Lutheran
Building
Men in
Men for
Mission
Christ

foundations Our vision is that every man have a growing relationship with

Jesus Christ through an effective men's ministry in every congregation.

WELCOMING A NEW LMM STAFF MEMBER – KEVIN BURKE

We'll claim it as one of those landmarks of celebration for our 25th anniversary of Lutheran Men in Mission—adding a new staff position.

We welcome and give thanks for Kevin Burke who has been called to serve in the new fulltime position of Program Manager for LMM. He'll be working from Seymour, WI, where he and his family live.

Kevin, what's your history?

I was born and raised in a small town in the panhandle of Texas and went to college at West Texas A&M where I started dating my wife, Amanda. My bachelor's degree was in studio arts with a major in sculpture and minor in ceramics.

When I was in school I worked as a night auditor at a hotel, retail sales, and then I started working at a state prison. It was a high security prison where I worked in the psychiatric department for six years. Amanda and I started our family about then. We have three daughters, twins Marcella and Siri, and Kåre, our youngest.

After her undergraduate work, Amanda decided to get her master's degree in Children, Youth and Family Ministry through Luther Seminary. When she finished she ended up interviewing in Seymour, Wisconsin. It felt like home—a small town with a large congregation. It offered opportunities and promise professionally, personally, and for our



Kevin Burke was installed at our April 2013 board meeting. Pictured here with Rev. Tom Skrenes, Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod and representative of the Conference of Bishops to the LMM Board, LMM board President Rich White, and LMM Executive Director Doug Haugen.

family, so we made the big choice to move our family from Texas in 2009.

My first experience with men's ministry and One Year to Live was when we got to Wisconsin. I had no clue what the One Year to Live retreat was like before that. The whole program challenged me personally with my family, dealing with my father having passed away the year before, vocation, and how important faith was in my faith.

After that first retreat, I participated in or helped host six more retreats around Wisconsin. It impacted my life and the men who came to them. I saw the relationships they developed with other men and how they grew in their faith in Christ. It's something important to me and I want to see the retreat spread across the country.

What moved you to apply for the position of Program Manager for LMM?

At first I was a little bit worried about applying for this position. I thought about my weaknesses and I didn't feel completely up to date on technology and other things, but I worked to discern this with my wife. She was my cheerleading squad and pep talking partner. And then I started having conversations about it with my men's group at church. They commented to me, "What's stopping you?" They were behind me and reminding me of what my strengths were and that was important to me. They reminded

me that I was being prepared over the past three years through my volunteer work, men's ministry, participating in the One Year to Live retreats, and doing Building Men for Christ workshops. I was taking the things that I was learning back to my congregation and applying them and teaching them to my own men's group.

Men's ministry was important to me is important to me. It became clear that everything I've experienced and done has helped prepare and equip me for this, so I took the leap. We'll see how it unfolds.

In a nutshell, what will you be doing as Program Manager for LMM?

I see my role as Program Manager as helping build relationships and communications across the entire country 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.

Lutheran Men in Mission 8765 West Higgins Road Chicago, IL 60631-4101 *lutheranmeninmission.org*

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Rod Boriack foundations editor/writer



From the Executive Director

The Power of Friendship

Recently, I treated myself to a non-diet lunch at the local rib joint. It was a perfect guy lunch. The only other customers in the dining room were two men, one in his 30s and one in his 50s. They were engaged in a nose-to-nose, animated conversation about "that woman" each was married to.



With each comment made, the other would ratchet it up with his response.

"Geez, I'm focusing on trying to get that wall socket wired and she just yap, yaps, yaps!"

"I know just what you mean! I'm trying to focus, finish a project, and she wants to talk about all this other stuff! She says, 'I can't understand why you men can't multitask,' I say, 'I'd rather do one thing well than five half-...!""

The exchanges continued, one overlaying the other with frustration of how their wives just did not understand; all of this while the music in the background was playing Willie Nelson's "You Were Always on My Mind" and Tammy Wynette's "Stand By Your Man".

