

Epistle



South Carolina
Lutheran Men in Mission

www.sclmm.org

December/ January 2010

From the President



This year has gone by so quickly. I feel as though I blinked and our year is almost over. I always feel that there is not enough time in the day (or year) to do the things that we would like, or that God is calling us to do. However, even writing this last message to you, I am reminded of a verse that helps me remember our purpose.

“Jesus said, ‘Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them’” Matt 18:20. If we live our lives doing everything in Christ’s name then he is always with us. I see that in this organization.

However, at times I feel as though something is missing. Others.

Over this year we have been called to make a friend and meet a friend. Our next step is to “bring a friend”. Paul says in 1 Corinthians that we are the body of Christ and that we each have our own spiritual gifts that keep that Body moving (Mission), serving (service) and growing (Growth). However, we cannot grow as Christians and as a Body if we do not grow.

We need to always be open to new growth, within ourselves and within this Body. We are all called to this mission by Christ, but he also calls us to reach out and “bring a friend” to keep the Body moving, serving and growing. I look forward to continue to be a part of this organization and be a part of its continued growth.

“Amen for Lutheran Men”

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www.sclmm.org

As I See It—Dean Ganis

This will be my last "As I See It" as I leave SC Lutheran Men in Mission as Executive Director. At age 66 I have seen a lot of change over the years. I have been active in SC Lutheran Men in Mission for 43 years and have spent many hours in meetings discussing the ministries of SCLMM. Since elected as SCLMM President in 1991, I have had the best of times visiting and speaking about, what I believe are my greatest passions, our God, Jesus Christ and Lutheran Men in Mission. The men and women I have had the opportunity to meet and work with, have shown me what it is like to serve our Lord and have given me Vision of what is yet to come!

I will leave the Executive Director position in excellent hands, but will continue to be involved with Lutheran Men in Mission as long as our God allows me to be. Confucius says "Vision without Action is only a dream. Action without vision is wasting time. Vision and Action change the world." SC Lutheran Men in Mission has been Visionary and, most certainly, has been Active in the South Carolina Synod and a leader in Church Wide Lutheran Men in Mission.

As I bid you adieu,

Remember God Loves All His Children!

As a child of God, I love all of you!

2009 Theme

Mission Service Growth

| | |

Make a Meet a Bring a

Friend Friend Friend

Doug McKenzie, President

Committee of 100 Reminder

Please send your contributions to

Kevin Wicker at:

Kevin Wicker

977 Quail Drive

Walterboro, SC 29488

Pastoral Advisor Column—Pastor Merrell

Sirach 17:24-32 ²⁴ Yet to those who repent he grants a return, and he encourages those who are losing hope. ²⁵ Turn back to the Lord and forsake your sins; pray in his presence and lessen your offense. ²⁶ Return to the Most High and turn away from iniquity, and hate intensely what he abhors. ²⁷ Who will sing praises to the Most High in Hades in place of the living who give thanks? ²⁸ From the dead, as from one who does not exist, thanksgiving has ceased; those who are alive and well sing the Lord's praises. ²⁹ How great is the mercy of the Lord, and his forgiveness for those who return to him! ³⁰ For not everything is within human capability, since human beings are not immortal. ³¹ What is brighter than the sun? Yet it can be eclipsed. So flesh and blood devise evil. ³² He marshals the host of the height of heaven; but all human beings are dust and ashes.

It might seem a little odd to you that I chose the above verses for an Advent devotional. They seem to fit more with Lent than they do with Advent. However, as we have heard from our Gospel lessons for the past two weeks, repentance is a big part of the Advent message. John

was proclaiming a baptism for the repentance of sins, and as we await the coming of the Messiah, we too have heard messages about repentance and preparation. Repenting is a large part of that message of preparation.

