



Lutheran Men in Mission  
Building Men for Christ

# LMM foundations

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

## Connection Is The (Ancient) Key Faith, Too, Is In Our DNA

by Vic Williams

**The oldest known living thing on Earth, a well-hidden tree nicknamed “Methuselah,” is 4,850 years old. It sprouted at 10,000 feet in elevation some 2,800 years before Christ’s birth, for those keeping score.**

**M**y wife reads a lot. One year she racked up 150 books, and 2025 is off to a similar start. I might knock out 30 books a year if I’m lucky and diligent (and try not to get in too many pages before going to sleep, because sleep always wins), but when she gets in a groove, look out.

One tome she knocked out to start the year is *The Violinist’s Thumb: Love War, and Genius, As Written by Our Genetic Code* by Sam Kean. A mix of science, history, myth and cultural commentary, it sounds like a fun and informative ride, so it’s now on my

ever-growing bedside “to read” stack alongside assorted novels, short story collections, biographies and such. Perhaps I’ll give y’all full a report later, but for the moment, a couple of her comments stood out for me, especially the realization—based on scientific research, observation, and technological advances dating at least back to Darwin—that all living things share a whole heckuva lot of genetic code (for us, it could stretch to “Pluto and back,” says the book jacket blurb), that humankind didn’t separate from primates until very late in the evolutionary game, and that all homo sapiens share a family tree that traces to a common mother in sub-Saharan Africa. (The Neanderthals, who died off a long time ago, developed from a separate strain of proto-humans).

Call that ancestor “Eve,” or whatever name you choose. The latest science says we are all brothers of the same mother, if you go back enough thousands of years. And while we have fared better than the Neanderthals, it’s been literally by the skin of our teeth. At one point early in the human story, after a volcanic eruption plunged global temperatures and pinned down our small family of ancestors, researchers contend that they could have dwindled to as few as 40 souls—more than enough for a solid One Year To Live retreat, but a pretty thin base on which to build language and civilization. Yet build we



Connection, continued on page 3



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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## Changing Men, One Man at a Time

**H**ave you stopped and wondered how life would have been different if certain people hadn't come into your life? I recently found myself standing in the very spot I received the news that Hal Derrick had suffered a major heart attack. That realization caused me to reflect on how life would have been different had we never met.

The difference one man can make is dramatically under appreciated. One man (or woman) can change the trajectory of your life. I have heard people say that one person caused them to choose their vocation, one person introduced them to their spouse, and it was because of one person that they became a follower of Jesus Christ. Such is the impact of Lutheran Men in Mission. Each man who has ever participated in a One Year to Live Retreat, Bold Gathering, Bible or book study, or local congregational men's group has the potential to be that one man to someone else.

At the start of 2022 LMM began to work on our first three-year strategic plan, which we called "Reach Beyond." The goal was to be ready for whatever God had planned for us. I am happy to share that we meet each goal in that plan. The result is that we have a new logo and will have a redesigned webpage in a few short weeks. Over the past three years, LMM added close to 150 new congregational contacts and are now actively in partnership with 45 synods. Along the way we have reached more young, diverse, and unchurched men than ever before. Additionally, we have established a vibrant development program and team which deserve all the praise that last year LMM had its best financial year in our history—including reaching the halfway mark of our goal of recording \$1 million in declared Estate and Planned Gifts. If you haven't considered such gift, please consider it with prayer; we can direct you to knowledgeable planners to walk beside you in your journey of generosity that will carry your spirit into future generations of LMM.

Still, there is much more work to do. As we enter 2025, we are also entering into the next strategic plan. Carrying our ministry through 2027 it's simply called; *LMM iS...* The main goal of this plan is for LMM to be:

**Leaders** in the future of Men's ministry,  
LMM will **Model** tomorrow's leaders today,  
**Multiply** through expanding LMM's impact, and  
**Sustain** by creating stability for today and investment for tomorrow.

I look forward to sharing more about this next chapter in the history of LMM, but there's plenty of opportunity to make a difference right now, right in front of us. It starts with reaching out to younger men in your life. The fastest demographic leaving the church are men 40 and under. Only one in three men can identify even one close friend. As a result, men are suffering from loneliness at a frightening rate. The answer to all three of these challenges is strong Men's ministries, which seek to disciple men into the bold, daring followers Jesus Christ calls them to be.

