

foundations

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



Bold Gathering, Live and In Person(!), Oct. 7-9 **It's High Time To Get Together**

By Vic Williams

Even in our hundred-mile-an-hour world, five years is a long time.

That's how long it's been since Lutheran Men in Mission's Bold Gathering has taken place in a live setting. We've all gotten used to Zoom this and Zoom that—and, certainly, Jesus was there among us for the several virtual Gatherings that took place over the past few years—but there's no substitute for gathering in person to worship, pray, talk, listen, learn ... and discover God's ongoing work in the world.

Thankfully, the virtual-only streak set in place by the COVID-19 pandemic and other circumstances is about to end. With a little planning and a lot of God's grace, you'll be there when it does.

Carol Joy Holling Conference & Retreat Center in Ashland, NE, is

the place, and Oct. 7-9 are the dates for the first full-on in-person National Bold Gathering since 2017. Whether you're driving in or flying into nearby Omaha, you'll arrive to knowing smiles, welcoming hugs, open hearts, and great food and accommodations, surrounded by

nature in one of the Midwest's most beautiful meeting facilities. You'll reconnect with old friends and make new ones. And you'll come away with a renewed spirit and focused heart to become even more of a bold, daring follower of Jesus Christ. Registration is open through Sept. 22 at www.boldgathering.com.

There's no substitute for gathering in person to worship, pray, talk, listen, learn ... and discover God's ongoing work in the world.

The first full-on in-person National Bold Gathering since 2017 will be held October 7-9, 2022, at the Carol Joy Holling Conference & Retreat Center in Ashland, Nebraska.



BOLD GATHERING



This fall's Bold Gathering is tagged as "a men's opportunity for renewal and reconnecting through spiritual growth, service, fellowship and training." Over three days attendees will take part in several presentations, special service projects both onsite and in Omaha, One Year to Live Retreat leadership training, a Sunday worship service, evening campfires with music, and more. You'll also have time to just hang out. The event opens with dinner Friday night, and you'll sit down to

Bold Gathering, continued on page 3



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 Hillert Brewer
foundations designer

From the Executive Director

Finally We Can Gather Boldly, Together

I would be willing to wager that everyone of you know the words of Proverbs 27:17: "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another."

At Lutheran Men in Mission, we live this wisdom out each and every day. From One Year to Live to our weekly book and Bible studies, we walk together, sharpening our brothers and being sharpened by them along the way. We seek out opportunities to gather with other men to relax, renew and reconnect. When those moments are provided to sharpen each other, not only are we doubly blessed, but we seek them out with a passion.

On October 7-9, 2022, such an opportunity is finally being realized. After postponing because of the pandemic, I am excited to invite you to join me and men from across the country at Carol Joy Holling Conference and Retreat Center in beautiful Ashland, Nebraska, for the **2022 National Bold Gathering**. It's a gathering long in coming, and you will not want to miss it. This men's opportunity for Renewal and Reconnecting through spiritual growth, service, fellowship, and training will lift your spirit and recharge you for the important work you are doing at home.

I personally am looking forward to getting back together with friends and brothers from across the country.

Registration is open now! Simply go to www.boldgathering.com and register today. There you will find a welcome video which highlights the exciting things we have in store for the weekend. Once you click the Registration tab you will be redirected to a page which will give you more details on accommodations, then just follow the registration link and start planning your trip.

After these past two years of isolation and uncertainty, I personally am looking forward to getting back together with friends and brothers from across the country. It has been too long since we have been able to sit together in person for growth and fellowship. I hope you will come and join us as we sharpen each other. You will be glad you did!

In the Power of the Spirit,

God bless!

John Sundquist, Executive Director, Lutheran Men in Mission

john@lutheranmeninmission.org

Reconnecting through spiritual growth, service, fellowship, and training will lift your spirit and recharge you.

Bold Gathering, *continued from page 1*

break bread with other guys six times overall, including a boxed lunch for heading out on Sunday afternoon.

