

foundations

Our vision is for all men to become bold and daring followers of Jesus Christ.

Meet John Sundquist, our new LMM Executive Director

Discipleship is mentoring one in faith, and walking beside them. It's in that role where you become the hands and feet of Christ, leading people to live that Christ-filled life.

By Vic Williams

On Feb. 8, Lutheran Men in Mission embarked on a new and exciting journey as its board of directors elected John Sundquist to succeed Executive Director Doug Haugen, who elected to retire on January 31 after 26 very fruitful and spirit-filled years.

John has held several senior-level positions in the nonprofit sector. He served as Great Plains Representative for American Baptist Foundation from 2009 to 2010, and most recently served for six years as the Director of Advancement and Spiritual Services for American Baptist Homes of the Midwest. As an ordained American Baptist pastor, John was a senior pastor and former youth director in five congregations in three midwestern states from 1992 to 2008.

The son of a pastor, John grew up in Minnesota, Michigan and Ohio before moving to Chicago to attend college. He completed his undergraduate studies in 1990 at North Park University in Chicago and received his Master of Divinity degree from North Park Theological Seminary in 1994. Together with his



John Sundquist and his son, Emmett

wife of 27 years, Karen, and their son, Emmett, they currently live in Skokie, Illinois, where they are members of the Warrenville Community Church.

LMM Foundations editor Vic Williams caught up with John in mid-February, just after he toured the LMM offices and ELCA headquarters with Doug Haugen, who will stay on as a consultant during the organization's transition period.

Sundquist, continued on page 3



My Call to Ministry

At the beginning of my time in ministry, I shared the story of my call with a man in the church. Recalling the day while I was attending school in Sweden, God called me into ministry. Sitting on a hill above the town where I was studying, a lightbulb went off in my head. Here I was in a country that claimed to be 98 percent Christian and, in the morning, only about 12 percent of the population would attend Sunday services.

How similar the reality of the church in the United States was: even at the small Christian college I attended, was the percentage of Sunday attendees all that different?

In the middle of sharing my story, the man interrupted me, saying; "Pastor, don't you see? God is calling you to minister to the fallen." Looking back, I can see how prophetic his words were. During the first 16 years of my ministry, God kept calling me to communities of faith in crisis. Then, in His great wisdom, God called me to help nonprofits find new and creative solutions to meet the challenges of faith-based ministries in today's world.

I have reflected on this since I began the process of becoming the new executive director of LMM. There is a real crisis in our country — a dramatic lack of men who are bold, daring followers of Jesus Christ. LMM has filled a unique void in the American church, intentionally discipling and mentoring men through this extraordinary men's ministry like few others. In a real tangible way, all of you have been ministering to the fallen, transforming men into the living, breathing hands and feet of Christ.

As my tenure begins, I am excited by all that God has in store for LMM, but like all innovative, effective ministries, it takes more than a dedicated board and staff. It requires the prayers, support and service of a great cloud of witnesses. Join with me in:

- Committing to pray for LMM both in your home church and across the country
- Encourage and challenge the men and boys in your life to be all that God has called them to be
- Seek out and utilize the gifts God has blessed you with to intentionally disciple men, transforming them into naturally loving and serving men of God
- Reach out beyond your group and comfort zone to other men in your community, that you might impact each other and serve as the hands and feet of Christ to the world

Together we can be the catalyst that reclaims men in the name of Jesus Christ and for the sake of the Kingdom of God. Building a future where men are such bold, daring followers of Jesus Christ, living healthy lives full of healthy relationships, where everyone — men, women and children — are flourishing and safe. To quote my predecessor, Doug Haugen, "where the Body of Christ is having dynamic impact because men step forward and sacrificially serve with our sisters in Christ." Man by man, church by church, together we will fulfill our mission so that, "by God's grace, we intentionally disciple men by personally modeling the character of Jesus, living and leading a lifestyle intended to help transform them from having an inward focus to a culture of naturally loving and serving our neighbors."

