

Epistle



South Carolina
Lutheran Men in Mission

www.sclmm.org

December 2014

SOUTH CAROLINA Lutheran Men in Mission



A Few Words from the President

It concerns me of how commercialized the holidays have become and how quickly they seem to be forgotten as soon as they pass. It feels rather Seussian, but do the holidays really come from packages, boxes and bags? I have seen the sudden surge in traffic with the honking of horns and squealing of tires. People fight over items left on the shelves and then return to their car's to hear *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*. What if we could only reverse this somehow? Just take a moment to imagine stores closing, and families sitting down together to enjoy a meal. Rushing out in the hustle and bustle would be a bother, and reading the Bible to study the word is what would bring cheer.

God does not want us to make him a priority only during the Advent season, and If I dare say, only when it is convenient for us. I believe that during times when we are down on our luck that God is really trying to be nearer to us. Take some time and give it some thought. Peace and goodwill towards your neighbor should always remain, and that means even when they cut you off changing lanes. Also, try not to say things out of hate or spite, but be kind even

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if it may be hard at the time. Remain close to family and don't take them for granted because you wouldn't to imagine any season without them.

So, keep Jesus close throughout the year, and as New Year resolutions are now on our minds make one to keep the real meaning of Christmas alive

Peace be with you,
Jeremy Frazier

Amen for Lutheran Men!

Changing Times—Heber Rast

There is no doubt that we are living in a period of "changing times" as things are very different all around us. As I think back on the changes that I have seen in my lifetime I am amazed. Things that I only could dream about in my childhood are now everyday realities. I can remember back to dreaming about space travel and thinking that would never happen. I remember the Dick Tracy comic strip and his "two way wrist radio" and imaging who could ever think of such a thing. Today most of us carry around a powerful computer disguised as a "smart phone".

Yes, the world around us is constantly changing and society is right along with it. Things are acceptable today that were unimaginable when I was a child. Change is inevitable and we may as well get used to it. For us Lutherans, that may be a real shock! However, the church is changing and well it must if we are to keep in touch with society today. We can argue back and forth whether that is good or bad but it is a reality.

Our churchwide LMM organization has changed from the early years in that we are no longer trying to find a physical "project" that we all can get our hands around. Rather we now have "building men" as our project. When this was adopted, new interest and enthusiasm was generated. There was much skepticism initially on this change but it has proven to be a good path. This is proof that sometimes we just have to give change a chance to work.

We live in an instant gravitation world and we have come to expect everything to happen immediately. Sometimes we just have to have faith and give the spirit time to work. At the same time, we cannot afford to sit idly by and do nothing!

Mission congregations and our approach to "planting" churches is another thing that has certainly changed. We have come to realize that the church must meet people on their turf. No longer will the "if we build it they will come" mentality work for beginning new missions. We must find ways to relate to people in their everyday lives.

With all of this being said, what is in store for South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission? What changes should we be looking at? We rejoice in the fact that we have recently finalized a loan to Crossroads Lutheran Church in Indian Land for their new

multipurpose building. At the same time we look around and do not see any other "mission" churches that expect to need additional space or a new building in the foreseeable future. Many of our current mission congregations are not expected to be self sufficient or in need of a building any time soon.

What does this mean for SCLMM and our financial resources? Certainly it means that the New Mission Start program will be pushed to its limit and needs more funding. How about the funding for the "building men" programs that have been developed by churchwide LMM such as OYTL and Building Men for Christ workshops? Bible programs?

Yes, we do have challenges ahead but my feeling is that we should look at them as opportunities! Opportunities for SCLMM to make a difference in men's lives and in the life of our congregations in the SC Synod. We have not backed away from challenges in the past nor should we today!

AMEN FOR LUTHERAN MEN

Heber Rast - Executive Director

St Philip Church in Myrtle Beach

On October 25, St. Philip Lutheran Church in Myrtle Beach participated in the Meal Mania program at the old Sun News warehouse. Fourteen persons represented St Philip packing 2,000 meals during the two hour event. Nearly \$1,000 was collected through participants and members for Meal Mania. Over 100,000 meals were packed by nearly 400 participants during the 2 day event. 10,000 meals will be used locally by Community Kitchen and North Strand Homeless Shelter. 90,000 will be sent to Asia and Africa providing a meal a day for 9 month school year to starving children. It was an fun and meaningful event for our church members.

