

Lutheran  
Building  
Men in  
Men for  
Mission  
Christ

# foundations

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

## 65,000 BIBLES LATER, AND GOING STRONG!

The *Master Builders Bible for Men* is one of the most creative and versatile resources being used today for ministry with men. With 20,000 questions for small groups, 60 “felt need” courses (with everything from men to marriage, parenting, work issues, spirituality, special needs and recovery), 16 Topical Study Courses, 200 Bible Stories and the 32-page Men’s Ministry Leader’s Supplement, it’s an easy to use powerhouse of a resource for men’s ministry in any setting and context.

### A tool and a seed for ministry

After learning more about mentoring younger men at the Lutheran Men’s Gathering in Nashville last summer, some of the men from Zion Lutheran Church in San Antonio, Texas, tried something new. For the final confirmation class of the year, Zion’s men’s ministry leaders provided a grilled burger dinner for all, including the parents of the young people being confirmed.

After dinner, the young people went to their class, their mothers gathered with the Women of the ELCA group and their dads joined the men. The program featured discussions about fathers mentoring sons based on Pastor Tim Wright’s book, *Searching for Tom Sawyer*. At the end of the evening, Zion’s Lutheran Men in Mission presented each dad with their own copy of the book and made a *Master Builders Bible for Men* available to each dad. The hope was that each dad would use the Bible to:

- Read himself
- Share with his son
- Present to his son at an appropriate time (rite of passage, confirmation, etc.)



Every confirmation student’s dad received the *Master Builders Bible for Men* this year at Zion Lutheran Church in San Antonio.

The evening was well received. Men’s leaders were able to give confirmation dads tools to mentor their sons. Most of the dads involved encouraged repeating the event next year – and Zion’s men’s ministry added several men who had not been involved in their ministry.

In a similar effort, Mark Roisen, member of Lac qui Parle Lutheran Church in Dawson, Minn., reported that the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Lutheran

Men in Mission has been offering a free *Master Builders Bible for Men* to any young man willing to commit to a three-week Bible study with his father (or mentor) and pastor (or youth leader).

We hear reports of the *Master Builders Bible for Men* being used in groups of two to ten or more in coffee shops, homes, congregations, burger joints and other places. While most of the 60,000 *Master Builders Bibles for Men* in circulation are being used domestically, some have gone with troops overseas.

### A witness reaching overseas

Daniel Hanson took his *Master Builders Bible for Men* across the world. Several years ago, Daniel, a major in the Army, was deployed to Kosovo. While serving there, he started a Christian men’s discussion group.

“We ended up having over 30 guys attend at one time or another, and the group included at least seven different denominations,” said Daniel. “We had soldiers ranging from privates to colonels, Department of Army Civilian Employees, and missionaries that lived in or were traveling through the area. These men ranged from 19 to over 70 years old. Upon developing the group, we established the rules (i.e., what is said at the group stays at the group; we hold

*(continued on page 4)*

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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*"Most worthwhile accomplishments are the result of many little things done in a single direction."*

That's a Nido Quebin quote that my predecessor Bill Pollock left in the office before I arrived 22 years ago.

Bill would have no idea how much that yellow sticky note, which still has a prominent place in my office, has meant to me over the years. From the raising of over \$1,000,000 for our endowment to our steps to incorporation, to our ministry growing like it has – I have seen the truth in that saying every day.

But lately I've realized the truth of that quote does not simply pertain to group projects or ministry, but to life itself.

I became a child of God the moment I was baptized and had an awakening some years later when I said yes to God's yes to me. But, like everyone, I need to drink regularly from God's fountain of grace. The weekly "Men of Prayer" reminder sent from our office helps me to do that. In it we take a look at the gospel text for the week and share prayer requests for me and the leadership of Lutheran Men in Mission. I have also come to appreciate the Daily Texts as a daily devotional to keep me in the Word and help me reflect on what it means for my life. Small steps not only help me to grow in grace, but allow me to look back and see how faithful God has been.

Something similar can be said for our physical lives. A year ago, I woke up on the morning of my birthday, looked in the mirror and wondered who that old fat man was. I had let myself go and did not recognize the man who was looking back at me. I resolved to change. More biking and other exercise, less eating whatever I wanted whenever I wanted.

