

Lutheran  
Building  
Men in  
Men for  
Mission  
Christ

# foundations

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

## THE 2014 LUTHERAN MEN'S GATHERING: GUYS, GUTS & GOD'S GLORY

### An incredible experience!

Talk to the guys who attended this summer's Gathering and you will hear words and phrases like "powerful," "inspiring," "fun," "awesome" and "a faith builder." It was a great event because God's Spirit was among us – yes, among men – doing wonderful things that were carried home and are rippling out through the lives and relationships of the men and boys who participated. Praise God!

Enjoy some photos and quotes from the Gathering in this issue of foundations, and think about attending the next Gathering, or a men's ministry program or retreat near you in the coming months.



"I thought that the gathering was a great experience to be in. It showed what problems we are having in this world today about boys, had some talks that were very inspiring, and really helped me grow in my faith. I enjoyed meeting some of the new people there and seeing how far they traveled to be there, like all the way from Washington (state) to Nashville, Tenn.!

"My favorite part though was going there with my dad. We did not stay at the hotel

*"I have been to LMM gatherings in San Antonio, Charleston, Omaha, Denver and now Nashville. For each one I have tried to take one of my three sons or a nephew to share in the experience. This year, my nephew*

*Ryan Hartman from the Northeast Ohio Synod came down to Nashville and roomed with me, and made some friends his own age (31) over the weekend. One of the great joys I had was to introduce him to a man named Darrell Rice, also from Northeast Ohio. I met him in 2005. Darrell recognized my last name, but my name tag read, 'Pearland, TX,' and he asked if I had relatives in northeastern Ohio. I told him I did. 'So you know 'Bud' Gige?' asked Darrell. His given name was Howard and I told Darrell, 'Yes, that's my dad.' Darrell and my father served on the Camp Frederick board of directors until my dad died at age 56 of Legionnaires Disease. My nephew Ryan was in diapers at the time of his grandfather's death and had no real memories of him. So, when I introduced Ryan to Darrell and I watched them shake hands, Ryan was grabbing the hand of an older man who had shaken the hand and worked side-by-side with his grandfather. This was a holy moment for me; one of those times when you step back and say 'this was worth it,' even if that was all that happened – faith living among us, the mystery of Christ and the communion of saints kind of stuff."*

*— Pastor Brian Gige, New Life Lutheran Church, Pearland, Texas*

where the gathering was at, so we walked from our hotel to the retreat. On the walk I got to talk with him, which made me bond more with my dad. However, I would have liked to see more people of my age or around there with their fathers at the next gathering. I think they'd enjoy it too. I would also like there to be more "fun" activities there too.

Overall, I thought it was a great and moving event, and I really enjoyed it even though I was the youngest there."

— Josh Naumowicz, 13.



"The 2014 Lutheran Men in Mission's Triennial National Gathering was an enriching and powerful experience for me to encounter. I strongly felt edified and supported from men of all different faith backgrounds, cultures, walks of life and ages at this event. It was a unique experience and a moment in my faith journey with Christ that I will cherish for a lifetime. The bonds and friendships that I have established from this weekend have anointed me to continue to discern my call in seminary and strengthen my efforts in men's ministry. From this weekend I can confidently and unashamedly declare that I am a bold and daring follower of Jesus Christ." —Louis Tillman, LMM Young Men's Ministry Council Member and a student at Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

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 e-mail 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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## From the Executive Director

*"...encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing."*

1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NRSV)



### A ministry of all ages

Wow, what a weekend! Great, inspiring and even life-changing are words we continue to hear. I especially appreciate the words of 13-year-old Josh Naumowicz shared elsewhere in this newsletter.

"I thought the Gathering was a great experience to be in.... It showed what problems we are having in this world today about boys, and had some talks that were very inspiring.... My favorite part though was going there with my dad. We did not stay at the hotel the event was at, so we walked from our hotel each day. On the walk I got to talk with him; it made me bond more with my dad."

But if you read Josh's comments, you see that he also had some very helpful comments, including more time for fun stuff.

Have you ever noticed how in the church, including men's ministry, we plan things for people and then are disappointed, even angry, when those we have planned for do not participate?

One of the reasons the Gathering was as successful as it was and attracted a younger audience than many men's events is that the planning team consisted not only of some of the more effective, popular resource people we have had in the past, but also young men with enthusiasm for ministry. The age of the planning team spanned from the 20s to the 60s, and everyone's input was taken into account. I don't have a firm number, but I can tell you that when I looked out at all those attending the gathering, I saw a greater range of ages than I have in the past. My United Methodist counterpart, who was in attendance, commented to me that our group was much younger than his.

