

May 4, 2020

Dear Friends of Green Lake Lutheran Ministries,

We recently saw a quote that seemed very relevant to current times: "If plan A doesn't work out, the alphabet still has 25 more letters." Can you relate? As we have previously communicated, GLLM has been preparing several different plans as we get closer to summer. Our "plan A" is and will always be to have a full and vibrant, in person summer camp and retreat season. However, as these times push us into new ways of ministry, **we know that God's call can be much bigger than one single plan.**

Today we are announcing that **all GLLM summer camp programming from June 14th - July 2nd (weeks 1-3) has been cancelled.** This includes all summer camp programming at Green Lake Bible Camp, Shores of St. Andrew Bible Camp, Camp House, and all scheduled congregational Day Camps. Guidance from the state of Minnesota, the CDC, and our local health officials has made it clear that at this time, for the safety of our guests and staff, this is the most faithful course of action. Campers and congregations will receive communication today that includes details about rescheduling registrations and a variety of refund options.

**At this time, we are planning to resume summer camp programming on July 5.** Our dedicated summer staff will begin rigorous staff training in mid June. Please know that our staff, Board of Directors, and industry experts connected with GLLM will continue to monitor the latest guidance as we forge ahead in the midst of these uncertain times. The safety of our campers and guests and the mission of GLLM will remain at the forefront of any future decisions.

Our retreat ministry has been impacted, too. All sites of GLLM are currently closed to guests through mid May. **We are still hopeful about retreats in June, however.** We will be monitoring guidelines and expect to have more information about how we can safely open soon! If we can be open to certain groups, we will be ready. We have been and will continue to be in contact with individual retreat groups as needed. If you have questions about an upcoming retreat, please call Steph at 320-796-2181.

**Our program staff is working hard to prepare alternative ways to fulfill our mission during this time of COVID-19.** You will begin to see options for ways to engage in your faith at home, virtually, and through innovative new camp connections. While this is no substitute for spending a life-changing week in community at camp, we know that God is with ALL of us as we try new things, see the Holy Spirit working through our neighbors, and persevere with grace until the day we can be together again.

**So, we press forward with hope.** Hope that we will be back to our beloved "plan A" as soon as possible. Hope that our faith will be strengthened in the midst of this challenge. And most of all, we live with everlasting hope because we know our God loves with a fierceness that is bigger than we can ever understand.

See you soon,

GLLM Staff and Board of Directors