

Lutheran
Building
Men in
Men for
Mission
Christ

foundations

Our vision is for every man to become a bold, daring follower of Jesus Christ.



You're in for a life-changing gathering—a Bold Gathering!

How can we live more purposefully by living our lives and faith “Up, In and Out”? These are the intentional directions in which the leaders of the Bold Gathering will guide us this summer. The life we live isn’t flat, one dimensional or barren. Our weekend in Minneapolis will begin equipping each of us to live a bold, three-dimensional faith life.

This equipping begins with our speakers. The planning team searched out three strong, insightful, active leaders to help us explore and better grasp the spirit and significance of each area—each direction.

Living “Up, In and Out”

John Armstrong will address the “Up.” This emphasis helps us look at our relationship with God. We are constantly seeking to grow closer to God and better understand our purpose in God’s creation. Jesus is the model for us in our seeking; his lifestyle and the way he lived and communicated with God is the example we strive to follow. Faith and following is sometimes a struggle, but with some tools, guidance and devotion, we’re hoping to increase the peace and certainty we can only experience through God. John has lived his

whole life trying to better understand different faith communities, and he has strived to bridge the gap that continues to exist between Catholics and Protestants. Our time with John will be full of insights shared to help us relate better with God, and one another.

That leads us to Jacqueline Bussie who will lead our “In” emphasis. This is the area of authentic relationships we have with each other. How do we connect with others in our small groups? What personal struggles do we have, and what similar issues does the person next to me have in common? Jesus lived with and among the disciples for years. They lived in each other’s personal space where you get to experience the good, the bad and the ugly—day after day, year after year. If you’ve ever stayed in a bunkhouse or close quarters with a group of guys for an extended period of time, you know what we’re talking about. This is where it’s crucial to go deeper, face our challenges and be authentic with those around us.

The “Out” part of our weekend will be explored with Pastor Robert Johnson. When the search was on for speakers, the Bold Gathering leaders asked our friends among the United Methodist Men for suggestions. We wanted someone who was living and

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This newsletter is sent to all who contribute to the ministry of Lutheran Men in Mission.

Your contribution ensures that *foundations* will continue to be sent to you.

It is our desire that *foundations* will be a source of personal spiritual growth, as well as a source of information for those involved in congregational men's ministries.

Please drop us a line or email us, and share your stories of men's ministry that we can use in this newsletter. We're also interested in knowing what topics and issues you'd like to see featured.

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“So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.”

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NRSV)

Bold and daring?

Bold and daring. The vision of Lutheran Men in Mission is for all guys to become bold and daring followers of Jesus Christ. We are using that same theme for our gathering this coming summer. These are words that seem to fit with what's happening in our culture and society these days. But what we're about is being **counter-cultural**. With recent events in our country, “bold” could be confused with belligerent and angry. But think of how bold and daring Jesus was to serve and care for others, wash feet and offer himself to be the ultimate sacrifice for us.



At the Bold Gathering, we will receive you as an open, willing guy and send you out a bold, daring follower of Jesus Christ. We are praying for three outcomes: first, the focus will be for you as man to be bold in your confession of the need of a Savior and confident in knowing that God is at work in you; second, our dream is to send you out as a man who has wisdom and courage to speak truth to that which is wrong and encouragement to those in need of grace and healing; finally, our intent is that you will head home from the Bold Gathering with a vision of how you will serve in your everyday life and beyond—equipped to give beyond yourself. Our three speakers will guide you in these directions.

Jacqueline Bussie is a professor at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn., and author of “Outlaw Christian: Finding Authentic Faith by Breaking the Rules.” With captivating stories and disarming honesty, Jacqueline will offer concrete, practical strategies to help you cultivate hope, seek joy, practice accompaniment, compost—yes, compost—your pain and rediscover the spiritual practice of lament. Tackling difficult questions without political divisiveness, she will speak to both progressive and conservative Christians in ways that unite rather than divide. And in doing so, Jacqueline provides you a new way to handle the most difficult and troubling questions of life in a broken world that God will never abandon. You can watch a brief video introduction to Jacqueline's book at <https://vimeo.com/157182342>.

