

Lutheran

# Via de Cristo of Central Michigan



Newsletter

Sharing the "Way of Christ" with others who seek Him

See the Newsletter in color on-line: <http://www.editech-mi.com/lvccm/>

From the Lay Director

## THEY WILL KNOW...BY OUR LOVE

As most of you know, I work for the Saginaw County Juvenile Detention Center on Hospital Road. I do not work directly with the young adults, but I have daily contact with them because I supply them with all their personal needs while they are in the center. They treat me with respect and I in turn treat them with that same respect. I sometimes forget that these are bad children and there is a reason why they are in the juvenile system. But none the less, I am who I am and will continue to show God's love whenever I can.

This article is about an opportunity that I had with one of the young men at the juvenile center. As I said, I do

not work directly with the kids but I do have some contact. This young man I will call Rusty, but it is not his real name. He came up to me one day and asked me why I am always smiling and never seem to be in a bad mood. I told him like it is and told him I have Jesus in my heart. He said he knew there was something different about me and started laughing.

A week later I was approached by his parole officer and a Youth for Christ representative, and they asked if I could sit in on a meeting with them and Rusty. I had to get special permission from some higher ups, which I got, and was told I could attend the

*(Continued on page 2)*

Chancel Steps

## ALIGNING MYSELF TO GOD'S WILL

I received the most wonderful Christmas present, a 'My Utmost for His Highest' daily journal. I made a resolution to read the daily devotion every day this year. I'm 10 days into the New Year and how am I doing? By the end of the first week, I was a day behind. I'm still a day behind. That's the problem with resolutions isn't it? The intentions are good but consistent action, the old follow-through is hard. It's not too late to take another run at making real changes this year.

Let me ask you three hard questions, as we head into the year 2010.

1. If your goals conflict with God's goals, can you expect His blessing on your life?
2. If your will is opposed to His will, can you expect Him to answer your prayers?
3. If your highest goal is personal happiness, can you expect Him to help you achieve your goal?

I know (and you know) the answer to those questions is categorically no.

Let's come at things from another direction.

*(Continued on page 2)*

### SUMMER WEEKENDS #74

Trinity Lutheran Church,  
Midland, MI

Men - July 29 - Aug 1, 2010

Women - Aug 12-15, 2010

### ULTREYA INFORMATION

#### FEBRUARY ULTREYAS

##### Tri Cities

Friday, February 19, 7:00 pm

Peace Lutheran Church

3427 Adams St., Saginaw

Corner of Adams and Mackinaw, next to Arthur Hill High School

##### Reed City

Friday, February 12, 5:30 pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

22275 4 Mile Rd., Reed City

##### Monroe

Friday, February 5, 7:00 pm

Grace Lutheran Church

630 N. Monroe St., Monroe

##### Warren

Friday, February 12, 7:00 pm

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

29860 Dequindre, Warren

#### MARCH ULTREYAS

##### Tri Cities

Friday, March 19, 7:00 pm

Trinity Lutheran Church

3701 Jefferson Ave, Midland

##### Reed City

Friday, March 12, 5:30 pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

22275 4 Mile Rd., Reed City

##### Monroe

Friday, March 5, 7:00 pm

Grace Lutheran Church

630 N. Monroe St., Monroe

##### Warren

Friday, March 5, 7:00 pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church

415 N. 9th, Port Huron

From the Lay Director (continued from front page)

## THEY WILL KNOW...BY OUR LOVE

meeting but could only listen. I also forgot to mention that Rusty requested that I be there. The rest of the article is about that meeting.

Rusty is seventeen years old and originally from Colorado. He said he could sum up his life between the age of nine and seventeen by the barbed wire tattoo on his arm. The tattoo represents eight years of pain. Things started to get tough for him in the fourth grade when he started using drugs and tried to kill himself. He also said he was often expelled from school for fighting. His dad was an alcoholic and would often beat him; one of those beatings put him in the hospital. The one thing he remembers his father saying is, "If you don't stop crying I will give you something to cry about." He threatened to kill his dad and was shipped off to live with a grandmother in Saginaw, hoping to change his life.

