

## Mission Statement

The Purpose of LOMC is to be the Church in outdoor settings nurturing Christian faith and providing experiences connecting the Word of God with the World of God

# LOMC NEWSLETTER

LUTHERAN OUTDOOR  
MINISTRIES CENTER

SPRING 2003

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LUTHERAN OUTDOOR  
MINISTRIES CENTER  
P.O. BOX 237  
OREGON, IL 61061  
815-732-2220  
FAX 815-732-7282

## CREATION — RE:ACTION

*But ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish of the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In His hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind. Job 12: 7-10*

In the fall when things start to slow down, the staff at LOMC begins to look at the theme for the next summer. The summer theme works on a three year rotation; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. This year is a Creation summer, as we explore God the Father, the Creator.

Then we start asking questions. What is our responsibility to Creation? What is Creation? One of the hardest concepts that we have to teach children is that they are part of Creation. A living, breathing, moving, jumping, singing, and shouting part of Creation. So is everything else. We interact with the trees, the grass, the sun, the wind, the rain, and all the creatures that inhabit the Earth. As a part of the symbiotic circle of Creation, we are called upon by God to play an active role.

Our active role can be played out through action or inaction. Sometimes we need to sit back and let nature take its course. Other times, we need to take an active role to repair some of the damage done through human and natural situations — such as replacing natural predators that have been displaced from the ecosystem, repairing washed-away areas after flooding, burning the prairie and controlled forestry. Sometimes our active role is to preserve the environment for future generations to enjoy as we do today.

Recycling products, reducing waste, carpooling and other actions are great, but sharing the idea of preservation, as we share our faith, is the most important step we all can take. In order to look at the World through the Cross, we must step out of our comfort zones and look at the whole planet.

**Burning the Prairie  
helps rejuvenate native  
plants and enrich the soil.**



Campers experience the joy of Creation by "hanging out" at Barber's Cliff.

Visit the LOMC Web site at [www.lomc.org](http://www.lomc.org)



## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

While working for Lutheran Social Services of Colorado as an adoption counselor we routinely asked couples planning to adopt to chart their life history. To do this we drew a line and on one end marked birth dates. The other end represented the present moment. In between a vertical line was drawn which represents significant times in their personal lives. Each event was carefully labeled. These lines usually represented a marriage, birth of a child, buying a house, a job or the death of a friend or family member. When the chart was finished it was taped on the wall. They were then able to see their lives spread out before them. The couples were then able to see their lives spread out before them and reflect on the significant events and how they changed their lives.

I asked several veteran LOMC staff to tell me what they felt were some significant events in the life of LOMC. They identified the purchase of the LOMC property, building the retreat houses and the Dining Hall, the pond being dug, building Freedom Tree Village and the retirement of Pr. Jack Swanson.

I added one more date to the line of significant times, January 2003. That was when the staff and the Board of Directors began to look forward to creating a vision for the future of LOMC.

Staff members participated in three retreats in which they looked at strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for the future of LOMC. Goals were set for the next 5 years and beyond. At the same time, the Board appointed a long range planning committee, consisting of Board and non-board members, to plan the next 5 to 10 years. Next year is the 30th anniversary of LOMC. What better time to create future plans and goals.

This is a significant time in the life of LOMC. We ask for your prayers for the work that lies ahead. We thank you for allowing us to serve you through our ministry at LOMC. We thank you for support as the future life of LOMC unfolds.

In His Service,

John Califf, Executive Director

### Swing Choir Tour 2003

Thursday	7/24	St. Paul, Sterling	7:00pm
Friday	7/25	Christ The Lord, Elgin	7:00pm
Saturday	7/26	St. Timothy, Naperville	7:00pm
Sunday	7/27	St. John, Joliet	2:00pm
Sunday	7/27	Resurrection, Bloomington	7:00pm
Monday	7/28	Prince of Peace, St. Joseph	7:00pm
Tuesday	7/29	Good Shepherd, Champaign	7:00pm
Wednesday	7/30	Trinity, Kirkwood, Missouri	7:00pm
Thursday	7/31	St. Peter, Emden	7:00pm
Friday	8/1	Salem, Peoria	7:00pm

## Thrivent Financial for Lutherans GivingPlus Program

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is pleased to support Lutheran outdoor ministry centers by offering the Thrivent Financial GivingPlus Program. This program is a member-directed gifting program. Through this program, Thrivent Financial will contribute 50 cents for every dollar that a member donates, in accordance with program guidelines.

