

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION

Lower Susquehanna Synod, ELCA

Winter 2007/2008

From the President

Gathering strength!

It's a very exciting time to be involved in the ELCA's Men's Ministry. Dynamic organizations are those that are in a state of flux, growth and change. We are certainly there, both Churchwide and here in the Lower Susquehanna Synod. However, one thing remains constant: Our purpose – ***“That every man have a growing walk with Jesus Christ through an effective men's ministry in every congregation in the ELCA.”*** That we make disciples for Christ by changing men's hearts, heads and hands. Men who are *called* to walk with Christ, *equipped* to live like Christ and *sent* to work for Christ.

We are working with more and more congregations who want to establish or revitalize their ministry to and with men. Lots of exciting stories in this issue. Remember the *MasterBuilder Bible* program? We will provide your church with six Bibles, plus training and support, to help with this process. Just give us a call.

On the Synod level, we are in the final phases of planning our next Gathering, to be held at Trinity, Camp Hill, on Jan. 26, 2008. This will be another exciting event, for which we are partnering with United Methodist Men.

'Rewired' For God

A “Man in the Mirror” seminar, the Gathering is entitled ***REWIRED*** and will be led by Brett Clemmer, one of the authors of “No Man Left Behind.” **REWIRED** is based on the writings of St. Paul and will take men from performance to passion.

Does it feel like you are never going to “make it”? We men often get caught up in the “performance trap.” We can't escape our own and other's expectations. It's easy to end up living a life of obligation and quiet frustration. True Christianity is not about “acting good.” God offers more than behavior modifications. He offers heart transformations! Come to this event and learn how God **REWIRES** men's hearts to build a passionate faith. Topics include:

From Performance to Grace, From Idols to 'Spirit and Truth,' From Self-Sufficiency to Faithful Dependence, and Rewired for Biblical Manhood.



Men attending this Gathering will be equipped to go back to their congregations and lead a six-session **REWIRED** study based on the book of Galatians.

There are registration forms included with this mailing. There are savings for early registration and church commitment of three or more men, so think and plan early.

As always, we will close with a worship service and are pleased to have our new Bishop, B. Penrose Hoover, leading our service.

We are also planning a special event with Brett for Pastors and leaders on Friday evening to discuss *No Man Left Behind*. More later.

Churchwide Developments

Lots happening at the Churchwide level. Most exciting, we are developing a relationship with Man in the Mirror – an organization whose mission is to train leaders in Men's Ministry. There will be more on that as it develops.

We are completing our BFTF campaign. Read about that in this newsletter. Lastly, Omaha and our tri-annual Assembly and Gathering are just around the corner. More on all of these items can be found in our latest newsletter at http://www.elca.org/lmm/newsletters/Winter_07.pdf

Website Developer Needed

Lastly, we would like to develop a LMM Synod Web-Page. Anyone out there who has these skills? Let us know if you are interested in helping.

Fred Bohls

BFTF is 'Building for the Future' of Men's Ministry

What's BFTF all about anyway? Why is it important?

Over the past couple of years LMM Churchwide has been preparing for an historic event. At our Tri-Annual Assembly two years ago in Charleston, we decided to become an independent 501(c)3 organization. We will still be connected to the ELCA, but will become an organization similar in structure to that of the Women of the ELCA.

Since then we have been working to complete this process and we will be finalizing it at our next Assembly that will be held in conjunction with our Gathering in Omaha next summer.

This means we will become totally self-supporting. At this point, we receive half of the salaries for our only two employees – Dour Haugen and Kim Moseley – from the ELCA, but that support will end with the change of status. We will be totally dependent on contributions from men like you and me who believe in the importance of Ministry to and with men. We will determine the strength of our Ministry.

