Lutheran Men in Mission

Building Men for Christ

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

Spring 2023

When Holes Appear, Jesus Makes Us Whole

He was a bounceback kind of guy, evidenced by the go-getter attitude he maintained. By Vic Williams

rom now on, every time I tee it up on a Wednesday afternoon, I'll think of Hal Derrick.

Not because I played golf with Hal on a Wednesday, or played with him at all. That's the point. I never got to tee it up with him, though we were set to play his home course in Hendersonville, North Carolina. During an LMM board meeting a few months back I mentioned that I'd be out his way, in nearby Asheville, for a June meeting.

"You are I are *gonna* play golf," he said in his deep, measured, kind drawl. "We'll have a *good* time."

I was looking forward to it. We were to indeed slated to play on a Wednesday, his regular golf day each and every week. But God had other plans.

This plan was tough to accept. On March 26, just a few weeks after triple

bypass heart surgery and two weeks before Easter, Hal was called home to God. Even with his fresh health challenges, Hal's passing came as a shock. It leaves a gaping hole in the LMM brotherhood. When does it not leave a hole that can't be filled, with a golf ball, or lamentations, or anything, at least right away?

When our Board met just a couple days after Hal's death, I mentioned how the game of golf is often a portal into a man's soul. It's a game that tests every faculty — physical, mental, emotional and, yes, spiritual. Contrary to semi-popular opinion, it's not a game for wimps, and certainly not for anyone who can't bounce back from misfortune. I'm sure that's one reason Hal loved it so much. He was a bounce-back kind of guy, evidenced by the go-getter attitude he maintained even before the stitches from his heart surgery were removed. He was looking forward to leading the LMM board to new heights, to bringing a broader cross-section of men into our growing circle of bold, daring followers of Jesus Christ. I'm pretty sure that Hal is not entering the kingdom meekly. Reverently, yes. Meekly, no.

So, as a fellow golfer, I had a feeling that in the humble, competitive, twinkle-eyed way of the eternal optimist, Hal would approach an errant shot or bad break with the same humor and joy he brought to his work with LMM. The next shot was gonna be the best shot.

Well, far as I'm concerned, Hal's bright vision for LMM's future is still very

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Hal Derrick (right) at the 2022 Bold Gathering in Ashland, Nebraska: He loved a good laugh with his brothers.







IUTHERAN MENYMISSION

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*.

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Bearing Fruit In Hal's Memory

"In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace. You learned it from Hal, our dear brother, ... a faithful minister of Christ ..."

-Colossians 1: 6b-7a (paraphrased)

still remember the day I received the call and was offered the opportunity to join Lutheran Men in Mission. On the other end of the call was the smooth southern drawl of Hal Derrick. The excitement he had for the future of LMM was captivating. In Hal, I found a brother and kindred spirit. From that day until the Lord called him home, Hal and I talked weekly, if not more frequently.

We talked about the need for men to find meaningful connections, to build safe places to talk about the good and the bad. And of course, family, golf and the weather. Through it all, regardless of where we started, we would end up focusing on the need men had for a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Hal had an endless passion for the work of LMM to intentionally disciple men to become bold, daring followers of Jesus Christ. To that end he personally invited dozens of men to attend One Year To Live retreats, including over 25 from his church in Hendersonville, North Carolina.

His passion and energy was contagious. If you spent any time with Hal you were guaranteed to hear about three things — faith, family and golf. Since his passing, I have found myself coming back to the words of Paul found in Colossians 1, quoted above. Hal truly lived out the bold, daring discipleship that LMM is all about. His love of Christ overflowed to everyone he met. It didn't matter where you came from, what you did or who you were; Hal would talk to you and before you knew it, he felt like a long lost friend. He never held back from sharing the gospel or working to grow the ministry of LMM.

When you take a beat and reflect on it, isn't that how we all should be? Shouldn't our faith be shining forth like a beacon calling other men to a personal relationship with

Jesus Christ? Can you imagine what would happen if every man lived a Christ-like life, where they loved and served their neighbors? The impact would be amazing. The lives transformed would like gains of sand, too numerous to count.

