

Lutheran
 Building
 Men in
 Men for
 Mission
 Christ

foundations

Last chance to register for the 2002 Lutheran Men's Gathering!

Growing together as Christian men

Men who attend the "Blueprints for Living" Lutheran Men's Gathering in San Antonio, Texas, July 26-28, will find themselves surrounded by men of all ages from throughout the United States – and the world – as they are encouraged to grow as Christian men.



The Gathering schedule is designed so that men will first hear what it is that God has done for them, and then move to hearing how men might respond to what God has done by making a positive difference in their families and communities.

Rick Barnes, head basketball coach for the Texas Longhorns, will welcome us on Friday evening. **Tony Campolo**, popular speaker at youth gatherings and men's events, will encourage those gathered on what God has done for us as Christian men.

The evening will be capped by a **Peter Mayer** concert. Just coming from a concert tour with Jimmy Buffett, this will also be a CD release party for Peter's first Christian/inspirational CD. The new recording, and the concert, will include the theme song that Peter is writing for this event.

Saturday morning will start with **Pastor Dennis Mims** from St. James Lutheran Church, East Cleveland, OH, leading a Bible study on "the length, breadth, height and depth" of the love of God (Ephesians 4).

Dick Hardel, executive director of the Youth and Family Institute of Augsburg College will bring his energy and expertise when he addresses the importance of the faith-filled family and passing on the faith to other generations.

Now it will be time to roll up the sleeves and go to work.

Many Lutheran Men are involved with building houses for Habitat for Humanity. Habitat founder and CEO **Millard Fuller** will tell the exciting story of this international ministry on Saturday morning.

The early afternoon seminars and workshops will assist all the men in attendance in "bringing it home". **Steve Sonderman**, author of *How to Develop a Life Changing Men's Ministry*, will be the seminar speaker. At workshops offered at the same time men will deal with their relationships and ministries in the congregation, home and community.

Attendees will be given time on Saturday afternoon to enjoy the many restaurants, museums, shopping and other attractions along the famous San Antonio Riverwalk.

Saturday evening will be a night of celebration and challenge. **Tony Campolo** will challenge those in attendance to be all that God has created them to be. Tony Melendez will lead the group in a concert that will inspire men of all ages.

This will also be the time participants will hear about future plans for men's ministry and will have the opportunity to partici-

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This newsletter is sent to all who contribute to the ministry of Lutheran Men in Mission.

Your contribution will ensure that *foundations* will continue to come to you.

It is our desire that *foundations* will be a source of personal spiritual growth, as well as a source of information for those involved in congregational men's ministries.

Please drop us a line and let us know stories of men's ministry we could use and/or issues you would like to see featured.

Doug Haugen
Director
800-638-3522 ext. 2566
dhaugen@elca.org

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Executive Secretary
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Easy Ways to Involve Young Men

Now that I have your attention – can we talk? Congregational leaders often ask me how to involve more men – especially young men – in their “men’s group”.

We need to realize that many men – especially young men – are not in our pews to hear the announcement in the first place. The greatest work that needs to be done among men of all ages is evangelism. In many of our congregations, adult men comprise one third or less of those in worship on a given weekend. Men 18-35 comprise the most unchurched group in America today.

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At its March meeting, the churchwide Lutheran Men in Mission board committed to make every effort to become a leader in reaching young men in America. We expect to unveil a comprehensive initiative at this summer’s Assembly and Gathering.

What is it going to take? It is going to take commitment and openness, personally and corporately, on the part of those of us already involved in this ministry. Here are the questions: Do we really want to reach (especially young) men for

Christ? Are we willing to go where that may take us programmatically or do we simply want to have greater attendance at our congregational men’s functions?

My challenge to you, if you are a man 36 or older, is to find two to three younger men in your congregation or community. Pray for them regularly. Spend time with them for no other reason than to get to know them. Ask them about their life. Ask them about their concept of God, and where God is. Ask them if they have a message to the church, and if so, what would they want to say. Be open to receiving what you hear.