We are up for the challenge! Together we can turn the tide and transform the world as we know it. I can't say it will be easy or fast, but together with God, it can be done. I ask that you continue to be faithful in your prayers and support for this important work. With your continued prayers and financial support, I am excited to see what God has in store for not only LMM but each of your congregations! In the Words of John 4:25, "The fields are ripe for harvesting!" Our work is far from finished. Let's get to it!

In the power of the spirit, God bless,

**John Sundquist**  
Executive Director, Lutheran Men in Mission  
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Connection, continued from page 1

did, one species under God, but indivisible from every other speck of flora and fauna that has come along for the ride.

## In God's Favor

Sure, there have been roadblocks. Plague, natural disaster, climate change, war, you name it: We could have and probably should have been wiped off the face of the earth countless times. The Old Testament's Pentateuch, or first five books (especially the first two, Genesis and Exodus) back up the science with God's story, when you think about it—when we connect the oral histories and many-layered legends to ever-revealing miracles of scientific discovery. He gave up on us, then reneged, then doubled down on His love for us. And here we are on the other side of the rainbow, still standing, still searching, still loving, still walking with Jesus, pathogen-polluted DNA and all. It's been a rough and glorious ride, and continues to be, but hey, God has us covered. He keeps bringing us together for the moment and for eternity.

Which, as my wife described her favorite sections of the book, brought to my fevered (inspired?)

**We forged new connections with humans who lived among the sage and stone around us hundreds and thousands of years ago by seeking out hundreds of petroglyphs, mysterious figures carved into volcanic boulders by the region's earliest human settlers, the progenitors of today's Paiute and Shoshone tribes.**



mind an alternative definition to "deoxyribonucleic acid," the ho-hum, familiar, unpronounceable chemical combo behind the acronym "DNA."

How about "Divine Nuclear Attachment?"

Works, right? It encompasses science and sacred, creation and inspiration, God's plan and life's fathomless variety.

We are created in His *Divine* image. We are connected at the *Nuclear* level, sharing the very seeds of our existence, almost as if by design (ya think?). And our *Attachment* goes beyond mitochondria, the tiniest building blocks of life. It carries into the infinite beyond, into the embrace of the great I Am.

## Picturing the Past

In mid-January we went off the grid to avoid the avalanche of regime-change news, opting to spend a three-day weekend at a remote hot springs resort about 35 minutes north of my hometown of Bishop, California. We soaked, we relaxed, we read, we explored with the dog, we avoided social media and news

outlets. We deepened our connection as long-married humans. We also forged new connections with humans who lived among the sage-shrouded hills outside our door hundreds and thousands of years ago—first via a historical tour of the old silver mining town around us, then by seeking out hundreds of petroglyphs, mysterious figures carved into volcanic boulders by the region's earliest human settlers, the progenitors of today's Paiute and Shoshone tribes.

There are plenty of scholarly papers written on what the petroglyphs' creators were passing along, but we didn't look for clear meanings on this sunny January day. We just gazed at them, imagining what the authors looked like, how they managed to thrive in one of America's harshest yet most beautiful landscapes, and how they chose what facts and experiences to communicate by way of figures etched on hunks of stone. We stood where they stood, where they toiled under blistering summer sun or in withering winter cold with many stories to tell.

Connection, continued on page 4

**Connection**, *continued from page 3*

Through those fading pictures we felt connected through the centuries, just as we felt another connection to nature’s grand design in the fall of 2021 while walking through ancient bristlecone pines in the White Mountains, not 20 miles as the crow flies from these rock drawings. The oldest known living thing on Earth, a well-hidden tree nicknamed “Methuselah,” is 4,850 years old. It sprouted at 10,000 feet in elevation some 2,800 years before Christ’s birth, for those keeping score. Before the pyramids were built. Before much of the Old Testament stories were written down. And long, long before our 21<sup>st</sup> century of technology-fueled fear, relentless human folly, and abiding faith. Methuselah and its gnarled, wily old friends live on, oblivious to the day-to-day worries of men, but still a part of us at the most minute level.

We stood still to hear the trees’ silent words back then—and now, here on this sere plateau, we heard our ancestors’ voices echo in the brisk north wind. We rejoiced, however briefly, at the glory of God’s kingdom, and how blessed we are to be part of it, together.

**Embracing the Future**

So, what does any of this have to do with LMM’s mission?