In the Power of the Spirit, God Bless!

John Sundquist, Executive Director, Lutheran Men in Mission
john@lutheranmeninmission.org John.Sundquist@elca.org

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION

The *foundations* 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.

Our vision for *foundations* is that it be a source of personal spiritual growth, as well as a source of information for those involved in congregational men's ministries. Please contact us to share your stories of men's ministry that we can use in future issues, or to let us know what topics and issues you're interested in seeing featured in *foundations*.

Lutheran Men in Mission

8765 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631-4101
lutheranmeninmission.org
projecttwelve.net

John Sundquist

Executive Director
john@lutheranmeninmission.org
773-380-2566

Doug Haugen

Consultant
doug@lutheranmeninmission.org

Kevin Burke

Discipling Consultant
kevin@lutheranmeninmission.org
920-562-1411

Kyle Pedersen

Emerging Ministries Consultant
kyle@lutheranmeninmission.org

Vic Williams

foundations editor/writer

Kathryn Brewer

foundations designer

Sundquist, continued from page 1

How is it going so far?

It's going good. There's a little bit of a learning curve discovering the differences in terminology between my denominational background and the ELCA. But we are getting there.

How does your American Baptist background inform what you will bring to LMM and the ELCA?

I came from a different world. A lot of people are pastors' kids or missionaries' kids, but I was raised by a denominational leader, so the denomination life — whether it's the ELCA or the American Baptist Churches — is pretty much the same. The same players, the same kind of people, the same motivators. It's just a different language. So I'm going from a "Region" to a "Synod," from a General Secretary to a Presiding Bishop. But my entire life has been focused around mentoring and developing leaders within the different communities I've worked, whether it's in the church or more recently as a development officer — training development teams and chaplaincy staffs to reach their fullest potential as God has led them. I believe that

LMM is one of the few groups that actively pursues men's ministry programming as compared to just disaster relief and work projects.

has been a very good preparation for what I'll be doing in this role, in leading men to be bold and daring followers of Jesus Christ.

I'm helping Men in Mission discover new and innovative ways to lead the next the generation of leaders to embrace all that God has called them to.

What do you see as the chief challenges coming in?

One of them is the secularization of the America. The church is graying and it's harder to engage young people in traditional programming and ministries.

Another challenge is becoming technologically relevant — discovering new ways to reach new audiences. And there are some of the programmatic and systematic issues — finding consistent, sustainable revenue streams to power the ministry financially. Identifying new populations that we can reach out to and spread the word and work in which we are engaged.

That will all come in time. I believe there is a large untapped potential for the LMM going forward — not only within the Lutheran body, but in the greater church. There's been a serious lack, and has been for 50 years, in effective and engaged men's ministries. It's fallen by the wayside, and LMM is one of the few groups that actively pursues men's ministry programming as compared to just disaster relief and work projects.

My entire life has been focused around mentoring and developing leaders within the different communities I've worked, ... training development teams and chaplaincy staffs to reach their fullest potential as God has led them.

Yeah, the gutter needs fixing and the heater blew up.

We're really good at getting men engaged in physical repair, but we've not been very good in dealing with spiritual repair. LMM, in a very real way, has been on the cutting edge of that, and I'm looking forward to continuing that development and moving the programs and moving them into a more engaged and modern, culturally relevant position.

You're probably familiar with the One Year To Live Retreats that LMM spearheads. How do you see that kind of small group ministry — that's really based on one-on-one communication — is that the kind of thing you'd like to see more of?

It's definitely one of the places. I'll be participating in my first retreat the first week in May in North Carolina, to be able to experience it first-hand. But in my experience, the greatest learning, the greatest mentorship and discipleship, occurs when you gather in a small, individually focused setting, whether

Sundquist, continued on page 4



John Sundquist with his wife, Karen, and their son, Emmett

Sundquist, continued from page 3

that's in a retreat, a one-on-one mentorship role or in a longer-term mentorship situation. You can use the words "mentorship" and "discipleship," in many ways, synonymously. Discipleship is mentoring one in faith, and walking beside them. It's in that role where you become the hands and feet of Christ, leading people to live that Christ-filled life — to be bold, daring and engaging in word and deed in the world in which God has called you.