The last year has been one of many small steps, including daily bike rides or workouts at the gym and being careful of what I have eaten (well, most days). Many days have been discouraging, but with the many small steps I've been able to look back and be encouraged. That was 1,300 bike miles, hours in the gym and, most days, being careful of what I ate. I look in the mirror now and, well, I recognize this guy. Yes, a littler older, but definitely Doug – child of God, family man and friend. Ready to live life to its fullest and able to do some things I never dreamed I could do before, including RAGBRAI (Des Moines Register's Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa), riding across the state of Iowa this summer along with other guys to benefit the work of Lutheran Men in Mission.

One of the things I wanted to do this year was a multi-day bike ride. I hadn't shared this with many people, but God nudged the guys in Western Iowa to ask me if I'd be interested in RAGBRAI – biking across Iowa, July 19-25. I'm in, and Lutheran Men in Mission will benefit! It's about 460 miles across Iowa and I intend, along with a team of 12 others, to peddle the entire distance.

Your pledge – large or small – per mile that I and the others bike, will encourage us to keep peddling and benefit Lutheran Men in Mission. **To learn more about joining or supporting LMM RAGBRAI team, please contact Kyle Pedersen at [kylepedersen@aol.com](mailto:kylepedersen@aol.com).** If you would like to pledge per mile, there is a link on the Online Giving page for LMM. Your single pledge may seem small but joining with many others, for many miles, will make a great difference in the lives of many men!

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



**From the Executive Director**

There it sat. Tattered. Wrinkled. Tape holding it together.

Peeking out from between pages were ancient notes and scraps of paper. It was an unexpected find on a table in the living room after a gathering.

Opening it to find the owner's name, there was a momentary hesitation as if this was a private diary. No matter where you flipped, there were verses underlined, words circled with exclamation points and notes in the margins. Scraps of paper were covered with notes and prayer requests. This was more than just a book to someone, it was an extension of themselves. It was quickly returned to its grateful owner.

The owner was actually a surprise; while there were a couple spiritual fathers in the group who were grayer than others, this well-loved Bible belonged to a young man in his late 20s.

When you see a dog-eared Bible, what does that conjure up inside of you? Is it respect and admiration for the dedication to the Word of God? Is it guilt for your own lack of spiritual discipline? Is it resentment because obviously the owner is a Bible-thumper? No matter what your initial gut reaction is, consider the following:

## Head knowledge becomes heart knowledge

Into a culture filled with many voices each claiming to be the way, Paul challenges the believers at Colossae to "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." (Colossians 3:16) By spending time in the Word, we get to know the voice of the shepherd – Jesus – so that during the busyness of life, we hear his calm voice continuing to speak today. Be ready when temptation comes. We hear in Matthew 4 that the three temptations of the world are to be relevant, powerful and spectacular. Our rabbi faced these temptations himself simply by knowing scripture and being able to name the promises of God. We can do the same, but it requires spending time turning the pages.

## If it's in the Bible, it's Lutheran

Out of the Reformation comes the cry of sola scriptura, noting Luther's reliance on the Word of God. Biblical fluency is a Lutheran hallmark. And besides, we have a great God! We were created in God's image, and there is so much diversity with gifting and ways to be the church. For many of us, our German and Scandinavian congregations are stoic, but God will surprise us if we let him.



As we journey alongside cousins from other denominations and faiths, we can see the biblical grounds of why they may highlight different aspects of God. If we have never had exposure to Scripture, or our biblical literacy leaves something to be desired, we may not fully know the richness of our family story.

## Healthy churches have Bible believing, Bible bringing guys

It may not be the culture of your congregation to walk in with your own Bible, but why not? Especially if you don't have pew Bibles, if your pastor references something during a message, you can

easily flip to it and see the context and even scribble notes in the margin. Plus sons, grandsons and other men are always watching. If they see a man they respect always carrying a Bible, they will model him.