It fits with the unspoken, understood commitment to the “Divine Nuclear Attachment” that has defined our ministry since the beginning. This attachment remains fast and firm among us modern humans, and with the natural world around us. We can’t grow—physically, culturally, and spiritually—without it. And when we put Christ’s teachings at the center of our connection, the attachment deepens. Just think

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**Even as men leave organized religion in droves and too often suffer alone, we continue to seek them out, invite them, and love them, while lifting each other up with our individual and common stories.**

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about how we express and live out our attachment to one another, to creation, and to God: Through our small group studies and Bold Gatherings; through retreats that strengthen our attachments first by exposing them, then by challenging them, and finally by celebrating them; through our sharing of time, talent, and financial resources; and, in the end, through our faithful commitment to one another’s worldly and spiritual welfare.

Even as today’s political terrain becomes more littered with landmines of division, fear, isolation and outrage, our Divine Nuclear Attachment remains strong. Even as extremists put the larger Lutheran church in the crosshairs of disinformation, we stay together, walking with Jesus as best we can. Even as men leave organized religion in droves and too often suffer alone, we continue to seek them out, invite them, and love them, while lifting each other up with our individual and common stories.

We thrive in Christ at the cellular level. The strands of our “DNA,” woven in God’s image, cannot be frayed, and our faith only makes them stronger. This year and every day, let us turn our attachment into joyful action as brothers in LMM, in honor of those who came before us, and with hope for those to come.





## Tell Us Your Stories

*“Greetings, men! As editor of LMM’s quarterly newsletter **Foundations**, I’d like to invite a few of you to step forward and tell us about your faith story: how your walk with Jesus has informed your day-to-day life, your job, your family, whatever you’d like to share. We’re all familiar with Christ’s story, now let’s hear yours! Just a few lines of inspiration or memory will do—a couple paragraphs from the heart and soul. We’d love to make this a regular Foundations feature. Our next issue comes out this month, so be a part of it!”*

I wrote those words in early February for the latest issue of LMM’s “AmbassadorGram,” a quarterly missive to our men “on the ground,” as it were—guys who have signed on to be our eyes, ears, minds, and hearts in their local congregations and men’s groups, a fraternity that grows every year thanks to the hard work and spirit-driven dedication of Dave Newman, our board’s Director of Network Communications. Every time we Ambassadors meet, we do a check-in, a quick pulse-taking of how we’re doing on our own personal faith journeys. Dave also invites us to expand on what’s going on among our men’s groups—challenges, successes, whatever. Because stories are not only at the heart of the Bible, they’re also the very lifeblood of human existence. Societies rise and fall, succeed or fail through their collective actions and beliefs, which in turn fuel their shared stories. But it’s at the individual level where stories truly come alive. Each of us is a story in itself, and we keep weaving it through our days on earth and into the unseen, timeless kingdom beyond. Stories define our place in God’s creation, and sharing them, I’m convinced, causes God to smile. Just as he knows our names, He treasures our stories.

Just think about the stories you’ve told or heard in your get-togethers with other men. They’ve stuck with you, rang a chord in your heart, caused you to realize that you have more in common than not, and, sometimes, renewed your faith in the Lord, and in each other as His hands and feet in life.

Let me tell you the outline of a story one of the regulars at our church’s monthly Saturday morning breakfast Bible study. This man had sometimes been inclined to step out of his way to help a person in serious need outside his inner circle, but like many of us, he’d more often than not drive on by a houseless person standing on an off-ramp or in a parking lot. Stuff to do and places to be, right? At any rate, one day he came in contact with a houseless person and was prepared to just keep on going, but instead, the hand of the spirit touched his shoulder, and he turned around,

**“And it’s funny, here I am talking about this experience, and getting emotional about it, while I’d never show this side to my family.”**

brought this soul some food and companionship, however briefly. “I don’t know what exactly came over me, but I felt compelled, or blessed, to help this person, even though I had to get to work,” he said, catching his breath and holding back tears. “And it’s funny, here I am talking about this experience, and getting emotional about it, while I’d never show this side to my family.”

He felt safe among fellow men of God, which led him to relate this story, which led to his emotional reaction—and ours. And that, my friends, is just one example of

why we need regular contact with each other, and why ministries such as LMM are so crucial to our mental, physical, and spiritual health and growth.

So here we are with that “next issue,” and we already have heard from guys with stories to tell. Faith stories, that is: The moments of inspiration and awakening in the light of Christ. Stories worth sharing. So I’m opening this invitation to all of you: Please reach out to me at [vic.williams@lutheranmeninmission.org](mailto:vic.williams@lutheranmeninmission.org) with your own story, and we’ll run it in a future issue, with designs on it becoming a regular feature.

Because who doesn’t love a good story, and a story of good?

