

Lutheran Men in Mission – Region 9 Report  
July 14, 2017

*Our Vision: For every man to become a bold, daring follower of Jesus Christ.*

I would like to express my appreciation for the dedication and work that has been done on behalf of men's ministries in Region 9. We have men dedicated to take charge and lead retreats, visit congregations and support men's groups throughout the region. The following is a summary of ministry and activities taken place since our Gathering in Nashville.

I've had opportunities to attend conference meetings in the NC Synod. Themes for the meetings include hobbies, cars, boats and tractors. The men also participate in a corn-hole competition. Programs include local community endeavors such as Habitat for Humanity. LMM groups participate in building the homes. I've had the opportunity to share information on national LMM activities such as OYTL, HW&D, Come to the Water and Building Men for Christ retreats/workshops.

Throughout Region 9 there are many stories of ministry, local soup kitchens, mattress ministries, building and facilities maintenance, fellowship trip retreats. Unique new ministries are being organized that are intergenerational such as "Tavern and Theology", "Brews, Brats and Buds" and "Hymns and Brews".

The SCLMM hosted several activities at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary (LTSS). LMM fed 450 students, faculty and their children in 9 days during J Term of 2014. SCLMM also had 12 days of free meals in January 2015. A brief program on men's ministries followed the meals. Individual LMM groups from as far away as Greenville and Myrtle Beach drive in to donate their time, food and gifts. Thank you SCLMM for this great ministry to our seminarians and their families.

The Men in Mission of St. Paul Lutheran, Maryville, TN and the men of East Tennessee (St. Paul/Maryville, Messiah/ Knoxville, Faith/Farragut, and Shepherd

of the Hills/ Loudon) sponsor an annual “Come to the Water” fundraiser for NovusWay Outdoor Ministries. This is a fun day for family, friends and neighbors. Over the last three years, Come to the Water has been a blessing to NovusWay Ministries through its annual fund raiser. Beginning this year, though, the focus has shifted. From now on, funds raised through Come to the Water in east Tennessee will be used only for camperships to send kids to camp. Kids who otherwise would never have a chance to experience the life-changing impact of a Christian camp such as, Lutheridge, Lutherock, Lutheranch, or Luther Springs.

The Charlotte (NC) Area Lutheran Men host an annual Chicken and Corn Roast. This event normally averages over 150 in attendance. The program includes a delicious dinner and keynote speakers have included Rev. Dr. Tim Smith, Bishop, NC Synod and other noted leaders in the church and the Charlotte community.

On February 4, 2016 I attended a Vibrant Faith Seminar on Intergenerational Ministry at Meyers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte NC.

Over the past three years the men of SCLMM and NCLMM have hosted several OYTL Retreats. It is great to have leaders come together and sponsor this great ministry. I’ve had the opportunity to serve on staff at the retreats several times and it’s always a blessing to me in my journey of faith.

SCLMM hosted a OYTL Retreat in St. John’s, VI in October. Tim Crout, LMM Vice President and Frank Bouknight, SCLMM President, went to the VI’s in June, 2015 to do some workshops. Their trip planted a seed for ministry that continues to grow today.

SCLMM is a leader in offering unique activities for men of all ages with plans for a Climb on Ropes Course event, a Wild Game Supper, the Pee Dee Indian project and their annual Cliff Bourguignon Golf Tournament.

NC, SC and VA each host annual state gatherings. Each state supports ministries that are unique to their areas. I’ve had the opportunity to attend the state

gatherings and always look forward to visiting and renewing friendships and discovering the unique and various ministries going on in our region. The following gatherings were held in 2017.

The 74<sup>th</sup> annual gathering of SCLMM was held on February 18, 2017 at Shepherd of the Sea Lutheran Church in Garden City SC.

The 94<sup>th</sup> annual gathering of NCLMM was held at Grace Lutheran Church in Hendersonville NC.

The VALMM's annual gathering was held at the Roslyn Retreat Center, Richmond VA on April 22-23. This was a two-day event with a weekend of fellowship and inspirational programs.

I participated in the Men's Ministry Specialist candidate training. This has been a unique experience in my walk of faith and it was a proud moment for me to receive my certification.

A special thank you to the men of Region 9 for the support they have given LMM through prayers and personal involvement in men's ministry. As you can see, we walk together with other men and share our vision for every man to have a bold daring relationship with Jesus Christ.

God's Blessings, Terry Edwards  
LMM Region 9 Director