

## Green Lake Lutheran Ministries

**Road Trip!** This is the theme for Green Lake Lutheran Ministries' upcoming summer season. Our focus will be on Jesus' road trip to Jerusalem. We'll be reminded that whenever and wherever we travel Jesus is with us on the journey.

This past year, GLLM has been on a journey. We continue to travel through a time of transition for the organization as well as for the church at large. This means that sometimes we find ourselves re-charting our course - in some places trying a different direction, in others returning to the well-known paths.

One new direction this summer will be the suspension of our day camp program. Due to the changing needs of congregations, and the challenges of staffing day camp teams, we are taking a "time-out" from day camp. We believe this will allow us to better focus on our on-site programming to ensure the best possible experience for campers who join us at one of our three sites this summer. Day Camp used to be a "feeder" program for our on-site offerings, but we are finding that is not the case as much anymore, nor does day camp have the life-changing impact on kids' lives in the same way that on-site programs do. Studies show that one of the most significant faith formation experiences a young person can have is to attend a bible camp. **If you really want to make a difference in kids' lives bring them to camp!**

Another new direction, (that really is a return to a familiar path) is that we have written our own summer 2014 bible study curriculum for the first time in many years. Over the last several years we have purchased the summer camp curriculum from Lutheran Outdoor Ministries. The stories chosen from the Gospel of Luke will reflect our baptismal journey of being called, claimed, changed from the inside out, and commissioned to go out as people of the way – Christ's way – of loving the world. On the road, new people, new places, and new challenges await us. We will make connections to baptism and our life in Christ throughout the week.

One more adventure on GLLM's journey this year was the search for a new Executive Director. The search committee worked faithfully for several months, but the search ended without a candidate being recommended. The GLLM Board of Directors sees this as an important and necessary detour, an opportunity to ensure that GLLM remains a quality leader in outdoor ministries.

Evaluating what it learned from the search process, the GLLM Board has been engaging in several in-depth sessions about the mission and future vision of GLLM. An action plan and new time table for a renewed executive search will be coming out of these conversations. In the meantime, our committed and qualified staff are continuing to faithfully serve, moving forward in faith as this ministry has done now for 75 years.

There are often challenges along the way as we travel, but it's the challenges on the road, the flat tire, the breakdown, the near miss accident, that leave us with a heightened sense of community and God's presence. GLLM is facing challenging times, but we face this adventure with hope and courage because we trust that God is with us on the journey.

Finally, at the end of a long road trip it is always good to arrive back home again. We hope that any and all who come through our sites will always feel a sense of coming home and that when you leave you are refreshed for the journey that lies ahead. As we continue to move through this time of transition, we are grateful for the ongoing support of this ministry through prayer, financial support, volunteering, and encouragement. So we give thanks to God for your on-going partnership in ministry and we travel together trusting that God goes with us on the journey!

On the Road,

Rev Naomi Mahler  
Interim CEO  
Green Lake Lutheran Ministries.