If you are a man 18-35, I would appreciate hearing your answers to those questions. You can contact me at dhaugen@elca.org or (800) 638-3522, ext. 2566.

We are going to be talking to young men all over America. It will not happen in three easy steps. It’s going to take a considerable investment of finances, time and talent on the part of many men. It’s going to require that we stop talking about “men’s groups” and start having comprehensive men’s ministries that impact the entire congregation. This is the most important work we can do.

*Doug Haugen, Director
Lutheran Men in Mission*



Dr. Roland Martinson from Luther Seminary, Dr. Richard Hardel, Director of the Youth and Family Institute at Augsburg College and seminary student Sean Forde are assisting Lutheran Men in Mission in developing a strategy for ministry with/to men 18-35.

Courageous Young Men

Barbara Lambix was looking for a friend for her 8-year-old son, Joey, with whom he would have something in common. He has found at least two. One is Tony Melendez. Tony, like Joey, was born without arms.

From the time he was a baby, Joey's mother has juggled her emotions with her staunch resolve to help her son do things on his own.

"I set out from day one to have Joey hold his own bottle, and I am thankful I did. You can overprotect that kind of a child," she said. "Just like when Joey started to walk. You know, how (other toddlers) hold your hands. I had him lean with his stomach (on furniture) and there were times he would fall down more than others."

Those scenes were heart-wrenching, she admitted, and as the years went by, there have been more than a few tears shed by this single mom as she struggled to help her son adapt to a world that is often less than kind.

Doug Gunkelman, pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Beatrice, NE, met Joey and his mother at a soccer game last summer and immediately struck up a relationship with the family. Pastor Gunkelman wondered how he and the congregation might minister to Joey and his family. He found one answer at a Lutheran Men in Mission event in Fishers, IN.

Tony Melendez is an internationally known composer, musician and singer, inspiring people with his talent and his life story of faith and hope. Pastor Gunkelman made the connection with Tony at the

men's event and the end result was a March concert at St. John's in Beatrice.

In the meantime, Barbara had searched the Internet and Joey had found a friend in the same situation through the "I Can" Web site. Joey and his friend, 11-year-old Brian Huff from Austin, TX, exchanged e-mails for several months. The call inviting Brian to come and meet both Joey and Tony was too good to pass up, said Brian's father, Rick Huff.

Joey's and Brian's families met for the first time on the night before the concert at St. John's. The boys immediately hit it off, and it wasn't long before both were riveted to Joey's Nintendo.

The boys got to meet their hero the next day while Tony and his band were setting up for a presentation arranged specifically for Beatrice grade school children and their teachers.

Tony had also been anticipating the first meeting with the two boys. He hoped to be able to offer Joey and Brian the determination and inspiration to overcome obstacles that he has found.

Tony's public ministry began in 1987 after a special performance for Pope John Paul II. "Tony, Tony, you are a courageous young man," said the Pope, "and you are giving hope to us all. My wish to you is to continue giving hope... Hope to all of us..."

And so he has.

Special thanks to Mary Wieters, Beatrice (NE) Daily Sun, for photos and text for this story.



Tony Melendez shows Brian Huff and Joey Lambix his guitar technique. Melendez will be one of the featured performers at the 2002 Lutheran Men's Gathering in San Antonio, Texas, July 26-28.



Joey Lambix and Brian Huff challenge each other to a friendly game of Nintendo.

Growing Together as Christian men

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pate in the largest offering ever to further men's ministry.

On Sunday morning, gathering goers will begin to prepare to go back to their homes, congregations and workplaces.

The Reverend Margarita Martinez, bishop of the Caribbean Synod, will lead a Bible study focusing on who holds the future.

The Reverend Ray Tiemann, bishop of the host Southwestern Texas Synod, will preach and preside at the closing worship.

The worship will close with various generations of men pronouncing the blessing on one another.

In summarizing the event, Lutheran Men in Mission Director Doug Haugen said, "The purpose of the Blueprints for Living Lutheran Men's Gathering will be for men of all ages to gather and be 'rooted and established in love so that they might have the power to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,'" as the Bible says, "and leave empowered to serve Christ in their family, church and community."

