

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 Bob Dylan mural in Minneapolis, Dylan's birthplace.

## Get ready for a BOLD Gathering in 2017!

What's on your schedule for next July? We're hoping you already have the Lutheran Men in Mission's Triennial Gathering entered in your calendar. The dates are set for July 21-23, 2017. For months now, we've had a crew of men thinking and praying about this event. They were gathered for their passion and drive so that this experience will energize and transform you for a life of faith and discipling.

With the help of Jay Gamelin, we started our planning by looking at how we're going to reference this gathering for years to come. We wanted a name that could be used on a continuous basis into the future, but would also have a tagline that would change with each gathering. So, for 2017 we are kicking off the **BOLD Gathering!** It's simple, confident, strong and lends itself for great, memorable branding. The tagline comes straight from our LMM mission statement – we are creating bold, and daring followers of Jesus Christ.

### Sharing a taste of the gathering program

Jay passed the torch to a good friend of his, Lorne Hlad. Lorne took the tagline and did a "taster event" in Columbia, S.C., last April. In

front of a group of men, he discussed what it meant to be bold and daring. We wanted to explore if our approach to "bold and daring" was being directed by a societal definition of the words or by the example of Jesus? The responses and interactions were recorded and are meant to be shown in different venues around the country so that we can give you a "taste" of what will be offered at the Gathering.

Lorne also has a compelling personal story that he shares during the presentation. He talks about an experience he had in Iraq while serving in the military, an experience that helped lead him to respond to God's calling for him to share the gospel and become an ELCA pastor. He now serves as a pastor at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Loveland, Ohio.

### A planning team of many gifts, voices and life experiences

With Lorne leading the charge, he and a great group of men make up the BOLD Gathering planning team. Alex Hoops is a friend of Lorne's, and they do a podcast together. They are possibly going to do some live recording at the event. Dominic (Dom) Christofilis who

*(continued on page 4)*

This newsletter is sent to all who contribute to the ministry of Lutheran Men in Mission. Past issues of *foundations* are archived at [lutheranmeninmission.org](http://lutheranmeninmission.org).

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

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

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

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**Rod Boriack**  
*foundations* editor/writer



Peter Mayer (right) plays guitar with Judson Merrill (left) and Peder Johanson (center) at a 2004 LMM sponsored event for young men. Judson now serves as pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Gilbert, S.C., and Peder serves as pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Brodhead, Wisc., and serves on the ELCA Church Council.

The great personal blessing I have experienced over the years in this position is the friendships that have grown. I count many of you among those friends. One of those friends is Tim Frakes, former producer of the ELCA's Mosaic video magazine. Tim has done much video work for us over the years. One day, after shooting a story for Mosaic, Tim called me and said, "There is someone you should meet, and I think you should ask him to be at some of your events."

The guy was Peter Mayer. Peter plays lead guitar for Jimmy Buffett. When he's not recording with Buffett and touring the United States and Europe performing for thousands of fans, he records his own music and tours with friends and family.

When I first connected with Peter I found a very humble, open guy who immediately became a friend. Play for Lutheran Men in Mission? Well, yes, he had some misgivings. I mean, after all, he is an accomplished, well-known rock guitarist.



Several months before he first played for Lutheran Men in Mission, he was in Chicago with Jimmy Buffett on the same weekend we had an LMM board meeting. On an evening off, he grabbed his guitar and took a half-hour cab ride to share an evening with us. We had dinner, then it was back to the hotel to be treated to some music. He had played for 20,000 people the night before and would perform again the next night. When the 20 of us gathered, he asked what we wanted to hear; we encouraged him to play what he wanted to play.

To our surprise, we did not hear "Margaretville" or other iconic Jimmy Buffet songs, instead we heard some of the most inspirational, Christ-centered music I have ever heard. This was music that Peter had written through the years based on his experiences in his walk with God, but had never recorded. We encouraged him to record some of these songs, and "Stars and Promises" was released at our gathering in San Antonio. Peter would say that his connection to LMM has encouraged him to take the faith dimension in his music further.

I'm writing this as a way to introduce you to Peter as one of the members of the Bold Gathering planning team. When we ask Peter to be with us the answer is always, "I'll be there unless Jimmy has me on tour." While we are waiting for the 2017 tour schedule to come out, Peter continues to share his input and to work on planning the event for next year.

