

# Epistle



South Carolina  
Lutheran Men in Mission

www.sclmm.org

January 2013

## SOUTH CAROLINA Lutheran Men in Mission

### The Committee of 100 needs you!!!

For just \$100 a year you can contribute to SCLMM's vital ministry of mission church support. Committee of 100 dollars are used to fund the SCLMM new mission start program as well as the SCLMM loan fund. To date, the South Carolina Synod is the only ELCA synod that has not had to shut down a mission church. SCLMM's efforts, YOUR efforts, are what has helped keep our mission churches going. And did you know that the SCLMM loan fund has loaned out over \$4,000,000 to 43 congregations and missions ( to include our retreat centers)? One of those congregations may have been yours! What an amazing ministry to be a part of!

I belong to a mission church. It is because of this church, which exists through your efforts, that I have deepened my relationship with Christ. You and your contributions matter! They matter so much and I just want to say

thank you,

thank you,

thank you!

If you are so moved to give to the Committee of 100, please use the card in this Epistle

You may also give as a memorial or honorarium for someone.

Thank you for your prayer consideration and always....

**Amen for Lutheran Men!**

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So, where does SCLMM go from here? The mission/million dollar question.

As all of you are aware, there has been some shifting of churches for Lutheran affiliation over the last 3 years. For good or bad, it is what it is. What matters is, what does all this mean for all our Lutheran/Christian brothers for men's ministry and supporting mission churches?

Frankly, I do not know where all this ends. The National LMM wants every man to have a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and an active men's ministry in every congregation. We have a strong and focused mission and that has not changed. Our ministry has grown more than ever the last 4 years. We have tools that men are searching for to help in their spiritual growth. We mentor to men: Christian men, Lutheran men, Methodist men, Episcopal men, divorced men, addicted men, atheist men ..... LMM sees men that NEED Jesus. We will be there for them. We are all Jesus' children.

SCLMM will spend the next year studying this situation. We have men that believe strongly in the different theologies. We have men that believe in our SCLMM ministry and want to be involved but are limited due to our constitution because their congregation has left the ELCA. They have supported SCLMM with their prayers and monetary support and wish to continue. They have no or little men's ministry and we have offered to be there for them. We are Christian brothers yearning for a relationship with Jesus and then their neighbors.

This is a complex issue for SCLMM and will take most of the year to figure out where we go and how that affects everyone. Can the different Mission Directors work together in common vision and tactics? How do we divide the monetary support? Can you participate in the men's ministry and not the mission support? Who can be officers? This will be a spiritually lead decision and I pray that the Holy Spirit gives us answers that build His ministry in His name. I have no preconceived conclusions except to ask for discernment. It is not our ministry, we are stewards.

### **2013 Cliff Bourguignon Golf**

Tournament Monday June 10, 2013  
Entry deadline is May 27, 2013.

You will find all the information (Hole sponsorship forms and team applications) about the tournament on the SCLMM website ([www.sclmm.org](http://www.sclmm.org) - SCLMM Forms). A hole-sponsorship form and team application will also be in the 2013 SCLMM Directory.

Please support the golf tournament in anyway you can. Proceeds from our tournament will be added to our SCLMM Scholarship Fund at Newberry College. Last year \$6,000.00 was raised for the SCLMM Scholarship Fund at Newberry College. All golfers are encouraged to solicit hole sponsorships from their team, LMM Unit and businesses in their congregation and community.

**Your support in publicizing and soliciting hole-sponsorships will be greatly appreciated.**

In our previous (August 2012) issue of "The Epistle," I wrote about last year's LMM Gathering in Denver and the excitement that it still generates for those who were fortunate to attend. That was truly a "mountain top" experience and I urge all of you to begin making plans now to attend the next National Lutheran Men's Gathering to be held July 18-20 at the Loews Vanderbilt Hotel in Nashville TN. We will be receiving more information on this event as the time draws closer. Each event seems to get better and I am confident that this trend will continue.

The theme for the Denver Gathering was "Called, Equipped, Sent" as I wrote about in my last article. I want to spend a little more time on the "Sent" portion of this. We hear a lot about being "Sent" and this is nothing new. John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for Jesus. Jesus sent out his twelve disciples with orders to preach, heal the sick, drive out demons and raise the dead. In the Gospel of Luke we are told that Jesus "appointed seventy others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go." In the parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus ended this with the admonition to the "expert in the law" to "go and do likewise" as the Samaritan had done in showing mercy on the victim. In the familiar "great commission" at the end of Matthew chapter 28, Jesus gives us the instruction to "go and make disciples."

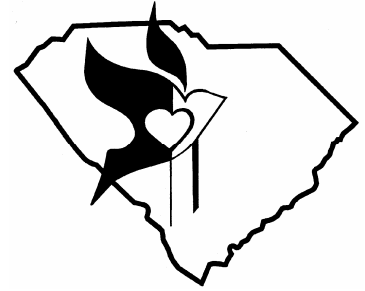
These are just a few of the examples of Jesus sending us out into the world to help spread His love with others. All of this sounds very much like the current tag line of our church, "God's Work, Our Hands" that we hear so often. And this is very much the case. God no longer walks this earth in human form but we are to be his hands, feet, mouth and ears as we take His ministry to others. We are called to be His disciples! We are called to be "sent."