You mentioned the technological side. Project XII is gearing up. What are some of the avenues that LMM should pursue in the short term, digitally, to help spread the word?

One place they need to start — and it's something we're going to be working on over the next year — is freshening their web presence and social media presence so that is relevant today, and has more up-to-date, consistent content.

Another thing we're working on is an online portal where men can find mentors, and mentors can find mentorees. I'll be interested to see how that pans out — figure out the

best way to serve as a portal where you can join individuals together in a discipleship setting, where they can mentor each other in their faith and life. It's one of the pieces I'm most excited about, and will probably provide me the greatest challenge.

As a mentor yourself — it's been a big part of your personal, work and spiritual life — what big problems have you seen arise among men that really call for a lot of spiritual care and healing?

The one that comes to mind, and it's not just a problem among men, is the lack of commitment to faith — to the notion that you can get there from many different avenues, outside of Christ. Other areas that I think are more paramount in modern society, is how to be a man of character and standing without being masochistic or chauvinistic in your intent, and realize that true manhood is in the life you live, not necessarily in the judgment you pass.

Another is how to grow up to be a man, to move beyond the adolescent mindset and to that place where you take your life and responsibilities seriously, both as a man of faith, and in family, community and culture. How you fit in that spectrum, and how to

walk with your head held high as an example for those around you.

It seems that a lot of the media litany is that masculinity is under attack. Isn't it more that masculinity is due for a re-examination and recalibration of the whole man, not just for the guy who has to puff up his chest and strut around?

A large part of it is that as a society we have lost what it is to be a man. We've replaced being a man with being masculine. It's the machismo instead of being a man. The world I grew up in, being a man was more than just being the guy in the room. It was about stability and consistency and faithfulness. Your word meant something and your honesty was transparent, where when you committed, everyone knew that was it — you didn't need anything else. We live in a world where words don't mean much, and actions can be duplicitous. As a result we have young men being raised believing that, to be a man, you need to be a gangster. That's not what manhood is. Being a man is being someone of integrity, of having a true moral center. In our world, as men of faith, it's living a life that is Christ-like — to be bold and daring enough to say, "I am a man of faith, and as a man of faith, this is what I hold true."

Some guys live a Christ-like life almost without knowing it, because of the generation they were raised in, and the things they held dear and important. Perhaps there are some things from three or four decades ago that need to be brought back to the fore.

Most definitely. One of the adages we've had in our family is that your life literally goes, "you are a child of God, and you are a Sundquist — do not bring dishonor to either of them."

That was my grandmother's motto, and she raised four boys. My grandfather, who passed away in the sixties, lived his life so that everything he did was to bring glory to God and family. Everywhere he went, he didn't want to do things that would have said were "stupid" — that would cause people to question who you are and who your family is. We've tried to raise our son that way, told him the same thing ... we had to put it in a more modern vernacular to compete with rap and other social influences that impact every aspect of the "me" generation.

All you really have in this life is your word and your faith. Everything else will pass away. If you're bold and daring not only in your faith but in being a person of integrity, when your time comes you will be remembered, and your presence will carry on, and those you have impacted will share what they have learned. That's an adage that we've lost in our country over the last 35 or 40 years.

I look at those who are ten, twenty years younger than me and it's the oddity to find people who live a life of integrity, when they say, "this is what I'm gonna do," that's what they do. Where you can just sense by being with them, the power of the spirit that's at work in their life. We need to reclaim that, bring it back to the norm.

Coming into Lutheran Men In Mission from the American Baptist Church, how do you see your skill set helping LMM to grow and get its message out there?