Pastor Robert Johnson has demonstrated a natural gift for evangelism in leading two churches in Thibodaux, La., to significant renewal. He is developing a new congregation in the Lafayette area to reach many other people who will become new disciples of Jesus Christ. Pastor Robert's entire ministry has been devoted to leading congregations beyond the traditional walls of the church. His mission in life is to impact communities and transform lives while raising up Christian men.

John Armstrong is an evangelical pastor who is a member of an ELCA congregation and executive director of ACT3 Network (Advancing the Christian Tradition in the Third Millennium). He is the author of “Your Church is Too Small” and “Costly Love.” John's conviction is that you need to surround yourself with a team to help you be the man God has called you to be. John will show you how this team is bigger than your congregation and includes brothers from other Christian expressions.

Are you ready to boldly seek God and be open to be challenged as you have never been before? Are you ready to take daring steps in your life, beyond what you imagine you can do? Are you ready to have some fun with hundreds of other men? Join us in Minneapolis, July 21-23, 2017. You'll be glad you did! Learn more and register at boldgathering.com.

Doug Haugen, Executive Director
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LUTHERAN
MEN IN MISSION



Men and congregations in South Carolina worked together to fill trailers with donated clothing, bedding and food destined for a congregation in West Virginia serving homeless people.

Men's ministries unite in serving others!

Roughly two years ago, the men of Christus Victor Lutheran Church in Irmo, S.C., began to come together after being inactive. I had recently moved into the neighborhood and chose to pop in and have breakfast with the men's group. The men were very intentional in how they met, what their goals might be and their dream of growing stronger. It was natural for me to offer a little coaching, some ideas and cheer them on as they sought to rediscover their identity together.

Then an invitation came for a contact in West Virginia. Could this be an opportunity for their group to support and assist the work of some congregations in coal country? The answer was, "Yes!" The men of Christus Victor quickly gathered clothing and food to be delivered before Christmas. Their generosity, concern and assistance was warmly received.

In the following months, the men met regularly and wondered if they needed to continue to focus on building relationships with other communities and serving others—their neighbors in need. There was a congregation working with the homeless people in Logan, W.V., that was doing some great work. I suggested that relationships are just as important as service, and that building an on-going connection would be great. Conversations happened between our leader and the congregation in Logan, and we developed an understanding of what their needs were and how we could best support their ministry and serve them.

This year, St. David Church in West Columbia, S.C., heard about it and offered their support and partnership. Bags upon bags of clothing were donated. On November 30, while Advent services were going on, clothing was categorized and bagged. Food was

stacked up and two trailers were loaded. The following Friday, they made the 380-mile trip to Logan, W.V. Everything was unloaded for the congregation's clothing closet and kitchen—22 bags of bedding, 85 bags of women's clothing, 42 bags of men's clothing, 24 bags of children's clothing, 7 large boxes of shoes, 219 #10 cans of food and 32 cases of assorted canned food. After unloading, the pastor and his wife said there was enough food to last them the year!

Lutheran Men in Mission wants to highlight the great work men's groups are doing and the partnerships they are forming all around the country. To do so, we are going to start collecting data offered by you about what you are doing. In the coming weeks, LMM will start offering surveys and collecting data from you. Please keep an eye open for these in your email inbox and on the LMM website.

Can I be of similar service to your men's ministry or congregation? I'm more than happy to talk by phone, by email or even visit with you and the men you work with. Also, to help provide my services to others, would you prayerfully think about a donation to Lutheran Men in Mission? We exist to serve you and your men's ministry, congregation and synod, and your financial contributions are important so that we can continue to serve and support our brothers in Christ across the country. Visit us at lutheranmeninmission.org and click the "Support" tab.

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Lutheran Men in Mission online: lutheranmeninmission.org

Reaching Men blog: <http://reachingmen.blogspot.com>



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Featured speakers at the Bold Gathering from left: Robert Johnson, John Armstrong and Jacqueline Bussie.