Last chance to register for the 2002 Lutheran Men's Gathering

Save on your Gathering registration by first making your reservation at the Marriott

Rivercenter/San Antonio Hotel conference rate is \$110/night for single/double, \$130/for a triple/quad. Room rates guaranteed through June 24. Call Marriott reservations at (800) 648-4462 and ask for ELCA Lutheran Men.

First Man: _____

Preferred name on nametag: _____

Address: _____

City/ State/ Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E- Mail: _____

Second Man: _____

Preferred name on nametag: _____

Address: _____

City/ State/ Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E- Mail: _____

Third Man: _____

Preferred name on nametag: _____

Address: _____

City/ State/ Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E- Mail: _____

Registration Fee:

	(with hotel confirmation #)	(without hotel)
1 man.....	\$160	\$200
2 men.....	\$136 each	\$170 each
3 or more men.....	\$100 each	\$125 each

Special one-day commuter rate (does not include lunch)
(Saturday only) \$70 each

\$_____ **Total Registration Fee**
Hotel confirmation number(s): _____

Method of payment:

- check payable to Lutheran Men in Mission
 MasterCard Visa Discover American Express

Card number: _____

Expiration date: _____

Amount to be charged: _____

Name as it appears on card (print): _____

Signature: _____

Billing address: _____

Register by mail:

Registrar, Lutheran Men's Gathering
8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631

Register by fax:

Fax this form to (773) 380-2115

Register online:

www.elca.org/lmm (click on LMM Gatherings)

Registration deadline is June 28!

Our Special Saturday Night...

Master Builders New Ministry Initiatives

Saturday evening, July 27, will be a special evening at the Lutheran Men's Gathering in San Antonio. Those who are there will be inspired by Tony Campolo's message and Tony Melendez's music.

It will be a great evening and you can be a part of it even if you are not physically there.

On Saturday evening we will look to the future as we unveil new ministry initiatives. We will commit ourselves to:

1. Reach thousands of more men through the *Master Builders Bible for Men* and other resources.

2. Become leaders in reaching men 18-35.

3. Grow in our ministry to the whole man.

This will require a great amount of prayer, energy and financial support. On Saturday evening we will make the most ambitious commitment we have made to date. If you cannot be with us, please join us in prayer that evening and send your gift today using the coupon on page 7 of this newsletter.

We will count your gift with the offering that evening. Your support will help to make it a very special Saturday night in San Antonio, and build men throughout America for Christ.

Gifts for Every Man

For every man in your congregation

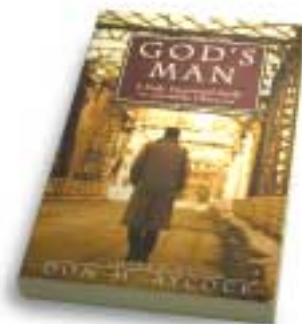
The *Man 2 Man* audiotape is an excellent gift for the men in your congregation. Side A features Dakota Road, Paul Todd and Tony Melendez singing some great Christian music. Side B is a mix of music and conversation with men talking about some of the issues in their life - including fathering- and how being a part of a men's ministry has helped them address those issues. Priced so that your congregation can give a gift to every father on Father's Day. Cost: \$1 plus shipping. Call Augsburg Fortress at (800) 328-4648 and ask for Code #69-6523.

For the significant men in your life

The *Master Builders Bible for Men* 2nd Edition includes a 32-page supplement that will assist men's leaders in developing a dynamic men's ministry. The Lutheran Men in Mission edition of the Serendipity Bible for small group and personal study assists men in getting to know God, themselves and each other in a deeper way. With 20,000 study questions



written into the text, this Bible provides unlimited opportunities for Bible study. The Master Builders Bible for Men contains six courses for men, each with a "beginner" and an "advanced" track. Augsburg Fortress (800) 328-4648, Code #69-6543, \$15 plus shipping.



God's Man is a daily devotional written by nearly 50 men's ministry leaders. Topics include relationships, family, church, community, time, and emotions. Augsburg Fortress (800) 328-4648, Code #69-4350, \$12.95 plus shipping.