Still, through it all, I also heard something else. Before I left, I approached them and said, "But you really love them, don't you?"

"Oh yeah", they said, with the older one adding, "Twenty-six years we've been married. And there have been a lot of good times. There have been some tough times, but we are committed."

Then they both told me how much they appreciated their friendship that allowed them to get stuff off their chest and try to figure out how to be a better husband.

Kent Ira Groff, author of *Journeyman: A Spiritual Guide for Men*, says each of us guys need a "Board of Directors" in our life. The board consists of two persons you have learned from, two persons who have learned from you, two persons who love you dearly, two persons you love dearly, two people who challenge you, and two people who make you feel good.

As I thought about what I had witnessed at lunch that day, I thought, these guys are the folks we are ministering to. These guys are you and me. These guys experience encouragement and empowerment to be better husbands and family men through their friendship. These guys are board members for each other.

So here is our assignment: Think about who your board members are and tell them what place they have in your life. If there are some vacant positions on the board, be open to how the Spirit might fill them.

The ministries of Lutheran Men in Mission are intended to give men safe places and spaces to develop relationships that help each man build a personal board of directors; a board through which God's Spirit works 24/7 to guide, strengthen, heal, encourage, forgive, and care for each of us.

Doug Haugen, executive director Lutheran Men in Mission Doug.Haugen@elca.org

LANDSCAPING

There are milestones in every guy's life. I bought a house in this past year. Many hours went into projects during winter months. Now summer has arrived and it is the season of landscaping.

In the case of landscaping, I inherited good structure, good beds, and a good foundation; all of which previous owners had diligently labored towards and poured into with sweat equity of past decades. While snow was on the ground, I had no idea what was going to emerge in the

spring, however, I trusted the vision of the planters of years past. Great stuff is indeed growing. Now it's my turn to plant, prune, weed, and add some personal touches!

Lutheran Men in Mission has a milestone of its own with its 25th anniversary this summer. As we reflect on what this means, perhaps it's fitting to look at the landscaping of our ministry with men.

For 25 years, men of vision have put sweat equity and hours of labor into creating structure, resources, and programs that will grow men's relationship with Christ. There has been tremendous growth in spiritual depth, financial giving, and now with additional staff!

Today our leaders are inheriting a structure and foundation which they may not have had a part in, but are trusting the vision of those who were builders. The young men in our men's ministries were in grade school or younger when the founding group of visionaries met in Seguin, TX, but they are now being blessed because of those older brothers. As the leaders of today lead, they continue to listen to the prompting of the Holy Spirit and are planting, feeding, weeding, and harvesting in ways that were not even thought of in years past.

Plant

Much has been planted over the years, but there are many men in our lives that need to be introduced to Jesus. Inviting men into



the journey with you using resources such as the I-GO model is crucial no matter your age. The ManTalk cards are a great way to plant ideas and vision as you share laughter and stories!

Fertilize

We have to be fed in order to grow. Soaking in scripture through resources such as the *Master Builders Bible for Men* and using the leader's guides to take men deeper into discussion feed the soul. Retreats, small groups, and prayer

establish a deep root system that men can rely on through the droughts and storms.

Weed & Prune

Ministry to men cannot survive without some tending. There are distractions and irrelevant details that, like weeds, need to be pulled. Likewise, leaders must evaluate how things are growing, and prune and shape accordingly. Is an event taking men closer to Christ? If not, is it something the men's ministry should be doing?

Harvest

Jesus tells us in Matthew 9 that the harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. By planting and feeding and pruning, men are growing in their relationships with Christ, and in turn, developing a heart for leading other men. Our harvest is men who want to reach other men in the name of Christ.

Praise God for growth!

Now go get your hands dirty and be the church! Show us young guys what it means to landscape our lives after the model Jesus set.

Kyle Pedersen 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, IA, he serves as a Young Men's Specialist with Lutheran Men in Mission.