Blessings,

**Vic Williams**

Board President, Lutheran Men in Mission

[vic.williams@lutheranmeninmission.org](mailto:vic.williams@lutheranmeninmission.org)

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# From The Field

## Have a faith story to tell?

Of course you do! Stories are how we present ourselves to the world, to friends, even to strangers. In each issue of Foundations, we'd like to offer stories from Lutheran Men In Mission brothers from around the country—how God is working in your life, what the Holy Spirit is leading you to do in service to men's ministry, and how you hope to live into your faith.

## Let's hear from two of our valued Ambassadors.



**Jan Nelson, Redwood Falls, Minn.**

"I serve as synod Lutheran Men in Mission president, elected last March. We're planning our annual gathering May 3 in Wilmer, Minn., the same day as the WELCA celebration. We will worship together, then we will break away and have a speaker talking about the epidemic of loneliness. We'll have lunch with the women, then return to our meeting and breakout sessions, hopefully including a speaker from LMM. We kind of fell

apart during COVID, but now are working to get our 11 board members back together—get organized again, and get off the ground. We're also planning another One Year to Live Retreat here in southwestern Minnesota. We have a vibrant men's Bible study, and are trying to get another one started for the younger men in our congregation. We're having discussions on how to discuss men's ministry here."

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To tell your story, contact Vic Williams at [vic.williams@lutheranmeninmission.org](mailto:vic.williams@lutheranmeninmission.org)

# Stories of faith



**Herb Hergott, Denver, Colorado**

"We lost a Lutheran Men in Mission brother in Golden, Colorado, in late December. The funeral service was in early January—it was good fellowship, but also difficult, because we'd rather not meet under those circumstances. I shared personally that it would be nice to get another guy or two here in Colorado active, and help me as ambassadors. I'm visiting Bethany Lutheran in a couple weeks and hopefully will get someone to help me [spread the LMM word].

I'm also working on a church history project. I also hope to get together with

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**The Holy Spirit is still working and guiding us.**

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Doug Covington to look at scheduling another retreat and finding a place to do it. We may consider a camp near Cripple Creek—that might be a place to consider if we don't find one closer.

The Holy Spirit is still working and guiding us. I'm also still doing a men's Bible study with other guys. I've been doing it since 2010. God is good."

## My Faith Story:

# ‘It Is a Wonderful Mystery’

By Bob Gordon, Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church, Lakewood, Colorado

I begin my story at Princeton University in the town of Princeton, New Jersey. I was a freshman there in 1952. The Korean War was not over yet. My major was aeronautical engineering. Joe Sugar was running for student office. Professor Oppenheimer was declared a security risk. There was a lot going on. Soon the university chose a new Dean of the Chapel. His name is Ernest Gordon. He is not a relative of mine. Why did they choose him? A British army officer, he was in a Japanese Prison Camp during World War II. He built bridges on the River Kwai. After the war he went back to Scotland and became a Presbyterian minister in the Church of Scotland.

Ernest Gordon influenced my spiritual life. We had long talks. He said that a life of faith in God and of Jesus Christ his son, the Messiah, is the way of truth and salvation, no matter how rich or poor, no matter your age or race, man or woman. Jesus is the way the hope and the life. Ernest Gordon learned this in Japanese prison camp. He turned the situation of hell and misery into the foundation of love and forgiveness and reconciliation. Love and respect your enemies. Forgive them. Beware of logic, for if you do not have the pertinent facts, logic will lead you to the wrong conclusions.

Also at Princeton was another British Officer, His name is B. H. Liddell Hart. I did not have the chance to know him as well, but he was important to me. His message was the “indirect approach.” The direct approach encourages resis-



tance. You will pay the highest price for a temporary victory if you win. And the chances are you will not win. Try the indirect approach.

In 1955, after the Joe Sugar riot, continued bitterness on campus, and the death of physicist Albert Einstein, I quit college and joined the U.S. Army. It broke my father’s heart. He sacrificed a lot to get me into Princeton. He wanted me to graduate. But I didn’t.

The Army was a learning experience. I nearly froze to death in the winter and nearly sweated to death in the summer. No, I was not a Green Beret, nor was I a paratrooper in the 101<sup>st</sup> Screaming Eagles Division. I was in the field artillery. I fired the 105 howitzers. The captain was a man of accuracy. His philosophy was that life is a matter of hitting the target. Don’t waste ammunition. If you do, you are letting the enemy know where you are. You don’t want that. Hit your target on the first round. The first shot, hit it. Then move out quickly. It had nothing to do with Christianity. It also became obvious that we seldom hit the target on the first round.