Eligible gifts include monetary gifts and stock or mutual fund transfers. Gifts must be made payable to the recipient organization. In kind contributions are not eligible.

Member participation guidelines are as follows:

- Thrivent Financial members age 16 or older are eligible to participate in the GivingPlus Program.
- Thrivent members who own a financial product from Thrivent financial have a gift giving limit of 2 gifts per calendar year (must be given to different recipients) and have a member gifting range of \$50 to \$400 per gift with a Thrivent Financial contribution range of \$25 to \$200 per gift.
- Thrivent members who **do not own** a financial product from Thrivent Financial are eligible to participate in the GivingPlus Program for a limit of two years and have a gifting limit of 1 gift per calendar year and have a member gifting range of \$50 to \$100 with a Thrivent Financial contribution range of \$25 to \$50.

As a Special Bonus, volunteers that are members of Thrivent Financial and volunteer 25 or more hours per year may increase their gift up to an additional \$100 and Thrivent Financial will contribute 50 cents for every \$1 of added giving. Volunteer service includes unpaid time working on projects or activities or serving on a governing/task group.

*For additional information on the GivingPlus Program, contact Thrivent Financial for Lutherans at 800-847-4836 or contact the LOMC office at 815-732-2220.*

## LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES CENTER



### Turtle Search Sunday

April 27, 2003

An LOMC Open House!

11:00am-1:00pm	Lunch Buffet
11:00am-1:00pm	Van Tours of LOMC Hiking
1:00pm	Worship
2:00pm-4:00pm	Wagon Rides Van Tours of LOMC Hiking
2:00pm	Ice Cream Making

Call LOMC at 815/732-2220 for more information or to make reservations



LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES CENTER

# Memorial Day Work Weekend May 23-26, 2003



JOIN THE LOMC COMMUNITY IN GETTING READY FOR THE SUMMER! ALL SKILL LEVELS AND AGES ARE NEEDED FOR PAINTING, CLEANING, LANDSCAPING, CARPENTRY AND KITCHEN HELP.

THERE IS PLENTY OF TIME FOR HIKING, CANOEING, FISHING, SWIMMING AND FELLOWSHIP.

ALL MEALS, SNACKS AND HOUSING  
ARE PROVIDED AT NO COST.

THIS IS A GREAT OPPRTUNITY FOR YOUTH GROUPS AND FAMILIES.

For more information or to make reservations contact:  
Jeanette Lawson, Registrar at 815/732-2220

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center  
P.O. Box 239, Oregon, IL 61061  
815/732-2220

E-mail: [lomc@essex1.com](mailto:lomc@essex1.com)



**Memorial Day Work Weekend  
May 23-26, 2003**

**REGISTRATION  
Memorial Day Work Weekend  
May 23-26, 2003**

There are many projects planned for this year's Memorial Day Work Weekend. A variety of skills are needed, but the most important skill is a willingness to work. You can help keep LOMC in top shape. Don Haug will be serving again as our "Clerk of the Works."

**Projects include:** Trail maintenance, cleaning Gale Creek, window washing, picnic table repairs, pumpkin planting, sign painting, and a list of other assorted things "to do", build or repair.

**Skills needed:** carpenters, mechanics, painters, landscapers, electricians, you name it, WE NEED IT! Remember the old adage: many hands; make for light work.

**Housing:** provided in LOMC retreat houses or there is space available in the campground for your tent or trailer.

**Meals:** provided by LOMC in the Dining Hall. A free will offering is received to help cover the cost of food and materials.

**Recreation:** time is set aside for swimming, hiking and sports.

**Friday May 23 at 8:30 p.m. join the crew for snacks and fellowship. This is a great time to renew old friendships and make new ones. Job assignments will be given at this time according to preference and skill.**



Registration for (Check One):

\_\_\_\_\_ individual \_\_\_\_\_ group\* \_\_\_\_\_ family\*

Nights at LOMC:

\_\_\_\_\_ Friday \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday

Meals:

Saturday \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ D  
 Sunday \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ D  
 Monday \_\_\_\_\_ B \_\_\_\_\_ L

Lodging:

\_\_\_\_\_ Tent and Trailer \_\_\_\_\_ Retreat House

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\*If a group or a family, how many people? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please attach a list of all adults and youth with names, ages, genders, work skills and /or preferred projects. Also list any tools/equipment you can bring. Mail this form to:

LOMC  
 P.O. Box 239  
 Oregon, IL 61061

**Registration Deadline is May 10, 2003**



## CAMPER QUOTES

Below are some quotes from last years Summer Camp Program

"I went to LOMC last year for the first time and I had a blast! I went to camps Venture 3 and Night Owl. I just wanted to tell you how great all the counselors are! It really restored my faith and I can't wait till next summer! Thanks!"

