

Lutheran
Building
Men in
Men for
Mission
Christ

foundations

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

GUYS, GUTS & GOD'S GLORY

A Different Kind of Men's Gathering

Sometimes you just need a message that cuts to the chase or is in your face.

You know, like the theme of this coming summer's Lutheran Men's Gathering in Nashville—Guys, Guts & God's Glory.

It's not your everyday church conference or program theme! Guys, Guts & God's Glory breaks through the noise, busyness and complexity of our daily lives to simply let us know something special is going to happen—something that may shake us up and send us home different (in a positive way).

"It takes courage (guts) to yield yourself to God, to connect with other Christian men and be open to where that leads you in your life. We expect what happens at the gathering will change and equip men to change their worlds," said Doug Haugen, Executive Director for Lutheran Men in Mission.

LMM board and working on the planning for the gathering program also describes it as a life changing and transforming experience for men and congregations. "We want every man to encounter God and other guys, and we hope it touches them deeply. This event is for individuals who want to grow, those that are new and those who have been around for a while. It's for friends, partners, men from the same church and men who will gather together and make a new community."

It's clear that his expectations are high and enthusiasm spilling over for the gathering when Lawrence states, "They will come back to their homes and congregations excited, changed and on fire for God. We are excited about the dynamic speakers and presenters who are not new to men's ministry, and we are asking God for some

fresh water from these wells."

While the program is still taking shape, there are already some familiar leaders in the program lineup that have inspired and fired up men during previous gatherings—Jay Gamelin who is discipling men in North Carolina; Lawrence Clark, pastor of St. Mark Lutheran Church in Chicago; pastor and author Tim Wright; and Peter Mayer, rock musician and a Lutheran Men's Gathering regular.

Men are going to play, serve, grow and celebrate being God's men. And it will be

more than a mountaintop experience—men will take the mountain home with them.

Faith deepening

Lutheran Men in Mission's vision is for every man to become a bold, daring follower of Jesus Christ. Time after time, Doug hears that this starts or is deepened at the gatherings.

For Doug, the Lutheran Men's Gathering is much more than an event to gather



Jay Gamelin shares a dramatic presentation at the 2011 Gathering.



Lawrence Clark preached a stirring sermon at the opening worship of the 2011 Lutheran Men's Gathering.

a bunch of guys together or collection of workshops. "Part of my personal mission statement is to create safe places for men to surrender their lives to Jesus Christ and become a part of a spiritual revolution serving their family, church and community. That's what we intend to happen here."

This is something you don't want to miss! Go to the LMM website at lutheranmeninmission.org to learn more about the 2014 Lutheran Men's Gathering in Nashville, and be sure to keep an eye open for the next issue of *foundations*.

Life changing

Pastor Lawrence Clark, a member of the

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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LUTHERAN
MEN IN MISSION®

From the Executive Director

*"Keep alert, stand firm in your faith,
be courageous, be strong.
Let all that you do be done in love."*

1 Corinthians 16:13-14 (NRSV)



The great thing about community

I'm getting together tonight with some of my pallbearers.

These are a number of the guys that carry me through this life and, who knows, may carry me when I'm gone.

This isn't a meeting that's in the church bulletin even though these relationships took root at a men's retreat. This isn't a "small group" or Bible study, though the follow-up we did from the retreat included that, and I would be surprised if Scripture did not come up tonight. It will include good food, teasing and laughter, but eventually we will look at each other and share what is going on in our lives -- the good, the bad and the ugly. We'll encourage, we'll pray and we'll leave relieved and at peace knowing that our buddies are happy for the good in our lives and with us in the struggles -- and keeping their mouths shut about what we don't want shared. Our next meeting will be at a time we are all free, or when one of us is in great need.

My buddy Bruce does not know these guys, but he sure knows me... sometimes so well it's scary. Fun and laughter have always been a part of our relationship, but then we get down to serious stuff like our questions, doubts and our personal faith and how we are living it out. When Bruce looks me in the eye and affirms me, I feel strengthened to do anything. When he says, "you need to..." well, he's never been wrong. I will never forget the day he threw down a business card over lunch and said, "This guy would like to talk to you about the men's ministry job, and I think you should talk to him." That was over twenty-one years ago, and I still do well when I listen to him -- he knows me that well.

When I go to our Gatherings I am energized, yes, by the large crowd, powerful speakers and by the incredible musicians. I am encouraged by informative break-out sessions and transported by the wonderful worship. But it's relationships with guys I already know and the guys I meet for the first time that are the most rewarding and have the greatest lasting effect. And many men I know as personal friends today are those I first met at a large event.

Part of my personal mission statement is to create safe places for men to surrender their lives to Jesus Christ and become a part of a spiritual revolution, serving their family, church and community. That's a big part of our thinking as we prepare for the 2014 Lutheran Men's Gathering "Guys, Guts and God's Glory."