Headlining the Bold Gathering is Jim Troe, a Christian lay leader, family man, career businessman, and writer. He is a founding board member of AZ-One, a Christian nonprofit organization charged with creating opportunities for Christian churches to work together as one to build God's kingdom, especially in men's ministry. Jim is a certified coach through Coachnet and has worked as a trainer for the Tentmakers organization. He has served as the small groups director at Crossroads Church in Albert Lea. As an avid writer, Jim is working on his second novel. His first book, *A Kingdom's Quest*, is a coming-of-age fantasy.



Over the course of three talks, Jim will guide and coach us in "Getting a Grip: Laying Hold of God's Plan for Your Life!"

Over the course of three talks, Jim will guide and coach us in "Getting a Grip: Laying Hold of God's Plan for Your Life!"

Talk #1: Where's the Hook?

Who's the main character in your story? What does he want more than anything? What is he willing to do to get it?

Talk #2: Some Assembly Required

If children came with some assembly required, would you follow the instructions or wing it and hope for the best? By faith in Jesus, we've become body parts—members of

Romans 12 provides our assembly instructions. So, let's not wing it.

the body of Christ—and Romans 12 provides our assembly instructions. So, let's not wing it.

Talk #3: Discovering Your Calling

Ephesians 2:10 claims that your Creator has already prepared your work. Have you discovered it yet?

"I invite you all to come and join us as we look at the theme of 'rough, rugged and bold,'" says John Sundquist, LMM Executive Director. "We'll spend time in fellowship, worship and service together. Our goal has never changed. We remain committed to intentionally discipling men to become bold, daring followers of Jesus Christ...to make them into the creations that God desires for all of us."

There's still plenty of time to get in on a long-overdue opportunity to make this the most successful and memorable Bold Gathering yet. And yes, bring a friend. Several. As many as you can.

For more information, visit www.boldgathering.com or email lon.buss@lutheranmeninmission.org

Registration *Prices good until September 22.*

All registrants receive 6 meals (Friday Supper — Sunday Lunch) and access to all activities and sessions. If you select a registration that includes lodging, you will receive 2 nights of accommodations.

Hotel Style Lodging

Hotel Style rooms are double occupancy (triple occupancy if you choose the option with the extra twin bed).

2 queen beds	\$325/person
2 queen beds + 1 twin	\$285 per person

There are a limited number of Hotel Style rooms, first come/first served.

Bunk House

Twin bed	\$195/person
----------	--------------

Commuter

\$160/person

No lodging is included, and you will receive 6 meals and access to all activities and sessions.

Checking In, Charting A New Course

By Vic Williams

That's Vice President Vic Williams to you, gents.

As in newly elected Vice President of Lutheran Men in Mission.

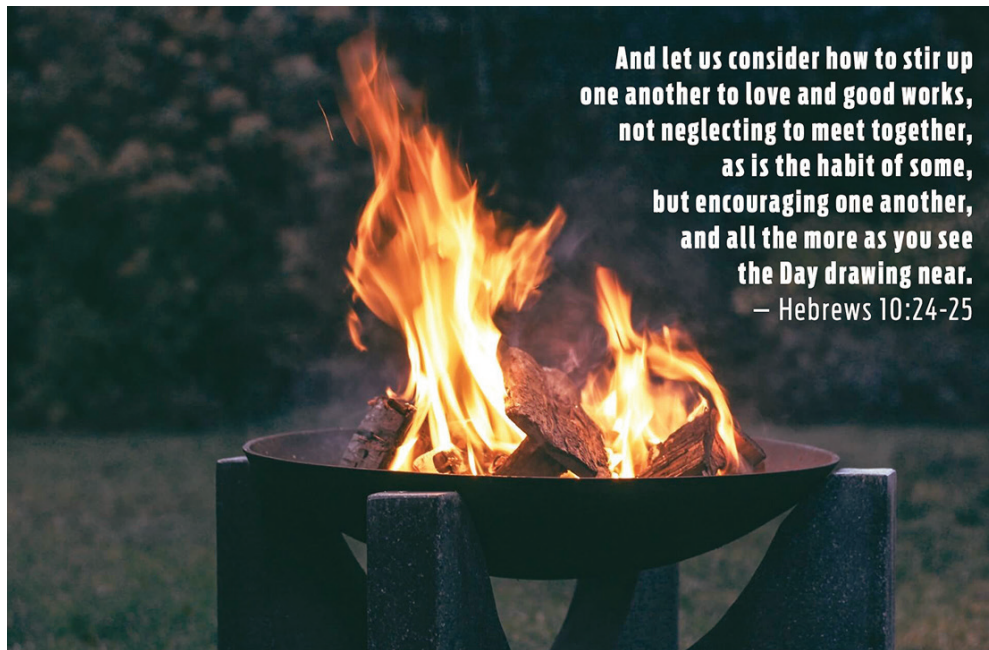
Big deal, you respond. We all know VP is short for "virtual potential," or something similar. It's usually a gig without a defined set of duties or responsibilities, a waiting-in-the-wings deal. I have a vote in all LMM board and executive committee matters, and I'm on standby to run regular meetings in the absence of Hal Derrick, our capable and dedicated president. I take such stuff very seriously, but beyond that things get a little murky.