From a family that attended family camp for the past two years: "Our two year old asked, "When can we go back to camp?"

From Faith Lutheran Church, Rochelle on day two of Vacation Bible School: "The children's appreciation of the LOMC staff is evident in their participation in our program. We began day two with an increased attendance due to camper's invitation to 'come and see!' The LOMC staff is providing a nurturing and fun environment for our children to experience God's love and acceptance. Many parents and adult volunteers have commented to me how pleased they are with the programming and leadership of the day camp. As I work with the counselors in planning our week, I experience a mature and professional staff who put God at the center of their ministry. They work hard, play hard, and communicate well. I am thankful and blessed to work with such fine adults."

### *Summer Employment Opportunities*

LOMC is currently seeking college age individuals who are interested in being Small Group Leaders for the Summer Camp Program. Qualifications are: an understanding of and willingness to live in the outdoors, and a commitment to Christ. If you are interested in applying for the position of Small Group Leader or if you know of someone who fits these qualifications, please contact Craig Watters, Program Director at 815-732-2220 for more information.

### *LOMC Needs You!*

Summer is a very busy time at LOMC. It is also the time that adult volunteers are needed.

Volunteer opportunities include:

Camp Grandparents- work with our younger campers reading stories and helping overcome domestic influenza (home sickness).

Specialists- facilitate our Specialty Camps: Golf, Theatre Arts, Cycling, Sailing, Visual Arts, and Spelunking.

Camp Nurses-spend a week in the Health Center dispensing medications and administering basic first-aid.

Maintenance- work with the maintenance crew painting, mowing, minor repairs and odd jobs.

### *2003 Summer Theme*

The theme for the 2003 Summer Camp Program is **Prairie Sky And Living Music.**

As Lutherans, music is a vital part of our worship experience. God tells us over and over again to sing for joy. The book of Psalms is 150 songs of honor, glory and thanksgiving. The Lutheran Book of Worship carries 569 songs. We have so many songs and so many ways to praise and thank God for all that has been given us.

This summer campers will experience the joy of Creation through music and worship. Campers will learn how we as Lutherans sing to the Lord by looking at the example set for us, Creation. Owls hoot, crickets chirp and llamas hum. This is living music.

*Please remember to get your Summer Camp registrations in early! Specialty camps usually fill up by the end of April.*



A Ministry of ELCA Congregations  
in Illinois and Missouri

## LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES CENTER

P.O. Box 239  
Oregon, Illinois 61061

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### EVENTS CALENDAR

April 27	Turtle Search Sunday
April 27-29	Spring Older Adult Retreat
May 4-7	Spring Birding Workshop
May 23-26	Memorial Day Work Weekend
June 8	Summer Camp Program Begins
July 4	4th of July Family Fun Fest
July 24-Aug 1	Swing Choir Tour
Sept 28-30	Fall Older Adult Retreat
Oct 12	Autumn Fest
Nov 14-16	Fall Confirmation Retreat
Nov 21-23	Fall Confirmation Retreat
Dec 5-6	Advent retreat

For more information contact LOMC at 815-732-2220

### LOMC Wish List

With One Voice Hymnals  
Adobe Pagemaker or Front Page Computer Program  
220 amp Window Air-Conditioners  
Bookcases  
Bird Seed/Bird Feeders  
Compasses  
Hand lenses/Magnifying glasses  
Power Point Projector  
Stainless flatware

### Name The Newsletter!

We've decided that the LOMC Newsletter needs a name. A real name! So get creative and send us your ideas. If we choose your idea you get a free LOMC t-shirt! Send your ideas to [lomc@essex1.com](mailto:lomc@essex1.com) or LOMC P.O. Box 239, Oregon, IL 61061  
Deadline for ideas is May 30, 2003