My friends -- and yours -- Larry Clark, Peter Mayer and Jay Gamelin are among those not only leading the event next summer, but also helping to plan it. If you've been with us before, you know this is going to be an exciting time when you will draw close to God, those you attend with and new friends. If you have not been with us before -- hang on -- your life is going to change by God's Spirit working through the people you encounter.

The theme verses from the Gathering call us to be alert, stand firm in faith, be courageous, be strong and do all that we do in love. We can't do that without deep personal connections, small groups of friends cheering us on and the inspiration we receive from being a part of the larger community. Come join us in Nashville!

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

WHAT'S "AUTHENTIC COMMUNITY?"

During a conversation in recent weeks, someone asked a group of guys who had gathered to define "community." Several guys stammered out the textbook answers of people who live nearby, or people who have common interests or who do stuff together. Then there was the churchy answer of people who are following God and doing life together. At this point, something shiny distracted the group and the question never really got answered. However, the question remains of what is community?

The word "community" has been overused in the North American church the last 20 years. Churches of all stripes advertise to the church and unchurched about why community is so important, and why their particular church is the place that you should come and belong. Too often, community is equated to people getting together and doing common things or liking similar worship styles or activities for just a few hours each week. This is all true, but there are deeper waters that need to be explored.

12 guys following Jesus

Twelve guys spent a couple years living and walking alongside Jesus. There were arguments, mood swings, laughter and plenty of epiphany moments. The foundation of that community was that each man was truly known by Jesus and each other. Dreams, fears, frustrations, health and relationship struggles and joys were all shared. There was encouragement and faithful rebuking that emerged from a foundation of grace.

Prayers for Men

Lord, fill my emptiness with your presence,
Replace my desires and my will with your holy passion, with your will,
And let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
Be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

"Bond of Brothers: Connecting With Other Men beyond Work, Weather, and Sports," by Wes Yoder. Zondervan, 2010.



Is community of this kind present in the lives of most Christian men? Various and competing statistics exist in the Christian ecosphere about the average American guy having 0.8 authentic male friends, and how Millennials are the most connected, but least known generation. If only a portion of these statistics are true, it's likely that men of all ages in our churches have never experienced the authentic community we see in the New Testament.

Living and walking it

When we invite men into authentic community using tools such as the I-GO model, what kind of community are we modeling? This isn't something that we can fix overnight. If we are trying to show men what authentic community means and we aren't living

it ourselves, it's tough to walk with men to get there. Maybe that's our challenge for this season. Find men who desire authentic community and go there with them. People will notice the difference.

Now go be guys that live out authentic community! Us young guys will see that community modeled and desire to participate with you and replicate that community in our circles as well.



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, Iowa, he serves as a Young Men's Specialist with Lutheran Men in Mission.

God uses flawed men to accomplish his purposes.

I am a flawed man.

I am a man in process.

God is using me now and will continue to use me in the future to accomplish what he desires.

I am not perfect, but I am available.

Come, O God, and transform my heart.

"Transformation of a Man's Heart," edited by Stephen W. Smith. IVP Connect, 2006.



Tee-it-Up football kick (left). MiM President Rick Anger fills the 'Walking Wet' tubs ... while Captain Ohsiek strategizes with teammate (middle). A veteran golfer ponders, "How could I miss it that bad?" Duffers didn't do so well in the chipping contest (right).

Tennessee congregation holds first "Come to the Water" fund

The Men in Mission of Saint Paul Lutheran Church in Maryville, Tenn., were the first to host a "Come to the Water" fundraiser this past September 2013. The day-long event helped raise support and awareness for Lutheridge, an ELCA affiliated camp and conference center in Arden, N.C.

"It was a wonderful event. In fellowship, play and discipleship we showed what it means to live 'walking wet.'" said Rick Ohsiek, pastor of Saint Paul.

The men of the church, assisted by the congregation, raised \$3,202 through friendly competition between six very competitive teams of men and youth ranging from age 4 to 89.

"Come to the Water" is a new nationwide initiative of Lutheran Men in Mission that encourages congregations and men's ministries to raise support and awareness for their local camp, retreat center or outdoor ministries. ELCA outdoor ministries have a significant impact and role in the faith and leadership development of children, youth and men across the country. Hosting "Come to the Water" events is way to offer support for their ministries and to demonstrate the gratefulness of men for

the positive influence outdoor ministries has had -- and continues to have -- in their lives.

Larry Moeller, coordinator for St. Paul's event, remarked, "This was an excellent opportunity for Lutheran men to come together and deliver an event that directly impacts Lutheridge ministries in a very positive way." He also said, "We sure learned enough to lay a great foundation for next year."

Outdoor ministries often take place near lakes, streams, rivers or beaches. To take advantage of the congregation's setting and facilities, Saint Paul's men's group decided to bring the water to the church. Some of the events centered on water and competitors often got wet. Getting wet splashing in the water reminded them of how they came to the waters of baptism and how those baptismal waters unite us across all generations -- young and old.

Clayton Narveson, the oldest competitor at age 89, commented, "Today the muscles were working a little slow, but it was a fun, happy day."