So consider becoming a Bible Believing, Bible Bringing guy. Here are a couple options:

- **Study Bible** – bulkier, but contains questions and reference material. May have topical and themed studies. The *Master Builder's Bible for Men* works very well for personal and group use.
- **Pocket Bible** – small, often fits inside of your back jeans pocket, usually no reference material.
- **Bible app** on your smartphone or tablet – it's always there, but often no place to write notes. Unfortunately, people in church may think you are texting or checking email instead of following along with what the pastor is talking about.

So may the next time that a tattered well-loved Bible is discovered, may the name inside the cover be yours!

Kyle Pedersen

*Kyle is a brother, a son, and walk-along-sider who is journeying to the foot of the cross with an amazing crew! When not doing his day job in Des Moines, Iowa, he serves as an Emerging Ministries Consultant with Lutheran Men in Mission.*

You can download past issues of Lutheran Men in Mission's foundations newsletter at [lutheranmeninmission.org](http://lutheranmeninmission.org)  
> Resources > Foundations Newsletter.



# 2017 Lutheran Men's Gathering

Minneapolis, Minnesota

July 21-23, 2017



**Lutheran Men in Mission Assembly is July 20-21**

- **Mark your calendars.**
- **Make a list of guys and young men to bring with you.**
- **See you in Minneapolis!**

*(continued from cover)*

each other accountable; we are free and safe to speak our minds; etc.). We also established what our group considered essential (the centrality of Christ and the Scriptures.)

“Many of the men were mature, well studied Christians, but not many of them had led classes before. In this group, we rotated the instructors and everybody was asked to present or lead at some point. The *Master Builders Bible for Men* reduced the intimidation of leading the discussion. The many different teaching styles and experience levels lead to a variety of styles and materials, but many members of the group preferred to go back and use the *Master Builders Bible* either entirely or in part.

“As part of our Replace in Place process, I turned over the idea to the incoming unit. Like we turn over our military missions, we lead the first discussions and then had them lead while we observed. Many of them were intimidated to lead, so I left my copies with them. I contacted them several times in the following year via email and they said that the group grew to the point that they went from once a week meetings to meeting twice a week.

“I have used it in many other areas too, but this format

probably had the most reach in geographic, denominational, and numbers of men. Thank you for your hard work and dedication in this excellent resource to witness to our Lord.”

## **Now is a great time to order Bibles!**

The *Master Builders Bible* is a powerful tool to renew your spiritual walk and to grow and revive the men's ministry in your congregation. Lutheran Men in Mission is committed to getting this great resource into as many hands as possible by selling it “at cost,” a great deal at any time. But, inspired by stories like those in this article, and in honor of Father's Day, Lutheran Men in Mission is offering an even greater deal – **order two *Master Builders Bibles for Men* and get a third one free!** Order one for your dad, one for you son and one for you – or a Bible for each of the guys you hang around with and ‘shoot the breeze.’

Order the *Master Builders Bible for Men* or Spanish New Testaments for men by calling 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2580, or online at [ELCA.org/resources](http://ELCA.org/resources) > Items to Order > Faith and Spirituality > Men.

## 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.

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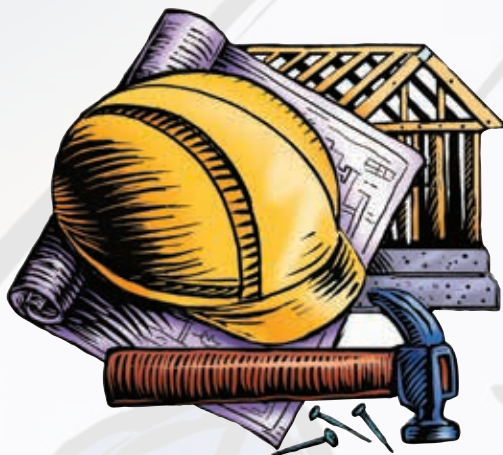
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Thanks to God working through the wonderful donors listed below who shared gifts in fiscal year 2014 (Feb. 1, 2014 - Jan. 31, 2015), Lutheran Men in Mission continues to take great steps forward with producing men who are bold, daring followers of Jesus Christ. We have come a long way, but we need to continue this generous income growth in 2015 as we persist in building this ministry. Please prayerfully consider how you might help with a gift today. Refer any additions or corrections to Kimberley Moseley-Cannon at 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2595, or email [Kimberley.Moseley@elca.org](mailto:Kimberley.Moseley@elca.org).