I believe a big part of that was that we were intentional about listening to everyone in every age group on the planning team, and made every effort to take their suggestions seriously and put them into practice. As a result, we not only had speakers, we had a poet and an artist – not too common for a men's event – and music that reached a variety of generations.

On the "churchwide" or national level, we have had a Young Men's Ministry Council for a number of years. Their role is not to simply advise us on how to reach young men, but to be a part of our ministry planning and implementation.

Our national team intends to continue to work this way. In order to plan ministry for others, we want to involve them in the planning and take their input seriously. In fact, Josh's comments remind me that we also need to include 13-year-olds in our planning for men's ministry.

Let's plan with, not for.

Doug Haugen, executive director  
Lutheran Men in Mission  
[Doug.Haugen@elca.org](mailto:Doug.Haugen@elca.org)

## MEN'S MINISTRY SPECIALISTS

What does your men's ministry need to grow and prosper? That is a tricky question, and no matter where I ask it in the country, I receive different responses. The answers vary based on the focus or need of each specific group. That is why working on such a grand scale is difficult. There is no silver bullet, and one size does not fit all. However, one thing that is common among everyone's ministry is the desire to improve.

This past summer, Lutheran Men in Mission unveiled its newest plan for certifying Men's Ministry Specialists. My task is to train individuals who have a passion for men's ministry. I am now looking for men all across the country who sense a calling to be a leader in their congregation and community, and want to help develop new and innovative ministries in their area.

### The training and support

The training starts with a one year commitment. There are four stages that focus on personal, one-on-one, small groups, and larger group development. I've researched and compiled materials that will focus on each one of those aspects throughout the year. I'm pulling in authors, professors and experts to provide additional content. There will be ongoing conversations and tools that will be shared about faith and ministry. We'll explore together what men in our communities need and are searching for, all too often alone. Discipleship of men is changing and we are going to boldly navigate what that looks like in this new generation.

During a second year there will be ongoing support as those individuals work in their local congregations. A panel of men will assist and guide these men as they implement and apply all they have learned. At no point will they feel forgotten or



abandoned in the ministry we are asking them to do. Jesus was an example of this when Peter walked on the water. Peter started worrying about the storm and he started to sink. Jesus was there immediately to give the support that was needed. When we use Jesus as a model and we follow his lead we prosper.

One of the goals is to have these trained and certified men active across the country and throughout the church. They will have a finger on the heartbeat of their communities. They will work with at least with one congregation, but will inspire others around them. Communication will improve from one coast to the other. Lutheran Men in Mission will be able to reach more men through a strong, effective men's ministry in every congregation.



In little over one year from now, we will have our first round of participants finishing the program and being certified as Men's Ministry Specialists. Could that be you? Do you know someone who has the passion and skills for ministry with men? Encourage them to step forward as a leader. Start a conversation with me or one of our Regional Representatives about how you can make an impact as we move forward.

The call and invitation is out for all men to be servant-hearted leaders, support God's ministry and reach every man – across all generations.

Peace and God's Blessings,

Kevin Burke  
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Phone: 920-562-1411

## 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/estate planning. If you would like to know more about including LMM in your will, please contact us at 800-638-3522, ext. 2566.

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*"My sons and I attended the Surviving Marriage session led by Tim Crout. They are both married and were frantically taking notes. They described this session as the best part of the event."*

# Guys, Guts & God's Glory

*Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous*

*"I was hopeful when I arrived, and I was inspired when I went home."*



*"I'm thrilled that LMM is a part of this and can't wait to take some of the things I've gained here back to our churches."*





ment and lively faith of Lutheran men – of all ages – gathered in Nashville this past July.



# God's Glory

## Men's Gathering

ous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.  
1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (NRSV)



doing such vibrant ministry  
of the ideas and strategies  
church and community.”

*“Joe Davis was  
poetic perfection.  
His presence was  
HUGE and impactful.  
I am so happy that  
Spoken Word  
was included.”*



*“William Butler was  
phenomenal.  
I could watch  
his creative  
energy for days –  
what a gift!”*





**Three of our generous donors issued a challenge to meet their collective gift of \$25,000 by the end of the Gathering. Thanks to those of you we did it! In fact we had an offering of over \$60,000 for the ministry of Lutheran Men in Mission. The ministry of Lutheran Men in Mission continues to grow thanks to the creative, dedicated work of our staff, board and leadership. We would not be experiencing this dramatic growth without—by God’s grace— your overwhelming financial support. Listed below are the donors who contributed through July 24. Please refer any additions or corrections to this list to Kimberley Moseley-Cannon at [Kimberley.Moseley@elca.org](mailto:Kimberley.Moseley@elca.org) or 800-638-3522, ext. 2595.**

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## CAUSE FOR THANKS AND JOY

I write this column after this summer's 2014 Assembly and Lutheran Men's Gathering in Nashville. The energy and enthusiasm of the participants was addictive, and I left Nashville inspired, and trust that others did as well! As I did in Nashville, I think it worthwhile to summarize Lutheran Men in Mission's accomplishments for the past three years so that all are aware of the progress made in our ministry.