Give him the gift of the Lutheran Men's Gathering

Give the gift of a registration to the Lutheran Men's Gathering in San Antonio, July 26-28, to your dad, son and/or other significant men in your life. For details, see the registration information in this newsletter, or go to www.elca.org/lmm and click on "Gatherings".

Honor him with a gift

Give a gift to the ministry of Lutheran Men in Mission in honor of your dad, son or other significant man in your life. We will send him a card stating that you have done so in his honor. You may send the gift to Lutheran Men in Mission, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631, or use the ELCA Gift Basket at www.elca.org/lmm.

MEN'S MINISTRY

focus

The Joshua Men

Zion Lutheran Church Anoka, Minnesota

"... choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"

-Joshua 24:15

"....and Joshua took a great stone, and set it up there under the oak in the sanctuary of the Lord"

-Joshua 24:26

The sanctuary of Zion Lutheran Church in Anoka, MN, began to fill with men of all ages in maroon polo shirts. Instead of an alligator insignia on the left side, there was the Joshua Men insignia. They were there to become Joshua Men. And with them came their families wanting to be there to witness and support their men.

The opening liturgy included all male voices repeatedly saying, "as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." The responses of the women and children were choruses of blessing and affirmation, encouraging those who were making the commitments to be models of faith.

One by one, members of 11 groups came up to the front. There were the Asher group and Benjamin, Caleb, Issachar, Joseph, Judah, Levi, Naphtali, Reuben, Simeon, and Zebulun groups. One by one, the men of each of these groups answered the questions:

- Do you promise to be committed to Jesus Christ, to own the importance of your role as a spiritual leader in

your home, alongside your wife?

- Do you promise to be committed to your church, and also being committed to the support of other men in their journeys of faith?
- Do you promise to be committed to giving up all those things that sabotage your witness?
- Do you promise to acknowledge that your calling from Christ extends to the workplace and community?

To each question the men answered, "I promise and I ask God to help and guide me."

But what was really unique was where they spoke this promise - between oak and stone. Resembling the biblical story of Joshua and the Israelites, one by one the Joshua Men of Zion placed one hand on the large oak

cross (cut from Pastor Tim Strommen's yard), and the other hand on a heavy stone with water in a crevice on top, reminding them of their baptismal covenant. Following this, they knelt and the pastors placed hands on the men's heads for a blessing.

Having made the commitments, each man has also covenanted to:

1. Join a Joshua Men's small group (named after the tribes of Israel), recognizing that he needs the fellowship and support of other men to keep him focused on his mission.
2. Attend large group Joshua Men events, knowing that this kind of inspiration, fellowship and encouragement from other men is also needed for his mission.
3. Promise, with oak and stone, and in the presence of other men, that he will be faithful to the above

beliefs and actions.

Joshua Men was the dream of Pastor Tim Strommen.

"There are so many men who really need to hear how important they are in the lives of their children," said Pastor Strommen.

"There are so many men who could use some encouragement and support about what they face each day in their work world, and there are so many men who want a deeper fellowship with Jesus Christ. There are so many men who want to be men of faith, but know that they need the support, encouragement, and counsel of other men in order to grow. With the Joshua Men we are giving men in our congregation and community to find that support, encouragement and counsel."

For more information on The Joshua Men, contact the Reverend Tim Strommen at tim.strommen@zionanoka.org or call 763-421-4656.



The Joshua Men from Zion Lutheran Church gather around the oak cross and the stone baptismal font used at the covenant service



Challenges and dreams...

It seems such a short time ago that I was elected secretary of Lutheran Men in Mission and now in July, my six-year term as your board president will come to an end. Much has been accomplished through the dedicated and hard time-consuming work of a Christ-centered board and my friend, Director Doug Haugen. We cannot rest on past endeavors, but must press forward to even greater achievements through and with our Heavenly Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

On a recent visit to South Carolina, I was given the book *In His Steps*. This book challenges us to measure all of our actions on what we believe Jesus would do if he were placed in the same situation. How would that affect our ministry with men in congregations, synods and the churchwide organization if we were to consider what Jesus would do? How much would men's ministry grow and flourish in the ELCA? I challenge each of you, as we prepare for the Assembly and Gathering in San Antonio, to think and pray about this.