I'm OK with murky. Life is often a messy, dark slog. It takes faith to push through, hopefully with fellow followers of Jesus by our side. Which is why we're all here as brothers in LMM, right?

Anyway, I truly appreciate and value the faith my fellow board members, Executive Director John Sundquist—and you, by extension—have in me as I embark on a three-year journey as LMM VP. I look forward to whatever adventures, new relationships, challenges and epiphanies await.

Truth to tell, Joshua Forde has much bigger shoes to fill as our new Director of Discipleship. After joining him virtually for our first

Life is often a messy, dark slog. It takes faith to push through, hopefully with fellow followers of Jesus by our side.



And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
— Hebrews 10:24-25

couple meetings, I can tell that he's the guy to lead us into a new era of shepherding ourselves, each other and future LMM brothers as "bold, daring followers of Jesus Christ." It's an exciting time to be part of this growing and vital mission, and with young guys like Joshua and Jason Adams—the current and continuing Director of Emerging Ministries and, I'm happy to say, a fellow Nevadan—pushing, carrying or dragging us older board and committee dudes into uncharted waters, I'd say we are in good, strong hands.

I've met and worked with Jason as we developed ideas and strategies for Project XII a few years back, and I look forward to reconnecting with him, and you, at the next Bold Gathering in Ashland, Nebraska, Oct. 7-9 (you will be there, right?). As for Joshua, I plan on getting together with him for a profile in this space in the next issue of *Foundations*, rather than do a mutual phone interview for this issue, as we briefly discussed during our July board meeting. I just think

The spiritual pull of the firepit — and a favorite passage from Hebrews

meeting Joshua in person, in such a faith-affirming and spiritually rich setting, is the way to go. He merits a full story on his Christian journey, personal history and commitment to LMM. So stay tuned.

But for now, with your blessing, a bit on how and why I got here. Stop me if you've heard some of this stuff before.

First off, I'm not a lifelong Lutheran. The first 40 years of my life found me bouncing around among several denominations—Methodist and Presbyterian, mostly—or, for the better part of two decades, no denomination at all. I got married right out of college, had two kids, divorced, remarried a lapsed Catholic who is the love of my life, and fathered two more daughters. At the turn of the 21st century, my wife's coworker recommended a small church in downtown Reno that I'd driven by a thousand times

Checking In, continued on page 5

— Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. She attended, loved it, and pulled me out of my spiritual slumber to join her and our girls in the pew. I loved it too, we joined as members and within a year, the newly called pastor (who came from a congregation in my college town of Chico, California, where I'd actually met him as hungover English major nearly two decades earlier) had me serving on the church council and in other leadership roles. He saw something in me that I didn't see in myself. Quite the stand-in for Jesus, Carl Wilfrid was ... and is, eight years after his retirement. He remains one of my best friends, confidants and golf buddies.

