

Epistle



South Carolina
Lutheran Men in Mission

www.sclmm.org

December 2013

SOUTH CAROLINA Lutheran Men in Mission



SOUTH CAROLINA LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION 71st 2014 ANNUAL CONVENTION

Registration (please print clearly)

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____ Email _____
Congregation _____
Conference _____

February 14, 2014 (7:00pm) Past President's Dinner
(\$25 each or \$40 per couple **Total:** _____
(The Past President's Dinner is open to anyone wishing to attend)

February 15, 2014 (6:30 pm or after worship) Banquet
(\$25 each or \$40 per couple) **Total:** _____

Grand Total: _____

February 15

12:00 pm Convention Registration begins at 12:00 in the Social Hall
on Butler Street
1:00 pm Convention begins in the Sanctuary
5:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion
6:30 pm Banquet in the Gym

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

Make Reservations by January 15, 2014 to receive special rate of \$93.24(after taxes) per night. Room must be booked for two nights.

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71st 2014 ANNUAL CONVENTION

ST STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
119 NORTH CHURCH STREET, LEXINGTON, SC

FRIDAY - February 14, 2014

***7:00pm Past President's Banquet in social hall on Butler St**
(Open to all who wish to attend)

SATURDAY - February 15, 2014

12:00pm Registration begins in the social hall on Butler St
1:00pm Convention starts in the Sanctuary
5:00pm Worship begins in the Sanctuary
***6:30pm Banquet begins in the Gym**

SUNDAY - February, 2014

8:30 & 11:00 Worship with Holy Communion at St. Stephen's

Pre-registration required for Banquet and Past President's banquet - form on website www.sclmm.org or contact Jeremy Frazier fraziedj@gmail.com **_803-920-8556*

*** Please note: No parking on Church Street.**

27th Annual Cliff Bourguignon Golf Tournament

Seventy one golfers from around our Synod had a great afternoon of fun, fellowship, and even some golf on Monday September 23rd. We had a great tournament, great weather, and just a great afternoon enjoying God's wonderful creation, the golf course. Here are the results of the tournament.

<p>Flight A 1st Place Net <u>TEAM</u> Don Turner Jack Pfeiffer Mike Davenport Randy Mahaffey</p>	<p>Flight A 1st Place Gross <u>TEAM</u> Jason Brewer Ricky Roland Robbie Smallwood Jeff Girard</p>	<p>Flight B 1st Place Net <u>TEAM</u> Bob Fraser Steve Taylor Bill Rucker Glenn Kluttz</p>	<p>Flight B 1st Place Gross <u>TEAM</u> Doug Stazer Steve Wayne David Sutton Rod Brown</p>
<p>Flight C 1st Place Net <u>TEAM</u> Gene Sexton Herb Bucknam Lynn Card Parker Boulware</p>	<p>Flight C 1st Place Gross <u>TEAM</u> Dennis Barry Dan Buckley Charlie Isham Bead Bowman</p>	<p>Flight D 1st Place Net <u>TEAM</u> Al Byrd Wayne Caughman Harry Scruggs —</p>	<p>Flight D 1st Place Gross <u>TEAM</u> Al Socha Marlowe Lindstrom Paul Sutherland Dick Seeber</p>

Most accurate drive hole #3Earl Dunham

Closest to the hole: #4 Walker Stockley--6'-8 ½", #7 Bob Venturella--8'-4",
 #13 Mike Davenport--4'-4", #17Garry Benefield--7'-10 ½"

Thank you to all the golfers that help make this a successful tournament!!

Heber Rast, Executive Director

It is hard to realize that the year is fast coming to a close. We have reached the time of the year where most of us are getting that "hectic" feeling that we are running out of time to do many of the things that we had on our "list" for this year! For SCLMM this means that we have yearend reports that are due, last minute "check off" items to see if our congregation qualifies for the Outstanding Unit designation, perhaps nominate someone for Man of the Year/Young Man of the Year, checking to see if we got our information to the Communications Director so that we can have a good Directory and the list just goes on and on! What a busy time.

In addition to our SCLMM duties, there are the many "functions" that happen during the holiday season, the visits to family and friends and the rush to buy our Christmas gifts. How easy it is to get caught up in the rush and forget about the real "reason for the season" as the saying goes. Time goes by so fast and we get caught up in the whirlwind so that many times we forget to give God the time that he deserves. We may put off our personal devotional time or postpone a prayer because we are just "too busy" at the moment. Our intentions are good but somehow we never seem to get around to picking it back up! Maybe I am the only one that has this problem but somehow I feel that many of us are guilty of this.

