Greetings from your Lutheran Camps in Pennsylvania and New Jersey!

As camps affiliated with Lutheran Outdoor Ministries and the ELCA, we want you to know that your camps are here for you. We continue to walk beside you during this time, providing faith formation and outdoor experiences. How we deliver it has been new the past two months, but we are here, right beside you, to help you during these difficult days.

As we all stay at home, we are reminded of the benefits of getting out in God’s creation. We know that when this pandemic is over, your camps will need to be ready to provide experiences in the outdoors and adventures in faith. At camp, most often we hear that participants feel closest to God while in nature. It’s good in these days to remind ourselves that God is with us now and is bigger than our worries during our current reality.

Last year, we celebrated 100 years of Lutheran camping. For the past century, we have become places that make “rainy day plans” as situations warrant. As we make decisions for our camps, we will be guided by the CDC and local government recommendations, American Camp Association guidelines and other safety precautions. We will share specifics about our plans as soon as we can.

When camp does open up, rest assured that we will do everything we can to make it as safe as possible. We are developing plans for changes to how we operate so that we can still have the safe experience you expect from us.

Know that we are praying for you. We are praying for pastors, congregations, parents, campers, and friends. You are the heart of our camps. We are working hard to stay connected to you in new ways. We pray that you feel God’s grace and love as you have to stay apart from us and others.

We hope to be able to welcome you to our sites soon. Until then, may God be with you as we navigate these times. And when you are feeling anxious or scared, we hope you’ll stop and pray, or think about a camp memory, or sing a camp song. Pretty soon, we’ll be able to do all three of those things together again. Until then, God’s peace be with you!