After I was discharged from the Army, I got a job while going to college in the evenings. I graduated from the University of Rochester, New York, in 1962. In my English class, my professor was a Jewish man very committed to literature. We read parts of the Holy Bible as literature. It was like reading scripture as non-scripture. That is OK, but it often misses the signa-

# Stories of faith

ture message of the holy writ. The Holy Bible is a lot more than good literature.

My parents owned some land and a farm in Mendon, Monroe County, New York state. The pastor in the town of Mendon was the Reverend Twitchell. He was a sincere man of deep Christian faith. We read the Bible together, and we talked about what we read. Over a period of five years, we became good friends. He did not like Ecclesiastes, nor Job, nor Esther. He showed me that the coming of the Messiah was foretold in scripture—from Jesus’ birth to ministry to betrayal, trial, crucifixion and resurrection. I came to know Jesus as my savior and my friend throughout the conflicts and

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**I do not understand it logically. It is a wonderful mystery. It is beyond human understanding.**

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temptations of my life. I do not understand it logically. It is a mystery. It is a wonderful mystery. It is far beyond human understanding.

Now I am 91 years old. My son is middle-aged. My granddaughters are adult young ladies. I now even have great-grandchildren. Life has not been easy, but it has been good, and I am grateful for what I have. I belong to the Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church ELCA in Lakewood. The pastors of this church are two women working hard and doing a very good job. The church is a joy and a blessing to our community.

I look to the future with confidence. My younger brother and my younger sister are in good health. We have been blessed. Remember that change is normal. Embrace it.

# Help Build the LMM Legacy!

The **Presidents Legacy Circle** has been established to honor the men who have faithfully led and served LMM as its presidents, highlight the men and women who have remembered LMM in their Estates and Planned gifts, and raise awareness to the financial requirements of LMM ministry and to generate funding to meet their needs now and into the future.

In 2023, LMM kicked off this vital ministry with the Hal Derrick Memorial Initiative to honor our previous president, who passed in March of that year.

## The following followers of Christ have stepped up to lead the HDMI effort:

- Deborah and Lon Buss
- †Doris and Doug Haugen
- Ken Heckel
- Gyles Randall
- Gloria and Heber Rast
- Kathie Smith
- John Sundquist
- Rich White
- Vic Williams

## Currently Serving on the HDMI Committee:

- Jack Weller, North Carolina
- Jan Nelson, Minnesota
- Mark Vaughn, Iowa
- Rich White, Virginia
- John Sundquist, Michigan
- Ted Rogers, TFG Consultant

LMM has set an initial goal of \$1 million for declared Estate and Planned gifts by the end of 2025. At this moment we have secured nearly \$450,000! Please consider helping us chart a solid course for the future with your prayerfully considered estate gift.

For more information, please contact [development@lutheranmeninmission.org](mailto:development@lutheranmeninmission.org)

## LMM Presidents

For the first eight years of LMM's existence, the President was elected to a two-year term and could be re-elected once. Starting in 1996, the term was changed to three years with re-election for one term, to coincide with the interval between national gatherings.

| Term      | President               | Home State     |
|-----------|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1988-1992 | <b>Harry Arne</b>       | North Carolina |
| 1992-1996 | <b>Chuck Bruning</b>    | Minnesota      |
| 1996-2002 | <b>Charlie Schwartz</b> | Texas          |
| 2002-2008 | <b>Heber Rast</b>       | South Carolina |
| 2008-2011 | <b>Norm Smith</b>       | Kansas         |
| 2011-2017 | <b>Rich White</b>       | Virginia       |
| 2017-2023 | <b>Hal Derrick</b>      | North Carolina |
| 2023 -    | <b>Vic Williams</b>     | Nevada         |

