



It's been a good year for Lutheran Men in Mission – your MasterBuilders – in the Lower Susquehanna Synod. We continue to work with congregations around the Synod to encourage, enhance, revitalize and develop new ministries. We are developing a list of key contacts around the synod and currently have identified men in about 35% of our congregations. These men are important conduits for news and information and if you wish to serve in this capacity for your Church, please stop by our display.

On May 2, we held our annual Gathering at Christ, Elizabethtown. This was a very interesting Gathering. It was based on David Murrow's newest book: "How Women Get Men to God". We planned it with the Synod's W-ELCA leaders and it featured Pastor Kerry Nelson – late of Covenant Lutheran in Houston, TX. The women who attended gave very positive feed-back and the responders who participated presented very meaningful responses.

LSS-LMM is also bringing the devotional "Strength for Service" to our military personal who are on active duty. This is a devotional that has been around since WW II, went out of print, and was resurrected by a lad in North Carolina as his Eagle Scout Project. We will make these available at a very reasonable cost to interested congregations. Please see us at the display for details.

This has also been an eventful year for Lutheran Men in Mission Church-Wide. Seven of us from the Synod attend the Church-Wide Gathering in Omaha this past summer. Our Synod had its full complement of delegates at the Assembly where we voted to become a separate, but still related to the ELCA, corporation. This is the same status enjoyed by W-ELCA. We also applied for a 501(c)3 designation with the IRS. The IRS 501(c)3 became official at the end of January, finalizing our incorporation action in Omaha. Most importantly now are the new implications for our relationship with our donors and Thrivent. We now become eligible for their GivingPlus matching program. (LMM's number is: 504751999) providing a great opportunity to 'multiply' gifts to and support of LMM. Additionally, I was humbled to be elected Regional Vice President serving Region 8.

This year's Church-Wide emphasize for Lutheran Men in Mission is to identify and train leaders at all levels: The local Church, the Synod and the Region. To that end, we have done several things: 1.) We approved the position of Men's Ministry Specialist and are working to identify men for that role. I have details of what that entails at our display. 2.) We finalized our relationship with Man in the Mirror. This has implications from several stand-points. It helps us with this training through the No Man Left Behind seminars and various other resources. We will be bringing news of these events and others as they develop. 3.) Lastly, at the last Board meeting, LMM approved giving all current and future Seminary Middlers a copy of our MasterBuilder Bible and Pat Morley's new book, "Pastoring Men". We feel very strongly that all of these students gain an understanding of the importance of LMM and of men's ministry to the life of a congregation. I was able to make a presentation to Gettysburg's Middlers in mid May. Both of these books – along with the book "No Man Left Behind" – are available at our display. .

LMM has worked with Lyman Coleman and the Youth and Family Institute at Luther Seminary to develop a new men's retreat: "One Year to Live". To date several have been held throughout the country. I was able to attend one in March in Omaha and it was really a fantastic, life changing event. Men's lives will be changed. The next two are this fall in Wisconsin and South Carolina. We hope to have several men from LSS attend the South Carolina event. As time goes on, we will be bringing this retreat to the Lower Susquehanna Synod and Region 8. We are also developing a "Connection" retreat for young men.

We view LMM – the ELCA's MasterBuilders – as not just a men's ministry, but a MEN'S MOVEMENT – a movement to bring men into a closer relation with Jesus Christ through our MasterBuilder Bibles, our events, and our work with young men. We are important to the future of the ELCA. LMM is committed to developing a men's organization in your congregation that will help each other grow spiritually as they help their Pastors achieve the objectives they have for their parish. Reaching out to guys of all ages, where they are and walking besides them as they grow together and serve the Lord. How can we help that happen in your church? Which men in your Church can help us? Call us at 717.732.5050

Fred Bohls, President