

Epistle



South Carolina
Lutheran Men in Mission

www.sclmm.org

August 2012

SOUTH CAROLINA Lutheran Men in Mission

Check out the
South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission Website
www.sclmm.org

26th Cliff Bourguignon Golf Tournament Results

The 26th annual Cliff Bourguignon Golf Tournament was held on June 4th at the Country Club of Newberry and Mid-Carolina Golf Club. One hundred and forty four (144) golfers gathered for a day full of fun and fellowship. A special thanks goes out to Joe Trainer owner of Stokes Trainer dealership in Newberry. Stokes Trainer sponsored our tournament by paying for the insurance premium for the hole-in-one competition. A new Buick would have gone to the first golfer to have a hole-in-one on the designated hole. The closest we had was within 14 inches of the hole.

The proceeds of the tournament go to the Lutheran Men Scholarship Fund at Newberry College. On Friday June 29th a check for \$6,000.00 was presented to Newberry College for the fund. Thanks to all that helped make this tournament a great success. The biggest thanks go to the all the folks that donated to our hole sponsorships.

Information for next year's tournament will be in the next Epistle and will soon be on the SCLMM web-site.

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American Missions Committee

Planting and Sustaining New Congregations and SAWC's

As a synod focused on joining neighbors, serving boldly, loving all through Christ, we currently have five new congregations under development along with two new synodically authorized worshipping communities, as expressions of God's purpose for the people of the South Carolina Synod being lived out in God's mission through discipleship.

Here is a brief look at what God is up through the people of our South Carolina Synod:

Crossroads/Indian Land under the leadership of Pastor Rick Carter is in a time of growing in God's mission as they are welcoming new families and person's that feel they are called by the Spirit to connect with God and their neighbors in life giving ways. They have filled to overflowing the house that serves as they place of worship, learning and fellowship. They are in prayer and planning to add on to the house to better serve a growing mission to the people of Indian Land. A prayer garden has become welcoming point to the surrounding community and an entrance to life in the Spirit and the people of Crossroads.

Breath of Life/Blythewood under the leadership of Pastor Mikki Gay is in a time of growing in God's mission as they launch the Life Center, a new evangelical mission to the people of Blythewood. The Life Center will provide a place of health and wholeness for the people of Blythewood who seek to be part of a community that will join them in seeking to live in new ways a life of wholeness of Spirit, mind and body. A special gift to our Growing in God's Mission is making this new ministry possible.

Manantial de Vida/Columbia under the leadership of Pastor Sandy Jones continues to be a place where Latino people gather seeking to grow in faith and life in ways that honor them as people of God bearing the gifts of God to share with the community around them. Pastor Sandy serves as an advocate and active community leader with Latinos throughout our synod. With the church building up for sale by the MIF, Sandy is discerning the way ahead for this powerful and life giving mission. She is looking at several paths to provide a place for the congregation to gather for worship, fellowship and programs that serve the whole person, whole family and whole community.

Faith/Pickens under the leadership of Pastor Bob Kasting is a mission congregation that has become well know in the Pickens community. The people of Faith have found community service and outreach as their special calling in God's mission. Now that they have settled into their new church home, they are looking for ways to serve the community from their site on Main St. Faith is a congregation that really knows the value and practice of living together aSs a family of God and their welcoming open hearted spirit brings their motto "Faith is the Grace Place: to life.

Cristo Rey/West Columbia/Gaston/Pelion under the leadership of Pastor Oliverio Mora and Jorge Leone is growing and growing. This congregation hosted by St David's/ West Columbia is becoming one mission congregation with three sites. Pastor Mora has the vision of growing in God's mission by offering monthly worship to Latino people in these rural communities. In this model of ministry the pastor is present for spiritual support and leading worship and fellowship and lay people living in these satellite locations provide for the daily needs of the worshipping community.

Ascension/Columbia under the leadership of Pastor Ron Brown and Jackie Utley are leading the congregation in evangelical outreach to the African-American community around Ascension. Both Ron and Jackie are seen as a Team that goes door to door in Eau Claire community meeting their neighbors, and building relationships with the community schools, heath center and business leaders of Eau Claire. They also see as a vital neighbor in this outreach community the Seminary that is across the street from Ascension.