Nothing changed when he came to Saginaw. He continued to get into trouble and continued hanging around the wrong crowd. One of the groups

he got involved with was a national vampire group. He was looking for a purpose in his life and reaching out to whomever would accept him the way he was. The trouble eventually caught up with him and he ended up in the Saginaw juvenile center. There he met the Youth for Christ rep at our facility, who told him of God's love; but Rusty did not want to accept his message. Rusty said that his heart was so hard that the word that the rep said actually caused him physical pain and he knows now that the pain was necessary for his healing.

Rusty started reading the Bible, knowing that he had nowhere else to turn. He had tried everything else and nothing up to that point worked. He found himself on his knees by his bed. He prayed a simple prayer to God, knowing that he was a sinner, and that Jesus died for his sins, and that his sins were forgiven and forgotten. That moment changed his life forever and gave him the peace that he was looking for.

### Periodical Format Information

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Rusty has been a Christian for less than a year but it is the best of the best. Rusty's favorite Bible verse is Romans 8:28, **We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him.** Rusty knows that no matter what he did, God's purpose all along was to bring Rusty to Himself. God was always watching him, seeing it all, and waiting for Rusty to realize his need for Him. Rusty's final thought was that the tattoo on his arm represents eight years of pain but does not compare to eternal life with God.

I was truly blessed and honored to be able to sit in on this meeting, and I thank God for allowing me access into another one of His many victories.

God loves you  
and so do I



Steve Brown

Chancel Steps (continued from front page)

## ALIGNING MYSELF TO GOD'S WILL

1. Do you want God's blessing in your life?
2. Do you want Him to answer your prayers?
3. Do you want God's help to achieve your goals?

The answer is quite simple: align your will, purpose, and goals to His.

So, the secret to a blessed 2010, a year of answered prayer, and God's able assistance is to change my orientation. How do I do that? How do I discover His will? Here is the secret. If I align myself to God's Word, I am aligned to His will. How do I align

myself to God's Word? You know that, too! Piety, Study, and Action. What a blessing we will become to our environments if we make a new commitment to practice what we preach and follow through. Would you consider making a renewed commitment to Piety, Study, and Action? How about one more commitment? Help at least one other someone to make that same commitment.

Your brother  
in Christ,

Pastor Jim



PRISON MINISTRY

### Keryx Newsletter Contact

If anyone has an article that would be appropriate for the Keryx insert of the monthly newsletter, please submit the article or contact Bill Kuehne, the Keryx newsletter coordinator.

Bill can be reached at:

2581 Wilder  
 Midland, MI 48642  
 (989) 631-1650 or  
 wakuehne@chartermi.net

## Palanca Chair

**IT'S NOT MY JOB!!**

If you ever want to raise my blood pressure, just use the above phrase. When I was employed, I heard it a lot. People would step over trash, not help because "it's not my patient", it's time for lunch, and on and on. We've all experienced it. But—have you used those words?

Who is on a committee or part of an organization and doesn't participate? Doesn't have the time for extra duties or doesn't help with the job assigned? We all know who they are. But—are you one of those people?

What if God had said, "It's not my job to save you! You got yourself into this mess. You ate of the forbidden fruit. Now you come to me pleading 'help me!'"

We're so fortunate to have a loving God. He helps those who ask Him for forgiveness. He went over and above His job. He sacrificed His son to save

us. We are chosen and loved by Him. All we need do is ask for forgiveness of our sins and God does His job.

A young girl came to me at school a couple weeks ago. She told me she picked up the trash in the girls' bathroom. She was proud to have helped the janitor, whose job is overwhelming at times. He had talked to several of the classes because of the condition of the bathrooms after their break. She was proud to have helped and did not say it wasn't her job.

Please think twice before you utter those words, "It's not my job. I don't have the time". Help those who need the help. Remember, God loves you and so do I.