To the end, Hal knew that the work of LMM was bearing fruit and growing. Part of the legacy he left behind is found in the men who have been touched by this ministry he loved so much. He gave his time and energy so that other men might be intentionally discipled. Let us all strive to be men, who like Hal, personally model the character and love of Jesus in our lives and to all whom cross our paths. In doing so, we will change the world — one man at a time.

In the Power of the Spirit, God bless!

John Sundquist

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

Let us all strive to be men, who like Hal, personally model the character and love of Jesus in our lives and to all whom cross our paths. In doing so, we will change the world — one man at a time.



When Holes Appear, continued from page 1

much in play. It's up to all of us to keep it that way, and to me, as acting board president, to muster the confidence to keep walking in Hal's ways as well as Jesus' ways.

There's no chance I will fill Hal's shoes. All I can do is fill is my own, honoring his legacy as best I can with God's help. That starts with remembering what drove him, or what I perceive drove him and made him such a fine leader.

Faith, of course, formed the foundation. Whether dealing with his fellow board members, LMM's paid leadership or the guys who make up the backbone of this organization — y'all, in Southern parlance — Hal had faith that everyone was exactly where God meant them to be, doing what He was asking of them at that moment. And that thorough, trusting faith was infectious. Still is, even in his absence. Even as we stare at the gaping hole.

I witnessed him spreading the contagion of Good News at the Bold Gathering in Ashland, Nebraska, last October. I hadn't yet met him in person but the moment I did, at our board meeting preceding the Gathering, I caught the Hal bug through a hug offered quickly and without question. I'm a hugger too so that worked out well. I was happy to receive his relentless good humor as a gift freely given through human touch, seasoned with a gentle smile and steady, sincere look in the eye.

From that point and through the weekend, I admired the way Hal greeted everyone with the same open, warm grace. I took note of how he ran our meetings without a hint of impatience or distraction. He was always dialed in, even when he sat back and gave the floor to others in the course of board business. And when the gavel came down and we were just hanging out as the autumn sun set — grabbing a snack while tuning into a comically bad NFL game, or just yakking -Hal relished just being one of the boys, a fellow Jesus follower as well as the leader he'd been cast by the Lord to be.

The Bold Gathering seemed to peg the spirit meter of everyone who attended, gave the LMM leadership a jolt of momentum heading into the holidays, and no doubt fired Hal up to coax us to think big and open our hearts to what God had in store. Plans gained form and heft. Details took root. Goals emerged out of the mist of busyness and uncertainty. Hal was at the core of it all.

As this year kicked into gear, some of those goals took on added importance. Foremost in Hal's heart and mind was building a strong base of financial support for LMM. He set a high bar for annual giving goals, recognizing that the joyful sacrifice of time, talent, and treasure is the keystone of an earthly structure built to last for LMM's long haul, and house our heaven-sent mission as a crucial connector for all men,

Hal Derrick (center) with his North Carolina LMM friends at the 2022 Bold Gathering in Ashland, Nebraska

not just Lutherans, not just lifelong Christians. All men.

Drilling down into this bedrock of gleeful generosity, Hal's specific financial goal was to shore up LMM's legacy giving message — "what we leave behind when we are not here," says Chad Borglund, who works with the board to make development plans through his company, the Focus Group. "He was preparing us to work on legacy giving. That was his heart's desire. I hope we can honor his legacy by being intentional about what we leave behind because we never know when God is calling us home."

But the money stuff, vital is it is, is just one spoke on the strategic planning wheel that's carrying us into a bright future. Hal also saw the promise in our plan's other spokes: to **Reach More** into our Lutheran congregations to involve more men in LMM; **Reach Wide** to gather younger, non-white, perhaps unchurched guys into the fold; and **Reach Boldly** via events and retreats and Project XII, and initiatives yet unseen and unimagined.

This is the path Hal worked hard to help set for Lutheran Men in Mission. This is Jesus filling the holes we mere mortals can't fill alone. This is Jesus making us whole, even without Hal, even as the storms of life knock us around.

When the storms pass and the pain of loss subsides, the hole remains. Together let's turn it into that eternal space where Hal should be — and still is, in spirit. And may we fill it with love for each other, and for Jesus.

Get 'Bold' In Washington State

Bold Gathering is a day for men to come together to learn, network and be equipped to boldly live out their faith as bold, daring followers of Jesus Christ.