Co operative Mission of Lutheran/Methodist with the Pee Dee Indian Tribe/Clio is an emerging ministry that seeks to connect the people of the SC Synod and the people of the NC Conference of the UMC in a joint ministry of evangelical outreach to the Pee Dee Indian Tribe and the members of Hickory Grove UMC. On Tuesday, June 26, Bishop Yoos and other missional leaders of our synod will join with our Methodist brothers and sisters at Hickory Grove to develop a plan for the future of our work together.

June 24, 2012



Comfort is good for shoes, hats and cars. I am not so sure how good comfort is for our churches. Marital relationships become comfortable and stagnate to the point of deterioration and divorce due to a lack of intimate, personal attention and service. You can just be married for years on a piece of paper or you could BE married each day. Don't do church, BE the church.

Jesus gave us simple orders. Jesus asks Peter 3 times in John 20, "Peter, Do you love Me?" Each time he answers, getting more aggravated each time, "You know I love you." Jesus tells him if he does, he will "Feed His sheep", and "Take care of His flock." The Great Commission tells us "to disciple all nations". He never said to build synagogues or churches or bring in civic speakers or become so Lutheran that we know our liturgy by heart, know the seasons of the year and have pancake suppers each Fat Tuesday but find it hard to do outreach person to person or pray with each other.

Simply, I think we have taken our eyes off the ball. Do you have a plan to disciple all of your men? Are you offering spiritual growth opportunities? Are you praying with each other? Do you care if your neighbor's marriage is in the dumps? Do you care enough to get your hands messy and work with them to save it? Or show him the peace of Christ if it cannot be saved? Do you read scripture? Do you know how? Do you know how to pray? Can you get involved without judging?

I am simply talking about discipling. Intentionally teaching how to find the heart of Jesus and pass it on. To respond to the gift of Grace. If your congregation has to beg for a Stewardship or an Evangelism chairperson or does not reach out into the community or offer bible studies or small group accountability opportunities then I would say that you have been doing/playing church. It has to be intentional. Mainline denominational churches are shrinking daily

because we have lost our relevance to people's lives through faith.

If this is the case, your men are suffering and suffering in silence. They need other men to talk to, to pray with and help them walk through life with faith, to form REAL relationships.

LMM offers opportunities for spiritual growth and discipleship through it Master Builder Bibles (Over 57,000 and counting), gatherings, young men's ministry and retreats. A Building Men For Christ workshop was held August 4 at Bethel Lutheran Church in White Rock, SC. They left with a plan to reach their men and to keep them on the path to discipleship.

Our One Year To Live retreats remain our most effective tool. Lutheridge will host the next retreat September 14-16. We place men in position to find the man God created him to be so he feels loved enough to love himself, his family and community...and Christ.

A Region 9 gathering called "Catapult" will be September 28-29 at Pilgrim Lutheran Church. Our focus will be finding a man's identity in this world and his life.

These are a few opportunities we offer for growth. We have results. How are yours? Do you have a plan? Is the Holy Spirit included in your plan? Find 3 other men and include your pastor, male or female, and start praying for guidance. Do it for a month or so and listen. Let Him lead you. Pray for discernment and respond. If you are looking for easy and quick, go find someone to take your place. Love your men and your savior enough to get going, and let us help!

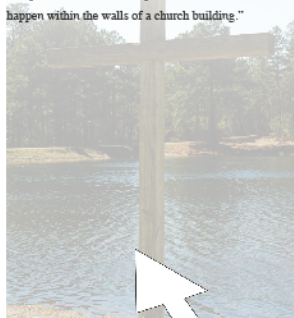

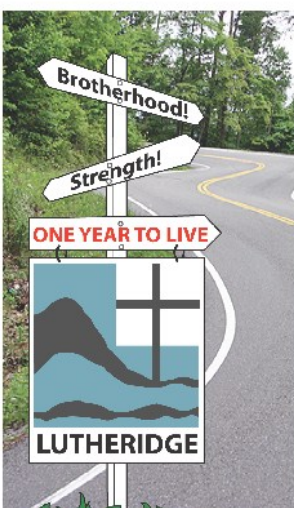
Tim Crout VPLMM 803-261-7011

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WWW.SCLMM.ORG

(A WORD SOMEWHERE IN THE EPISTLE):

