

LMM Bridge Walk 2016

As many of you may know, The Mackinac Bridge Walk has been an annual event, which began in the late 50's right after the bridge to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan was built. Lutheran Men in Mission took this walk on in 2009 as a project, proposed by Richard Straub, to earn money for Luther Home of Mercy and Filling Home. This year we added Lutheran Social Services to those we support. As before the Lutheran Men in Mission Mackinac Bridge Walk in 2016 began with a trip to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. It was my 7th trip across the bridge in my self powered wheel chair. Altogether around 15 men and women made the trip this year staying at various locations and in various groups. Our group of 5 arrived at the "cabin", 70 miles northwest of the bridge, on Friday September 2nd so we could go to Pictured rocks along Lake Superior on Saturday. We came up in various vehicles but were able to ride around on excursion trips in our Presidents car. After we arrived on Friday we went to a restaurant down the road from the cabin. We had a good but rather expensive meal from which I proceeded to get sick for the first time in about 15 years from apparently some bad clam chowder. We ate there again the next morning.

On Saturday after seeing pictured rocks we traveled and were guided by Bob Coffman who had run snowmobiles in this area for years and helped build the cabin we stay in. After considerable travel time we arrived at the "Bear Cave", a restaurant with great food that we ate at many times. One thing must be noted at this time. When you tour the U.P. you spend most time driving because of the large distances involved. The main place we visited after attending Zion Lutheran Church on Sunday was a place called Big Springs, a National Park that consists of a pristine place where Native Americans visited for spiritual meetings. When you arrive you can see why they used this place. There is a flat boat tethered to a cable that runs where people can view the bubbling springs and hundreds of large fish beneath the boat. Just off the parking lot is a concession house where you can get great ice cream cones and souvenirs. After Big Springs we traveled what seemed forever and arrived at our Supper destination of the Bear Cave again. All together we had our President Mike Mock, Vice President Bob Coffman, Secretary Dick Noll and his wife Deb, , Dutch Rahe, and Jack Bull with his brother in law.

Before the Bridge Walk Monday Morning we met as a group at the Big Boy just north of the bridge. in St. Ignace at 9:00 AM . Men in Mission's group generally starts at 10:00 AM to avoid the congestion. We crossed the bridge in a little under two hours and stopped afterwards at the Dairy Queen in Mackinac City for hotdogs and ice cream. Because of your sponsorships we earned over \$6000 for Luther Home of Mercy, Filling Home, and Lutheran Social Services. After about a two hour trip north, due to very heavy traffic back across the bridge to the cabin for one more night and a great supper. Tuesday morning we left for home after a Walk that was not only successful but also exciting.

For those who think that it is a long way to go to just cross a bridge, consider making this a vacation to a cool and beautiful place in the middle of the summer's heat and tour places like Big Springs and Picture Rocks on Lake Superior. And while there consider supporting Luther Home of Mercy, Filling Home, and Lutheran Social Services by walking the Mackinac Bridge on Labor Day. Also consider supporting Lutheran Men in Mission through your financial gifts. For by supporting LMM you are bringing more men to Christ. Hope to see you there.