As I think back on the year, my mind comes to rest on less hectic times, and unfortunately I realize there are times when the same "postponement" happens. What is my excuse then? You are correct, there is none! There are just times when my spiritual life is less than it should be.

I have never been one to put much emphasis on New Year's Resolutions but perhaps 2014 should be the year to give it an honest try. I need to concentrate more on personal devotions and spend more time in the Word! To be a true man of God requires an effort. Each of us should be willing to set aside time to reflect and meditate on what God has done for us and how He blesses us each and every day. We certainly do not deserve the goodness He has showered upon us! I encourage each all of us to be more intentional in our personal spiritual journey!

In thinking ahead to 2014, please put the Nashville Gathering, July 18 - 20, on your calendars. This is shaping up to be a great event under the theme of Guys, Guts & God's Glory! We want to have a large group of our SCLMM brothers in Nashville for the Gathering. Look for registration information in the near future and make every effort to attend. I promise that you will not be disappointed!

Heber Rast
 Executive Director

President's Report

What a Ride!

The weekend of November 8-10, South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission sponsored its 8th One Year to Live weekend for men. This retreat is a place where men can come together, as men, talk with themselves, get to know each other better and most importantly, find a deeper relationship with Christ. One of the greatest joys for me personally is to see the change from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. Who comes to these things? All sorts of people. Doctors, fireman, real estate investors, military and former military, venture capitalists, house contractors, farmers, pastors, teachers, salesmen, engineers, truck drivers, project managers, plant managers..... well, to make it short, every kind of guy you can think of comes to One Year to Live.

For me personally, I always thought I was doing what I was supposed to do by going to church pretty regularly, going to Sunday School, eating at potlucks, I was confirmed, I mean what else was there? What else there is for me I came to find out was that deep personal relationship with Christ. You see, I have to confess, I was doing church real well, I was being church not well at all. It was not in my heart. I would do things either because it made me look good or I could get some sort of reward. I was a pretty good guy, but there was more.

Where I found the more was at the One Year to Live retreat about 4 years ago. I found God there. Realize of course God had always been with me, but I had not fully turned myself to Him. But in that room, with about 25 other guys I found myself in a group of brothers. These men loved me as a Christian brother simply because of who I was, a child of God, and not because of anything I did. It was the One Year to Live Retreat that helped me start to be the man God wanted me to be. Yes, I was a pretty good guy, but now I am closer to being a pretty

God guy. To have Christ fully in my heart offering me peace I thought was just a dream is something I cannot describe. But I would love to share it with you at the next One Year to Live retreat. Right now we are planning for early May. We will know soon so please check out www.sclmm.org for updates or join our South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission facebook page. We are also on twitter at @SCLMM.

What are some of the most recent participants saying? "The ball and chain that held me back from living for God has been taken away", This retreat has been one of the best experiences of my life", I am reorganized, better focused, more confidently Christ centered for what will be a challenging year", "This has been one of the few God felt experiences I have been to....You could see, feel, experience the love of Christ grow in the participants as the weekend developed", "The impact was definitely profound and spiritual", "Made me trust men more than ever, and showed me how to walk like a man of Christ", "This program has opened me up to a better relationship with my fellow followers of Christ", "It was a great life change event, an eye opener", "It kickstarted something in me that has been a long time coming. I feel that for the first time I actually have a relationship with God."

I hope you will prayerfully consider the next One Year to Live. Should you have any questions, please contact me at drdooley07@bellsouth.net.

God bless you all, and AMEN FOR LUTHERAN MEN!

Brian Dooley
SCLMM President '13

Together,
To Christ

ONE YEAR TO LIVE RETREAT FOR MALE ROSTERED LEADERS, SEMINARY STUDENTS AND CAMP DIRECTORS

***** January 21-23, 2014 ***** Camp Kinard SC

***** Tuesday – Thursday

***** Come experience real tools for real men in a real world. \$125 includes lodging and meals. Scholarships are available. This would make a GREAT Continuing Ed event. Meet Tuesday at 6pm for a meal and return home Thursday at 3pm. OYTL is not lectures nor theological discussions. It is a safe place for men to come and see Jesus in their lives and return home to see Him there. Come and see!

