

Why your Thrivent Choice Dollars are needed



Thrivent Choice members have big hearts!

Thank you to the many Thrivent members who are donating your Choice Dollars to LMVFM. Your donations are having a *big* impact on our ability to continue providing critical programs and services to veterans and their family members, and keep them free of charge.

As a Thrivent member, you know how many causes rely on Choice dollars to carry out their mission. Our country has had many headline-grabbing, large-scale disasters in recent years, each with an accompanying appeal for emergency designation of Choice dollars to disaster relief. Here at LMVFM, we respond daily to no less a disaster. It's a disaster you rarely see in the headlines — the crisis of hundreds of thousands military veterans, contractors and family members who have been torn apart by the spiritual and moral wounds of war. An occasional news story about Post-traumatic Stress rates, the oft-unreported matter of military-related suicide as a cause of death, the daily grind of service-related depression, and the difficulties of transitioning from war back into civilian life...these are the daily disasters going on all around us.

Not to take away from the headline grabbing disasters, which break our hearts. Our prayer is that you not to forget what it takes, in continued commitment, for LMVFM team members to bind up, in Christ's name, the bruised souls that bear the wounds of war when you make your Choice designations. Blessings!



Donating Your Choice Dollars is Easy



There are two ways to Donating your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries.

1. Call 1-800-847-4836 and when prompted say "Thrivent Choice" which will connect you to a friendly Customer Care Professional and tell them that you would like to donate your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries. The Thrivent care representative will then assist you.

2. You can also donate your Choice Dollars by logging into your account at Thrivent.com/Thriventchoice and select Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries.

LMVFM is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Ministry. In keeping with our faith beliefs, and need to remain free of government mandates, that conflict with the teachings of our faith, LMVFM does not solicit, or government funding or resources.

Please help us help them

Your generous financial gifts help keep the doors open, the lights on, and the staff at LMVFM available whenever a veteran, military contractor or family member needs help dealing with the moral and spiritual wounds of war.

PayPal is an easy way to give to LMVFM. Follow the PayPal link on our website, lmvfm.org

Or, send your gifts to:
Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries
3480 Stellhorn Road
Fort Wayne, IN 46815-4630

Your in-kind donations help, too



Donations of these items help us to keep our programs and services free to those we serve.

Gift Cards (especially *gas* and *general merchandise*) of any amount, **Unused stamps**, **Small/Large Business Envelopes**, **File Folders**, **Note Pads**, and **General Office Supplies**.

Why your help matters

LMVFM provides veterans, contractors and their family members with **free** counseling services and assessments, help with their VA claims, assistance locating and connecting with other types of resource support.

1. **LMVFM does not solicit or accept any government funding or resources.**
2. **All LMVFM programs and services are free to our clients.**
3. **LMVFM has never turned a veteran, contractor or family member away for any reason.**
4. **We are good stewards of our resources and we don't waste your donations on cheap advertising trinkets**



In 2017 the LMVFM Team covered over 11,196 miles seeing clients, visiting churches and conducting training.



I H S
Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries, Inc.
3480 Stellhorn Rd., Fort Wayne, Indiana 46815 260.755.2239 www.lmvfm.org
"Serving with Christ's Love Those Who Serve"



2018

2018 Filled with Care and Program Growth as well as Challenges



Around November, we put up a large planning calendar for the coming year. Our reminder to do this comes when we receive our first request for a program a church or group wants us to do in the following year.

We were pleasantly surprised this past August when we started receiving requests from pastors and congregations to introduce our ministry and provide them with one of our programs. By the end of September we had scheduled events in all but one month, a first for LMVFM and something to rejoice about. However, as we rejoiced as the calendar events were being added, we were also presented with some challenges that would need to be dealt with?

The first major challenge is in the scheduling of our clients who we see at the office. There is also the issue of how to respond to emergency referrals when you and your assistant are 300 miles away and the office is closed. Our volunteers have been great about going to the office when we're on the road and checking messages and mail, but what happens when an emergency or urgent call comes in that we don't know about until the next day.