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## Join LMM in a 400 mile bicycle ride across Iowa

Lutheran Men in Mission and Western Iowa Synod Lutheran Men in Mission are riding across Iowa in the 2015 RAGBRAI event with a group of men to raise support for LMM. The 6-day ride is July 19-25, and is called RAGBRAI – The Register’s Annual Great Bicycle Ride Across Iowa.

This year, the 400 mile ride goes through portions of all three Iowa synods. The plan is to raise support from each synod and invite anyone who is interested to ride with Team LMM or pledge their support.

Doug Haugen and Kyle Pedersen will be riding with Team LMM, the group of 12 men who will be hosted along the way by a synod office, five congregations and an LCMS family. Besides riders, the group welcomes pledges from individuals who want to support the mission of LMM and help grow men’s ministry throughout the ELCA. **Please pledge your support online for Team LMM at [LutheranMen.org](http://LutheranMen.org) > Support Us > Online Giving > RAGBRAI.**

To join the LMM group and register with RAGBRAI, contact Mark Juhl at [mcmjuhl@midlands.net](mailto:mcmjuhl@midlands.net) or 712-540-1391. You can also contact Kyle Pedersen at [kylepedersen@aol.com](mailto:kylepedersen@aol.com) about the ride or pledging your support. Learn more about the history and details of the annual Iowa ride at [RAGBRAI.com](http://RAGBRAI.com).

Check Team LMM’s daily updates and photos posted during the ride at [ReachingMen.Blogspot.com](http://ReachingMen.Blogspot.com) – you’ll feel like you are peddling alongside them! Well, almost.

## WHERE THERE’S A WILL, THERE’S A WAY

Do you have a will? Is it current, reflecting your present circumstances and wishes?

It is important you have an up-to-date will because a will can accomplish so much for you, your heirs and others. It is literally true that “where there’s a will, there is a way” – a way to benefit and save!

For example, a will provides a way to have all you possess distributed according to your wishes, not as the state determines through state law. In your will, you can and should make specific

provisions for all that you have and for all whom you love.

A will can also help save money through avoiding unnecessary expenses and through reducing state inheritance and federal estate taxes. And a will is a wonderful way to help Lutheran Men in Mission as well as to make provisions for your church or other favorite charity.

If you are interested in receiving more information about wills, please fill out the following form and we will contact you and provide you with helpful resources.

### Clip, Complete, and Mail to:

Lutheran Men in Mission  
8765 West Higgins Road  
Chicago IL 60631

I am interested in receiving resource materials regarding wills.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_





## Kayaking 2,300 miles down the Mississippi River

"It had been on my bucket-list since I was a boy and read Huck Finn," said Dave Ellingson, college professor and pastor, who paddled the entire Mississippi River in his kayak, from northern Minnesota to the 2012 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans. The 2,300-mile summer journey is described in his book, *Paddle Pilgrim: An Adventure of Spirit and Learning Kayaking the Mississippi River*.

*Paddle Pilgrim* chronicles Dave's "adventure of a lifetime" and shares experiences from basking in an awe-inspiring sunset in Minnesota to dancing with a snake on an Arkansas sandbar. In addition to painting a kaleidoscope of vivid word pictures of scenery and encounters with people living along the Mississippi River, Dave writes movingly about the "interior landscapes" of solitude, silence, prayer and communion with creation. "What began as an

*"His story inspires those of us who are dreamers to find the crazy new adventures that God is calling us to and pursue them with passion. Don't read this book until you are ready to re-evaluate your own life and rediscover what truly matters."*

**David Scherer, a.k.a. AGAPE\*,  
recording artist and performer**

adventure led to learning and ultimately to spiritual pilgrimage!" said Dave.

Men and young adults will find themselves immersed in a real-life journey of adventure, and be inspired by this book to be careful, curious and prayerful observers of their own daily lives and the world.

Dave teaches courses in spirituality, environmental ethics, human development and youth ministry at Trinity Lutheran College in Everett, Wash. He is a Lutheran pastor, Master Gardner, former distance runner and father of five grown children.