LMM's first-ever Pacific Northwest Bold Gathering is set for *May 20 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. PST* at Trinity Lutheran Church in Parkland, WA.

Six guest speakers will share their "Bold Stories from the Heart":

Ryan Brown — When the Bubble Bursts

When an unexpected opportunity presented itself, Ryan Brown was led to a way to keep a promise, serve people, and live into his vocation. Sometimes it's in the most unexpected places that we find God beckoning our gifts, skills, and heartstrings for the



sake of God's Kingdom. Responding doesn't always have to be complicated.

Ryan Brown is the Executive Director of LINC NW. Ryan is passionate about connecting people in meaningful relationships and loves to craft environments that promote care and support for families. Ryan enjoys frisbee golf, biking, and adventures and lives in Arlington, Washington, with his wife and three children.

William Ehlers — Metamorphosis

William will look at how God has worked in his life to transform him into the person you see now. Born in Beijing, China, William's parents adopted him and took him in as their own and shared God's love every day. William will share how God uses trials to overcome evil and spread love.



William Ehlers is a medical scribe in Tacoma, Washington, and serves at several emergency rooms around Tacoma. He is currently pursuing a career in healthcare and has several years of clinical experience. When he isn't working, he enjoys volunteering at the humane society, running, and painting. Last year he entered his first 5k race and now has a half marathon under his belt. He plans to enter a full marathon and other races next year.

May 20, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. PST Trinity Lutheran Church Parkland, WA



BOLD GATHERING

Doug Haugen — Living My Purpose

Men are in crisis today for lack of friends. Research tells us that the percentage of men with at least six close friends fell by half since 1990, from 55 percent to 27 percent. The study also found the percentage of men without any close friends jumped from



3 percent to 15 percent, a fivefold increase. Doug will share about the four kinds of friends we experience and how friends have helped him live out his God-given purpose.

Doug Haugen served congregations in Mercer Island, Washington, Sandy, Utah, and Auburn, California, before serving as Executive Director of Lutheran Men in Mission. Under his leadership Lutheran Men in Mission developed the Master Builders Bible for Men, the One Year to Live men's retreat and gave birth to Project XII. Project XII is a network of passionate, creative leaders from many backgrounds that have come together to identify, create, and promote effective ministries with men.

He was one of the writers of the Serendipity Bible for Small Groups (which became the Master Builders Bible for Men). With his wife Doris, he is the author of the InterVarsity Press LifeGuide Bible Study on Jonah, Joel and Amos and Ask or Imagine: Episodes on the Journey to Becoming a Family. Most recently he has been working with 19 writers from eight denominations/ministries writing Project XII's Lifelines series for men.

Rob Kenney — With the End in Mind

If death is the "end" for all of us, what should our priorities be? Why is it critical to have an eternal perspective on your life?



Rob started his "Dad, How Do I?" YouTube channel in April 2020. He thought he would help 30 or 40 people learn some basic skills.

A month and a half later his channel went viral, and

quickly grew to over 1 million subscribers. Now, almost three years later, he has over four million subscribers, and is known the world over as the "Internet's dad."

Andrew Bird — Faith Through Trials

Andrew will discuss how he has maintained a strong faith in God through various personal and family trials.

Andrew spent his formative years in New Orleans and South Mississippi. After graduating from William Carey University,



he worked in sales and hospitality, eventually meeting his wife while working as a bartender in New Orleans. In 2017, he and his wife married and moved across the country to Olympia, Washington, to be closer to family. He now resides there, with his wife, Caitlin, 7-monthold son, Daniel, and two English Setters, Leo and Buster.

Logan VanDenburg — Young Men and the Church

Young men are struggling socially, physically, and mentally. They don't know where they fit in inside the larger scope of society. They are struggling to find a purpose and calling that fits the needs of themselves and others. According to the *Washington Post*,



suicides rose eight percent among males ages 15-24, the largest rate increase of 2021. The Church is in a unique position; it has the ability to offer a place where young men can build a sense of community, take on a feeling of accountability and responsibility, and can form a relationship with a God who knows and loves them. Logan will speak on his perspective growing up in the Lutheran Church and witnessing how the Church has shaped him into who he is today and how critical his faith has been in his understanding of what it means to be a young man.

