

Epistle



South Carolina
Lutheran Men in Mission

www.sclmm.org

December 2010

From the President

From the Mountains to the Sea and from the “Freshwater Coast” to Indian Land, the Lutheran Men and the mission congregations of the South Carolina Synod have been active. Less than a mile from South Carolina’s northeastern border, there is the mission congregation at Crossroads Lutheran Church (Interim Pastor John “Jan” Setzler). Near South Carolina’s northwestern border, one finds the mission congregation at Faith Lutheran Chapel (Pastor Bob Kasting). In the Midlands, the mission congregation at Breath of Life Lutheran Church (Pastor Mikki Corley Gay) brings its ministry in an area changing from rural to suburban. Two Spanish language mission churches — Iglesia Luterana Manatial de Vida (Pastor Sandy Jones) and Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey (Pastor Andres Leone) — bring the Good News in the eastern and western Midlands.

Activity is not limited to the five mission churches. On South Carolina’s western Freshwater Coast (the lakes on the Upper Savannah River), the Lutheran Church by the Lake, through its annual Bob White Golf Tournament, has supported the ministry of South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission for many years. At Garden City on the Atlantic Ocean, the Lutheran Men Chapter at Shepherd of the Sea Lutheran Church support South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission with its own annual Gold Tournament. Promotional Secretary Danny Camp has been coordinating efforts to revitalize Men’s Ministry and activities in the Coastal Conference.

As the date of this writing (November 15th), I have been able to make fifty-three trips to mission churches, church LMM meetings, or conference meetings during 2010. The hospitality, Bible Studies, prayers, and the fellowship have been most appreciated.

Amen for Lutheran Men!

— Verne “Ken” Heckel
2010 President of SCLMM

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Send your articles for the next Epistle:

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Heber Rast

CALLED! EQUIPPED! SENT!

This is the theme for the 2011 church-wide Gathering of LMM which will be held July 22 through July 24 in Denver, CO. This is shaping up to be quite a weekend. Already signed up to participate are Pastor Larry Clark (very dynamic speaker) and Lyman Coleman, founder and former CEO of Serendipity Publishing Co. Lyman, while at Serendipity, published our Master Builders Bible for Men and designed our One Year to Live Retreat protocol. Peter Mayer, lead guitarist for Jimmy Buffet and a great friend of LMM, will also lend his musical talents to the activities. Please seriously consider making this weekend a part of your plans for next summer. Those attending will truly experience a Rocky Mountain "high" in more ways than one!

The Gathering theme of "Called-Equipped- Sent" certainly fits well with the purpose and objectives of SCLMM. We are "Calling" our men to a life of spiritual growth and commitment to Jesus Christ. We are "Equipping" them with bible studies, men's ministry resources and our One Year to Live Retreats. We are then "Sending" them out into their congregations and communities to strengthen the witness of our SC Synod through commitment and participation in our congregations as well as our own personal spiritual journeys.

I witnessed this personally this past weekend as I participated on the staff of our fall One Year to Live Retreat at Camp Kinard. I saw men leave on Sunday afternoon as different men from when they arrived on Friday! This is truly a life changing event for many in attendance.

I want to close this by encouraging as many as possible to attend our Annual Convention on February 19 at Messiah in Mauldin. We would like to have a large attendance as we lift up and celebrate men's ministry here in our SC Synod. We expect Norm Smith, our national LMM President, to be with us for this event.

Thanks for your support and

AMEN FOR LUTHERAN MEN!

Heartland Conference

Heartland Conference Report by Randy Cannon, President
The Heartland Conference has had a successful year for 2010. We had the final meeting of the year, our Ladies Night on November 18, at Holy Trinity. For the speaker, we had Hannah Horne of WIS TV and she wowed the crowd with three songs and then an inspirational speech. Numbers have not been finalized yet, but we believe there were more than 200 at this meeting.

Also at this meeting, the Young Lutheran Man of the Year and Lutheran Man of the year was presented. Mr. A. J. Peebles of St. Jacobs was the Young Lutheran Man of the Year. A. J. hopes to be in the ministry, and is already Youth Minister of St. Jacobs. He is an extremely fine young Lutheran, and we are proud to have him in the Heartland Conference. Mr. Don Byers from Bethany, White Rock was awarded the Lutheran Man of the Year.

Also at the Ladies Night Meeting, Conference Officers for 2011-2012 were elected. The new President is Mike Whitlock of Grace Lutheran, Prosperity; the Vice President is Bob Whitlatch of Holy Trinity, Little Mountain; and the Secretary-Treasurer is B. L. Brown from Redeemer, Newberry. We have a great set of officers, and I look forward to the next couple of years with them in charge.