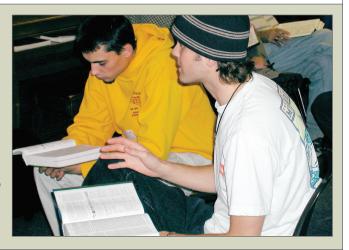
The Perfect Study Bible for Men of All Ages

The *Master Builders Bible for Men*, Second Edition, is a special New International Version Bible that provides you with:

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- Ready to use Bible studies for men.
- Bible stories with study questions.
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It's an invaluable tool for helping men of all ages connect God's Word with their lives and faith. Order enough for your group, as gifts for young men, and to use as an outreach tool for visitors and men in your community.

Order at 800-638-3522, ext.2580 or online at www.elca.org/resources.



WELCOMING A NEW LMM STAFF MEMBER – KEVIN BURKE

(continued on cover)

to help men build a stronger faith life, strengthen their relationships with other men, strengthen their family life and relationships in the community, and help men be better more vocal and outgoing about their faith.

Teaching and education has been an important part of your life and work, hasn't it?

Yes, always. I've taught at a technical college in Green Bay, WI. It's fun and enjoyable helping people work with clay and make things, but there's a separation that keeps me from having a faith conversation along with it. I've gone to career days and talked to students about my ceramics, learning a trade or skill, and going beyond high school to get a higher education. Sometimes I'd be sitting at a wheel throwing a pot to use as a metaphor for life; I can do it on a nonreligious basis, but it's so much more meaningful for me when I can talk about faith and finding your vocation using the skills that God gave you.

You have this incredible background in art. How does this play into your faith and ministry? How does it influence you?

I learned early on when I was studying art that I wanted to create my own style and not just do what the professors wanted me to do. For my senior gallery exhibit, I was creating pieces to display and my wife and I attached scripture to every one of my pieces. I had to find my own exhibit venue so I approached our congregation. We set up a nice area in the church for my art work and spread out printed devotions on the exhibit tables. Visitors could go from piece to piece and read a devotion that tied the sculpture to scripture. It really emphasized my faith and beliefs; it wasn't for the shock and awe of just getting my name out there as an artist with controversial pieces. My artwork



is more of a scripture- and faith-based conversation and conversation starter.

How do you balance your work and faith?

One of the best compliments I've received was years ago was when I was a guard at the Texas state prison. Out of the blue one day, an inmate said, "Officer Burke, you're a Christian, aren't you." His comment surprised me because I never discussed religion or faith with the inmates—I wasn't allowed to. I replied, "Yes, sir, as a matter of fact, I am. Out of curiosity, how did you know that?" "It's by the way you work, the way you carry yourself, and the way you treat other people. It's just obvious."

It was amazing for me to hear that from a person in one of the worst environments in the world and to know that my actions, morals, and values were being seen like that. Somehow, some way, the light of Christ was shining through me.

When we moved to Wisconsin I was a stay-at-home father for the first two years. Those were probably the best two years of my life. I got to stay home, cook three meals a day for my family, and bond with my kids—really, truly take care of my family. I'm fortunate to work within a faith-based environment. Our congregation where my wife's office is has been gracious enough to let me use space there as an office. It's almost ideal. My wife and I are able to take our girls to school, drop them off, go to work at church together, and spend time together. I feel very blessed.

There were times in my life when I tried to compartmentalize or categorize my life: one segment family, one segment work or vocation, and the third being my faith. Now I feel more able to overlap things in my life, talk about faith every night, and using Rich Melheim's "Faith Five"—sharing, reading, talking, praying, blessing. Not separating things in my life has become important; it's

definitely an improvement!

So, what are your first big tasks as you settle into this new position and move forward?

Developing a certification process for men's ministry specialists; identifying and training men across the country so they can go back to the congregations and men they relate to and help spread the ministry and mission of LMM building relationships in Christ. Work on this process was started some time ago, so I'm starting from there. I'll be looking for new areas where we can grow, and also looking for the bright lights of men's ministry across the country congregations that we can learn from, who can share ideas and ministry models with others, and pass their gifts onto other congregations. And I'll continue building networks and relationships with other organizations that have been helpful and supportive of men's ministry and our issues.

How can men get in touch with you?