### Providing resources to men:

We sold or gave away about 57,000 *Master Builders Bible for Men*. We just did a "last time buy" for another 7,500 Bibles.

LMM sold or gave away about 3,000 decks of ManTalk cards. A ManTalk online Facebook community was created with one question from the cards posted every weekday for comment.

20,000 Spanish language New Testaments were distributed in the United States, Caribbean region, Central America and South America.

### Creating and hosting events designed for men

The two-day One Year to Live (OYTL) retreats have been held 10 or more times a year in locations around the country. Over 700 men have now had their lives changed by attending this retreat.

The High, Deep and Wide retreat took place in Tahoe City, Calif., attended by 35 men. This is a prototype for new active, engaging experiences for men.

### Developing and promoting leadership events for men

The eight-hour Building Men for Christ workshop has been conducted 8-10 times per year in locations around the country, and has reached over 305 men to help them start or rejuvenate men's ministry in their congregations.

We developed the LEAD program for young men ages 19-35, and graduated the first class of participants.

There have been two annual Leadership Summit events held for synod leaders: the first was in Chicago, Ill., in 2012, and another in Charlotte, N.C., in 2013. The 2014 Leadership Summit will be in Pearland, Texas on October 17-18.

### Enhancing communications with and among men

LMM publishes the quarterly Foundations newsletter, and currently sends copies to 20,000 people, including every ELCA congregation. Back issues since 1999 are available on the LMM web site [www.lutheranmen.org](http://www.lutheranmen.org).

Information on upcoming and past events has been added to the web site.

A weekly Bible study based upon the upcoming Sunday's gospel is being distributed by email.

LMM's online presence has grown through its Facebook page, posting videos on YouTube and Twitter activity.

### Growing as a self-incorporated 501(c)3 organization

Kevin Burke has joined the LMM staff as Program Manager, and Pastor Craig Corbin has been contracted to serve as our Development Director.

LMM financial reviews for fiscal years 2012-14 were conducted by an independent CPA firm.

We've entered into a formal Service Level Agreement with the ELCA covering the administrative services they provide for LMM.

Giving to the Annual Fund increased by almost 40% even though the number of donors dropped a bit, and the assets of LMM (primarily the Endowment Fund) grew by almost 40%.

These are the highlights of what has occurred at the national level, but it does not begin to show all the wonderful things happening in local men's ministries, congregations, conferences or clusters, and synods. We are very blessed to have so many men dedicated to inviting and helping other men become bold, daring followers of Jesus Christ.

Praise be to God!

Rich White  
President  
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# LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION®

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
8765 West Higgins Road / Chicago, IL 60631  
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## A Master Builders Bible for every man and boy – You can help us do it!

Some guys use it for their personal devotions. Some guys use it as they serve in the Armed Forces. Most guys use it in some form of a small group. Over the past several years more than 57,000 copies of the *Master Builders Bible for Men* have been given away or sold. While most Bibles sell for \$40 or more, Lutheran Men in Mission has kept the price of study Bible for men at cost – \$20 per Bible, or \$15 each if a case or more is purchased.

With supply running low, the Lutheran Men in Mission board recently took a major step of faith in moving to produce 7,500 more *Master Builders Bibles for Men*. The cost of this faith venture is \$120,000. While much of the expense will eventually be made up in sales, this is a major expense for the ministry at this point. Would you please consider an extra gift to Lutheran Men in



Mission at this time to help underwrite this major project? Your gift and support would be greatly appreciated at this time as we continue to work to place study Bibles in the hands of every man.

Your extra, “over and above” gift will make a great difference in the faith and lives of thousands of men and boys.

Thank you!

## One Year to Live Retreats

**November 7-9**  
Mackenzie Center  
Poynette, Wisc.

**November 14-16**  
Camp Kinard  
Leesville, S.C.

**February 6-8, 2015**  
Camp EWALU  
Strawberry, Iowa

Go to [lutheranmeninmission.org](http://lutheranmeninmission.org) for updated events, program information and registration details, or to submit Lutheran Men in Mission events.

## Lutheran Men in Mission online!

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