*Paddle Pilgrim* is available at Amazon.com in both print and Kindle formats. Contact Dave directly about quantity book orders, speaking engagements, book signings and coaching: [paddlepilgrim@gmail.com](mailto:paddlepilgrim@gmail.com), (Facebook) [www.fb.me/paddlepilgrim](http://www.fb.me/paddlepilgrim), or by phone at 206-459-0911.



### Tools for moving forward in men's ministry

It has been six years since Lutheran Men in Mission received its coveted 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status from the IRS, and many positive things have happened since then from both the ministry and operational sides of LMM. While newsletter articles have highlighted ministry accomplishments such as the *Master Builders Bible for Men* and the One Year to Live retreats, I believe it's a good time to highlight some of LMM's accomplishments in operations and discuss our future direction.

Accomplishments since 2009:

- We now publish a detailed annual financial report which has been reviewed by an independent CPA firm.
- We have added new staff (Kevin Burke) and contracted with others (Kyle Pedersen and Craig Corbin) to help expand the ministry.
- We have entered into an annual Service Level Agreement with the ELCA that defines the services they provide to LMM, and the corresponding costs LMM pays.
- The board has transitioned from the role of an advisory unit to a churchwide ministry to that of being a true board of directors of an independent non-profit organization.
- We have implemented a donor contact management system using



ResultsPlus software to help enhance our relationships with our supporters.

- We have created our own website ([lutheranmeninmission.org](http://lutheranmeninmission.org)) and are active on social media with Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Youtube.

But we are not stopping there! LMM is implementing new initiatives to further improve LMM "back room" operations and outreach with the LMM community and networks:

- We are implementing an LMM network using a Google backbone to provide a common calendar, support file sharing and storage for the board and LMM teams, and provide [lutheranmeninmission.org](http://lutheranmeninmission.org)-based email addresses for LMM leadership.
- We are now using Constant Contact to support our email, and are working

to increase our use of email to deliver more information in a timely manner to the LMM community.

- We have opened an account with ReadyTalk to provide an on-line mechanism to support webinars and collaboration between ministry developers. Topics and leaders are being identified for several LMM webinars in the near future.
- We have opened an account with Vanco Payment Services, allowing one-time or recurring donations to LMM through bank account debit or credit card payments. A system will also be implemented through Vanco to handle registrations and payments for LMM events.

As you can see, we are moving Lutheran Men in Mission forward with various ministry efforts and new ways of operating as an organization. None of it is easy to do, but the challenges are necessary – and exciting – as we continue to evolve as a growing, vibrant and self-sustaining ministry. Why do we do this? To support our mission: *For every man to become a bold, daring follower of Jesus Christ.*

Your servant in Christ,  
Rich White, President  
[rwhite743@aol.com](mailto:rwhite743@aol.com)

## EXCITING NEWS, AND A CHALLENGE!

The vision of Lutheran Men in Mission is for every man to have a bold, daring relationship with Jesus Christ. There are three bold, daring men in our network who, believing in our ministry, have issued a great challenge to the rest of us.

These bold, daring men have come together to make a contribution of \$100,000 to LMM, and to challenge the rest of us to do likewise with a \$100,000 challenge. They are challenging those who have not contributed or have contributed less than \$250 to increase their gift to \$250, and for those who have contributed \$250 in the past to increase their gift.