Another major challenge of a heavy travel schedule is the toll it has on our bodies. For Jody, who has been my faithful assistant of six years, it also means time away from her beloved husband, Roger. While there are occasional trips where she is not needed, they are indeed rare.

My dad used to say "if you're not growing, you're dying" and same holds true for a ministry. With the increase in demand for care and services, growth of LMVFM is necessary if we are to be effective in our ministry outreach. With growth comes challenges. We know that everything works to the glory of God. And so a lot of time is spent in prayer about how to meet the growing needs and challenges of LMVFM, and those we serve, all while not killing ourselves.

It wasn't too long after lifting up my concerns about LMVFM's growth challenges in my prayers for the right solution that God gave us one.

We welcome Dr. Jim Dohrmann, to LMVFM's Ministry Team. Jim, a certified Biblical Counselor, recently



retired from Holy Cross Lutheran Church and school here in Fort Wayne. Prior to this Dr. Dohrmann served as a counselor at Charter Beacon Behavioral

Health and also worked at Eli Lilly for 16 years in the Psychiatric Care Division.

I met Jim, who has a son and daughter in the Army, several years ago at one of our "Binding the Wounds of War" seminars. After the seminar, Jim asked me for some program ideas for creating an effective military ministry outreach program at his church. After working with Jim to develop a military outreach program, he quickly established a very successful ministry outreach program to area veterans. "Joshua's Tent" is a monthly time of meal, fellowship and bible study.

As Jim joins our counseling and training team he will also share in LMVFM's operational duties. Whereas, in the past, we have had no coverage at the office when we were on mission trips. In most cases, we will not need to close the office with one of us being available to those who need assistance while the other is out of town.

Meeting the challenges of growth. The good news is that we have increased our ability to provide care for those who have served our nation. The challenge we face now is a financial one. *With your prayers and continued financial support, we know that this challenge too, will be met. Blessings,*

Leslie



At LMVFM, we value those who serve *and* those who care for them. We put this value into action through ***“Binding the Wounds of War”*** — high-quality, practical, affordable military awareness and training programs. These seminars educate, assist and equip civilian caregivers (clergy; counselors; therapists; social workers; congregations and groups and others who work with the military population) with insights into military culture, issues common to military households, and practical, proven ways to recognize and respond to them.

Many in our military community are struggling with spiritual wounds or moral injury. These bruises on a warrior’s soul are best addressed with Christ-centered care and support. LMVFM seminars can be tailored to any group or organization — from lay caregivers and congregations, clergy or other professional groups — that want to grow in recognizing and responding to the ministry needs of warriors and families in their midst.

To schedule a *“Binding the Wounds of War”* seminar for a congregation, clergy or other group, call: **(260)755-2239**.



Jesus Christ is risen. The tomb is empty. Now, Jesus calls us to:

Follow me, out of the tomb and into life beyond guilt, worry, anger and hopelessness.

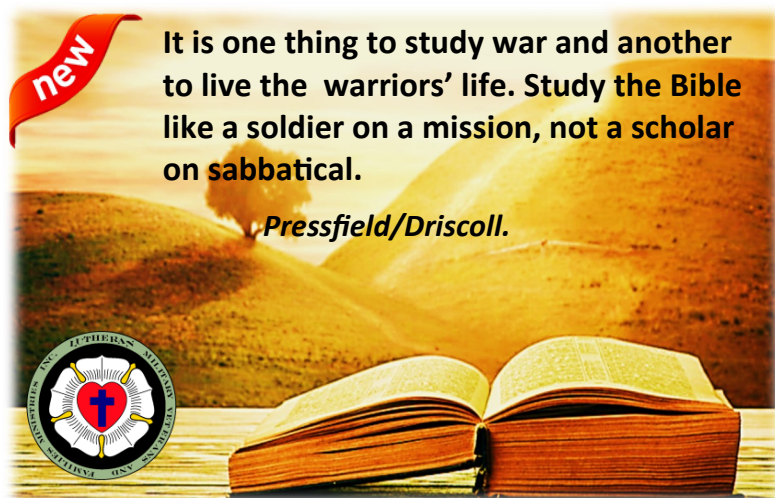
LMVFM’s new ***“Empty Tomb Fellowship”*** study series addresses 12 different aspects of everyday living — from Anxiety/Worry to Raising Christian Kids — with biblical principles and practical ways to apply God’s word to daily life. Each topic includes four one-hour sessions led by certified biblical counselor and author, Dr. Jim Dohrmann.