LMM is very much involved with this "disciple making" experience. The Catapult Event held earlier this fall at Pilgrim Lutheran Church was a good example of this. Look for other "Catapult Events" coming in 2013. Making disciples fits in quite well with our support of mission congregations. After all, the goal of mission congregations, really ALL congregations, should be to make disciples. This is following the command of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

It has been some time since we had a new mission begin development in our synod. The Synod American Missions Committee has identified several potential locations where a new mission start is needed. The SCLMM need to be ready to assist in this effort. At the same time, we do not want to forget about the five congregations that we currently have under development, two of which are Hispanic speaking missions which are flourishing! Those two are our fastest growing missions.

These are challenging economic times for starting new missions. This is a fact that we cannot deny. At the same time, we must not pull back from the challenge that Jesus gave us. We all need to stress the need for more active local LMM units in our congregations. We need growth in our base to keep this ball rolling! Nothing is more satisfying than to be a part of the full cycle of mission development from the initial start through seeing that congregation enter its first new building! We in the SC Synod are the only ones in LMM that can claim full involvement throughout this process. Thanks be to God for this opportunity!

**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**

**\*undesigned gifts go to the NMSP**

**Memory/Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Kevin Wicker**  
**977 Quail Drive**  
**Walterboro, SC 29488**

## *It's Convention Time*

All South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission are invited to the 2013 South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission, February 16, 2013, hosted by Faith Lutheran Chapel in Pickens. To our knowledge, this is the first time a mission church has hosted the convention so please make the trip to the upstate and see first hand what your support, financial contributions and prayer have created.

The convention is a great place for Lutheran men from all over the state to spend an afternoon of faith, fellowship and, hopefully, fun! The convention is going to begin promptly at 1p, and will be held at Pickens Presbyterian Church located at 311 W. Main St. in Pickens. There is plenty of onsite parking. Registration will take place in the Fellowship Hall. Pickens Presbyterian Church was where Faith Lutheran Chapel was born. We thought what better place to hold the convention than the place where it all started! The banquet will be held at Grace United Methodist Church in Pickens located at 309 E. Cedar Rock St in Pickens. It is just a couple of blocks away with plenty of parking available. Tickets cost \$15 per person.

The Past Presidents dinner will be held at Faith Lutheran Chapel, 729 W. Main St., Pickens SC. Cost for the dinner is \$15 per person. Faith Lutheran Chapel cordially invites any and all past presidents to come visit us, hear about two remarkable stories of "faith" and see what you were so instrumental in building. For those people traveling and wanting to spend the night, South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission has a block of hotel rooms for \$59.39 a night at the Comfort Inn, in Easley, SC. Please call 864-859-7520 for reservations.

The South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission is the perfect time to reconnect and relate with each other our faith and our faith in each other. I hope you will join me as we all try to make the 2013 South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission a relation celebration! For dinner reservations for Friday and or Saturday night, or if you have any questions, please contact Brian Dooley at [drdooley07@bellsouth.net](mailto:drdooley07@bellsouth.net) or 864-346-8008.

**Amen for Lutheran Men!**

### **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](http://www.sclmm.org)  
Everything you need to know



JANUARY 2013

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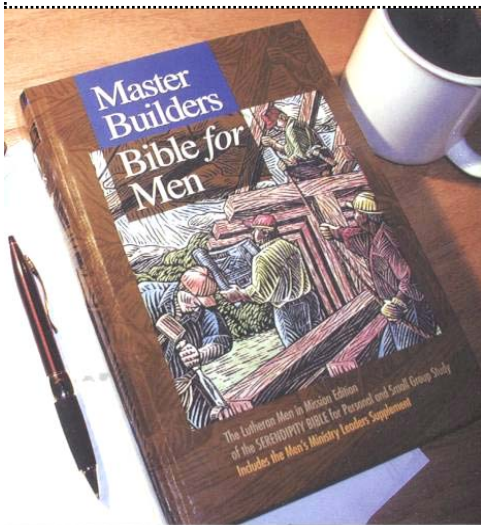


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 available at conventions.



## 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](http://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](mailto: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

—2013—	
Saturday Jan 12 <sup>th</sup>	10:00AM SCLMM Executive Meeting Synod Office Columbia (Audit of 5 Treasurers)
Friday Feb 15 <sup>th</sup>	7:00PM Past Presidents Dinner @ Faith Pickens
Saturday Feb 16 <sup>th</sup>	9:00AM SCLMM Executive meeting @ Pickens 1:00PM SCLMM 70 <sup>th</sup> Convention 4:30PM Communion Service 6:30PM SCLMM & Guest Banquet

## 2012 GOALS as of 11/30/2012

CATEGORY	BUDGET GOAL:	% OF GOAL
Promotional Fund	\$23,000	59.0%
Loan Fund	\$22,000	28.1%
Gift Fund	\$35,000	46.3%
National LMM	\$ 9,000	33.1%