Challenge Grant

LMM was very fortunate to receive a sizeable grant from a Wisconsin businessman – to the tune of \$500,000. However, this was a Challenge Grant – meaning that we needed to raise the funds to match his contribution. That is what BFTF – Building for the Future – is all about. LMM has committed to raise \$500,000 in cash contributions and \$500,000 in Deferred Contributions – gifts through wills, trusts, gift annuities – by the time we meet next year.

Where will these funds go? Into an Endowment Fund whose use will be restricted to three things: 1. To continue our MasterBuilder Bible program; 2. to support our Gatherings – both Regional and Churchwide; and 3. to continue our work with Young Men.

30,000 Bibles

To date, LMM has placed over 30,000 MasterBuilder Bibles in the hands of men across the country. Some have been purchased, but we also decided to continue making six of these Bibles available to Churches wishing to either start or

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revitalize their Men's Ministry. Ask one of the members of our Leadership team about this program.

LMM continues with our Tri-Annual Gatherings and also has developed a series of Regional Gatherings similar to the one at Advent Lutheran, York, last year. These are important events that allow men to understand what LMM is all about, but more importantly give men the opportunity to continue to grow in their faith.

And perhaps the most important aspect is our continued research and planning for Young Men – those guys between 15 And 35. This is the most missing demographic in our churches and makes up an important segment of our Church's future.

Be a 'PaceSetter'

What does this have to do with you? How can you help? Consider making a BFTF gift. One way is to become a PaceSetter – an individual or group of men who can give \$1,000 to this effort. Look at your church's Endowment Fund. Are there provisions there to support efforts of this nature? Look at your IRA. While many need these funds to support their retirement, there is provision for those of us 59 ½ years or older to make contributions to charitable organizations without tax consequences. Check with your tax advisor for help — and soon! This program will end at the end of this year.

Also we need to be aware of LMM's current needs as well. Our spending plan for this year calls for us to raise \$200,000. So your consideration for current giving is also important.

So, BFTF – Important to this ministry of our Church. Important to the future of our Church. We hope that you give prayerful consideration to what part you might play in this important endeavor. Please contact one of the members of our Leadership Team with questions or visit our web-site – www.elca.org/lmm – for information or to make an on-line contribution.

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REWIRED:

Gathering Focuses on How God Transforms Men

This winter's Men's Gathering will be a "Man in the Mirror" Seminar designed to help men understand how God can transform them and help them lead lives that are more productive, fulfilling and enjoyable.

The gathering will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2000 Chestnut St., Camp Hill.

Brett Clemmer, co-author of "No Man Left Behind," will lead the seminar, entitled "Rewired." God Rewires men's hearts to build a passionate faith. Topics include: From Performance to Grace, From Idols to 'Spirit and Truth', From Self-Sufficiency to Faithful Dependence and Rewired for Biblical Manhood.

Men who attend will be enabled to lead workshops back in their home congregations.

Our new Bishop, B. Penrose Hoover, will lead the closing worship.

'REWIRED'

Registration for LMM Winter Gathering Jan. 26
Trinity Lutheran Church, 2000 Chestnut Street, Camp Hill, PA

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Church: _____

Church contact: _____

Prices:

\$35 for regular registration

\$30 for early registration — before Dec. 31)

\$30 each for three or more men from same church

\$30 for Pastors anytime

\$40 for late registration — after Jan. 21

Number Attending _____ x \$ _____ = \$ _____

Pastor, if attending, @ \$30 = \$ _____

Total = \$ _____

Send this coupon, a check made out to Lutheran Men in Mission and a self-addressed, stamped envelope to:
Ken Kahler, LMM Treasurer, 3379 Peters Mountain Rd., Halifax, PA 17032

Get ready for the triennial Assembly, July 31-Aug. 1 in Omaha

"Your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions."

—Acts 2:17.

This is the basis of LMM's next triennial Gathering and its theme, **Coming of Age**. It will be held in Omaha, Neb.

Needless to say, this event will focus on our younger men,

what LMM is doing about and for them and their importance to our future. The Assembly will be held July 31st and Aug. 1st with the Gathering beginning at 7 pm on Aug. 1st.