Mr. Ken Heckles, President of the SC LMM was present and presented yours truly an honorary life membership for being conference president the last couple of years. Thanks, Ken, but also thanks are due to Mr. Mike Whitlock, V.P., and Mr. Dan Sandel, Secretary-Treasurer. These were two great Lutherans.

We have had other meetings and items of interest in the conference since the last report.

The Holy Trinity, Little Mountain, Lutheran Men in Mission celebrated Lutheran Men Sunday on September 19 in the Trinity Life Center by inviting area LMM units for fellowship, meal and program. South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission President Mr. Ken Heckle, provided an informative program about his travels throughout South Carolina visiting LMM units and ongoing activities within the SCLMM.

Holy Trinity LMM President Whitlatch and Ken Heckle, SCLMM President, presented honorary life memberships to Mr. Charles Frick, Mr. Joe Boland, and Mr. Robert Edwards for their service to God and the community.

President Ken Heckle also visited St. Thomas, Chapin on November 3, and presented Mr. Dan Sandel with an Honorary Life Membership in recognition and appreciation for writing the Lutheran Men in Mission song. Ken visited Colony Lutheran Church on November 21, 2010 and gave the program to the LMM and WELCA.

And, on October 24, 2010, I was honored to bring the message to Silverstreet Lutheran Church on their Lutheran Men Sunday. Well, that is about it for this report, and this is my final report as President of Heartland Conference. I have thoroughly enjoyed the last 6 years, with the final two years as President. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those that have helped me immensely during this time, Mr. Kevin Kibler, Mr. Mitch Fulmer, Mr. Dan Sandel, and Mr. Mike Whitlock. And, I would also like to thank the local LMM chapters. They have been receptive to having meetings at their churches and actually doing most of the work in putting these meetings. Please give Mike and the rest of the officers your support during the next few years. I hope to see you at the meetings next year.

A Few Good Men



Col. Jessep: "You Want Answers?"

Lt. Kaffee: "I want Answers!"

Col. Jessep: "You Can't Handle the Truth!"



We are looking for a few good men, and like the sparring scene in the movie "A FEW GOOD MEN" between Jack Nicholson (Col. Jessep) and Tom Cruise (Lt. Kaffee), we also search for the truth.

South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission wants a few good men.

Men of the church step forward. If we need anything in the church today, it would be Christian leadership from men who are versed in the bible, filled with the Spirit, and stepping forward to offer their wisdom and guidance. The apostles knew that the character of the men appointed to serve in the early church was vital to the success of their ministry. Instead of allowing popularity or charisma to determine who would be placed in leadership, the apostles lead the early church to seek only Godly individuals whose reputation, spiritual life, and wisdom would be an asset to the church.

In Lutheran Men, we try follow that same example when looking for a few good men. But, in the process of looking for people to fill slots, we find names and try to train and mold them into the position. There is always a need for dedicated Christian leadership. We know that there is know-how out there. Where can we find such people? Jesus said: "*The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest*". Let us follow the command of Jesus and pray for our Father to send workers.

We are men, we make mistakes but we are going into the fields; we are sowing the seeds, we are asking God for forgiveness and to grant us his Peace. But, believe it or not the Bible does not hide mistakes made by great people. This makes it an extremely valuable text for teaching moral character. In fact, the lessons learned from mistakes often provide a more lasting and powerful impact than those learned from doing things right. These lessons are not only valuable for individuals in positions of leadership but all people who wish to improve their character.



Peter Drucker said "*The better a man is, the more mistakes he will make, for the more new things he will try. I would never promote to a top-level job a man who was not making mistakes...otherwise he is sure to be mediocre.*"

Jacob was one of the patriarchs, a grandson of Abraham, and father of the twelve tribes. His major mistake as a leader of the clan was to designate Joseph prematurely as his successor when he was still young and somewhat irresponsible. Jacob gave Joseph the coat of many colors, a symbol of leadership, when his son was only 17-years old. Joseph, however, was immature and not a good judge of character. Needless to say, his brothers did not like him. Indeed, Joseph would eventually prove to be not only a good clan leader, but would become one of the great leaders of Egypt -- one who would get Egypt through seven years of famine. God guided good men. They made mistakes, but there was forgiveness.

Today we live in a world full of busyness, stress of unbearable proportions, and words are sugar coated in order to please everyone including "Barney" the dog. People today take pride in their values and have devotion for their creator. However, words of love and blessings for others are all but spoken behind closed doors. This is what Jesus says and wants from us today.



"A FEW GOOD MEN- that's all. A few good people who will honor me when the good times roll. A few that will stand on that wall for truth conveyed through biblical code... And just give me a few that will be loyal to the end through times of adversity."

We are all about men's ministry - SC Lutheran Men in Mission.