In the midst of the Advent season of the church (and the commercial Christmas season), we are constantly reminded to prepare ourselves for the return of the Messiah. Verse 30 above hints at this preparation: ³⁰ "For not everything is within human capability, since human beings are not immortal." We are not immortal, but the one that we wait for is! On Christmas day, we celebrate the birth of the immortal One, Jesus the Christ. We give thanks that God sent his only Son to the world to save all the world from the bondage of sin and the grave. We repent of our sins, pray in the presence of God, and celebrate the greatest gift that was ever given.

As Advent winds to a close and we prepare ourselves for the Christmas season, let us continue to keep the disciplines of repenting and preparing. The return of the Messiah will happen one day. When that day comes, I hope that you are ready.

Heartland Conference

This has been a good year for the Heartland Conference Lutheran Men in Mission. We have had good turn-outs at the meetings, with the first quarterly meeting of the year being held at Bethel White Rock, the second quarterly meeting at St. Thomas, Chapin and the Youth Rally at Holy Trinity, Little Mountain. The Ladies night is scheduled for November 19, 2009 at St. Philip, Newberry.

We have been very pleased with the programs, with Bishop Herman Yoos and Chaplain Roy Butler being speakers for our first two programs, and for Youth Rally, Solid Ground, a Christian Rock Group from Columbia was well received. For the Ladies Night, we have scheduled a presentation from Newberry College's Drama Department.

Thanks to all of the units that have hosted the meetings this year. We are fortunate to have congregations with the caliber of these officers.

During the year, the conference has made contributions to the Loan Fund, Committee of 100, the Gift Fund, ELCA LMM, and we golf hole sponsorship.

We were saddened this year with the loss of Wayne Lominick, former president of the SC LMM, and member of the Heartland Conference. Please keep his family in all of our prayers.

We are looking forward to a good year next year, with three meetings being scheduled; Mt. Olivet, Chapin (February Meeting), Grace Lutheran Prosperity (Youth Rally), and Holy Trinity Little Mountain (Ladies Night).

Finally, thanks to the Vice-President, Mike Whitlock, Secretary-Treasurer Dan Sandel, and Pastoral Advisor Jerry L. Trantham. It is a pleasure to work with these guys.

Randy Cannon, President

SCLMM Convention Banquet

Meals for the **Past Presidents Dinner** will also be thirteen dollars (\$13) per person or **\$25** for two people.

Past Presidents' Dinner will begin at **6:30 p.m.** on **Friday, February 19th** at the **Lutheran Church of Our Saviour.**

Meals for the **SCLMM Convention Banquet** will be thirteen dollars (\$13) per person or **\$25** for two people.

Convention banquet will begin at approximately **5:45 p.m.** on **Saturday, February 20th.**

You may **prepay** by sending checks to:

Mr. Verne K. Heckel, III
324 Holmes Drive
Greenville, SC 29609.

You can **pay at the door**, but need to let **Verne Heckel know by 5:00 p.m.** on **Friday, February 12th, 2010.**

Travel Notes for Convention

I 385 north from Clinton, SC to Gray Court will be closed from 1/4/10 to 8/15/10.

People coming to the Convention from the lower part of the state will want to follow the detour of I 26 West to I 85 South.



**South Carolina
Lutheran Men in Mission**

**Secretary
Status**

As of January 1, 2010, the upcoming position of SCLMM secretary has not been filled. Several men have been contacted but for various reasons, none were able to accept the offer at this time. If you can recommend someone for SCLMM secretary, please don't hesitate to contact either Dean Ganis or Von Metz.

Amen for Lutheran Men!

One Year to Live - Men's Ministry

Mike Maulik, Elkhorn, NE, entered the program as reluctant participant in 2008. "It changed my life. I came back a different man."

Lutheran Men is dedicated to helping men become the godly leaders God calls us to be.

A godly man seeks to be a good husband, father, friend, and spiritual leader for his family, church and community. We explore opportunities to honor Jesus Christ by practicing personal integrity, building family unity, and demonstrating biblical principles.

Becoming a Christian man is not a destination; it is a life-long journey.