In those years—in classic, clueless disciple-by-accident fashion—I also stumbled into helping establish an ad hoc, off-budget Good Shepherd men's ministry bunch called the A-Men. With my good buddy and spiritual blood brother Todd Mauldin in the lead, we took over the annual Oktoberfest, sharing the proceeds with the church's youth groups. Eventually we used our portion for turning our dream of doing annual men's retreats into a reality—renting a Lake Tahoe Presbyterian retreat center, paying guest speakers and lay leaders, and, most importantly, providing scholarships for fellow A-Men who needed them. We did several retreats the latter part of the 2000s and into the 2010s, touching on themes like forgiveness, addiction and sexuality. Longtime LMM member and young-man-mentor Larry Moeller joined us at one of them, helping spread the word of our little ministry up here in the shadow of the Sierra.

Along the way we'd also come up with a few fun, informal ways to

keep in touch with each other, including firepit check-in sessions (at the time I had no idea what the words "check in" would come to mean for me and my friends) and "home invasions" in which we visited—unannounced but prearranged with family members—guys going through tough transitions or struggling with life and perhaps stumbling in their walk with God. I was invaded myself when my mom died in 2012. There never ceased to be some sort of miracle rising from those fruitful, honest, safe conversations. We haven't done one in a while, but I'm hoping to revive them at Good Shepherd soon, with some "new blood" in the mix.

During this time Doug Haugen—who, as many know, had spent years as a pastor in Auburn, California, just over the hill from Reno—caught wind of what the A-Men were up to. He became an A-Man by extension, coming to meet with us several times, picking our brains and hearts, and filling us in on what irons LMM had in the fire. We attended the "Called! Equipped! Sent!" gathering in Denver in July 2011, where I met guys like Jason and Kevin Burke and Kyle Pedersen. That led to me writing for this newsletter. Eventually Todd and I helped Doug and his crew plan and execute the "High, Deep and Wide" retreat near Lake Tahoe in August 2013, and *that* led to Todd and another A-Man going to their first One Year To Live retreat. Though I was deeply involved with LMM in other ways—taking part in the visioning and planning process for fledgling Project XII, for instance—I wasn't quite ready to put myself out there with a bunch of guys I didn't know, so I begged out under the



There never ceased to be some sort of miracle rising from those fruitful, honest, safe conversations.

guise of a scheduling conflict. Of course, my friends returned with such fire in their bellies and light in their souls that I and a couple other A-Men signed up for the next California OYTL the following year. Todd served as a leader alongside Doug, Jim Monkman and others. Which led to me becoming a leader myself, and Good Shepherd putting on its first, and to date, only OYTL retreat in the fall of 2017. High, deep and wide, indeed!

The rest is history, and it's still being written. I'm just happy, honored and blessed to be here with pen in hand, my LMM friends in mind—including those I've yet to meet—and whatever the Lord has in store for us in my hopeful heart.

So, on second thought, it's not "vice president" Vic to you. It's simply "brother Vic." Now that that's settled, let's move forward, arm in arm and without fear, and see what's around the next corner for Lutheran Men in Mission, and all men, starting at the Bold Gathering Oct. 7-9.

Shall we?

Bold Visions to Reach Beyond for the Future

To live our vision, Lutheran Men in Mission must be bold as we seek to disciple men to be followers of our Lord. As I highlighted our core values in my last *Foundations* article, we hold fast to those values in all that we do in our ministry. Being bold for our future means that we must reach more diverse and younger men, their families, and their congregations, with a ministry that has meaningful and faith-filled impact in their lives.

If we are truly bold about our future, we can't just rest on our past accomplishments and programs, but we

We must always seek ways to reach men where they are, not just those sitting in a church pew.

must always seek ways to reach men where they are, not just those sitting in a church pew. The new Lifeline series of personal life lessons and Bible studies available at ProjectTwelve.net are having a tremendous impact. This ministry has boldly reached more men across the country as evidenced by the doubling of both visitors and views to Project Twelve over the same period from 2021. Our new three-year Strategic Plan is in full swing as four action teams of men from across the country are working together to achieve our goals for 2022 and beyond. Our book study and Bible study groups are thriving and touching the lives of all who participate in these new bold ministries each week.