Peter and I have been in each other's homes. We know each other's family. We have shared some of our deepest concerns and dreams. As I and my wife Doris struggled through her breast cancer over the past year, Peter has been there for us. I am pleased to have a man like Peter be a part of planning the 2017 Lutheran Men's Gathering, an event that will impact the life of every man that attends.

Doug Haugen, Executive Director / Lutheran Men in Mission  
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### 10 things to do to get ready for the BOLD Gathering

1. Block your calendars for July 21-23, 2017.
2. Give your spouse or significant other a heads-up – right now!
3. Begin recruiting a crew of guys and young men to go with you to Minneapolis.
4. Get information into the hands of all the guys you know.
5. Google “Minneapolis” if you have no idea where it is.
6. Submit your vacation days at work or plead for some extra days.
7. Put on some Prince or Bob Dylan music, listen to a Prairie Home Companion show or watch a Coen Brothers movie to get in the mood.
8. Pray for the BOLD Gathering planning.
9. Visit the Gathering page frequently at [lutheranmeninmission.org](http://lutheranmeninmission.org).
10. Oh yeah, register!



### The LMM newsletter is changing and evolving!

You may have already noticed that changes are beginning to happen with how *foundations*, the quarterly newsletter of Lutheran Men in Mission, is being distributed.

There will be four issues published each year, but two issues will be printed and mailed to current, active donors, and two will be posted on-line (and not mailed) at [lutheranmeninmission.org](http://lutheranmeninmission.org). And, as you may have already experienced, there will be more content and news items coming your way through brief e-mail blasts. If you would like to receive regular updates, please go to the bottom of our web page and sign up.

Downloadable (PDF format) back issues of the *foundations* newsletters can be found archived at [lutheranmeninmission.org](http://lutheranmeninmission.org) under “Resources.” Sharing the newsletter as an attached PDF file or the link by email is an easy way of getting information about LMM and men’s ministry into the hands of men in your congregation, their friends and your local leaders.

### Additional copies of this fall 2016 issue of *foundations*

This fall issue is all about getting ready and excited about the upcoming 2017 Lutheran Men’s Gathering in Minneapolis – the BOLD Gathering. If you’d like additional print copies of this issue sent to you to share and help generate interest among your local men, please contact Kimberley Moseley-Cannon at [kimlutheranmeninmission.org](mailto:kimlutheranmeninmission.org) or 1-800-638-3522, ext., 2595. We’re happy to send you additional copies of this issue for as long as our supply holds out.

# Giving because it makes a difference – a big difference

Lutheran Men in Mission is an intentional, purposeful ministry that invites and encourages men to live out faith and service in a variety of ways, and some of those opportunities include monetary gifts.

You don’t have to be a millionaire to give a planned gift, but you do need to have a plan that will provide for your loved ones and the charities you hold closest to your heart.

As a development officer for many years, I know that estate planning is well worth the time and thought, as it secures and honors your wishes for planned gifts. Here are some examples, known as revocable end of life gifts, on how you might provide for your family and also support the charities and causes you care about, including Lutheran Men in Mission:

1. Bequest through a will or living trust
2. Annuity (beneficiary designation)
3. IRA (beneficiary designation)
4. Life insurance policy (beneficiary designation)
5. Bank/investment account (payable upon death)

Your support of this ministry is always greatly appreciated and has a far-reaching impact in the lives of men across the country. Your gift not only ensures our commitment to ministry, but also continues our long-term goal of “building men for Christ.”

Please consider the importance of estate planning as you consider charitable gifts. I would welcome the opportunity to talk with you further about opportunities for giving to Lutheran Men in Mission; please call or text me at 828-612-3902, or email me at [Dale.Nettnin@lutheranmeninmission.org](mailto:Dale.Nettnin@lutheranmeninmission.org).

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to this faith and service ministry for Lutheran men across the country!

Dale Nettin, Director of Development  
Lutheran Men in Mission

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**Lorne Hlad, planning team leader  
for the BOLD Gathering.**

*(continued from cover)*

is a young adult residing in Oshkosh, Wisc., has a history of serving in outdoor ministry, and is now his congregation's youth coordinator. All three of these individuals are new faces to LMM. Their fresh ideas and new insights make these men great additions to the team.

In addition, Louis Tillman lends his voice to the team. For the past year, Louis has served as the pastoral intern at Redeemer Lutheran Church in the Harrison neighborhood of North Minneapolis. He has given us some insights and ideas for services projects and experiences that might be available. Musician Peter Mayer also serves on the team and is a familiar guy who has been with us for many LMM Gatherings. His artistic mind has brought a certain level of creativity to the team. Peter is hoping to join us in Minneapolis and perform for us, but it depends on his tour schedule with Jimmy Buffett.