I am the son of a pastor who is the son of a church planner, who was the son of a pastor. My great-grandmother and her sister were ordained ministers. All my grandparents were church planners. My father entered the ministry, I entered the ministry. I spent the first two-thirds of my career dealing with broken and damaged congregations and individuals — bringing healing and stability. Along the journey, God has impressed upon my heart that you bring people underneath you to help lift them up and show them how God intends for their lives to go. We've opened our home to young people, given them security and a sense of belonging.

As I join LMM, it's not a matter of being Baptist or Lutheran, Episcopalian or Presbyterian or Methodist — it's a matter of being a child of

God has impressed upon my heart that you bring people underneath you to help lift them up and show them how God intends for their lives to go.

God, and having the commitment of faith, and following Christ as we have been called to do. The core of it comes down to the call of Christ — to go out into the world, proclaim the Good News, "baptizing those who believe and teaching them all that I have bestowed upon you." Matthew 28:18-20, the Great Commission. It's that underlying call of ministry, or call of faith. I sometimes use the words interchangeably because I believe that each of us has been called into the world to minister in the way that God has called us.

As followers of Christ, we follow the same Lord, the same God, to the

Sundquist, continued on page 7

UPCOMING LMM EVENTS & programs



Upcoming One Year To Live Retreats in 2019

April 26-28	YMCA Camp Santa Maria, Grant, CO	Sept. 27-29	John Knox Camp, Knoxville, TN
March 15-17	Tracy's Camp, Pinewood, SC	Sept. 13-15	Mackenzie, WI
April 19-21	Camp Carol Joy Holling, Ashland, NE	Sept. 27-29	Nebraska (not Camp Carol Joy Holling)
April 26-28	Santa Maria, Grant, CO	Oct. 11-13	Camp Shaw, Mateno, IL
May 3-5	Lutheridge, Arden, NC		

Visit www.lutheranmeninmission.org/events/one-year-to-live/ for information



The Annual Meeting of Lutheran Men in Mission is slated for Saturday, June 1, 2019. All LMM men are invited to attend or view via Zoom video conference.

2017-2020

Lutheran Men in Mission Board

President

Hal Derrick

Flat Rock, NC

hal.derrick@lutheranmeninmission.org

Vice President

Tom Lucas

Marysville, WA

tom.lucas@lutheranmeninmission.org

Treasurer

Jeff Mason

Maple Grove, MN

Jeff.mason@lutheranmeninmission.org

Secretary

Jay Wenger

San Antonio, TX

jay.wenger@lutheranmeninmission.org

Development Council

Jeff Kuchenbecker

jeff.kuchenbecker@lutheranmeninmission.org

Discipleship

Tim Crout

Lexington, SC

tim.crout@lutheranmeninmission.org

Events

Bernie Bresson

Louiseville, OH

Bernie.bresson@lutheranmeninmission.org

Emerging Ministries

Jason Adams

Las Vegas, NV

jason.adams@lutheranmeninmission.org

Networking and Communications

Sean Forde

Albert Lea, MN

sean.forde@lutheranmeninmission.org

Come Meet Your Executive Director and Board Members

As we enter our second full year under the revised LMM Board structure, the Annual Meeting of Lutheran Men in Mission is slated for Saturday, June 1, 2019. All LMM men are invited to attend or view via Zoom video conference. In addition, all eligible LMM delegates are offered a special invitation and authorization to vote on all official LMM business matters. Specific video contact information, including detailed instructions on how each of you and your men's group can participate, will be provided by April 2.

We are excited to give our new Executive Director, John Sundquist, his first opportunity to speak to a nationwide audience during the meeting. John's passion for our ministry and his background in service for others will be one of the highlights of our meeting. Since starting as Executive Director in February, John has hit the ground running and he looks forward to getting to know all of our LMM brothers on a more personal basis. We trust that you will also want to see and hear directly from John.

John's passion for our ministry and his background in service for others will be one of the highlights of our meeting.