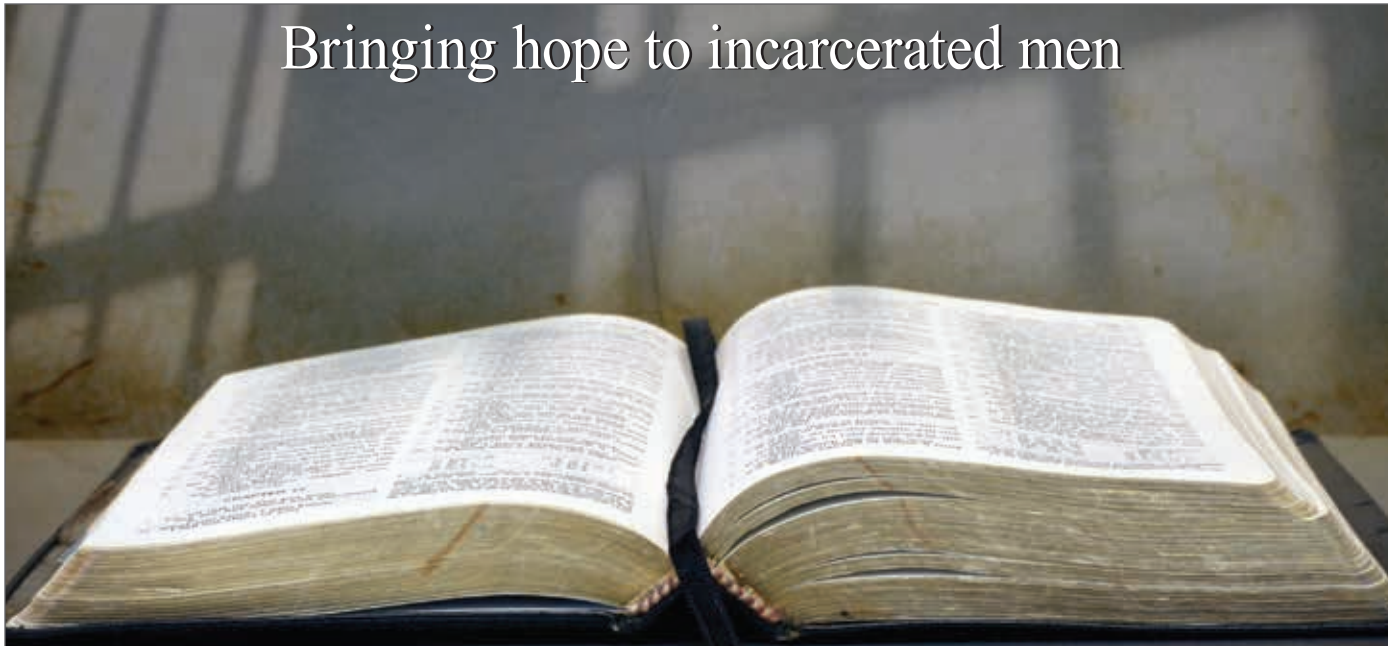
Raise another \$100,000 – what a bold, daring challenge! You can help us meet – or exceed – this challenge goal by responding to a recent mailing you may have received from LMM, and sending a gift to the LMM office or sharing a gift on-line at [lutheranmeninmission.org](http://lutheranmeninmission.org).

Please consider prayerfully how you can help us meet this bold, daring challenge with a bold, daring gift!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
8765 West Higgins Road / Chicago, IL 60631  
[lutheranmeninmission.org](http://lutheranmeninmission.org)

## Bringing hope to incarcerated men



Bill Sapp and his wife, Lucille – major benefactors for the LMM *Master Builder's Bible for Men* – have purchased one million booklets of *The Gospel According to John*, in English and Spanish, for sharing with people who are incarcerated and for use in prison ministry. Their gift of this Good News Translation of John grows out of their care and love for prisoners, and knowing the power of God's Word in the Gospel of John.

Few people know the pain of isolation and the stigma, the hunger for forgiveness and new life, more than people who are in our jails, prisons or correctional facilities around the country. Prison ministries present opportunities to help those incarcerated stay connected with caring communities and their families, find

new life in the good news of Jesus Christ, and move toward hope, forgiveness and healing.

Free copies of *The Gospel According to John* in English and/or Spanish are available in quantities for congregations and groups involved in prison ministry. For more information, contact the LMM office at 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2595, or email [Kimberley.Moseley@elca.org](mailto:Kimberley.Moseley@elca.org).

If you are interested in developing a prison ministry, you can order the ELCA resource "Criminal Justice Ministry: a Congregational Handbook for Jail and Prison Ministry" at [http://resources.ELCA.org/Social\\_Issues-Criminal\\_Justice\\_Ministry\\_Handbook.html](http://resources.ELCA.org/Social_Issues-Criminal_Justice_Ministry_Handbook.html).

**Lutheran Men in Mission online:** [lutheranmeninmission.org](http://lutheranmeninmission.org)

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



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