

**You're Invited!!!**



*LMVFM's annual Birthday Celebration and Dine to Donate*

Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries (LMVFM) is celebrating 14 years of providing free counseling and programs to military veterans, contractors, and their family members.

**BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

**INVITATION**

In honor of this day, Granite City Food & Brewery is hosting LMVFM's Birthday Party, and as a gift are **donating 20%** of all food & Beverage purchases made by our friends who present this invitation.

Please Note: LMVFM does not accept or receive any form of Government support. Our ability to provide veterans, contractors and their family members with free counseling, programs and services is through the generous gifts and donations of the individuals, congregations and groups who support our work.

LMVFM is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt nonprofit ministry

All Day Wednesday October, 13 2021	Granite City 3809 Coldwater Rd Fort Wayne, IN 46805 260.471.3030
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(Behind Glenbrook Square Mall)

**Join Us!**

**3rd Annual 5K Run/Walk**  
on  
**October 30, 2021**

In-Person or Virtually

Sign up at  
[www.LMVFM.org](http://www.LMVFM.org)



**Running for their lives-LMVFM's Battle Rattle Run**

Come to Run, Come for Fun whatever your reason, your running helps us to fund the free counselling, and programs we offer to veterans, contractors and their family members.

**Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries, Inc.**  
3480 Stellhorn Rd., Fort Wayne, Indiana 46815 260.755.2239 [www.lmvfm.org](http://www.lmvfm.org)

*"Serving with Christ's Love Those Who Serve"*




**Leave No Soldier Behind**

Next month, the "Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries" team will celebrate our 14<sup>th</sup> year of providing free counselling and programs to military veterans, contractors, and their family members. God has truly blessed us, and the ones we serve. I was recently asked to sum up the driving force that keeps us pushing forward and I replied "Leave No Soldier Behind".



Though not found in military doctrine or regulations, "Leave No Soldier Behind" is an ethos of the men and women who fight our nations wars. Nothing is

"Leave No Soldier Behind" isn't restricted to just the 2 legged folks. Our Paws & Effects ministry has been so successful that earlier in the year we decided to gift one of Dooly's future pups to an Army veteran who is now a pastor. One of my favorite examples of the "Leave No Soldier Behind" ethos happened this summer when we received the word that nine puppies, fathered by our "Patrick-Dooly" had been born. But with the news came a hesitant sort of "but don't be surprised if..."tone, as Marta, the breeder at Summers Goldens explained that one of the pups, a little girl, was tiny and weighed less than half a pound. She cautioned that they had never had a puppy so small, weighing so little survive. At that moment, it was all hands on deck. As we and our ministry partners began praying earnestly for her health and survival, and named her Smidgen.

quite as reassuring to a soldier going into combat than the knowledge that should he fall, that his brothers and sisters in arms would spare nothing in order to bring him home. For the families of those who serve, "Leave No Soldier Behind" provides them with the comfort in knowing that should their trooper die that he or she will be brought home, and not left on some foreign battlefield.

Over the critical weeks ahead Marta and her team valiantly carried on the arduous work of tending to all of Smidgen's needs. At the eight week mark, little Smidgen went home with her mom, to carry on in the paw steps of her daddy Dooly in her vocation as a ministry service dog. Though less than 3 months old now, Smidgen has already touched many lives, and serves to illustrate why we never "Leave a Soldier Behind.

So, what does the "Leave No Soldier Behind" ethos look like at LMVFM? It is seen in the countless hours we've been putting into trying to help Afghan's who worked for or on behalf of the US military during the war get out of Afghanistan before the Taliban find them. The urgency of "Leave no Soldier Behind" has increased and took on a deeply personal meaning twelve days ago when one of our Afghan interpreters was taken hostage by the Taliban.




**Why Your Support Matters:**

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

- ♦ LMVFM does not solicit or accept any government funding or resources.
- ♦ All LMVFM programs and services are free to our clients.
- ♦ LMVFM has never turned a veteran, contractor or family member away for any reason.

**We need your help**



Hurricanes, floods, fires and pandemics are the Disasters that usually grab headlines. But the Disasters that LMVFM fights every day rarely get any notice such as:

- ♦ 22 military-related suicides a day.
- ♦ 22 sets of families and friends left behind.