Learn more about planning and hosting a "Come to the Water" event in your area at lutheranmeninmission.org.

Let's thrive.  **Thrivent Financial for Lutherans®**

Thrivent Choice Dollars: An easy way to support LMM's ministry

Thrivent Choice, the charitable grant program from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, continues to be a welcome funding source for Lutheran Men in Mission.

If you are a member of Thrivent Financial, you likely are aware of this easy, convenient way to help support what matters most to you. The Thrivent Choice program offers two ways for you to recommend where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable grant funds each year.

The first is through Voting Events, which are held one to two times a year. During these Voting Events, all members age 16 and older can recommend how Thrivent Financial distributes a set amount of charitable grant funds among a short list of

national organizations. The second way is the opportunity for eligible benefit members to direct their designated Choice Dollars to support Lutheran Men in Mission.

If you are eligible to participate in Choice Dollars, or are uncertain about your eligibility, visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice. Or contact your local Thrivent Financial representative.

You can direct Choice Dollars that were designated to you in 2013 until **March 31, 2014**.

Directing Choice Dollars and voting in Voting Events are subject to the terms and conditions of the Thrivent Choice Program. Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice for complete terms and conditions.

The ministry of Lutheran Men in Mission continues dynamic growth 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, the overwhelming financial support of you in our network. Listed below are the donors who contributed \$250 or more as of December 15, 2013. All donors who contributed through our fiscal year (ending January 31) will be listed in our next edition. Please refer any additions/corrections to this list to Kimberley Moseley Cannon at Kimberley.Moseley@elca.org, or 800-638-3522, ext. 2595.

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Registration for:
Guys, Guts & God's Glory
Lutheran Men's Gathering

Nashville - July 18-20, 2014

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Buy experiences

Tomorrow morning at 6 a.m. my wife and I leave for Dulles Airport to catch our 8 a.m. flight to Orlando and the start of a one week vacation at Disney World with our daughter, her husband and most importantly, our two granddaughters ages seven and four. We did a similar vacation three years ago and had a fantastic time. It reminded me of our very first trip to Disney World in 1983 when we were returning from our three year exodus in Venezuela, courtesy of Exxon. For that trip, my parents flew down from Boston and spent a week with us and their two granddaughters (my kids) who were nine and six. I can still see my dad laughing as he went on ride after ride with the kids -- a great memory, even 30 years later!

My Sunday morning routine is to attend early worship, participate in the adult class and then go home and read The Washington Post newspaper back to front, section-by-section starting with the Finance section. My favorite columnist is Michelle Singletary. She writes a mean column called, "The Color of Money." About one month ago she had a wonderful column recommending that people buy experiences rather than stuff. Her view is that experiences last a lifetime while stuff takes up space and ultimately just gets thrown out.

I have thought a lot about this and I agree with her. That trip to Disney World 30 years ago is but one example for me. I vividly remember my first trip to Fenway Park in May of 1954 with my dad and his friend Jim, and my first visit to Boston Garden in 1956 with Uncle Hank to see the Bruins. I love to travel and think often of my first trips to London, Paris or Oslo. Then there was 2012 when we went to Sweden to see the land of my maternal



grandparents and Chris' great-grandparents. In 2013 we went to southern Germany and Austria on a "Sound of Music" tour to broaden my knowledge of classical music (Chris is a classical violinist). All of these and many, many more were great experiences and memories that will last a lifetime.

Last August I had a different but also awesome experience. My son-in-law Chad and I did a six-day man vacation to the West. We started and ended in Reno. We visited Yosemite National Park and Sutter's Mill gold discovery

site, but most important, we attended the LMM High, Wide and Deep retreat in Tahoe City, Calif. We had a wonderful experience together with great memories for both of us. We are now talking about another experience together and I am thinking about a similar "guy only" trip with my other son-in-law.

So I ask you, "What great experiences have you had?" When were they and who were you with? Next July, LMM will hold our triennial Gathering in Nashville, Tenn. Here is a wonderful opportunity to have a great experience with other men in your life, be they your boys, your dad, your granddad, an uncle or just a couple of your guy friends. It will be a great time -- it always is -- and a golden opportunity to have some time with other guys. I plan to be there and I hope to see you there as well. And remember: **Buy experiences, not stuff. You'll be glad that you did!**

Yours servant in Christ,
Rich White, President
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Guys, Guts & God's Glory

LUTHERAN MEN'S GATHERING

Nashville - July 18-20, 2014 - Loews Vanderbilt Hotel

Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong.

1 Corinthians 16:13- (NRSV)



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2014 LMM Events

Go to lutheranmeninmission.org for updated events,
program information and registration details, or to submit
Lutheran Men in Mission events.

One Year to Live Retreats

February 21-23

Feliciano Retreat Center
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February 28-March 2

Lutherhill Camp
La Grange, Texas

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March 21-23

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2014 Lutheran Men's Gathering: Guys, Guts & God's Glory
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