More information is available in our Fall newsletter, Foundations which can be found at www.elca.org/lmm/newsletters/

Winter_07.pdf.

We hope to have a huge delegation for Pennsylvania attend this event. Perhaps we can arrange buses for transportation. Please start your plans now and let one of the members of the Leadership know of your plans so that we can coordinate.



MEN'S MINISTRIES



Just starting? Here's what others are doing!

"My pastor thinks it's time for a men's ministry and he's asked me to get it going. What do I do? I'm interested in starting a men's ministry. What should I do first?"

These and other questions are the first signs of Holy Spirit at work in your life or that of your congregation. Jesus says, "Follow me and I will show you the way." His command is "Follow me." Then as we walk with Him, He will show us the way.

What follows are experiences of "men in ministry" around the Lower Susquehanna Synod. These reports of ministry are words of encouragement in whatever step in the process you find yourself. Ministry is work and we can be together with Him as we experience the spiritual growth in the "fellowship of believers."

Greencastle Evangelical Lutheran - Men In Mission

Our MIM group meets the first Sunday of each month Sept.-May at 7:30 a.m. for devotions and discussion/Bible study, and breakfast at the Antrim House Restaurant in Greencastle. We do not meet in June, July, and August.

Our Bible study this year was the Book of Proverbs. We have a president, secretary and treasurer for our group, and have had between four and eight men in attendance at meetings this year.

We pray for each other, our congregation, community, nation, and world. We have a prayer chain in our congregation that we put men and their families on, if we feel the need. We will establish goals for 2008 and elect officers in December.

We have helped those in need in our congregation and helped with the mother-daughter banquet as a project for our men's group in 2007.

—Darrell L. Miller – Pres.

First Lutheran Carlisle – Lutheran Men in Mission

In April 2007, the men of First Lutheran, Carlisle, decided to start a men's ministry for all males of confirmation age or older. The primary purpose was to provide opportunities for men to come together in their daily walk with their Savior Jesus Christ, to grow spiritually, and to serve. As men pray, learn, and serve in the activities of First Lutheran, God's plan for them becomes real.

First Lutheran men decided that the first step was to schedule a breakfast each month to provide an opportunity for fellowship, spiritual growth, good food, and presentations by men in all walks of life. The first breakfast was in April 2007, and we decided to meet on the third Saturday of each month.

During the monthly meetings, the men developed some potential activities that would provide opportunities for service to the congregation and the community. During the October meeting we decided for the men's ministry to take overall responsibility for the annual Fathers & Sons Banquet. The men's ministry also participated in the First Lutheran Time and Talent Fair to highlight the vision of the group and to communicate its purpose to all members of the congregation.

The men of First Lutheran Carlisle are excited about the journey that we are starting because it will provide each of us an opportunity to develop a more personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

-Rex Asten and Roger Williams, Men's Ministry Leaders

Saint Stephen Lutheran, Mechanicsburg

Guys from Saint Stephen have been meeting since May for breakfast and Bible study the second Saturday of each month. One of the guys cooks and I usually lead the study using the *MasterBuilders Bible for Men*. Then on the fourth Saturday of the month guys volunteer for a work project in the community or we go on a fellowship event. Our work projects have involved things like debris removal, wood splitting, Habitat for Humanity and apple picking.

Fellowship has been a trip to Quantico, Virginia to see the Marine Corps Museum and a Phillies game at Citizens Bank Park. Our group is still fairly small (no more than 8 guys at this point), but we are committed to gathering, studying and fellowshiping.

-Pastor John Teitman

St. John's Lutheran, Boiling Springs

We at St John's Lutheran in Boiling Springs continue to field a softball team in the Carlisle Area Church Softball League in which a number of our men participate, but it is also open to females. So it is not strictly a men's program.