Use the *“Empty Tomb Fellowship”* as a 12-month series (four sessions per topic), or pick and choose topics you want to fit your congregation’s interests, needs, and budget.

For more details or to schedule *“Empty Tomb Fellowship”*, call **(260) 615-8313**.

“Let us not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions”
1 John 3:18

“Warrior Leadership Bible Study



LMVFM’s ***“Warrior Leadership Bible Study”*** is open to military members, veterans, contractors, and their families on the first and third Monday of each month at 7p.m. Please join us at LMVFM headquarters, 3480 Stelhorn Rd, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

For more information please call us at: **260.755.2239** or go to our website **www.lmvfm.com** or visit us on Facebook.

In the next issue:

Sobering Facts About Military Suicide Rates

Post-traumatic Stress (PTS) and Suicide go hand-in-hand as a threat to the well-being of our warriors.

Military suicides continue to climb nearly a decade after the rate more than doubled. Like so many long-term crises, military experts worry that the problem is becoming a ***“new normal.”*** The once readily-accessible data on military suicide has become harder to find and less timely than ever. The Defense Suicide Prevention Office (DSPO) is routinely late in releasing its quarterly and annual reports. In fact, it took more than five months, for us to obtain last September’s suicide numbers. The lack of timely reporting of military suicides only serves to keep the American public, whose sons and daughters are at the greatest risk, in the dark

At LMVFM, we say: It is unacceptable to accept the high rates of military suicides as the *“new normal”* when there are ways to effectively reduce those numbers.

We do more than tell you the sobering truth about climbing military suicide rates. We combat it daily with direct counseling support services to vets and by training professionals, pastors and congregations who care for them.

During the first three quarters of 2017, suicide among veterans rose 8 percent over and above the same period in 2016.

As this newsletter goes to print, your LMVFM staff team awaits DSPO’s final report of the total number of military suicides during 2017. That report is due for release on March 31st, 2018.



Watch for a detailed report on military suicide in the next issue of the LMVFM Newsletter.

Please pray for our military members, veterans, contractors as well as their family members that they would not succumb their spiritual wounds of war. And, please know that your gifts in support of LMVFM make it possible for us to help bind up those wounds before they become fatal.



Upcoming Events:

April 2018

7th — Korean War Veterans Meeting, Fort Wayne IN
12th—Stephen’s Ministry training Bethlehem Lutheran Church
18th —Dine to Donate, Granite City Brewery, Fort Wayne
26-27th—Anglican Diocese of the Great Lakes, Fort Wayne

May 2018

3rd — Augustana District meeting, Hutchison MN
31-June 2 — Indiana-Kentucky Synod Assembly, Fort Wayne

June 2018

8th—VBS at Augsburg Lutheran Church, Porter IN
15-17th — Peace Lutheran Church, Edmund, OK
29-Jul 1-Lutheran Women’s Missionary League, Valparaiso IN

August 2018

14-17th-North American Lutheran Church Mission Festival and Convocation, Denver CO

MAIL CALL

Dear LMVFM, Do you work with all veterans or do you have to be a Lutheran to get help?
Ann

Dear Ann,

We work with *anyone* who has served in the military or as a contractor as well as their family members-free of charge. Just as there are many brands of “Lutheran” that we work with, we equally serve other church bodies that seek our assistance.

If we can be of assistance to you please call us at (260) 755-2239. Blessings!