Logan grew up in Hamilton, Montana, and currently attends Pacific Lutheran University, where he works as a Chapel coordinator for campus ministry. Logan also works as the Ministry Assistant at Trinity Lutheran Church, serving as a bridge between the communities of PLU and Trinity. After PLU, He hopes to attend seminary and continue his path of ministry.



The Bold Gathering is May 20, 11 am to 2pm PST! Register Now!

Register to attend in person at **boldgathering.com.** There's no admission fee but Free Will Offerings are appreciated to help with planning. Lunch will be served.

Live in another parts of the country? Watch for updates as every speaker presentation will be recorded and distributed nationally in the weeks following the Bold Gathering via Lutheran Men in Mission communications and **boldgathering.com**

For more about Lutheran Men in Mission resources and events, visit www.lutheranmeninmission.org

Remembering Hal Derrick

LMM Leaders and Friends Offer Loving Tributes

Rich White

Director of Development, Past LMM Board President

've known Hal almost 23 years. We moved to Virginia in 2000, and among our three requirements for a Lutheran church was it had to have a very active men's ministry. We found it St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Sutterville. They had a men's breakfast the second Saturday of the month. Hal was the leader. but they were considering shutting it down, as attendance was down. I said, "You can't shut it down, I can't live without a bunch of guys to get together with." I was obnoxious, and Hal told me I was, but I said, "I need support from guys. I will support you if you will support me." So he said, "OK, let's see what happens." It grew up to 25 guys. And Hal was the only guy allowed to make the grits. When he retired to North Carolina, we wondered who would cook the grits. So Hal taught his recipe to one of the guys. It still sits in the kitchen cabinet. When he and Ruthie came up for the church's 30th anniversary, they brought a box of grits so we could have them. That was Hal.

When my term as LMM president was ending, Hal and I were playing golf and I asked him if he'd be interested in being voted in as president of LMM. He said no. I said he'd be great at it. As we played the rest of the 18 holes, that's what we talked about, and he became president. In 2019, we were playing golf at my home course, and on the third hole he says, "Hey Rich, have you thought about director of development?" I said, "Are you paying me back?" So that's what we

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talked about for the rest of the 18 holes.

John Sundquist

LMM Executive Director

've been spending a lot of time dwelling on the interactions that Hal and I had. It was a blessing to me to come into this role for men's ministry. Hal and I were the biggest benefit and times biggest foil for each other, when we'd sit and talk and bounce things off each other. We thought the same, processed and understood things in a manner that I've never really had with anyone else. What has struck me as I've talked to our board and other key guys across the country was one of the first lines that Hal dug into my head on my sixth week on the job, as I went to my first One Year to Live: "Participate, don't anticipate." Since we got the news of his passing, I've been doing my

best to participate in the process. When you've been a pastor for long enough, you have an idea of what's coming and when it's coming. It's an interesting reality to go through, with your son, your father, and with a brother in ministry. I've been amazed at the outpouring of

love and support that we've received as a national body at Hal's passing. We are a very tight group of men, and we have very big shoes to step into. We are called to live into and up to his expectations for LMM. He had a vision set. I look forward to continuing the work and legacy he has left us well into the future.

Lon Buss LMM Board Events Director

al just had a way about him — his demeanor, his voice, that you just wanted to be a friend to him, because you knew he wanted to be a friend to you. Back in 2018, my wife Debbie and I were coming back from Florida, and Hal invited us to his place. One of the benefits of being involved in an organization like this is getting to know guys across the country and being welcomed into their homes.

Remembering Hal, continued on page 7



In Hal and his wife Ruth's relationship I saw how she supported this ministry of guys trying to be the men God wants us to be, and our wives hope we can be. But the memory I'll always take away is his voice, his laugh, and how he loved to be on our Thursday Bible study calls. And the phrase he liked to use for meetings — "I see we are at the appointed hour." That was the way to get started. Like when the organist starts playing music for worship.

Pastor Brian Gigee Fund Development Team

al was a persistent connector. He made no apologies for calling out of the blue. He always left a voicemail, wanted to know how I was doing, and please call him back. He was always connecting us and keeping people going. I got involved in LMM in 2002, surprised I was the only clergy person, though I knew it was the men's group and this was how it works. I roomed with Darrell Rice — he saw my nametag and asked if I had any relatives in Ohio. I said yeah. He said, "Are you related to Howard?" I said,

He was always connecting us and keeping people going.... I felt blessed being at a table with guys like Hal, that made me proud to be part of this church. There's a deep, residing faith in this church that bears on men's shoulders.