All board members will make presentations on their specific areas of responsibility and ministry. We will also include a financial report from our Treasurer, Jeff Mason. This will provide everyone the chance to see and hear firsthand from each director how we are moving our ministry forward. We do not anticipate any elections for board members at the 2019 Annual Meeting and, at this time, the board will not propose any resolutions for the eligible LMM delegates to consider.

I personally look forward to being with you as part of our Annual Meeting in June and, as always, we continue to ask for your prayers, your participation and your financial support.

Your Brother in Christ,

Hal Derrick, President, Lutheran Men in Mission

hal.derrick@lutheranmeninmission.org

Lutheran Men in Mission Online

You can find us online at our website lutheranmeninmission.org, or on:



and the **Reaching Men blog** at reachingmen.blogspot.com

Sundquist, *continued from page 5*

same mission and ministry. To me denominations are more a matter of where your comfort lies, rather than in differences that separate us. Think of it as music. Not all of us listen to rock, or country, or gospel, but we find a music that resonates within us, a faith family that resonates with in.

For me, being in the ELCA, coming out of a true Scandinavian background, born and raised as a Swede, Lutheranism was a big part of it. As a kid, I honestly thought that God's church consisted of Lutherans' Covenant, Baptists and Free Church. That's the three movements out of Sweden that came to the United States. That's the world in which I was raised, so I find it very comfortable and almost a homecoming — to be in the Lutheran setting and entering into this new stage of ministry.

I look forward to seeing where Lutheran Men in Mission will be five, ten, fifteen years from now. Having Doug along has been fantastic. Having that historical connection going forward is invaluable. When you lose sight of those who came before you, you lose a crucial piece of the pie — like going to have dessert and not having a fork.

I'm very appreciative of Doug and look forward to the next six months of transition or however long we hold onto him as a staff member, but also to a lifelong friendship. We are part of the same journey, to see LMM reach the potential that God has in store for it.

Having Doug along has been fantastic. ... When you lose sight of those who came before you, you lose a crucial piece of the pie — like going to have dessert and not having a fork.

LMM Helps St. Croix Hurricane Recovery Efforts

Lutheran Men in Mission (LMM) is partnering with Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) and United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) to help hurricane victims recover in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands. As of the January, 28 homes have been completed. There are 50 more in the queue, and 20 more under consideration. A team of 4 LMM volunteers from three states traveled to St. Croix at the end of January to join the effort. They had a very rewarding experience.

You can be part of this effort by volunteering or supporting the projects with your contributions. The work will primarily be related to rafters and roofing, including demolition and re-construction. Three types of volunteers are needed, including experienced carpenters:

- Skilled tradesman, no supervision needed.
- Skilled in tool use, working knowledge of trade, needs limited supervision.
- General labor.

Both men and women are welcome to volunteer. Participants will only perform tasks within their ability and comfort level. The team will stay at a former Christian elementary school. Ground transportation, food, and lodging are provided. Volunteers who staying 15 days or more and work on homes 40 hours each of the two weeks, will have their airfare, room and board paid for by the US Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).



Registration and travel arrangements are coordinated with UMVIM and FEMA. Saturdays are the expected arrival and departure days. Donations from individuals or congregations are welcome to help support this effort. Funds will be used in a variety of ways, including building materials, tools, LDR staffing and vehicle expenses. For additional details regarding available 2019 dates, volunteering, registering and travel, please contact Lon Buss at lon.buss@lutheranmeninmission.org.

Thank you for considering to help with this vital ministry.