(continued from cover)

serving purposefully in their own neighborhood and community. Our only prerequisite was that it be a person with the drive and passion to give and serve without question. The response we received was, Pastor Johnson—he's the one to talk to. Pastor Johnson has received recognition for his congregation's presence and service in their community. Go to boldgathering.com and click the video that shares his story. It will inspire you, and give you a sneak peek at what he'll be sharing with us in Minneapolis.

Interesting, useful, relevant workshops for everyone

During the Bold Gathering we will offer an array of engaging, relevant workshops for participants to choose from. These workshops will help stir ideas and help you further develop your skills for leading yourself, others and men's ministry in your congregation and communities. One set of workshops will focus on sharing tools for discipleship. This is one way in which Lutheran Men in Mission can offer insights and tools for helping every man to engage in our mission of building bold, daring followers of Jesus Christ. This is one reason we are using the "Up, In and Out" model during the gathering.

Other elements covered in the disciple workshops will help you grow in faith. What is your identity? How do you live that out? Then when you grasp the principles, we will talk about how to share this tool with others. It's so simple and easy to use that you can explain it with nothing but a pen and napkin while sitting on an airplane talking to the person next to you.

We also want to assist you in recognizing the Kairos moments [an opportune time, moment or season when God acts] that are happening. They are all around us all the time, but we are often too busy and too distracted to recognize them. It's tempting to set priorities for our lives that don't necessarily reflect an awareness of or attentiveness to God's presence and activity, and ultimately keep us

busy, distracted and tired. That's why we'll discuss the seasons of life. Are you balancing work and rest efficiently? There is a tool that does a wonderful job of explaining the importance of abiding with God so that we can react to life and be more productive and alert. Come to the gathering and find out what it is, and how to use it in your daily life.

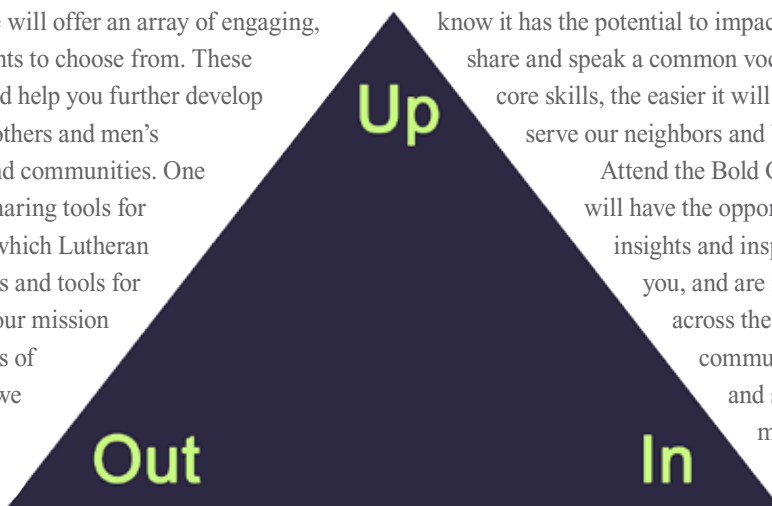
A time to be equipped for life and ministry—together

Lutheran Men in Mission wants to equip men and develop strong leaders across the country. The sharing of tools and ideas results in leaders becoming more effective, focused, consistent and supportive of one another. We have seen this working in different areas, and know it has the potential to impact every man. The more we can share and speak a common vocabulary and draw upon similar core skills, the easier it will be to connect with others and serve our neighbors and brothers.

Attend the Bold Gathering this summer and you will have the opportunity to gather new tools, insights and inspiration with others who are like you, and are involved in similar ministries across the country, even though the community context in which they live and serve may be very different—making our ministry even more interesting and rich. The Bold Gathering will be an environment and experience

that will equip, encourage and inspire everyone to go home stronger and ready to grow bold, daring disciples. In the coming months between now and then, LMM will be conducting webinars to share additional information. Please look for these opportunities and participate as often as you can.