WWW.LUTHERANMEN.ORG

Contact: Tim Crout at 803-261-7011 / BTCROUT@YAHOO.COM

Brian Dooley at 864-346-8008 / DRDOOLEY07@BELLSOUTH.COM

REGISTRATIONS: Jimmy Smith 241 Steele Road West Columbia, SC 29170

Make checks payable to SCLMM



LMM Mortgage Loans

The SCLMM has served two congregations during the second half of this year with mortgages for building projects totaling \$510,482.44. The congregations served were Mount Herman Lutheran Church in Peak SC and Faith Lutheran Chapel in Pickens SC.

Mount Hermon Check Presentation

Left to right: Al Socha, Jack Cannon, Dinah Pinner, Pastor Jayson Antley



Mount Herman will be using the funds to renovate their fellowship hall. Attending the closing from Mt. Hermon were Jack and Loretta Cannon, Dinah Pinner, and Pastor Antley.

Al Socha, representing LMM, presented the check to the Mount Hermon Church members at the office of Pope & Hudgens, Attorneys. The mortgage contract was developed by R. Coleman from the firm of Johnson, Smith, Hibbard and Wildman, LLP.

The Mount Hermon construction is already under way and the project is planned to be completed by December 2013.

Faith Lutheran Chapel Check Presentation

Left to right: Al Socha, Brian Dooley, Pastor Kathy Harris, Raymond Schneider



Faith will be applying the new mortgage to support their new sanctuary and fellowship hall. Attending the closing from Faith Lutheran Chapel were Brian Dooley, Pastor Kathy Harris, Raymond Schneider. Al Socha, representing LMM, presented the check to the Faith Lutheran Chapel members at the Roper Law Firm office.

What is Your Vision/Mission Statement

Have you ever wondered who you are and why you are here? That has everything to do with your identity and who God created you to be. Are you running on the treadmill to success in life? What does that mean? What are you gaining? What are you losing?

LMM's vision statement is "For every man to become a bold, daring follower of Jesus Christ". We kept it short to stay focused on what is important, following Jesus and being bold enough to affect others. If you have God's peace in your life, wouldn't you want to share that? Others see it and desire it.

SCLMM has focused on the support of mission churches for many years. We have done a very effective job in creating places for worship and supporting our mission pastors with monetary help and outright gifts along the way. These are all very needed things. We have not closed a mission church during this recession due a lack of our support. Our Committee Of 100 has once again brought in needed funds of \$81,000 and the Gift Fund brings in over \$30,000 each year.

Our constitution first identifies the need for spiritual nourishment for our men. They go hand in hand.

Remember the little game where we made a church with our hands and we open it up and there are the people? That is what church is all about. God's people. With LMM it is the men, which affects their wives and children.

I have seen some very changed men return home from our One Year To Live retreats. Pastors are learning how to engage men in a way that does not threaten them through the Building Men For Christ workshops. Our National LMM and SCLMM gatherings are very uplifting. All of these things are great but do not stop there. We must have an intentional, bold plan for our men to KNOOOOWWWW Jesus so they may follow him and bring others to Christ. Jesus told us to make disciples. He did not mention churches, just The Church. We can help with both.

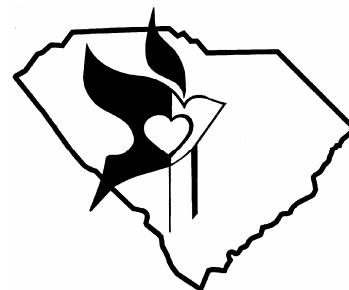
Find a core of men with a heart for ministry, pray together and listen. After a few months He will let you know what you should do over the next 3 years. Go for it!

How bold are you in your faith?

Tim Crout

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

Putting the Lutheran Men's Bible to Work in Young People's Lives

Lutheran Men in Mission of South Carolina recognizes that there is young men's flight from the church after graduation from high school. The purpose of a Bibles program is to reach out to these males by giving them a gift that will be with them for the rest of their lives. According to a USA Today article by C.L. Grossman, young adults are not bonding to the church after graduation from high school. In that same article, a USA Today poll stated 70% of Protestants age 18 to 30 drop out of the church before age 23 and give multiple reasons for their departure.