Day by day, without headlines or fanfare, Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries' counselling staff provides free Christ-centered care and programs to veterans, military contractors and their families who are at grave risk of suicide or other destructive behaviour.

Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries accepts no government funds. We rely solely on gifts of supporters like you to keep our services free to all veterans, military contractors and family members.


**You can Help us help them by Donating your Thrivent Choice Dollars to:**

Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries  
3480 Stellhorn Rd  
Fort Wayne, IN 46815  
260.755.2239 [WWW.LMVFM.Org@Gmail.com](http://WWW.LMVFM.Org@Gmail.com)

**Find us on Facebook**






**PayPal**



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

Gift Cards of any amount, unused postage, large and small business envelopes.

**amazon smile**  
You shop. Amazon gives.

AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

On your next visit to AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)) simply select:

**Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries** as the organization you want to support. Smile Amazon will remember your selection, and then make a donation from all of your eligible purchases made at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com).

**Note: Purchases made at the regular Amazon.com site do not qualify. You must use SmileAmazon to have a donation made to:**

**Lutheran Military Veterans and Families Ministries.**

## Must you have battle in your heart forever?

Homer, "The Odyssey"

In the 20 years since 9/11 terror attacks, 30,177 active duty personnel and veterans of the post-9/11 wars have taken their own lives. That's four times as many deaths among members of the military who have died by suicide compared to those killed in action.

In 2005, among post 9/11 veterans aged 18 to 34, the suicide rate per 100,000 was 25.5. The suicide rate today is 45.9 per 100,000.

As Christians, if we are going to stem the tide of soldier suicide then we need to take to heart the reason those who attempted suicide said they did it—"I just wanted the pain to stop". And where does their pain come from? It comes from a loss of hope. What can Christians offer them that others can't? Jesus

*No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it. 1 Corinthians 10:13*

### LMVFM offers Free, Christ-centered counseling

for service members, veterans, contractors and their family members to:

*Help them let go of their past,  
engage in the present,  
and have hope for the future.*

LMVFM's counsellors see individuals, couples and families in person at our Fort Wayne offices. When that is not geographically possible we offer sessions by phone or assist them in finding a counsellor in their area for face to face sessions. While our counselling caseload fluctuates—No vet, military contractor or family member is ever turned away regardless of whether they need just one or two sessions to get them through a rough patch, or whether long-term individual counselling is needed to bind up their particularly deep spiritual and moral wounds of war.

You are not  
alone.

When things just don't make sense...and you need to talk, we're here for you.

Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries  
3480 Stelhorn Rd  
Fort Wayne, IN 46815  
260-755-2239  
<https://lmvfm.org/>



## BINDING the WOUNDS OF WAR



### Congregational Training Seminars

#### ON THE ROAD AGAIN

LMVFM's next seminar will be offered on:

November, 12, 2021

From: 0900-2pm at:

Reformation Lutheran Church  
601 Madison Rd,  
Culpeper, VA 22701

For more information please call:

## PAWS & EFFECT: Spotlight



Senior "Paws & Effects" team leader SGT Stanley-Tucker is celebrating his 6th year of ministry with LMVFM. Stanley, known for his calm reassuring presence, is always eager to welcome and meet people who come to the ministry.

Happy Birthday Stanley-Tucker!

## HOME FRONT HEROES

The next Bible Study offered by LMVFM will begin on Monday, October 11, 2021, and continues for seven (7) weeks. Author and speaker Jennifer Rothberg in "Take Courage" will be taking us through the book of Haggai and studying four kings to set the scene for discussion.

We encourage you to set aside Monday evenings at 6:30 pm to attend LMVFM's Home Front Heroes Study in the Meeting Room of LMVFM. If you cannot attend in person, you may also attend via zoom. Please contact the LMVFM office at: 260-755-2239 to register for zoom.



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During these past 14 years of military ministry, we have witnessed any number of challenges. While some years were notably more challenging for us as a ministry and those who we serve, I could not have imagined a more challenging year than 2021, which with three months remaining in the year, is saying a lot. As we continue to take on the challenges ahead, our hearts are full of gratitude to the Lord for His unfailing grace, promises, presence, protection, and provisions. And, we are also grateful for the faithful prayers, support and encouragement of our ministry friends and partners. To God be the Glory.