I definitely want to talk with men around the country. Email me at *kevin*. burke@elca.org to talk or tell me what ministries are going strong, what you're doing, or where your needs are. I'd love to pass on stories that will inspire other ministries.

Blessings in your work and ministry with Lutheran Men in Mission, Kevin! We're grateful that you've joined us in this growing ministry.

A VERY SPECIAL CHALLENGE HAS BEEN OFFERED

A great opportunity has been given to us as we celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Lutheran Men in Mission! Jim and Cathy Monkman have offered a wonderful matching challenge gift of \$25,000 in celebration and gratitude. They will match every new or increased gift of \$250 or more up to \$25,000! We need your help to meet this challenge. Here's the list of donors (as of June 15) who have stepped up to the challenge. Please help us meet the challenge today. Please refer any additions/corrections to this list to Kimberley Moseley Cannon at (800) 638-3522, ext. 2595, or e-mail Kimberley. Moseley@elca.org.

Senior Tradesman (\$5.000-9,999)

Les and Melanie Robbins

Tradesman (\$2,500-4,999)

Douglas Haugen

Nebraska Synod Lutheran Men in Mission

Master Craftsman (\$1,000-2,499)

David F. Long
David Vorpagel
Erik S. Kjesbu
Howard B. Vreeland
Henry L. Howe
Norman L. Smith

Southwestern Minnesota Synod Lutheran Men in Mission

Thomas A. Green Western Iowa Synod Lutheran Men in Mission

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Donald L. Shaub Fred Fluckiger Greg Russell Hans Teich Heber E. Rast Jeffery Mason Kent R. Suemnicht Lon A. Buss

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Nick Nikoley Neal E. Snider

Prince of Peace Lutheran, Everett, WA St. Andrew Lutheran, Centreville, VA

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Karl Demuth

Lord of Love Lutheran, Omaha, NE

Nathan Timm Ned Y. Hudson Philip C. DiGiovanni Phillip Bostian Ronald L. Johnson Roy L. Trexler Russell M. Tesch

Salem Lutheran, West Alexandria, OH Virginia Lutheran Men in Mission

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 been updated for a number of years and, therefore, does not reflect their present wishes and circumstances.

Do you need a will? Is it important that it is current? The answer is a definite "Yes!" if you wish all the funds, belongings, and assets you have accumulated 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 to save on costs.

And the answer is a definite "Yes!" if you wish to include a bequest, which we hope you do, to Lutheran Men in Mission, your church, or favorite charity. A bequest has been rightly 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 in our lives.

Because we feel it is important for everyone to have a current will, whether a bequest is included for LMM or not, we are making available, without cost or obligation, an excellent brochure on wills. This very readable folder will answer many of the questions you may have about wills. It also offers guidance on how to go about the process of having a will written—a process that needn't be difficult or costly.

You can obtain your free copy of this helpful folder on wills by calling our LMM office at (773) 380-2566 or (800) 638-3522, ext. 2566. Request your free copy today—you'll be glad you did!

Clip, Complete,	Dear Doug: Please send me, without cost or obligation, a copy of the helpful folder on creating a will.	
and Mail to:	Name:	Phone:
Doug Haugen,		
Executive Director	Address:	
Lutheran Men in Mission		
8765 West Higgins Road	City, State, Zip:	
Chicago IL 60631		
	Email:	

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! SAVE THESE DATES!

2013 LMM EVENTS:

11th National Gathering of Methodist Men. INSIDE OUT: For the Glory of God

Belmont University Nashville, TN - July 12-14, 2013

LMM 25th Anniversary Celebration

Mackenzie Center Poynette, WI - July 21, 2013

LMM Western States Gathering: "High, Wide and Deep"

Granlibakken Conference Center Tahoe City, CA - August 23-25, 2013

BUILDING MEN FOR CHRIST WORKSHOPS:

Family of Christ Lutheran Church Kearney, NC - August 24, 2013

Messiah Lutheran Church Grand Island, NE - October 19, 2013

ONE YEAR TO LIVE RETREATS:

SciCon Conference & Retreat Center Springville, CA - July 19-21, 2013

Camp Fredrick

Rogers, OH - August 23-25, 2013

Pastors, Camp Directors, and Senior Camp

Staff Retreat

Santa Maria

Grant, CO - August 27-29, 2013

Lutherhill

La Grange, TX - September 20-22, 2013

MacKenzie Center

Poynette, WI - November 8-10, 2013

Camp Kinard

Leesville, SC - November 8-10. 2013

2014 LMM EVENTS:

2014 Triennial Lutheran Men's Gathering

Loew's Vanderbilt Hotel

Nashville, TN

Assembly July 17-18, 2014

Gathering July 18-20, 2014

Go to lutheranmeninmission.org for updated events, program information, and registration details.



A REDEMPTIVE GATHERING FOR MEN LAKE TAHOE, CA I AUGUST 23-25, 2013

There's no place elsewhere in America quite like Lake Tahoe, sitting in the heart of the Sierra Nevada mountains of California. It's truly one of God's greatest creations, and it'll prove a potent site for this year's Western States Gathering, where Christian men of all ages will go "High, Wide and Deep" to strengthen their relationship with Christ and each other through a weekend of fun, fellowship and friendly competition.

It all takes place at Granlibakken Conference Center on Lake Tahoe's west shore near Tahoe City, where we'll set the stage for a spirited day and a half with special

icebreaker activities, food and music. Then comes a Saturday of pentathlon-style activities under the bright Sierra sun designed to make for a memorable, manly excursion into... well, be there and you'll find out. The main thing is that you're there to share in the great fun and food centered around inspiring discussions and presentations from pastors and fellow journeyman Christians.

It promises to be a gathering unlike any other. Register through the link at: www.lutheranmeninmission.org.

Guys, Guts & God's Glorv

Nashville - July 18-20, 2014 - Loews Vanderbilt Hotel Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. 1 Corinthians 16:13- (NRSV)

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. For information about including LMM in your will, contact us at 800-638-3522, ext. 2566.

Harold and Esther Arne

Fred Bohls

Bernard and Christine Bresson Lon and Deborah Buss

Livingston Crinclow Mark and Judy Dahl

Thomas Green **Douglas and Doris Haugen**

Daniel Joy

Ken Kahler

Douglas and Ann Larson

Ruth C. Lindahl **Richard Miller**

Larry Moeller

Larry and Vickie Nines Wesley Oestreich

Donovan Paul

Henry and Margaret Ogden-Howe Richard and Christine White

Heber and Gloria Rast

Darrel S. Rice

William and Dorothy Schleichert **Charles and Geneva Schwartz LeRoy and Ruth Simonson**

Kay Synder

Norman and Kathie Smith

foremen

LMM 2.0

When a number of people work together to create a document, they typically use version numbers to indicate when a significant change has been made to a document. This practice has also been used to identify when significant changes

are made within or to an organization. Recently I have seen references to JCP 2.0 to reflect the big changes currently happening at JCPenney Co. With that in mind, I am convinced that Lutheran Men in Mission is undergoing significant change and is moving to the next level, hence the title LMM 2.0.

Why do I believe that? It really is quite simple. During the past six months I have seen three significant changes within LMM:

• First, we created a new staff position of Program Manager. To fill the position, we interviewed over 20 men, and ultimately hired Kevin Burke to fill it. Kevin has a real passion for men's ministry and is looking to make a difference in men's lives. He will focus on making the men's ministry specialist program a reality, creating one or more networks of leaders in men's ministry, and identifying exemplary congregations that can mentor to other congregations in reaching out to men.

• Second, giving from you—LMM's supporters—increased substantially in 2012. We passed the \$300,000 mark in contributions for the first time ever, and our donor base, the life-blood of financial support for LMM, is increasing. Our total assets are now over \$1,200,000, which means that we can plan for the future and not just work to make it through the next day, week, or month.