**Everything Jesus blessed should flourish. He blessed His church.
Are we flourishing?**

<p>Registration for September, 14 - 16, 2012 Lutheridge "One Year to Live" Retreat</p> <p>Name _____ Age _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City/State/Zip _____</p> <p>Phone () _____</p> <p>E-Mail _____</p> <p>Church _____</p> <p>Special Needs _____</p> <p>Cost: \$175 per person Deposit: \$75 per person Deadline: September 1, 2012 Send registration forms to: Jimmy Smith 241 Steele Rd. West Columbia, SC 29170</p> <p>Questions contact: Brian Dooley drdooley07@bellsouth.net 864-346-8008.</p> <p>Make checks payable to SCLMM, and write One Year to Live on memo line</p>	<h3>What to Bring</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snacks • Sleeping bag and pillow • Bath towel • Clothes for 2 days • Flashlight • Hiking/Walking Shoes • Jacket or coat to wear outside in morning and evening • Prescription drugs • Bible and journal • A willingness to be open to God <h3>What Does the Schedule Look Like?</h3> <p>This is a spiritual boot camp, so be prepared! Everyone should arrive at Lutheridge between 5:30 and 6:00pm Friday September 14. Saturday will be a full day, and Sunday September 16 the retreat will conclude at 3:00pm. This will be a weekend of strategy. A time for men to look into their lives and work with other men to hold each other accountable for their decisions made about their spiritual journey. Bethany co-leader Todd Little likes to call One Year to Live "Bible Study Meets Indian Jones." "Our congregations are full of men in their 20s, 30s and 40s, who are yearning for a spiritual connection with Christ and with their brothers in the church. This new program offers an opportunity to be adventurous and courageous while at the same time; spiritual, genuine and vulnerable." The retreat is for all men. They will be met at their own individual faith depth and age, wherever they are in his life's journey. "This is truly a program that helps men be the husbands, fathers and friends that God has always wanted us to be!"</p> <p>One Year to Live is a new program not for the faint of heart, but for the courageous man with a full heart and a spiritual awareness that brings us together in one congregation - the body of Christ!</p>	<p>To have a reaction to Jesus you have to forget your reputation!</p> <p>You can't experience a reaction to Jesus if you don't open your heart and put yourself on the line. Are you "man enough" to be a part of One Year to Live? The retreat is only the beginning. "One Year to Live is not about trying to fill parish halls with men," says Doug Hagen, ELCA Director of LMM. "It's about creating places and events where men encounter Christ and where discipleship can take place. It's about men who know their lives are a train wreck without Jesus and who are willing to walk with other guys, not only in the good times, but also in life's dumpsters. Those kinds of places and events often do not happen within the walls of a church building."</p>  <p>One Year To Live is a LMM ministry. To find out more, visit our website at WWW.LUTHERANMEN.COM</p>	  <p>Do you need help finding your way? September 14 - 16, 2012 Arden, NC</p>
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From the President My E-Mail is on, But I'm Not Hearing Anything

¹⁹ My DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS, TAKE NOTE OF THIS: EVERYONE SHOULD BE QUICK TO LISTEN, SLOW TO SPEAK AND SLOW TO BECOME ANGRY, James 1

The good-hearted listener hears the Word, understands it, and bears the fruit.

In a conversation with my son the other day, he was telling me about something that had happened to him that same day. Not totally understanding, I said, "Slow up, son, you are talking too fast!" I don't quite understand you. My son shot back quickly, "Oh, no, I'm not talking too fast...your listener is too slow!"

It's been said that we think four to five times faster than we talk. This means that if a speaker talks at 120 words a minute, the audience thinks at about 500 words a minute! I suppose we in the south need to talk a lot faster or else our audiences need to listen slower. HOW GOOD ARE YOUR LISTENER SKILLS?



On the way to a BUILDING MEN FOR CHRIST gathering a few Saturdays ago I was traveling the interstate, shifted lanes to pass a car and noticed the man driving was busy with something in his hand. I was trying to be on time, but I slowed to see what he was doing. Hark, he was driving and pushing keys on his hand held device. A few minutes later, with a bad case of the fits, I stopped at a store to get my morning fix of a Dr. Pepper. Unfortunately while checking out in the store I got behind a man that had just gotten a text message. We had to wait on him while he sent an answer. He then checked out. Technology has taken away from practicing our listening skills.

It seems people today aren't good listeners. They'd rather be talking, doing interesting stuff, dreaming about exciting things, or watching popular events. But listening? That's a difficult thing to do. Listening isn't considered an exciting activity. Listening isn't practiced much!