One of the benefits of being involved in an organization like this is getting to know guys across the country and being welcomed into their homes.

"Yeah, that's my dad." Hal was in that same genre — we're all in this together, whether you're a pastor or not. I felt blessed being at a table with guys like Hal, that made me proud to be part of this church. There's a deep, residing faith in this church that bears on men's shoulders, not just the pastors' shoulders. Hal's persistent connecting is what I value. I rejoice in the Resurrection that Hal now knows much more about than we do.

Russ McKittrick

Fund Development Team

e was just very devoted to men's ministry. The last time I saw him it was at our North Carolina state gathering [a couple weeks after Hal's surgery]. He kept texting to tell the audio guy that the Zoom sound wasn't working. So I ended up talking to a guy I'd never met before. He really wanted to be there, be involved, but at that time that's the only way he could do it. Then I got the news, and it was a shock."

Chad Borgestad

LMM Consultant for the Focus Group

al was an eternal optimist. Even if we'd had the crappiest meeting, he'd say, "Well guys, this has been great." So you'd come away thinking, "Yeah, that was great meeting." It was infectious. What he was saying was that being together in fellowship, in community, with other men was what he loved more than anything. And there was never

a conversation he'd shy away from. He had a gift of inviting men to be partners in LMM, even if it was their first time. He give hugs, talk to guys, bounce around from person to person. He was glad they were there. That was Hal. I wonder if his heart problems were because his heart was so big. He loved people, he was raw and genuine, and he never pretended to be someone he wasn't.

I wonder if his heart problems were because his heart was so big. He loved people, he was raw and genuine, and he never pretended to be someone he wasn't.

Jeff Kuchenbecker

LMM Board Treasurer

hat I want to remember are the aspects of a true man. He had a sense of optimism that never quit. He always hoped for a better tomorrow, that things would improve. I loved that he was well-organized, for meetings and things he did. If LMM wasn't top of mind for him throughout the day, I'm sure it was near the top, he loved it so much. He had a great sense of volunteerism for lots of things. And I love guys who are willing to give a hug, because that's their nature. And he really appreciated what the board did for the organization. He had a healthy sense of humbleness. This is the type of guy anyone would be proud to call a mentor. And I was lucky enough to call him a friend.

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Remembering Hal, continued from page 7

He was just so gracious and hospitable, upbeat and positive. I thank God for him. I'm sad he's gone too early.

Pr. Steve Cauley Fund Development Team

first met Hal at a development meeting in Chicago. I was a pastor in Iowa at the time. I remember going to the Minneapolis gathering and telling Hal I'd applied for a job I didn't really feel called to do — to do men's work in southwest Iowa that God had put on my heart. He invited me to come to North Carolina, not knowing Hal all that well. But he was just so gracious and hospitable, upbeat and positive. I thank God for him. I'm sad he's gone too early.

Jan Nelson

Fund Development Team

y fondest memory of Hal was getting to meet him on Zoom for the first time. He was so humble, so inviting. He had a way to draw you in and make you feel like you were a part of something. When you knew Hal, you knew everyone. I'm glad I was able to meet Hal in person in October in Ashland [at the fall 2022 Bold Gathering], speak with him. It was a big deal. I think Hal's legacy is all of us, having drawn each of us to him and this ministry, to be a bigger part of it than perhaps we'd thought about before we met him.

Hal's legacy is all of us, having drawn each of us to him and this ministry, to be a bigger part of it than perhaps we'd thought about before we met him. The family of Hal Derrick thanks you for the many cards, notes, emails, and FaceBook posts, and especially the prayers. In this most difficult time, we have felt touched and comforted by your support and love. Faith was an important part of Hal's life and he enjoyed the many years that he spent working with Lutheran Men in Mission.