Also during the past year we started a B.O.O.K Forum (Beyond One's Own Knowledge) where a group of readers meet periodically to discuss a book of the group's choosing. We did two books since February: *The Genesis of Justice* by Alan Dershowitz, and *Life of the Beloved* by Henri Nouwen. We are currently reading *Religious Literacy* by Stephen Prothero. Again, though, this is a group of men and women, about half and half. Both programs have spurred interest and seem worthwhile. We don't have any program strictly for men.

-John Monn

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St. John's Lutheran, Shiremanstown

Learning to trust in the Lord with all your heart is challenging enough. And, to present that to others around you is, well, I think you know the answer. In today's atmosphere of job pressure and electronic distraction (games, TV, advertisement), that is so overwhelming to adults and youth, where is there time to trust in the Lord? Family relationships are under siege, and the men's ministry at St. John's, Shiremanstown, certainly finds the battle uphill.

I am learning that my passion to start a men's ministry is, ah, monumental. By myself, impossible. To keep focused in letting the Holy Spirit guide this project is the key, through prayer. And yet I have to keep remembering this essential fact! It has been nearly two years since my pastor, Mike Siefried, challenged me to start a men's ministry at St. John's. So, what has happened in that time? Trying to build a leadership team is progressing, and I have gained a friend in doing so. Ell Beckmann has my trust and he is most valued, but we need more to join us. The men's breakfast used to anguish with four or five showing up. Now it is 10 to 15. The church council is more aware of this undertaking. As a member of the Outreach and Nurture committee, they get to hear my ranting raving more than anyone. (They REALLY look forward to the monthly meeting!) Getting men to make room for a personal relationship with our Lord is a daunting task. We at St. John's are truly in our infancy at this stage. But then, being an infant insures that growth is going to happen! Finally, I must tell you that Fred Bohls and his partners have been great in helping me and Ell in this venture. Thank you!

-Gary Larson

Trinity Lutheran, Arendtsville

The men of Trinity in Arendtsville are having a series of breakfast get-togethers at 7 a.m. on the third Saturday of every month at the Apple Bin Restaurant just west of Biglerville. Y'all come and visit.

-Bob McQuaid

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran, York

We started our men's ministry early spring this year. The core group of 5-6 regulars meets monthly for two hours, max, for Bible Study using our new men's Bibles. We had an outing at the local baseball park one evening in July with 10 of us. We co-hosted a fall clean and repair weekend with the church property committee and the altar guild. We provided barbecue and covered dish and had about 20

people help for 2-4 hours. Our core group is becoming closer through study, prayer, work, service, and play. We are all glad we started this and ache to have more men come to know Jesus through this ministry.

-Carl Stecker

St. John's Lutheran, Littlestown

Men's Ministry Begins Second Year at St. John's in Littlestown. Back for another year of in-depth and substantive Bible study and fellowship, St. John's Men's Ministry recently kicked-off a new year. A large group gathering took place at the church last month, where food and drinks were provided for men of all ages, while they enjoyed a much-anticipated football game together.

The event was the second of its kind. St. John's had a men's group years ago, but there was no real direction in the last several years, that is until Lutheran Men in Mission worked with Pr. Jim Dunlop and four other committed guys

to get the program running. Following a study course out of the *Master Builder's Bible*, the group felt ready to host a large group kick-off session, from which three study groups were formed. The groups had men from all age groups and stages of life. Meeting bi-weekly through June, the groups took the

summer off, so getting people back into the routine became a challenge.

"I wasn't really sure how much the men's group meant to the guys," said Rick Baldwin, one of the groups' leaders, "until I was approached by several men wondering when we were going to restart."

Now that the leadership group has a better understanding of what to expect, they resumed small group meetings on Friday and Sunday evenings. In addition to the weekly Bible studies, a golf outing, Spring service project, and a large group closing gathering are planned for 2008.

"I really got a lot out of it, and I'm looking forward to getting back into it now that summer is over," claimed Denny Miller, a member of Rick's Friday night group.