Recount the times you were talking to a friend and during the conversation that friend interrupted your sentence, interjected their opinion and continued their conversation. You try to finish your thought process with that person and it happens again. Is it the norm in this society that our listening controls are not as strong as our talking powers? We can text and not be interrupted. It is kind of like a "my turn - your turn" type deal. Maybe that is why we can't do a better job of respecting someone else while they are talking. But in a personal conversation or on the phone that relationship gets breached. We don't respect the roll of listening. Maybe if I talk faster no one would interrupt me or if I control my interrupting skills or even better, if I refine my listening skills I might do better.



A young man once approached Socrates to ask if the philosopher would teach him the gift of oratory. His request was then followed by an incessant stream of words until, finally, Socrates placed his hand over the inquirer's mouth

and said, "Young man, I will have to charge you a double fee." When the fellow asked why, Socrates replied, "I will have to teach you two sciences. First, how to hold your tongue, and then, how and when to use it."

Listening is so important to any relationship, and that includes our relationship with God. And in some ways, I would argue that it is even more important because I think as the commercial says "when GOD speaks everyone listens". How often do we read our Bibles, but just have it go in one ear and out the other? How often do we pray by making all these requests to God but rarely taking the time to listen to what God might be saying to us?

In 1st Samuel³ ¹⁰ The LORD came and stood there, calling as at the other times, "Samuel! Samuel!" Then Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." In prior verses God called to see who was listening. Samuel thought the call was from Eli. Twice he answered and the third time, with the help of Eli, he realized the call was God. He like many did not know God. He had not given of himself to God. Once he understood God and gave of himself he was able to hear what God was asking for. Eli said,¹⁸ "He is the LORD; let him do what is good in his eyes."



I think God is speaking to us most all the time but, for the most part, many of us don't listen. Why are we missing God's message and not listening?

- 1. We are a busy society and wrapped up in outside attractions,** drawn in by fun and entertaining agendas, picking and choosing our venues. Psalms 46 says ¹⁰ "Be still, and know that I am God.." God doesn't speak to Samuel in the business of the day but instead at night as he is lying down to go to bed. We are overloading ourselves with so much that we are drowning out God's voice. We are not allowing any time for quiet time...time for reflection and interaction with God. We are about our business!
- 2. Many times our focus is swayed towards the wrong things.** We pray, and we talk to God, but do we take the time to look for God to talk to us? Do we take the time to listen to what God is saying to us?

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SO MANY WAYS WE MAY NOT REALIZE THROUGH....		
PEOPLE AROUND US	ACTIVITIES & HAPPENINGS AROUND US	VISION & DREAMS
OUR INNER VOICE	CONVERSATIONS WITH OTHERS	SELF EXAMINATIONS
ANGELS	NATURE & THE WEATHER	MIRACLES

From the President My E-Mail is on, But I'm Not Hearing Anything

3. I think we miss God's message so often because we have forgotten what God sounds like. In the midst of all the voices and message that we take in every day it is hard to pick God's voice out of it all. This is especially hard if we are not spending any time with Him. Samuel didn't recognize God's voice because he had never heard it. It took God calling three times and Eli's intervention, for him to finally realize what was going on.

4. I think the last thing that prevents us from listening to God is because it is not a convenient time and I don't want to listen right now. God calls out to Samuel, he doesn't start speaking. He finally delivers the message when Samuel responds to God and says, "Speak, your servant is listening." Samuel could have chosen – out of fear, out of not wanting to know what God had to say, or any other reason – to just ignore God but instead he choose to respond and purposefully listen to what God had to say.

Men of the church, God is speaking to you.

Listen for him. Answer him.

The challenge for all of us is to follow our calling:

- ▶ Go out and make disciples of all men;
- ▶ Share the GOOD NEWS and tell of GOD'S PEACE!

My challenge to all men is to start listening. It is so important to make sure that we are taking time to separate ourselves from the world and everything going on around us. This will help us to hear God's voice and refresh our souls with what and how God sounds. On top of

all that, we must respond when God calls our name. He will not force Himself on us but instead wait for us to be ready and purposefully listen to His leading. Jesus said in Revelations 3:20 "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me."

My e-mail is dancufb@att.net and it is tuned into God's network. I'm listening for the manner in which God is going to be sending me a message. Are you listening? Jesus is knocking on the door of your heart. He is knocking by any means possible to share his message with you. Are you listening? Do you hear him? He is not saying, "let's do lunch." He is, however saying, "Let's do life together." Share this with others. Our God is gracious and accepts all comers. PEACE be with you.