My term may be coming to a close, but I still have dreams for this ministry. Allow me to share just a few with you.

1. With the great strides we have made in strengthening our financial base, I look forward to even greater accom-

plishments with the work of the LMM Development Council.

2. Staffing must be increased if men's ministry is to be enhanced and broadened.
3. A new tool for better communication needs to be developed.
4. We must develop ministries that will reach men 18-35.
5. I would like to see a broadening of relationships in other countries such as we are doing with the men of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana.

The Great Commission does not say that we are to go only into a safe, secure environment, but rather, it states we are to go into those places where we may be unfamiliar. I see a great future for the Master Builders program of Lutheran Men in Mission.

I appreciate the many kindnesses shown to me and my wife, Geneva, during my tenure as president. I offer these years of service as a sacrifice to God and service to you.

*Charles R. "Charlie" Schwartz, President,
Lutheran Men in Mission*

Yes!

I want to be a partner in the Master Builders New Ministry Initiatives...

- Enclosed is my gift for the New Ministry Initiatives: \$_____
- I would prefer to pledge \$_____ per month to help meet the challenge for ___ months.
- Contribute online at www.elca.org/lmm by clicking on the "ELCA Giving Basket"

Method of Payment:

- Check payable to Lutheran Men in Mission
-     Expiration Date: _____

Card Number: _____

Amount to be charged: \$_____ one-time per month

Name (as it appears on card): _____

Billing Address: _____

City/ State/ Zip: _____

Signature: _____

Master Builders/Lutheran Men in Mission Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631-4176

**Lutheran
Men in
Mission**

**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

**Building
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Chicago, IL 60631**

**800-638-3522, ext. 2566
www.elca.org**

**Doug Haugen, Director
dhaugen@elca.org**

San Antonio Travel Information

Best Travel (800) 543-8016

10 percent discount on any published United Airlines fare.

Southwest Airlines (800) 433-5368

Southwest Airlines is offering a 10 percent discount on most of its already low fares for travel to and from the event. You or your travel agent may call Southwest Airlines Group and Meetings Reservations at (800) 433-5368 and reference the assigned I.D. Code (J4350). Reservations Sales Agents are available 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM Monday – Friday, or 8:00 AM – 5:30 PM Saturday and Sunday Central Time. You must make reservations five or more days prior to travel to take advantage of this offer.

Marriott Rivercenter Hotel (210) 223-1000

www.marriott.com

Marriott Reservations (800) 648-4462

Ask for "ELCA Lutheran Men"

San Antonio Convention and

Visitors Bureau (800) 447-3372

www.sanantoniocvb.com

Event related information:

Lutheran Men in Mission (800) 638-3522, Ex. 2595

www.elca.org/lmm

Call the Lutheran Men in Mission office to find out about groups organizing bus transportation from various parts of the United States.



Schedule of Events

Blueprint:

A reference before and during the building process; a plan of action or something already done that can be used as a guide to do something in the future; to make or be a plan for something; a detailed plan; a program of action.

LMM Assembly

The business meeting with synod voting members will start at 7 PM Thursday, July 25, and conclude at 3 PM Friday, July 26.

Friday, July 26

6-10 PM

What God has done for you

Music:

Rick Barnes

Tony Campolo

Peter Mayer in Concert

Saturday, July 27

8:30 – 12 Noon

God Guiding You

Music:

Dennis Mims

Dick Hardel

Millard Fuller

1:30 – 3:30 PM

Music

God's Blueprints:

Develop the Plan

Steve Sonderman

Workshops

7-10 PM

God's Blueprints:

A Plan of Action

Tony Campolo

Tony Melendez

The Vision for Men's Ministry

Sunday, July 28

8:30 – 12 Noon

Bishop Margarita Martinez

Worship