Please share your gifts and love with your fellow men.

THRIVENT CHOICE: AN EASY WAY TO HELP SUPPORT WHAT MATTERS TO YOU

The SCLMM Committee of 100 has received several donations from Thrivent from members using Thrivent Choice. If you are member of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, you have an opportunity to use their new charitable grant program and benefit of membership called Thrivent Choice. As the name implies, it's designed to give members a voice in how Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach funds each year.

Thrivent Choice has two components:

- 1. Voting Events:** *All members* (age 16 and older) will have an opportunity to vote to help direct a portion of Thrivent Financial's charitable funds among a short list of national charities one to two times per year.
- 2. Choice Dollars:** *Eligible benefit members* will be able to help direct funds all year long to thousands of Lutheran nonprofit organizations like schools, camps, colleges - even your Lutheran congregation or SCLMM. (Eligibility is based on your involvement with Thrivent Financial, through your ownership of Thrivent Financial life, health or annuity products or your volunteer leadership with our chapter. Directing Choice Dollars and participating in Voting Events are subject to the Terms and Conditions of the Thrivent Choice Program.) Eligible members should have received a letter this past summer that provides details on how to participate.

Participation is simple and easy, without any complicated forms to complete. You'll be able to vote or direct Choice Dollars in a way that's convenient for you. Visit www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836) for more information.



Plan to attend the 68th Annual SCLMM Convention

Please mark your 2011 calendar for the 68th Annual
SCLMM Convention being held at

Messiah Lutheran Church in Mauldin, SC
on **Saturday, February 19th at 1:00 PM.**

The Convention will start promptly at 1:00 with Church service at 5:00 PM.

Our **Celebration Banquet** will be at Mauldin First Baptist Church
in Mauldin starting at 7:00 PM.

Ticket cost for the banquet is \$14 each.

Please make checks to **Messiah LMM** and mail to Joe Fulmer
(302 Foxhound Rd. Simpsonville, SC 29680).

Hotel accommodations can be made at the Hampton Inn in Simpsonville (864-963-9292).

Please mention SCLMM for a special rate (\$79).

Reservations must be made by January 25th for this rate.

We look forward seeing you! Submitted by Joe Fulmer VP SCLMM

SCLMM Committee of 100
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2010 SCLMM Themes for 2010

**Also I heard the voice of the LORD, saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?"
 Then said I, "Here I am; send me." Isaiah 6:8 (KJV [quotation marks added])**

**Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the grave, where you are going, there
 is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom. Ecclesiastes 9:10 (NIV)**



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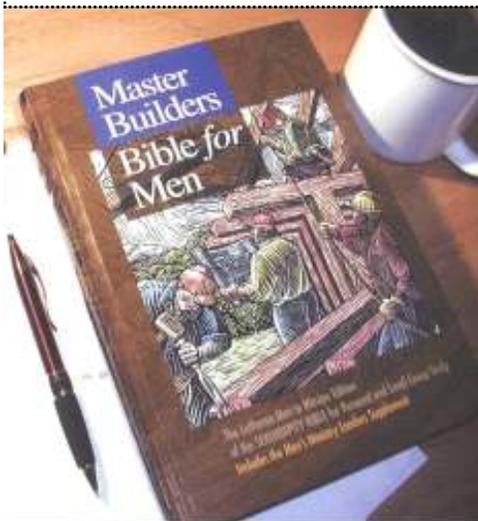
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Changes to the Epistle Mailing Policy

The Epistle has three publications a year, and is available to current Committee of 100 members. Non current members can continue to receive the Epistle from our Web site, www.sclmm.org.

If you are a current member, and wish to review the Epistle on the Web site, please send your mailing address (as it appears on the Epistle) to epistlenews@sclmm.org, or to Ralph Wessinger, 709 Otis Blvd., Spartanburg, SC 29302, so we can remove you from our hard copy mailing list.

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.

2010 SCLMM DATE LOG

Saturday, January 15	10:00	** SCLMM Executive Meeting Synod Office
Sunday, May 8	2:00PM	**SCLMM Executive Meeting; Synod Office - (Tim's OYTL April 15-17)
Friday-Sunday August 26-28	**	SCLMM Executive Committee Retreat; Isle of Palms
Saturday August 27	10:00AM	**SCLMM Executive Committee Meeting; Isle of Palms
Sunday November 6	2:30PM	**SCLMM Executive Meeting; Synod Office - Columbia

2010 GOALS as of 11/10/2010

CATEGORY	BUDGET GOAL:	% OF GOAL
LMM-ELCA	\$ 5,000	63.5%
Loan Fund	\$14,000	43.2%
Promotional Support Fund	\$23,000	62.5%
Gift Fund	\$28,000	46.3%