UPCOMING  
**LMM** **EVENTS**  
& *programs*



## 2025 One Year To Live Retreats

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p><b>March 21-23, 2025</b><br/> <b>Feliciana Retreat Center</b><br/> <b>Norwood, LA</b><br/> <a href="#">Registration Information</a><br/> <a href="#">Online Registration</a></p> | <p><b>May 16-18, 2025</b><br/> <b>Good Earth Village</b><br/> <b>Spring Valley, MN</b><br/> <a href="#">Registration Information</a><br/> <a href="#">Online Registration</a></p>    | <p><b>Coming Soon!</b><br/> <b>September 12-14, 2025</b><br/> <b>Camp Carol Joy Holling</b><br/> <b>Ashland, NE</b></p> |
| <p><b>April 4-6, 2025</b><br/> <b>Tracy's Camp</b><br/> <b>Pinewood, SC</b><br/> <a href="#">Registration Information</a><br/> <a href="#">Online Registration</a></p>              | <p><b>September 12-14, 2025</b><br/> <b>Black Lake Bible Camp</b><br/> <b>Olympia, WA</b><br/> <a href="#">Registration Information</a><br/> <a href="#">Online Registration</a></p> | <p><b>September 19-21, 2025</b><br/> <b>Sugar Creek Bible Camp</b><br/> <b>Ferryville, WI</b></p>                       |
| <p><b>April 11-13, 2025</b><br/> <b>Camp Cherokee</b><br/> <b>Blacksburg, SC</b><br/> <a href="#">Registration Information</a><br/> <a href="#">Online Registration</a></p>         | <p><b>November 7-9, 2025</b><br/> <b>Camp EWALU</b><br/> <b>Strawberry Point, IA</b></p>   |   |



Visit [www.lutheranmeninmission.org/events/one-year-to-live/](http://www.lutheranmeninmission.org/events/one-year-to-live/) for information





# LMM Our Donors, 2024

Donations from February to December 2024

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*Thanks to the help of dedicated and faithful givers like you, LMM revenue exceeded budget for 2024, but there's always room for more in God's kingdom. Please consider inviting a friend to walk alongside you in LMM stewardship.*

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*Your support goes 100% to LMM's vital, growing ministries, including One Year to Live Retreats, Bold Gatherings, and Project Twelve.*

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Chuck Dube  
Duane Evenson  
Peter Ewers  
Tom Farrell  
Rev. Dr. Brian K Gige  
Roger Glaes  
Pete Hinrich  
Ralph Meyer  
Roger Newton  
Ken Ring  
Bill Schleichert  
Lynette Todd  
David Umlang  
Terrell West  
Jody Wilker  
Augsburg Lutheran Church,  
LMM Orrville, OH  
Resurrection Lutheran  
Church Cameron, SC  
SE Minn. Synod Lutheran  
Men in Mission  
St Andrew Lutheran Church  
Centreville, VA  
St John Lutheran Church,  
LMM Waseca, MN  
St John Men in Mission,  
Dimock, SD  
St Paul Lutheran Church,  
Gilman, IL  
St Paul's Lutheran Men in  
Mission, Streator, IL  
SW Minn. Synod Lutheran  
Men in Mission

## Zinc \$100-249

Donald Ahrens  
Floyd Anderson  
Victor Baderschneider  
John Barger  
Joseph Boozer  
Randell Bratsven  
Dave Brewton  
Joby Castine  
Raymond Caughman  
Lawrence Clark  
Terry Edwards  
Larry Erickson  
Robert Eskridge  
Rev. Curtis Hanson  
Richard Hanson  
Ken Heckel  
Robert and Mildred Herder  
Larry Hinrichs  
Steven Hoyle  
Larry Iverson  
Ivan Janssen  
Wayne Knudtson  
Bruce Krueger  
Dave Lueders  
Robert Manger  
Michael Mesick  
Joseph and Elaine Molnar  
David Moreland  
John Omans  
Cherie and Doug Rehnblom  
Richard Reinholtz  
Robert and Kathleen Rothen  
Jamie Savarin  
Bill Schirmer  
Richard Schneider  
Alan Strohschein  
Russell and Marie Tesch  
Jeffrey Thompson  
Randall Thomson  
William Tietgens  
August Waltmann  
John Weiss  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,  
LMM Redwood Falls, MN  
Minnesota River Conference,  
ELCA Le Sueur, MN  
St James Lutheran Church,  
Fayetteville, NC  
Zion Lutheran Church of  
Helotes, San Antonio, TX

# Bold Gathering Brings Strong Messages To Texas

**T**he October 2024 edition of LMM's Bold Gathering played out on a wonderful fall day at Grace Lutheran Church in Round Rock, Texas.

After attendees gathered at 9:30 a.m. to mingle over locally made baked goods, the six-speaker program began. This edition of Bold Gathering included four pastors (one retired) and two individuals representing local community non-profits.

## Life-changing ministries and devotions

After a greeting and prayer from LMM Executive Director John Sundquist, Lori Scott began her presentation, speaking on behalf of the **Round Rock Service Center**. Their services include a food pantry, clothing and furniture vouchers, several community gardens, a thrift store, and several other means of assistance. The community's commitment to their mission was evident—the organization is celebrating 37 years of good works. Round Rock's center was formed through many local congregations, working together to offer help in the best way possible.