Go to boldgathering.com to register for an unforgettable weekend with other men—July 21-23 in Minneapolis. We are hoping this gathering will have the most first-time attendees of any we have ever hosted. Are you one of those, or are you going to bring men who will be participating for the first time? We hope and pray so. Together, we will make this weekend gathering impactful, enjoyable and valuable!





BOLD GATHERING

Minneapolis Marriott City Center

Minneapolis, Minnesota

July 21-23, 2017

- It's a weekend gathering of men of all ages. Invite and recruit guys and young men to attend with you.
- Experience workshops, speakers, worship, community service projects, networking, lively music and more.
- The Lutheran Men in Mission Assembly is July 20-21.
- Watch for details and informative webinars leading up to the gathering.
- Register now at BoldGathering.com. (If you have difficulty registering online, give us a call at 815-753-0277, and we'll get you signed up.)



Photo of downtown Minneapolis through the Lowry Avenue bridge by Drew Sternal.



LMM Events 2017

One Year to Live Retreats

lutheranmeninmission.org/events/one-year-to-live

March 10-12

Tracy's Camp
Pinewood, S.C.

March 24-26

Pine Lake Camp
Waupaca, Wisc.

April 7-9

Feliciano Retreat Center
Norwood, La.

April 21-23

YMCA Camp Santa Maria
Grant, Colo.

April 28-30

Carrol Joy Holling Camp
Ashland, Neb.

May 19-21

Camp Huston
Gold Bar, Wash.

May 19-21

Lutheridge
Asheville, N.C.

2017 Lutheran Men's Gathering (Bold Gathering)

July 21-23, 2017

(LMM Assembly business meeting:
July 20-21)

Minneapolis Marriott City Center
Minneapolis, Minn.

boldgathering.com

Go to lutheranmeninmission.org for updated events, program information and registration details, or to submit LMM events to be posted.

Your IRA charitable rollover can support ministry with men

Newly enacted legislation named the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015 permanently extends the IRA charitable rollover going forward. The provision allows individuals age 70½ or older to make a tax-free gift every year up to \$100,000 from a traditional IRA account directly to a qualified charitable institution, like Lutheran Men in Mission. While you can't claim a charitable deduction for the IRA gift, the distribution does count towards your RMD (required minimum distribution) with no income tax payment by you.

Since this IRA charitable rollover has no sunset clause, you can give to LMM from this year forward.

If you would like to do a IRA charitable rollover, please contact your IRA provider for further instructions. Let me know if you need any help or instructions on how you can use this IRA charitable rollover to support the work and ministry of Lutheran Men in Mission.

Thank you for your support!

We are incredibly grateful for your generous gifts that enable us to support, equip and encourage ministry with men of all ages across the country.

The list of men, women and organizations who have made contributions to Lutheran Men in Mission in 2016 will be published in the spring 2017 issue of foundations.

If you'd like to offer your support and contribute, please go online to lutheranmeninmission.org and click the "Support" tab and follow the instructions.

You can also contact Dale T. Nettnin, Director of Development, at dale.nettnin@lutheranmeninmission.org or call him at 828-612-3902. Dale is also prepared to help with questions about including Lutheran Men in Mission in your will or estate planning.

Do you need a will?

In talking with a number of friends of Lutheran Men in Mission, we have discovered many do not have a will, or their will has not be updated for a number of years and, therefore, does not reflect their present wishes and circumstances. In fact, approximately 55% of adults in the U.S. do not have wills.

Do you need a will? Is it important that it is current? The answer is "yes" if you wish all the funds, belongings and assets you have accumulated throughout life distributed as you desire and not as someone else, usually the state, determines. The answer is also a definite "yes" if you wish to avoid problems for your heirs and loved ones, and to save on costs.

Estate planning can benefit ministries and important, meaningful causes to you.