The St. Croix Long-Term Disaster Recovery Mission Frequently Asked Questions document can be found at [St_Croix_Mission_UMVIM_FAQ-2019_01.pdf](https://www.lutheranmeninmission.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/St_Croix_Mission_UMVIM_FAQ-2019_01.pdf)

foundations

Lutheran Men in Mission

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

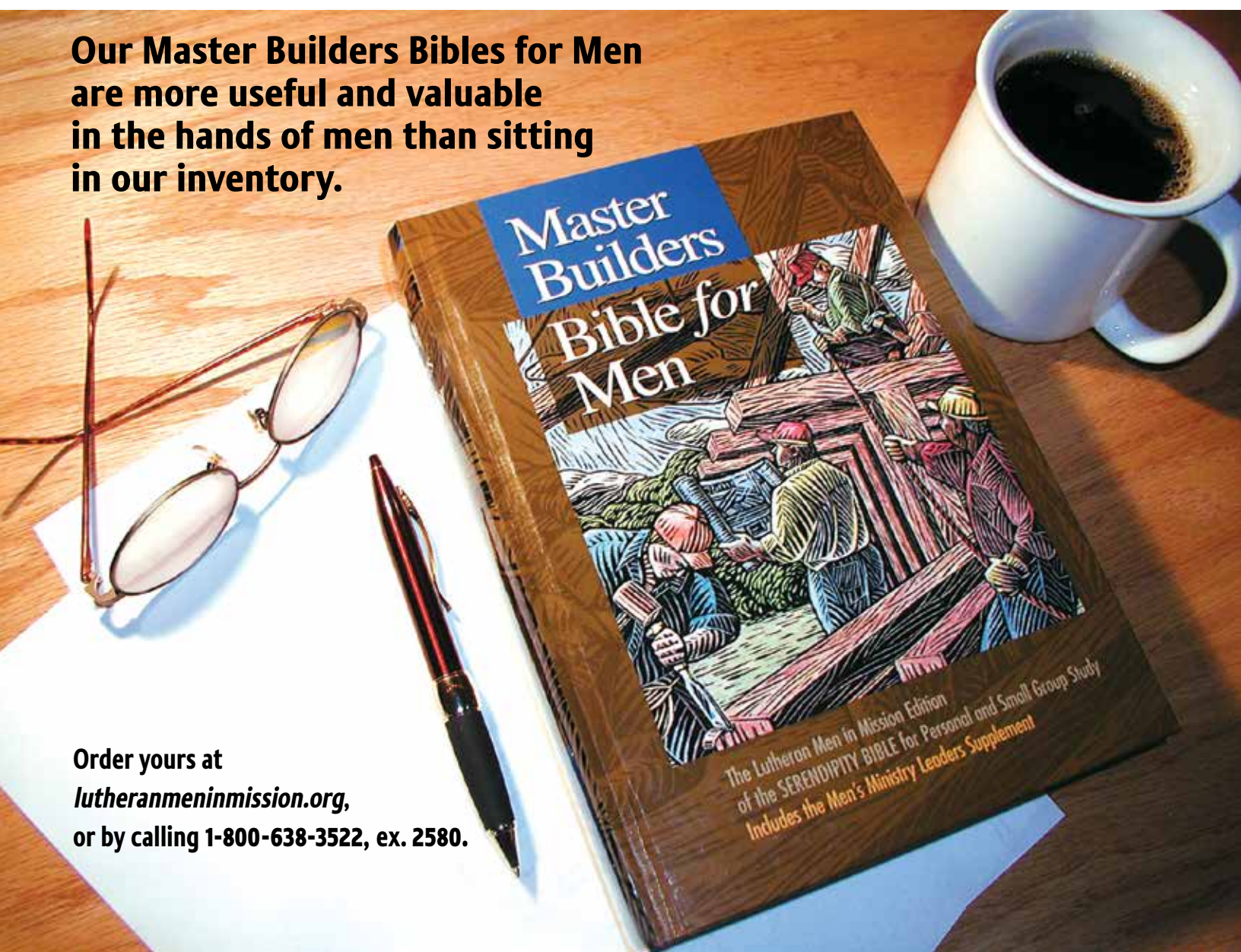
8765 West Higgins Road

Chicago, IL 60631

lutheranmeninmission.org

projecttwelve.net

**Our Master Builders Bibles for Men
are more useful and valuable
in the hands of men than sitting
in our inventory.**



Order yours at
lutheranmeninmission.org,
or by calling 1-800-638-3522, ex. 2580.