Next, Ed Travis spoke about **Mobile Loaves and Fishes**. Their first goal is to help to provide sustainable housing for people experiencing homelessness, chiefly in the form of Community First! Village, which offers affordable, permanent homes that will soon cover an area of 51 acres. They also offer a mobile truck that provides food as well as personal hygiene items and other essentials, and a work program that allows beneficiaries of their services to give back, earn an income, and get a good track record for future employment. It's a vibrant organi-



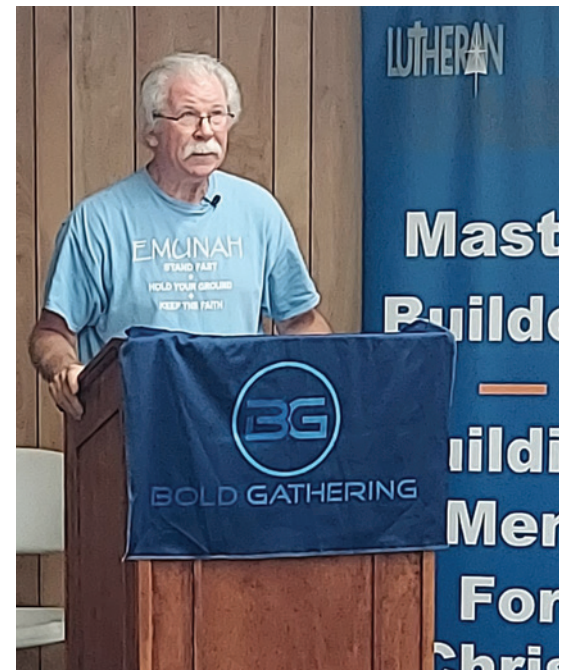
## BOLD GATHERING

zation meeting some of the region's most serious human needs.

Next up, Pastor Edwin Ortiz shared a wonderful devotion recorded in Puerto Rico. He dove into the deeper meaning of **metanoia**, a Greek word that basically means "a change of the mind." He referenced Mark 15. A One Year To Live alum, Pastor Ortiz went into detail on how Jesus used the word "repent," and how that coincides with the term "metanoia."

Pastor Brian Gige, who performs pastoral duties for a congregation near Houston and is a member of LMM's Financial Development Team, shared the concept of **"EMUNAH! The Baptized Life."** Attendees learned the various ways these words could have been used in Hebrew and Greek, referring specifically to Jesus' familiar greeting, "Truly, truly I say unto you..." We walked away that day recognizing

**We walked away that day recognizing that "the joy of living out one's baptism is discovering all these things God has already provided" for us.**



Pastor Brian Gige shared the concept of **"EMUNAH! The Baptized Life."**



Ed Travis spoke about **Mobile Loaves and Fishes**, whose first goal is to provide sustainable housing for people experiencing homelessness,



Pastor Carolyn Albert Donovan shared her congregation's project to provide shorter term housing.

that “the joy of living out one’s baptism is discovering all these things God has already provided” for us.

Pastor Carolyn Albert Donovan shared the strides made at Grace Lutheran Church in creating the **Peace Family Housing Project**. Its goal is to provide shorter term housing solutions for up to 36 families per year. The blueprints are finished, and the project is on target to be operational later in 2025. This is a very dynamic, faith-filled initiative carried out by a conscious congregational community. Their model will likely be reproduced through several church properties around the country.

Finally, Pastor Sam Brannon offered direct stories from his faith community in a devotion about the **“Deception of Male Productivity.”** He began with Psalm 19, discussed Pharoah, and ended with a man he personally knows. It was a great way to end the day with a strong devotion that left us digesting who we are and whose we are. “Jesus is the Sabbath walking on legs,” Pastor Brannon surmised. “In Matthew 11, Jesus calls us to him all who are weary. The Lord is there for [our] rest, and not for more productivity. The Lord is there to forgive [us] and to embrace [us] and to love [us].”



# BOLD GATHERING

May 3, 2025

Redeemer Lutheran Church  
Columbia, SC

Pastors Brannon and Scott’s presentations are now available to view on [YouTube](#), with others to follow.

## The next Bold Gathering

Plans are now in the works for the next Bold Gathering on May 3, 2025, at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Columbia, SC. As usual, there will be six speakers discussing the amazing, life-changing ministries lifting up communities. Already fully committed is LMM’s own Larry Moeller, a leader in the “Come To The Water” ministries near Knoxville, Tenn. **Come To The Water** sponsors youth who wouldn’t otherwise have the chance to attend a summer camp—at no cost to their

families. The impact from previous years is evident in many young people’s lives.