As a youngster, my mother was insistent that she wanted me to go to Sunday school. I was baptized Methodist in Lancaster, SC. and Pop was career military. So, when we were transferred to Poitiers, France the only protestant

church was on the Army base about 35 minutes away. It was there at the age of 6 that I received my first Bible, a small black book 2" x 4", a King James Version New Testament from the American Bible Society. I remember marking the 23rd Psalm, because we had to memorize it!

What was this little book for, I asked? It doesn't have any pictures and I can't understand the words, much less the small print. What good was this thing anyway? But, I was told I had to take it to Sunday school every Sunday and we would read and learn from it.

Several years later at Shandon Methodist Church in Columbia, they passed out to the Sunday school class a little black book, ironically just like the one I was given in France! That little black book was with me in Viet Nam. And what I did not know was that one very important day in my life, I would cling to that little black book for strength and courage!

Lifeway Research has done extensive research on teenagers' and young adults' church activities. They report 7 in 10 Protestants age 18 to 30 - both evangelical and mainline - who went to church regularly in high school said they quit attending by age 23. From a 2007 survey, 34% of those said they had not returned, even sporadically, by age 30. That means about one in four Protestant

young people have left the church!" Few of those surveyed had kind words for fellow Christians when they reflected on how they saw church life in their four years after high school.

Younger people also seem to be moving away from the Bible. A majority (57%) of those ages 18-28 read their Bibles less than three times a year, if at all. Then question you might ask, with all the statistics showing that young people are leaning towards a more worldly lifestyle, why bother offering a Lutheran Men's Bible? In the book of John, *Jesus then said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." We are called to speak the truth.*

The South Carolina Lutheran Men in Mission will be offering church men's groups around the state the opportunity to sponsor a Bibles program for:

- High school junior/seniors
- College/tech school students
- Other needy groups



We ask that the presentation of the Bibles be a meaningful experience for the presenters and for the young people receiving the Bibles. Contact **Dan Camp** @803-691-8700 or dancufb@att.net.



Well, we know one thing for sure -- there is a transformation in the heart of anybody who chooses to study the word of God. From the book of Hebrew, *for the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.* Could this really be true? Absolutely! And if your book is a little bigger than my little black book, has larger printing with hi-lighted areas, inserts, notes, and understandable words (*ie, Lutheran Men's Bible*), then the message is the same with the power to transform a man's character and perspective. *If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. Spread The Word.*



DECEMBER 2013

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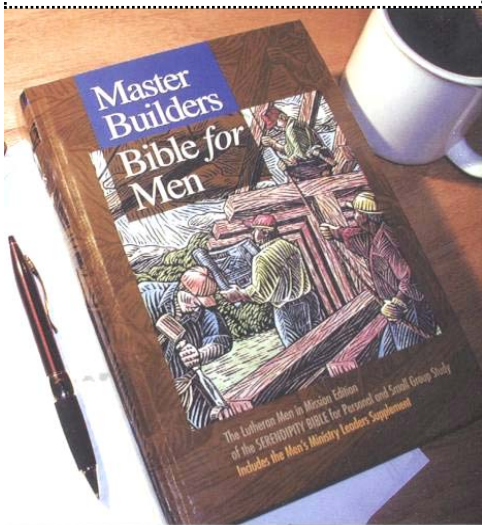


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Master Builder Bibles are also
 available at conventions.



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 mailing list.

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

2014 SCLMM DATE LOG

Saturday Jan 11 th	10:00AM SCLMM Executive Meeting Synod Office Columbia
Friday Feb 14 th	7:00PM Past President's Dinner St Stephen's, Lexington, SC
Saturday Feb 15 th	9:00PM SCLMM Executive Meeting St Stephen's, Lexington, SC
Saturday Feb 15 th	1:00PM SCLMM 71 st Convention St Stephen's, Lexington, SC
Saturday Feb 15 th	5:00PM SCLMM Worship St Stephen's, Lexington, SC
Saturday Feb 15 th	6:30PM SCLMM Banquet St Stephen's, Lexington, SC
Sunday Feb 16 th	8:30AM & 11:00AM Worship

CATEGORY	2013 BUDGET GOAL:
Promotional Fund	\$25,000
Loan Fund	\$20,000
Gift Fund	\$35,000
National LMM	\$ 9,000