### **Speakers who will stir up your faith and your ideas about ministry**

Through our speakers, we are planning to cover three areas, Up, In and Out: How is our relationship with God, with one another and with the greater community? The first speaker is John Armstrong. John has worked decades promoting and advocating a stronger relationship between Protestants and Catholics. John is also author of the book, "Your Church Is Too Small: Why Unity in Christ's Mission Is Vital to the Future of the Church."



**Robert Brown, speaker.**

Jacqueline Bussie, who teaches religion and theology at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minn., and author of "Outlaw Christian: Finding Authentic Faith by Breaking the 'Rules'" will also be speaking and spending time with us.

The third speaker for our program will be Robert Brown from Louisiana. He is a pastor recommended to us by the United Methodist Men, and known for his devotion and service beyond the walls of the church. "We take the church to them" is the approach they use in their IMPACT ministry with those who live in poverty or are homeless.

### **Mark your calendars and watch for more info**

There are still lots of elements to the BOLD Gathering that are being worked out, but it's looking great! **Workshops** will be lined up; **service** projects will be set up allowing everyone to participate and make a difference in the name of Christ; and **worship** arrangements are being made to help connect us with God and re-center ourselves as we continue our personal and shared callings and vocations.

Registration will soon be up and running on our BOLD Gathering web page. More information will be added and posted online as it is finalized. Keep an eye on your email and online at [lutheranmeninmission.org](http://lutheranmeninmission.org).

Come spend some time with your brothers in Christ – of all ages – in Minneapolis next summer as we grow as bold and daring followers of Jesus Christ. Discover the excitement and importance of being a man of faith in today's world.

## **LMM Events**

Go to  
[lutheranmeninmission.org](http://lutheranmeninmission.org)  
for updated events, program  
information and registration  
details, or to submit LMM  
related events to be posted.

### **2016**

#### **Building Men for Christ Workshops**

Nov. 12  
Ascension Lutheran Church  
Deer Park, N.Y.

### **2017**

#### **One Year to Live Retreats**

March 10-12, 2017  
Feliciana Retreat Center  
Norwood, La.

#### **2017 Lutheran Men's Gathering**

July 21-23, 2017  
(LMM Assembly business  
meeting: July 20-21)  
Minneapolis, Minn.



### **Join us at a One Year to Live retreat**

Men of all ages yearn for real  
friendships and a closer  
relationship with Christ, and  
One Year to Live retreats are  
where you can experience  
both. It's a 45-hour retreat for  
men where you can be:

- Adventurous and courageous
- Genuine and spiritual

And look forward to:

- Banding together and being challenged
- Examining your life and making decisions

Learn more under "Events" at  
[lutheranmeninmission.org](http://lutheranmeninmission.org).

Lutheran Men in Mission continues to grow thanks to the creative, dedicated and generous work of our donors, volunteer leadership, board and staff. Your generous gifts, and God's grace, enable us to support, equip and encourage ministry with men of all ages across the country. Listed below are the donors who have contributed through September 20, 2016. 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. Thank you for your generous support and prayers!



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(\$20,000+)

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



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## The lessons learned from hiking and crossing streams together

How powerful is an invitation? With a simple invite, we had six men come together from all parts of the country. We met in Colorado to hike around 10,000 – 12,000 feet above sea level in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, and do a little white water rafting. We weren't sure what the end results would be for this event, but we showed up eager for the adventure.

Our ages ranged from 20 to 79. That's an age difference of 59 years! The youngest man was one of our guides. He was always upbeat and optimistic; I look back to photos of him and his huge smile. Some of my favorite photos include him during our four days of hiking and crossing streams. The youngest man in our crew would stand either on the edge or in the middle on the rocks and assist everyone else as we crossed the streams. I will never forget the image of him extending his hand to the oldest man, and inviting him to take a hold, trusting that the young guide was there to assist him with the challenge of crossing from one secure stream bank to another. Isn't that what we are called to do as disciples every single day?

As we got to know each other, we had deeper and more detailed conversations. Word games and devotions scratched the surface, but we soon invited the each other into more trusting, in depth dialogues. What do you want to study and why? You're looking for

a new job; where do your skills and passions overlap? You are no longer married; how does that change your identity? A couple of us knew each other prior to this high adventure backpacking trip, but we didn't know the other five men. With growth, trust and even a level of vulnerability, I was able to learn so much about them and myself.