Amen for Lutheran Men

Dan Camp

Heber Rast -Called -Equipped -Sent

As I sit down to write this, it has been almost exactly one year since about 500+ Lutheran Men assembled in Denver, CO for our National Gathering, which in my opinion was one of the best that we have had. The theme for this event was "Called, Equipped, Sent." Three simple words that are very profound.

CALLED - Too often, us "ordinary guys" make light of the "called" aspect and think this is reserved for clergy or at least those who lead lives or have a vocation that we feel is in some way a "special" calling. The truth is that each of us is "called" by God to be the unique man that he has made us to be. Not only are we called, but we are also CHOSEN by Him to be a unique child of His. What an awesome thing that is. As an "ordinary" man we are called by God to be many things and to do things that only we can do. We must not shirk our male responsibility!

We are called to be a role model to those closest to us. We are called to be the spiritual leader of our households in partnership with others. If we have children, we are called to be a true father figure to them, following the example of Jesus and our Heavenly Father. This can be an especially difficult role if there is a broken marriage or relationship, but it does not diminish this responsibility. We are each also called to be a true friend to others.

Lastly, we are chosen by God and called to a Christian life of serving Him through our service to others. We are called to be His disciples! This is not an easy journey but one that we each must undertake if we are to truly fulfill God's call in this worldly life. God's work, our hands!

EQUIPPED - Even when we do acknowledge a call, all too often we feel inadequate for the task. We must be reminded of the saying that "God does not call the equipped, but rather he EQUIPS the called!" How true this is. Many times we underestimate the power of God to use us to further His kingdom. God can perform miracles with us if we but let him.

Today in Lutheran Men in Mission we have the best "tool chest" available for "equipping" our men that we have ever had. These tools begin with our Master Builders Bible for Men and its many bible study questions and helps. If we but follow the steps outlined, any of us can lead a bible study. In addition, the Men's Ministry Supplement in the front outlines steps a congregation can take to build and sustain a viable men's ministry program.

To further help a congregation build its ministry to men, we have the Building Men for Christ workshops. These workshops are designed to give congregational leaders the tools needed to reach the men. It will help in building relationships and reaching out to men of all ages. The name of the game is making disciples. If you would like to schedule one of these workshops at your church, contact either Tim Crout or Brian Dooley.

If you or a group of men from your congregation want to truly explore your relationship with God and those closest to you in a very safe environment, then attendance at one of the One Year to Live Retreats is what you are looking for. This event will equip you for the many struggles that we all face in our everyday lives. You will come away from this as a part of a Band of Brothers that you can call on at any time and they will be there for you!

SENT - The part that is left is the "sending" and this is the practical part. Yes, God does send us out into the world to be His hands and feet. God can work miracles with us if we but let him. As SCLMM, we need to respond to God's call, trust him to equip us for that call, and to step boldly out in His name. We need to fill the empty pews in our congregations. We need to be a role model to the young people today who so desperately need someone to look up to. We need to be there for our mission congregations. We need to build men for Christ! Yes we are Lutheran and we should be proud to be Men in Mission!

Amen for Lutheran Men!

CAPTAPULT

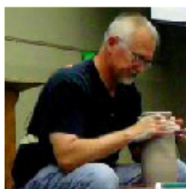
A MEN'S EVENT

EQUIPPING MEN TO GO THE DISTANCE

September 28-29, 2012

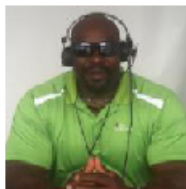
Friday: Registration from 6-7 PM followed by Session 1 ending at 9:30 PM
 Saturday: Reconvenes at 8 AM with Session 2; Event concludes at 5 PM

Pilgrim Lutheran Church
 1430 North Lake Drive ❖ Lexington, SC 29072



Opening Speaker **Roger Clark** Clay Evangelist

The combination of a lump of clay, a potter's wheel and a plastic-covered pulpit have changed the way many people see themselves. Roger is a Southern Baptist minister now serving as a clay evangelist, forming a vessel while making the Bible come alive. He has been combining his passion for preaching with his passion for pottery for 13 years.