The answer is also a definite "yes" if you wish to include a bequest, and we hope you do, to Lutheran Men in Mission, your church or other charities. A bequest has been rightfully called, "the last act of stewardship." It is a final opportunity to express thanks to a good and loving God for God's many gifts and blessings in our lives. And, making a gift through your will can represent a significant contribution toward helping ministry with men—of all ages and backgrounds—grow stronger, serve more congregations and men, develop more tools and programs for ministry leaders, and thrive in the name of Christ.

If you are interested in more information on how to put Lutheran Men in Mission in your estate plans, please call or email me.

Dale T. Nettnin, Director of Development
Lutheran Men in Mission
dale.nettnin@lutheranmeninmission.org
Cell: 828-612-3902

A time for change... part two

In the last issue of foundations I talked about it being a time for change for Lutheran Men in Mission, especially in how we govern ourselves as an organization. However, I did not provide any details as to any of the proposed changes. For most of this year, the Executive Committee and the LMM board have been working quite diligently on the details of these changes. While we have not yet finalized them, we are far enough along that I want to share the most significant change we are planning.

We propose to reduce the size of the LMM board from 16 members to 9 members. We would do this by replacing the nine regional board members with four ministry-focused board members. We would also add a new officer called the development officer and eliminate the three "at large" board members. The net result would be a board of five officers (president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and development) and four ministry-focused members.

The ministry-focused board members would represent the A-Team, the One Year to Live retreat, Discipleship and Events which are LMM's current active mission areas. Except for Discipleship, there are teams which exist and are made up of men from around the U.S. who desire to engage in these specific areas of LMM's ministry. Discipleship would be a new team made up of our Men's Ministry Specialists and other men committed to increasing the number of disciples of Jesus Christ.

The reason for this change is multifold. First, over the past ten years it has become more and more difficult to get all nine regional member seats filled. During this current term, we have been short two regional members and one member moved out of his region last year. Second, LMM's ministry is not geography-based; rather, it is mission-based. Aligning our leadership team with our mission helps the board to focus on the mission and helps the mission teams understand what the board is envisioning. Third, an in-person board meeting with 18-20 people is expensive to conduct and

difficult to arrange. Reducing the size will make our leadership team more efficient.

Changing the board structure will require changes to the bylaws of Lutheran Men in Mission. Any change to the bylaws must be approved by a 2/3 majority of

delegates attending a Triennial Assembly. **The next assembly will be in Minneapolis, July 20-21, 2017.** I expect the LMM Board will bring a recommendation to the assembly delegates to make these changes to LMM governance. Here is your opportunity to be involved in determining the governing structure of LMM, and ultimately the future of our ministry with men. Each synod is permitted to send six men to the assembly as voting delegates, so please consider becoming one of those delegates. Learn more and register for the Bold Gathering and Assembly business meeting at boldgathering.com.

In closing, I want to emphasize that regardless of our organizational changes one thing will always remain constant, our dedication to Lutheran Men in Mission's vision that every man become a bold, daring follower of Jesus Christ.

Your servant in Christ,

Rich White, President

rich.white@lutheranmeninmission.org



Lutheran Men in Mission Heritage Club

These members of the Lutheran Men in Mission Heritage Club have helped to secure the future of this ministry by remembering Lutheran Men in Mission in their will or estate planning. If you would like to know more about including LMM in your will, please contact us at 800-638-3522, ext. 2566.

Harold and Esther Arne

Fred Bohls

Bernard and Christine Bresson

Lon and Deborah Buss

Livingston Crinlow

Tim and Blenda Crout

Mark and Judy Dahl

James and Deanne Gerking

Thomas Green

Doug and Doris Haugen

Peter Hinrich

Daniel Joy

Ken Kahler

Steve Laine

Douglas and Ann Larson

Ruth C. Lindahl

Jeff and Judy Mason

Richard Miller

Larry Moeller

Larry and Vickie Nines

Wesley Oestreich

Henry and Margaret Ogden-Howe

Donovan Paul

Heber and Gloria Rast

Darrel S. Rice

William and Dorothy Schleichert

Charles and Geneva Schwartz

LeRoy and Ruth Simonson

Norman and Kathie Smith

Kay Synder

Mark and Rhonda Vaughn

Richard and Christine White

‘The Query’: A book especially suited for ministry with men

“Always be prepared to answer the question when someone asks of the reason for the hope that is within you, and do so with gentleness and respect.”

