. He specifically called out that we needed to get back to truth-telling in our country. Leaders need to be truthful and tell us like it is even when it might be difficult to hear. When attending the retirement Zoom of Mark Burkhardt recently, several people commented on Mark's leadership and being able to deliver hard news in good ways. He was upfront and truthful.

In Chapter 7 of Nehemiah, we are reminded that leaders serve people. In scripture, we can see leaders who get actions done and served people in the process. Nehemiah was not just trying to rebuild the wall, but he was trying to revitalize the people of Israel and get them back to God.

During this pandemic, I have seen such service to people. I have seen pastors rise to the challenge and use their given talents to produce creative ways for their parishioners to connect with God. I have seen outdoor ministry colleagues help each other out and provide collegial support to one another, sharing the resources they have developed and gathered with others. Why have they done all this? Service. Not only to their parishioners and colleagues, but in service to their God.

Truth and Service. May we be like Nehemiah and put those principles into action as we lead others.

-Chad Hershberger



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