Ruthie Derrickand the Derrick family



2023 One Year To Live Retreats

October 6-8, 2023 Black Lake Bible Camp Olympia, WA

October 13-15, 2023 MacKenzie Center Poynette, WI

October 13-15, 2023 Tracy's Camp Pinewood, SC

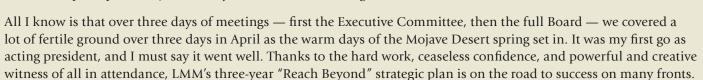
November 3-5, 2023 Camp EWALU Strawberry Point, IA

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

Bold Moves This Spring and Beyond

erhaps it was the fact that we met just a few feet from a beautiful, open, well-lit sanctuary at Good Samaritan at the Lakes Lutheran Church in Las Vegas, where my LMM Board colleague, Jason Adams, serves as lead pastor.

Perhaps it was the spirit of my dearly departed predecessor, Hal Derrick, presiding over us. Or perhaps it was just the way we roll as Bold, Daring Followers of Jesus Christ.



Thanks to the hard work, ceaseless confidence, and powerful and creative witness of all in attendance, LMM's three-year "Reach Beyond" strategic plan is on the road to success on many fronts.

By now you're familiar with the taglines of our four-part effort to build more men for Christ than ever before — "Reach Boldly" through our events including One Year to Live Retreats and Bold Gatherings (the next one takes place May 20 in Tacoma, Washington), "Reach More" men in Lutheran congregations, "Reach Wide" to identify and welcome guys from outside traditional Lutheran traditions, of all ages; and "Reach Generously" to give us the financial strength to take our unique and much-needed ministry to places we've yet to see — though God already knows their name. All are gaining traction and keeping the Board on its toes. That's just how we want it.

Of course, none of it is possible without your continued prayers and support. For instance, we're hoping you'll take part in our upcoming national annual meeting on

Saturday, June 10 at 10 a.m. CST, for which you'll get a Zoom invitation as a voter if you're a contributor of a certain level — we're counting on your vote to elect several board positions, including president, vice president, director of events and director of emerging ministries. All are welcome to attend!

Beyond this important meeting, the next leg of our strategic journey starts with a three important steps:

- 1. To continue implementing our strategic plan with focus and intention in God's name.
- 2. To see our first-ever mobile app, now in production, go live later this year.
- 3. To kick off a two-year planned giving effort we've dubbed the Hal Derrick Legacy Initiative, which will lead to a permanent and ongoing President's Legacy Circle. This is an area of fundraising that Hal was very passionate about, and the Board recognizes it as a key part of our long-term efforts to keep LMM on the exciting and blessed growth curve we all want in service to each other, and to God.

On behalf of the entire Board of LMM, I thank you for sharing our vision with every man you know, for continuing to have faith in us and in God's plan for us, and for joining us in honoring Hal Derrick's memory, now and into the future.

Your Brother in Christ,

Vic Williams

Acting Board President, Lutheran Men in Mission vic.williams@lutheranmeninmission.org



Lutheran Men in Mission Online

Find us online at *lutheranmeninmission.org*, or on:









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

foundations Important dates!

Lutheran Men in Mission

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Bold Gathering in the Pacific Northwest

May 20, 2023, 11 am to 2 pm (Pacific time) Trinity Lutheran Parkland, Tacoma, WA

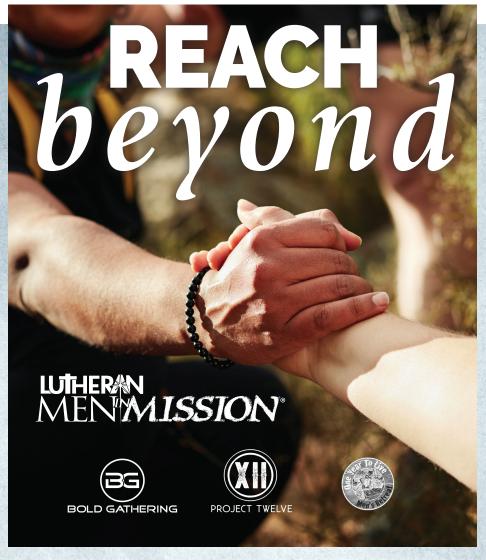
Videos will be released across the country a few weeks after this event is over.

Annual Meeting

June 10, 2023, 10 am (Central time)

Zoom invite can be found on the LMM website





As you count your blessings

consider supporting Lutheran Men in Mission.

With your support more men will have the opportunity to become bold, daring disciples of Jesus Christ.

Visit the donation page of our website. www.LutheranMeninMission.org