Keynote Speaker **Corey Miller**

Corey was a three-year starter for the Gamecocks; defensive player of the year in 1989; two-time all independent player; and honorable mention all American. He was drafted by New York Giants in 1991 and had a nine-year career in the NFL before retiring in 2001. Corey started the ministry *Giants for Christ* in 2003 and now serves as an evangelist. He is host of *The Corey Miller Show on The Team Sportsradio 560*.

Guest Speakers...

- ❖ Jay Gamelin, Pastor, Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Lexington, SC
- ❖ Herman Yoos, Bishop, SC Synod of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
- ❖ Tony Metze, Pastor, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Columbia, SC
- ❖ Wayne Kannady, Associate Professor of Religion, Newberry College, Newberry, SC

Music...

"6:33"
 Praise Band,
 Pilgrim LC

Cost...

\$30 Includes
 All sessions
 and lunch on
 Saturday

**For men of all ages and at all stages in life,
 this event will focus on four areas:**

CREATION...We are guys ... built for relationship in the character of God.

THE FALL...Our value is in what we do, not how we are created.

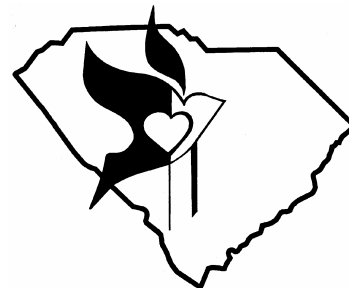
REDEMPTION...We are called to be men of honor.

RESTORATION...We are called to be Jesus in our homes, our work and in our churches.

Learn how to live out God's plan for your life.

For more information and registration form, contact Alan or Carol at 803-957-3073.

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

2012 SCLMM Executive Officers

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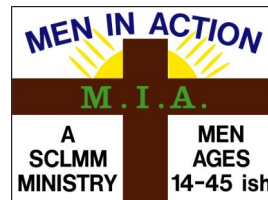
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SCLMM Theme for 2012

***“This is good, and pleases God
 our Savior, who wants all men
 to be saved and to come to a
 knowledge of the truth.”***

1 Timothy 2:3-4



**Check out our
 revised website
www.sclmm.org
 Everything you need
 to know**



AUGUST 2012

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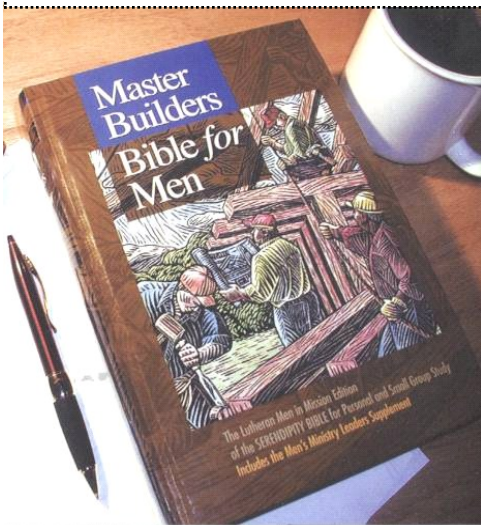


Master Builder Bibles
 are great Study Guides.
 Order yours today.

Bibles are \$20.00 plus
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ELCA-Lutheran Men In Mission

Send your orders to:
 Tim Crout
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 btcrou@yaho.com

Master Builder Bibles are also
 available at conventions.



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 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.

2012 SCLMM DATE LOG

Friday-Sunday Aug 24 th -26 th	SCLMM Executive Retreat Coastal Retreat Center Isle of Palms
Saturday August 25 th	10:00AM SCLMM Executive Meeting Coastal Retreat Center Isle of Palms
Sunday Nov 4th	2:30PM SCLMM Executive Meeting Synod Office Columbia
—2013—	
Saturday Jan 12 th	10:00AM SCLMM Executive Meeting Synod Office Columbia (Audit of 5 Treasurers)
Friday Feb 15 th	7:00PM Past Presidents Dinner @ Faith Pickens
Saturday Feb 16 th @ Pickens Presbyterian Church	9:00AM SCLMM Executive meeting 1:00PM SCLMM 70 th Convention 4:30PM Communion Service 6:30PM SCLMM & Guest Banquet

2012 GOALS

CATEGORY	BUDGET GOAL:
Promotional Fund	\$23,000
Loan Fund	\$22,000
Gift Fund	\$35,000
National LMM	\$ 9,000