We continue to be bold by offering the Master Builders Bible, Man Talk Cards, the I-Go Model, One Year to Live retreats and virtual Bold Gatherings for everyone to use as support and growth for men's ministry in your local area. We plan to expand our resources and retreats in the future, so please follow us on our weekly Constant Contact email and website as new LMM resources become available.

Most importantly, we are excited about our next National Bold Gathering, October 7-9, 2022, at the Carol Joy Holling Retreat and Conference Center in Ashland, Nebraska. Registration is open now, so please consider being with us in a spiritual time for growth, service and fellowship with your brothers from across the country as we follow our featured speaker, Jim Troe, who will guide and coach us to "Getting a Grip: Laying hold of God's plan for your life."

Our future is secure in God's hands and we must act boldly to promote and encourage others to join with us in this ministry. I look forward to the future that will go wherever God leads us. As I always close my comments to you, I ask for your prayers, your participation and your financial support to help us reach more men, their families, and their congregations.

Your Brother in Christ,

Hal Derrick

President, Lutheran Men in Mission

hal.derrick@lutheranmeninmission.org



Lutheran Men in Mission Online

Find us online at lutheranmeninmission.org, or on:



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

UPCOMING LMM EVENTS & programs



2022 One Year To Live Retreats

September 23-25, 2022

Poynette, WI

October 21-23, 2022

Camp Chrysalis
Kerrville, TX

October 7-9, 2022

Tracy's Camp
Pinewood, SC

November 11-13, 2022

Camp Ewalu
Strawberry Point, IA

October 14-16, 2022

Camp Cherokee
Blacksburg, SC

December 2-4, 2022

Camp Carol Joy Holling
Ashland, NE

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

We Were Looking for You!

Spring Synod Assemblies across the country were largely back with in-person gatherings in 2022. That presented **Lutheran Men in Mission** wonderful opportunities to be present via display tables and volunteer staff at assemblies from North Carolina and Texas to Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota and other states.

By publicizing LMM resources like...

- Upcoming One Year to Live retreats
- Upcoming in-person Bold Gathering October 7-9
- Master Builder Bibles
- Online book and Bible study opportunities

...or even watching a video welcome from LMM Executive Director John Sundquist, these display tables provided prompts for face-to-face, relationship-building conversations.

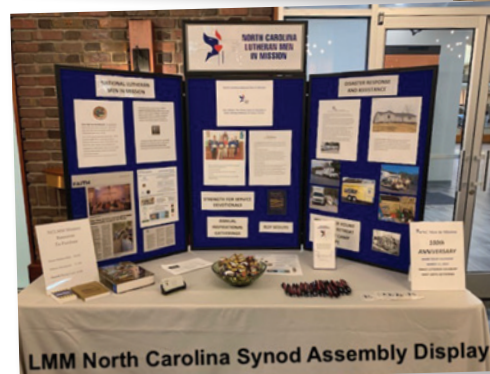
If you were one of our volunteers, THANK YOU!

If you were one of our visitors, WELCOME!

If you would like to add a LMM Display to your Synod Assembly next year, contact Dave Newman, LMM Director of Networking and Communications, through lutheranmeninmission.org.

We can consult, equip and help finance your effort.

Our vision "for every man to be a bold, daring follower of Jesus Christ" begins and thrives relationally. These Synod Assemblies were wonderful opportunities to strengthen existing relationships as well as form new ones. Hoping and praying we found you!



foundations

Lutheran Men in Mission

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

8765 West Higgins Road

Chicago, IL 60631

lutheranmeninmission.org

projecttwelve.net

2022 IN PERSON NATIONAL

BOLD GATHERING

Friday:

- Check-in from 4 - 7
- Meal - 6:00pm
- Program
- Campfire and Music

Saturday:

- Devotion
- Service Projects
- Program
- Meals
- Free time

Sunday:

- Breakfast
- Speakers
- Worship
- Boxed Lunch



boldgathering.com



October 7-9, 2022

Ashland, Nebraska

A men's opportunity for:
Renewal and Reconnecting

through:
**Spiritual Growth, Service,
Fellowship and Training**