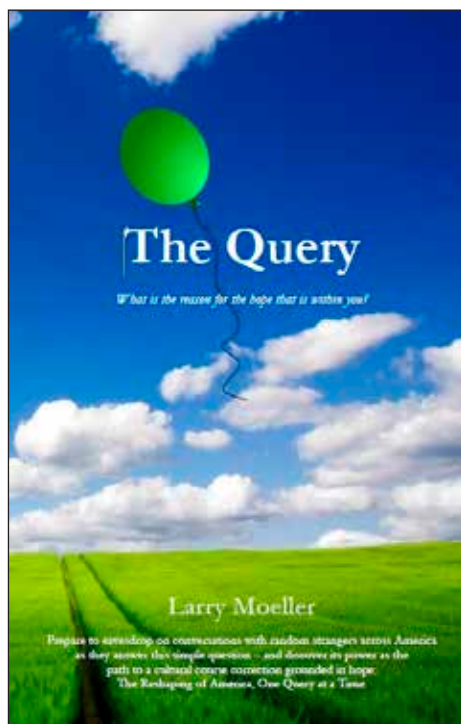
This passage was the first step for one of our Lutheran Men in Mission brother’s journey of writing a book. The book is, “The Query: Stories of Hope: The Reshaping of America, One Query at a Time,” and the author is Larry Moeller.

Larry struggled with this question and, in the fact, he didn’t have a ready answer. He escaped the internal torment for a while by reasoning that no one was probably going to ask the question of him. Then one day, out of the blue, the ‘still, small voice’ told Larry not to answer the question, but to ask it.

Tapping into the lives and wisdom of strangers

This is where the book takes you into lives of strangers. Over a period of a few years, Larry would ask complete strangers, “What is the reason for the hope that is within you?” Each person offered their own specific viewpoint of hope and what it is. Some individuals spoke of family and relationships. Others would focus more on the past and experiences. Some would reference faith, but others did not; for those who didn’t, Larry might ask a gentle, nudging question to see how faith played a role in their life.

At some point, Larry would tell them that his question, “The Query,” was derived



from a passage in Scripture—1 Peter 3:15.

As I read this book, I was inspired that strangers would often go into deep and personal conversations in response to what seemed a very simple question. In a world of competition and individualism that drives people away from allowing themselves to be vulnerable, how is it that one unassertive question could offer people—strangers, no less—a sense of safety and invitation that enabled them to share of themselves openly and honestly?

Do each of us carry a deep yearning within to share our story?

Todd, one of the individuals in the book said, “I’ve been reflecting that we don’t really take the time to listen to people anymore.” Does “love your neighbor as yourself” start with making that time?

Are we known as people who listen?

At the end of his book, Larry offers two things, the first being a study resource. He suggests ways for small groups to proceed together in reading the book and processing what they glean from it. The next item he offers is a challenge. He gives step-by-step instructions on how you can go out right now, ask questions and listen. What if we became known, “as people who listen, and not the people who preach?”

Through “The Query,” this LMM brother skillfully challenges us on every page with simple questions, and moves us to deeper, interesting conversations and places of life and faith. You can purchase “The Query” at Amazon.com.

Larry Moeller has served in major roles with Lutheran Men in Mission for many years. Most recently, he has donated his energy and time in helping staff One Year to Live retreats.

Review by Kevin Burke

ManTalk® Cards

Poker, Cribbage, Bridge... and ManTalk? Add a new dimension to game night with this deck of cards. Each card features questions written by men—for men—that help move the conversation beyond the latest sports scores. Card topics include:

“Manships” (Relationships), “Man-O-Man” (Sports/Leisure), “Manmories” (Lessons/Reflections), “Wild Man” (Spiritual/Cosmic/Ethics), and “Wild Card” (Bad Men). They’re just \$7.95 a deck.

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