Lutheran Men in Mission has a history of invitation. In the book, "Coming of Age," the I-Go Model was presented to us. Three "I's" stand for Identify, Invite and Invest. It seems so simple and easy to invite someone, but why do we hesitate? How do we make this more natural and men's ministry more welcoming?

If there is enough interest, Lutheran Men in Mission would love to do something like this wilderness hiking trip again, and offer a variety of activities across the country. I invite you to have a conversation with us about what you may want to do. Tell us about some great experiences your group has had in the past. Let's be proactive in reaching more men by inviting them into our lives, ministry and experiences.

Kevin Burke, Discipling Consultant  
Lutheran Men in Mission  
[kevin@lutheranmeninmission.org](mailto:kevin@lutheranmeninmission.org)



# A time for change

Fall is a time when we experience change – daylight gets shorter, the leaves drop from the trees and the temperature gets colder. It is also a time when we start to think about what we have accomplished during the year and what changes we want to see during the upcoming year.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) both came into being in 1988. It has been 28 years since those milestone events and a lot of things have changed in the way we live and function compared to back then. Cell phones or smart phones are now used by everybody – including kids in grade school, and we all make use of the internet browsing and accessing websites every day to conduct business, read the news or shop, and we use social media platforms to stay connected with our friends around the world.

LMM has changed significantly since 1988 as well. We have evolved from a ministry with two people devoting 50% of their time to it to three people working full-time and two others employed part-time. We've moved from a unit of the ELCA to a separately incorporated 501(c)(3) nonprofit ministry relating to the ELCA. We've distributed 60,000+ Bibles and have had 1,100 men attend One Year to Live retreats across the U.S. But the one thing we have not changed is how we govern ourselves as an organization.

After much soul searching and discussion within the LMM Leadership Team and with an outside consultant, we have determined that we need to change the makeup of the LMM Board and the way that board members and officers are elected. At our April board meeting we met with Jim LaDoux of Vibrant Faith Ministries as our consultant. Vibrant Faith went through a similar discernment process about five years ago as they transitioned from the Youth and Family Institute to Vibrant Faith Ministries.

Since then, the Executive Committee has spent considerable time

discussing potential approaches, and our thoughts are coalescing. While it is too early to share details, I do want to make everyone aware of what we are planning. Making these changes will require significant changes to the bylaws of Lutheran Men in Mission, and

such changes must be approved by a 2/3 majority vote of delegates attending an LMM Triennial Assembly. **The next Assembly will be July 20-21, 2017, preceding the Lutheran Men's Gathering in Minneapolis (July 21-23).**

We expect to bring a motion from the LMM Board to the LMM Assembly delegates to make significant changes to our governance. Here is your opportunity to be involved with others in determining the structure of LMM and ultimately the future of our ministry with men. Each synod is permitted to send six men to the Assembly as voting delegates, so please consider becoming one of those delegates.

Through all these changes one thing will remain constant though, that is our dedication to our vision that "all men become bold, daring followers of Jesus Christ."

Your servant in Christ,  
Rich White, President

[rich.white@lutheranmeninmission.org](mailto:rich.white@lutheranmeninmission.org)



## Lutheran Men in Mission Heritage Society

These members of the Lutheran Men in Mission Heritage Society 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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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
8765 West Higgins Road / Chicago, IL 60631  
[lutheranmeninmission.org](http://lutheranmeninmission.org)



## BOLD GATHERING

Minneapolis, Minnesota  
July 21-23, 2017

- It's a gathering for men of all ages. Start inviting and recruiting guys and young men to attend with you.
  - Experience workshops, worship, speakers, service projects, networking, music and more.
  - The Lutheran Men in Mission Assembly is July 20-21.
  - Watch for details and registration at [BoldGathering.com](http://BoldGathering.com).
- See you in Minneapolis!

Port Authority Performance Polo  
**\$30**  
ex. Dark Grey

Trucker Hat  
**\$15**  
ex. Black/White

Port Authority Barbeque Apron  
**\$20**  
ex. Khaki

Port Authority Stretch Pique Polo  
**\$30**  
ex. Moonlight Blue

Gildan Cotton Short Sleeve Tshirt  
**\$15**  
ex. Cherry Red

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