All adult men are welcome and encouraged to attend, even if they are reluctant to talk, as are most men. Fellowship and friendships are the natural byproducts of people who gather together to hear God's word and discern it's meaning in our lives.

-Rich Baldwin, leader.

This has been is a sampling of what is going on in Men's Ministry around the synod. The important point is to get started in the "Follow Me!" process and seek the Holy Spirit's guidance. If you would like to start or restart a ministry to and for men, contact Fred Bohls by phone 717-732-5050 or e-mail fcfp@ix.netcom.com or Bill Schirmer by phone 717-243-1110 or e-mail wschirmer614@embarqmail.com.

LMM Executive Director

Remember Joseph this Christmas

Reverend Eric Burtness, pastor of St. Matthews Lutheran Church, Beaverton, OR and author of "A Life Worth Living" (Augsburg Fortress, 2006) and "Leading on Purpose" (Augsburg Fortress, 2004) has written a sermon on Joseph and has graciously given permission for you to use it for your own meditation, small group discussion or sermon preparation.

Joseph is a character often forgotten about in the Christmas story- or soon after. Pastor Burtness says:

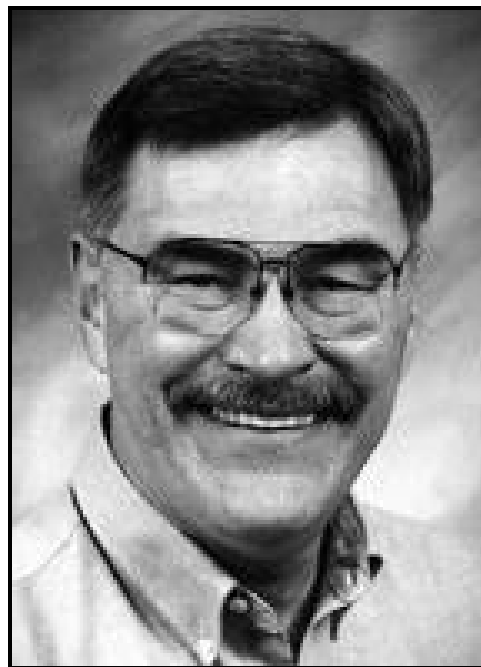
"On Christmas Eve there are more men in worship than any other worship service during the entire year. Many of the men haven't been there since Easter, or maybe even since last Christmas. This sermon is an attempt to preach to men and to address the incredibly important role they have in the faith development of their children and families.

"Don't miss the opportunity this Christmas to reach out to the men who worship with you. Part of the sermon is based on Joseph's Story, by Max Lucado."

To access "Joseph's Story: A Christmas Sermon" to www.elca.org/lmm. You'll find it on the left side of the page. While there, you might also want to give a listen to Peter Mayer's Christmas Song, "Hey Joseph". We are grateful to Peter and Eric for granting permission to use their sermon and song.

While you are on the website you may also want to check out the 2008 Lutheran Men's Gathering and consider making a year end gift to Lutheran Men in Mission.

I have lost three significant men in my life this year- our former LMM Board President Charlie Schwartz in August, my father who died November 6, and my uncle who died November 28 — and I can tell you from personal experience



DOUG HAUGEN

there is no better way to honor a man who has played a significant role in your life than to share a gift with a ministry like ours that is building men for Christ. To share a gift, simply click ELCA Giving Basket on the website.

Doug Haugen is director of Lutheran Men in Mission.

LSS—LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION

We are the men's ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are working to strengthen men's Christian faith, relationships, witness and service in their homes, congregations, work-place and communities.

Our Mission: By God's grace, to build men's faith, relationships and ministry through men's events, the resources we have available and ongoing leadership development.

Our Vision: By God's grace, to offer every man a growing relationship with Jesus Christ through an effective men's ministry in every congregation of the Lower Susquehanna Synod.

Our Commitment: By God's grace, to assist every congregation of the Lower Susquehanna Synod in establishing an effective, life-changing men's ministry.

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