Several weekends ago@ Lutheridge, 15 men participated in the program and proclaimed the week end completely changed their outlook on their Christian faith. *Tim Crout* says there will be additional retreats next spring and fall. It is a must for the Lutheran Man looking for answers. **Call Tim @ 803-261-7011.**

Men in Action

Men In Action is a ministry that is designed to reach the underchurched populus in our churches, men from ages 18 to 35. We are targeting these ages but we have men involved from ages 14 to 71. We go to the outdoors and have fun. We share spiritual beliefs and life stories and learn to lean on each other with Jesus and through bible studies and devotionals.

SCLMM started this ministry in 2007. It is the only ministry in the US that targets young Lutheran men. If we do not catch them soon they may never be exposed to the love of Jesus through our Lutheran Church. Look around you in church next Sunday and see if your pews have many men under age 45. How many single moms are there?

If this ministry interests you, get in touch with us. Become a leader in our planning. Support us with a financial gift. Offer your talents to us. Pray that we reach these young men. Find a young man and offer to pay his way to one of our events. Mentor to him. Get involved in his life.

A schedule of our activities will be in our SCLMM year-book. They will include hiking at Congaree National Park with our families, camping and a dove shoot, whitewater rafting and volleyball once a month, some service project such as Habitat For Humanity among other things. If Jesus Christ has made your life a blessing, shouldn't you want to share it with a young man in your life?

Tim Crout 803-261-7011

SCLMM Officers

President	Doug McKenzie (Kathie) PO Box 123 Drayton, SC 29333-0123 (864) 582-1920 dwmckenzie98@yahoo.com
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Send your articles for the next Epistle:

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Spartanburg, SC 29302

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Foothills Conference #1 Q4, 2009

Atonement

The LMM members have been meeting on a regular basis and have held bible studies.

Christ the King

They are having bible study at their monthly off-campus meetings. The group continues to participate in Church property maintenance projects where they are renovating an area in the Church into a conference room. They have participated in the Lutheran Thrivent Habitat build.

Faith Lutheran Chapel

The men of Faith Lutheran have kept up with Bible studies at their second Saturday of the month breakfast meetings. In addition, they worked on the new building in preparation for the renovation of their new worship space. For their service project, they did yard work for a paraplegic community member. Four members attended the One Year to Live seminar at Lutheridge.

Holy Trinity

The Holy Trinity men continue to hold their regular meetings. At their October meeting, the guest speaker was the Anderson County Fire Chief. For the November meeting they honored their spouses with diner and a Barber Shop Quartet.

Immanuel

The LMM group has continued to have guest speakers from the local community at their monthly meetings. At their October meeting, their speaker gave a report on Kinard Manor. They also participated in a tour of the new facilities at Greenwood High School.

Lutheran Church by the Lake

Along with their regular meetings, the Lutheran men hosted their annual golf tournament and raised funds for LMM and local charities. They continue to hold their monthly chapter meetings.

Messiah

The Messiah golfers participated in the Annual Luther Cup Golf Tournament in August competing with Saint Michaels. They have been meeting off-campus for the summer and have welcomed a special guest notably, Ken Heckel, Vice President SCLMM. The Messiah men also participated in the Thrivent Habitat build, which was recently completed. They held a sale of file cabinets that were donated by Bi-Lo Corporation. They are getting ready for their annual Fall/Winter Fire Wood Sale. Finally, they hosted the first annual Committee of 100 dinner for the Foothills Conference.

Redeemer

The LMM of Redeemer continue to be very active by continuing to hold monthly meetings, supporting outreach programs and having social events.

St. John

The men of Saint John's continue to have their monthly meetings. The speaker for their October meeting was from Oconee Reptiles in Walhalla. They also participated in the local Oktoberfest activities where they raised funds for Oconee Aid. The regularly participate in their church activities such as feeding the homeless project.

St. Matthias

Faith Chapel LMM has been working with the men of St. Matthias to get their chapter back into action.

St Matthias is exploring the possibilities of reactivating their LMM chapter.