On October 31, St. Philip had their first "Trunk-or-Treat" open to the community. Around 100 children came to the church. Members decorated their trunks and/or dressed up to share in the fun. This was a free and safe alternative on Halloween for the community.

SOUTH CAROLINA LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION



2015 ANNUAL CONVENTION

Pilgrim Lutheran Church

1430 NORTH LAKE DRIVE, LEXINGTON SC

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20th 2015

***Past President's Banquet 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall**

Everyone is encouraged to attend and honor these SCLMM leaders

Joe Davis Immaculate Wordsmith Guest Speaker

Meal prepared by Johnson and Wells Graduate Gourmet Chef Travis Ross

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21st 2015

Convention, Worship Service and Banquet

LMM National Leaders

Lexanne Graves instruction in Discipleship

German Cuisine by Wurst Wagen Columbia

Registration begins at 12:00 in the Narthex

Convention starts at 1:00 pm, Worship begins at 5:00pm, in the Sanctuary

***Banquet begins at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall, \$25 each or \$40 per couple**

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22nd 2015

8:00 Matins, 9:00 Traditional & 11:00 Contemporary Worship at Pilgrim

***Pre-registration required for Convention dinner and**

Past President's banquet

contact Frank Bouknight at onnanoko@windstream.net,

300 Foxhall Drive, Lexington, SC 29072

Bible Ministry headed up by Dan Camp and SCLMM have promised 40 bibles for the Broad River Correctional Institute in Columbia, SC. Pastor Charles Dawkins (St Andrews Lutheran) has received and delivered 10 so far. We received 2 nice thank you notes. I am attaching one.

We do have many Lutheran Men involved in the prison ministry throughout the state and would love to roll out more Bibles in other prison facilities in the future.

To whom it may concern:

Thank you for my NLT Bible. I could not ask for a better gift. Only God can offer us so many wonderthing things in such a small book. I often have trouble reading my bible, but this NLT translation helps me to understand more clearly. I depend on my Bible daily for instructions on life, and I am always comforted by the Word of God.

God Bless. Sincerely, C.M.

Master Builder Bibles

are great Study Guides.

Order yours today.

Bibles are **\$20.00** plus
\$5.00 shipping and handling each.

Please make checks out to:

ELCA-Lutheran Men In Mission

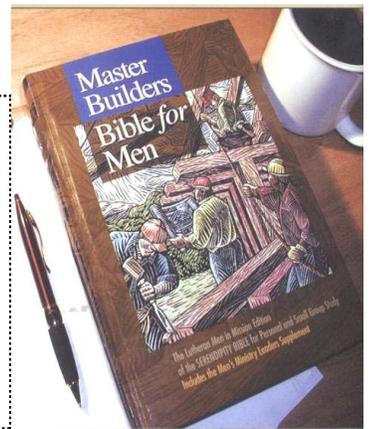
Send your orders to:

Tim Crout

105 Kenzie Court

Lexington, SC 29073

btcrout@yahoo.com



2015 SCLMM Past President's Dinner and 72nd Annual Convention Registration

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
1430 NORTH LAKE DRIVE, LEXINGTON SC
Friday and Saturday, February 20 & 21, 2015

Name _____

(Please print clearly)

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Congregation Name _____

Conference _____

February 20, 2015 (7:00pm)

Past President's Dinner (\$25 each or \$40 per couple) TOTAL: _____

Everyone is encouraged to attend and honor these SCLMM leaders
Meal prepared by Johnson and Wells Graduate Gourmet Chef Travis Ross

February 21, 2015 (6:30 pm or after worship)

Banquet (\$25 each or \$40 per couple) TOTAL: _____

GRAND TOTAL: _____

February 21

12:00 pm Convention Registration begins at 12:00 in the Social Hall on Butler Street
1:00 pm Convention begins in the Sanctuary, breakouts TBA
5:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion
6:30 pm Banquet in the Gym- German Cuisine by Wurst Wagen Columbia

Reservations: Hampton Inn Columbia/Lexington

601 Columbia Ave. (Hwy. 378) Includes: Hot Breakfast
Lexington, South Carolina Access to Gold's Gym
29072 1-803-356-8300

Make Reservations by January 20, 2015 to receive special rate of \$94.75(after taxes) per night. Room may need to be booked for two nights. **The group code is LMM.**

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO SCLMM AND REMIT TO:

Frank Bouknight
300 Foxhall Drive,
Lexington, SC 29072
onnanoko@windstream.net

Please have your registration in by February 6th, 2013, the butcher needs time to prepare.

