

## Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry Update

March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear camping community,

Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry is working diligently to navigate and make decisions, as you all are. There a lot of unknowns right now, so we are putting together some options for the ways we might deliver program to you this year. We are also looking how best to fund our efforts and prepare the camps.

**Until we hear different restrictions or timelines, we are preparing for a summer camp program surrounded by the leadership and resources needed to be ready for camper and guest arrival.**

We also know that you are trying to figure out what is next for your own life. We will be communicating with you about any change in our plan as soon as we are able. We know that camp program will likely look a little different this year, and that is ok. Our utmost concern is providing safe, Christ-centered, program for our churches, families, and guests.

I want to leave you with this thought. I have been seeing pastors, teachers, parents and professionals adapting and leading during this crisis. I will be introducing some of those leaders to you on the VLM Facebook page. You have raised them up through camp. It is powerful to see the campers and summer staff of years past, guiding our our communities of faith through this crisis. You need to know that your camps have been training for this day for decades. Together we will navigate these troubled waters.

A mentor and former boss of mine, Ralph Yernberg shared this poem with me today. I blame him in part for the leader I have become. With this poem, he reminded me that there is opportunity here for stillness and growth.

Navigating crisis can be scary.

Though, we get to do this God stuff together and I am excited to walk with you.

Peace be with you all today and every day,

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### Pandemic

What if you thought of it  
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—  
The most sacred of times?  
Cease from travel.  
Cease from buying and selling.  
Give up, just for now,  
On trying to make the world  
Different than it is.  
Sing. Pray. Touch only those  
To whom you commit your life.  
Center down.

And when your body has become still,  
Reach out with your heart.  
Know that we are connected  
In ways that are terrifying and beautiful.  
(You could hardly deny it now.)  
Know that our lives  
Are in one another's hands.  
(Surely, that has come clear.)  
Do not reach out your hands.  
Reach out your heart.  
Reach out your words.  
Reach out all of the tendrils  
Of compassion that move, invisibly,  
Where we can not touch.

Promise this world your love—  
For better or for worse,  
In sickness and in health,  
So long as we all shall live.

— Lynn Ungar 3/11/20