St. Michael

They have resumed their regular meeting schedule starting with their September meeting. They participated in the all Lutheran Thrivent Habitat house build. In addition, they hosted the annual Luther Cup Golf Tournament and competed with Messiah Lutheran. A crew of LMM have organized a trip to support people of Mississippi that are victims of storm damage. They also provide a community service by transporting elderly patients to their Doctor appointments. In addition, they built a porch on to the home of a homebound elderly community member.

University

Men from the University Chapter continue to join with the men from Faith Lutheran at their monthly meetings.

Region 9 LMM News

The National LMM has a lot going on and in the works for the men in your congregation. There have been numerous One Year To Live retreats in the midwest in 2008 and 2009. Building Men For Christ is a ministry designed for every man in your congregation to be disciplined into a true follower of Jesus.

Region 9 had their first One Year To Live retreat at Lutheridge the weekend of October 10-12 this year. 21 men accepted the call to be disciplined with another 15 men as leaders. I think all the participants will tell you that while it is not an easy weekend, it is a very spiritually uplifting weekend. One man said that it was the most intense and spiritual weekend of his life.

OYTL is a very well designed protocol that gives the men the insight and courage they need to become the man God intended him to be. We help remove what is holding them back. We hope to have another OYTL weekend in the spring of 2010 near Columbia and another in North Carolina in the fall. Then we can move forward with our plan to bring this to all conferences in our synod with most of our own leaders.

Two side notes about this weekend. We could not find anyone that would feed us. We were in Tennessee promoting men's ministry where 2 men stood up and said, "Here I am, Lord, send me." They had very little knowledge of LMM but they came forward and were touched by the weekend also. The other note is that we try and teach men how to live each day as if they have just one year to live to help prioritize their lives. Larry Madden was on our waiting list and when a place opened up, he and his wife were ecstatic! He drove 9 hours from Pennsylvania to be with us. He made his mark on us and one month later he passed away. He had made the most of his life and we will cherish our time together.

LMM is sponsoring one man from each region to attend our Building Men For Christ workshop in December. Brian Dooley from Faith Lutheran in Pickens has offered his talent and time to learn how to build a REAL men's ministry in each church that sees the opportunity to disciple their men. We will have a synod wide conference in 2010 for each of you.

Are you and your church ready to be disciplined and transformed? Your family?

Please call on us to get more info about these and other ministries we have to offer you.

Tim Crout

LMM Region 9 Representative

BTCROUT@YAHOO.COM

803-261-7011



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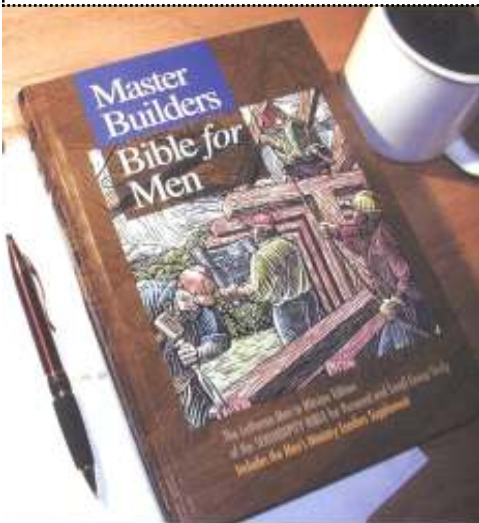
Increasing printing and postage fee's are making this publication more expensive to print, and we are asking for your help in saving money in the Promotional Fund.

SCLMM DATE LOG 2010

Saturday	January 16	Work Day
Saturday	February 20	LM Convention, Our Savior, Greenville

Who will receive the 2009 Awards/Honors

- ◇ Distinguished Service Awards
- ◇ Outstanding Unit Awards
- ◇ Lutheran Man of the Year
- ◇ Young Lutheran Man of the Year



2009 GOALS		
CATEGORY	BUDGET GOAL:	% OF GOAL
LMM-ELCA	\$ 8,000	41.6%
Loan Fund	\$20,000	36.3%
Promotional Support Fund	\$25,000	55.9%
Gift Fund	\$35,000	45.4%
Committee of 100	\$100,000	74.40%