• Third, we continue to increase the number of events and opportunities available to men across the country. We have the High, Wide, and Deep event at Lake Tahoe, CA, August 23-25. We are encouraging men to attend the United Methodist Men's Gathering July 12-14 in Nashville where there will be a special

breakout session for LMM. We have One Year to Live retreats (including Texas' first one) and Building Men for Christ workshops scheduled for many, geographically diverse locations. In addition, there will be a special One Year to Live retreat specifically for pastors, rostered leaders, and Lutheran outdoor ministry directors August 27-29 in Colorado. We are encouraging congregations and synods to hold "Come to the Water" events around Father's Day to support Lutheran outdoor ministries, and we are developing plans for celebratory dinners to recognize the 25th anniversary of LMM's

founding this summer.

The foundation of this and what makes it all happen is an incredibly committed group of volunteers. These volunteers work tirelessly to make this ministry real to men in their congregations, communities, synods, and regions across the country. Without these men this ministry would not be as alive, growing, vibrant, and impactful as it is. Thanks be to God for you and all that you do.

On to LMM 3.0!

Yours servant in Christ, Rich White, President Lutheran Men in Mission



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.

Twitter: @mantalkonline Email: mantalk.online@yahoo.com Face Book: Man Talk Online page (mantalkonline.org)



Order your ManTalk® Cards at: *lutheranmeninmission.org,* or by calling 1-800-638-3522, ex. 2580. Also available at: *vibrantfaith.org* or 1-877-239-2492.



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SUMMER READS AND RESOURCES

Generational trends:

Why Millennials Don't Want to Buy Stuff

(Fast Company, http://goo.gl/Wpszi)

Compared to previous generations, Millennials seem to have some very different habits that have taken both established companies and small businesses by surprise. One of these is that Generation Y doesn't seem to enjoy purchasing things. Something to should mull over if we want to engage this generation with the Gospel of Christ.

Coming and Going on Facebook

(Pew Research Center, http://goo.gl/oBLtk)

Pew Internet & American Life Project discusses a trend of users taking a break from Facebook and social media.

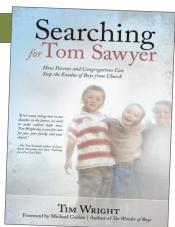
Recently published:

Searching for Tom Sawyer: How Parents and Congregations Can Stop the Exodus of Boys from Church, by Tim Wright. WestBow Press, 2013 (Amazon.com, http://goo.gl/3tQ8R) The story of boys—lost in the twenty-first Century:

- 70% of all D and F grades go to boys.
- 85% of stimulant-addressing medications prescribed in the world are prescribed to US boys.
- Boys are falling behind girls in virtually every area of life.

• 70-90% of boys will leave the church in their teens and early twenties.

Searching for Tom Sawyer offers parents and church leaders a compelling vision and practical principles for how—together—they can change this storyline by forging boys into heroic men of faith.



Lifelong Faith (www.LifeLongFaith.com)

Lifelong Faith is the online presence of John Roberto and Lifelong Faith Associates. All of the concepts and resources presented on this site deal with helping congregations develop faith formation practices that are engaging for this next generation.

On a lighter note:

The Art of Manliness (www.ArtofManliness.com)

This Web site is an entertaining and practical site for men's issues. As a secular site, it ranges from advice on how to tie a tie, to how to throw a perfect football spiral, to the top 100 manly sandwiches. Very little of the content is from a faith-based perspective, but it is a site that entertains with good clean fun.



Recently the three women who have served Lutheran Men in Mission as Administrative Assistants over the past twenty-five years gathered for lunch with Executive Director Doug Haugen. From left to right: Emma Harbin (1989-1991), Ruth Larson (1991-2001), and Kimberley Moseley-Cannon (2001-present). We thank these talented, faithful women for the role they have played in the growth of Lutheran Men in Mission!

Lutheran Men in Mission online!

www.lutheranmeninmission.org
Follow and join the conversations on these
Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) channels:



YouTube at www.youtube.com/user/ LutheranMenInMission



Twitter at @LutheranMen



Facebook at www.facebook.com/#!/pages/ Lutheran-Men-In-Mission/278139958521