Registration for the next Bold Gathering will open soon, and more information will be available both online and in the April 2025 edition of **Foundations**. Everyone is invited and welcome to attend. It will be recorded and shared with everyone on the LMM YouTube channel at a later date.

Be sure to check out all the past events and speakers at [boldgathering.com](http://boldgathering.com).

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**“In Matthew 11, Jesus calls us to him all who are weary. The Lord is there for [our] rest, and not for more productivity. The Lord is there to forgive [us] and to embrace [us] and to love [us].”**

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# Remembering Doris Haugen | 1949-2025

**D**oris Haugen passed away on the evening of February 14, 2025, in Tumwater, Wash., after being diagnosed in November 2024 with leptomenigeal spread, a rare and aggressive cancer of the fluid surrounding the brain. She was the loving wife of Doug, who was the Executive Director of LMM for many years. Just the day before her death, they celebrated their 48th wedding anniversary. There was a love and commitment that was evident in their marriage that anyone who knew them could see.

All those who knew or met Doris remarked about how joyful and upbeat she was and the warmth and positive vibes she brought to them and everyone in the room.

The commitment Doug was able to give to the organization and its growth was a direct result of Doris' knowing the importance of this ministry and the unbridled support she always gave to it. LMM is what it is today because of this wonderful woman.

Doris Ann (Benson) Haugen was born on May 1, 1949, in Warren, Minn., the daughter of Lynn and Elaine (Jorgenson) Benson. She passed away on February 14, 2025.

When you met Doris, you knew you had encountered someone compassionate who made you feel special. She was genuinely interested in every individual she met and their future. She was passionate about helping others.

Those who grew up with her in Stephen, Minn., experienced this, as did her fellow students at Concordia College, where she earned her bachelor's degree, and those she would eventually serve in her professional career.



She was united in marriage to Doug Haugen of Moorhead, Minn., on February 13, 1977, in Sandy, UT. They were blessed with two children, Derek and Dawn. Her greatest joy was her family.

Doris's career began as a junior high English teacher in Osseo, Minn. She then became the Residence Hall and Off-Campus Housing Director, followed by the Assistant Dean of Student Development at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn. While serving at Concordia, Doris took a year to focus on biblical studies at the Lutheran Bible Institute of Seattle. She later became an Independent Study teacher at Chana High School in Auburn, Calif., and then a Guidance Counselor for the Alden-Hebron School District in Hebron, Ill. Doris went on to obtain her master's degree in counseling and human development from Roosevelt University. She then began her 18-year career at Judson University in Elgin, Ill., starting as Director of Student Retention and Success, followed by Director of Career Development, and later serving as a Career Coach and Wellness Counselor.

Doris, along with her husband Doug, co-authored *Jesus Bring Hope* (Augsburg, 1982) and *Jonah, Joel,*

## Doris Haugen's One Year To Live Mission Statement

I am Doris Benson Haugen, daughter of my Heavenly Father, wife, mother and friend. I exist to love and serve my Lord, my husband and family and to create safe places for people to surrender their lives to Jesus Christ in order to become all that God has created them to be and to fulfill His will and purpose in their lives.

I strive to do this by spending daily time with God, the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit in the Word, prayer and fellowship that I may become all that He has created me to be.

My prayer is that I might glorify God in all that I do, say and think.

and Amos, part of the Lifeguide Bible Study Series for InterVarsity Press, as well as *Ask or Imagine: Episodes on the Journey to Becoming a Family*.

Doris enjoyed Friday night dates, family game nights and vacations, reading and writing, long walks, and spending time with friends and family.

Along with Doug, Doris is survived by her children, Derek (Krista) Haugen and Dawn (Mickey) Peebles; her granddaughter, Kayja (Gavin) Peebles; and her grandson, Bryce Ciprianni. She is also survived by her siblings, Bob (Mavis) Benson and Alvern Benson. She was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Rodger; her sister, Dina Satterlund; and her sister-in-law, Denise Benson.

A service will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, March 1 at Woodlawn Funeral Home, located at 5930 Mullen Road SE in Lacey, WA 98503. For those unable to attend in person, the service will be live-streamed live on [YouTube](#). In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to [St. Jude Children's Research Hospital](#), per Doris's wishes.

Please keep their entire family in your prayers.

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