**IF YOU HAVE SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS PLEASE LIST THEM ON THIS FORM
PAST PRESIDENT DINNER TICKETS CAN BE PICKED UP AT THE DOOR.
BANQUET TICKETS CAN BE PICKED UP AT REGISTRATION**

SCLMM Committee of 100
Supporting Mission Churches in S.C. Since 1976



Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Congregation: _____

Conference: _____

e-mail (print clearly): _____

Loan Fund

New Mission Start Program

***undesignated gifts go to the NMSP**

Memory/Honor of: _____

Mail to: Kevin Wicker

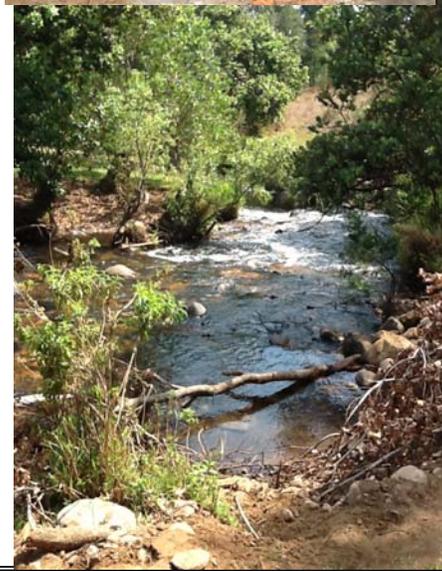
977 Quail Drive

Walterboro, SC 29488

Committee of 100 Thanks so much to all who have given to the SCLMM Committee of 100 this year! As we close out the third quarter of the year, our gifts thus far total \$57,500 toward our commitments to the Loan Fund and New Mission Start Program of \$79,300 for 2014. So, we need everybody's help to finish strong this year. Please let me know if there is any information regarding your conference, your LMM unit, or yourself personally that you need. Our mission congregations are counting on us. Kevin Wicker



Photos from Bill Dukes
 concerning the recent trip to
 Tanzania.
 Keep the date of March 22,
 2015 on your calendars and I
 hope your congregation will
 participate next year.





DECEMBER 2014

NON-PROFIT ORG
 US POSTAGE PAID
 SPARTANBURG, SC 29304
 PERMIT NO. 6

St. John's Lutheran Church
 415 South Pine Street
 Spartanburg, SC 29302



Changes to the Epistle Mailing Policy

The Epistle has several 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 mailing list.

Increasing printing and postage fee's are making this publication more expensive to print. Help save money allocated to the Promotional Fund.

SCLMM DATE LOG

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 2015 | |
| Saturday Jan 10 th , 2015 | SCLMM Executive Meeting Synod Office, Columbia |
| Friday Feb 20 th | 7:00pm Past Presidents Dinner Pilgrim, Lexington |
| Saturday Feb 21 st | 1:00pm 71 st Convention |
| Saturday Feb 21 st | 4:30pm Communion Service |
| Saturday Feb 21 st | 6:30pm SCLMM & Guest Banquet Pilgrim, Lexington |
| March 22 | Tanzania Water Sunday |
| March 27-28 | High, Wide, Deep, Camp Kinard |

| Category | 2014 Budget Goals: |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Promotional Fund | \$25,000 |
| Loan Fund | \$20,000 |
| Gift Fund | \$35,000 |
| National LMM | \$ 9,000 |

LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION

HIGH WIDE DEEP
 INFORMATION, INSPIRATION & FUN for MEN

MENS' RETREAT
 REGISTRATION / BROCHURE

GO TO WEB SITE WWW.SCLMM.ORG

March 27-28, 2015
 Camp Kinard
 Leesville, SC

Rest, Renew and Recharge!

Looking for some time away to be renewed
 in your spirit and in your faith?

*Join us for this time of inspiration,
 information and fun!*