In His love,

Bev Wright



Weekends to pray for:

**Feb 4-7**

Women's Closer Walk, TX  
Coed Episcopal Cursillo, SC  
Women's Via de Cristo #73 Central MI

**Feb 12-14**

Young Women's Vida Nueva, GA  
Men's Keryx, Carson City, MI  
Coed Chrysalis Flight, PA

**Feb 18-21**

Men's Walk to Emmaus, TX  
Men's Camino, MO  
Concurrent Men's and Women's Via de Cristo, CO  
Women's Discipleship Walk, Central FL

**Feb 25-28**

Women's Kairos Inside, GA  
Men's Kairos Inside, AL  
Men's Kiononia, OH  
Girls Chrysalis Flight, IN

**Happy Valentine's Day****CUT YOUR TAXES IN HALF**

I used to complain about my taxes. That is, before my accountant, Ralph Norwood, gave me a surefire way to cut them in half. Perhaps you can use the same method if you choose.

As usual, at tax time I grumbled about the high amount of money that I paid each year in taxes. I wasn't concerned about what my tax dollars paid for. I was only concerned that state, federal, social security, and other deductions took a huge chunk of my money. So, like the vast majority of us, I complained. I sat in the chair as the accountant crunched through the numbers. Grumbling and complaining, I sat.

"I've got a way to instantly cut your taxes in half," Mr. Norwood said. My ears perked up. I was at full attention. In half! Did he realize how much money that would save me?

Had I missed a deduction? Did he have a surefire tax shelter? Was there a legal loophole that I was eligible for?

"How?" I excitedly asked.

"Simple, just cut your salary in half," Norwood answered.

That was over ten years ago, but it taught me a lesson that I will never

forget. We complain when we are running short and we complain when we are blessed with much. The key is, there is always something to complain about and there is always something to be thankful for. You choose.

Thank goodness I have a high tax bill.

~A Mountain Wings Original~  
from [www.MountainWings.com](http://www.MountainWings.com).



**TRUTHS TO LIVE BY**

If you worry, you didn't pray.  
If you pray, don't worry.

As a child of God, prayer is like  
calling home every day.

Dear God, I have a problem.  
It's me.

Laugh every day.  
It's like inner jogging.

Don't put a question mark  
where God put a period.

The most important things  
in your home are the people.

Many people in the world  
don't read their Bible;

**GOD'S VALENTINE TO US**



**Information Directory**

**LVCCM Prayer chain**

If you have a prayer concern, call any of the phone numbers to start the chain.

**Midland** Ann Mapes.....989-687-6960

**Bay City** Nancy Sinn.....989-671-3708

**Email contact—Brigette Trudell**  
brigchik224@aol.com

**Applications or Brochures**

Leonard Leavens.....989-879-2854

leninpenny@yahoo.com

**Ultreya Information**

Tri Cities - Dan Shupe.....989-792-0400

Walt Eagan.....989-799-3880

Reed City - Bud Larson.....231-832-2818

budtl@sbcglobal.net

Monroe.....734-242-1401

Warren - Judy Sutherland...586-817-2391

Michelle Ketepa...313-458-8605

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**To request a hard copy of Newsletter:**

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swbclb1@charter.net

**Keryx Information**

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**Women's Huron Valley**

Annette Ripper.....989-633-2797

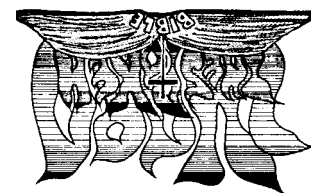
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The LVCCM Newsletter is designed to keep the LVCCM community informed about Via de Cristo activities, inspired toward a closer relationship with Jesus Christ and encouraged and challenged by the witness of renewed peity, study and action in our midst. This newsletter depends largely on your suggestions, comments and articles to help accomplish these goals.

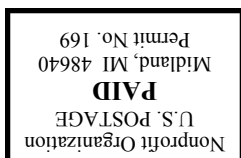
The preferred way to submit newsletter items is via email, in a Microsoft Word attachment. If you are unable to do so, contact the editor, see information directory on the right side of this page. The deadline for items to be submitted is the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month for inclusion in the subsequent issue. The editor reserves the right to edit all items for content or length or to postpone publication if necessary. Unfortunately, space limitations do not allow the LVCCM Newsletter to print notices of individual church activities, unless they are directly related to the LVCCM community.



**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Lutheran Via de Cristo of Central Michigan  
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