

Lutheran

Via de Cristo of Central Michigan

MARCH 2010



Newsletter

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

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

WELCOME!

NEW CURSILLISTAS FROM LVCCM #73

Dan Bale	Saginaw, MI	Brenda Ackerman	Columbiaville, MI
Nathan Carver	Attica, MI	Debbie Anderson	Bay City, MI
Daniel Cherry	St. Charles, MI	Lisa Bale	Saginaw, MI
Don Church	Reed City, MI	Sally Basner	Marysville, OH
Douglas Clute	Midland, MI	Cindy Birnbaum	Saginaw, MI
Richard Cohee	Freeland, MI	Lori Casey	Bay City, MI
Clark Cummings	Midland, MI	Gae Church	Reed City, MI
Tim Davidson	Freeland, MI	Mary Jo Clute	Midland, MI
Jeremy Dean	Midland, MI	Diane Collins	Clio, MI
Michael DePrekel	Bay City, MI	Sheri Cornes	Bay City, MI
Ed Doerner	Freeland, MI	Rachel Dancy	Saginaw, MI
James Eskridge	Midland, MI	Laurie Doerner	Freeland, MI
Frank Ferres	Marysville, MI	Terri Frankenstein	Lapeer, MI
Ken Frankenstein	Lapeer, MI	Heather Gorney	Saginaw, MI
Ricardo Fuentes	Saginaw, MI	Caroline Grossman	Freeland, MI
Neal Gorney	Saginaw, MI	Melissa Harrington	Midland, MI
Andrew Greenham	Shelby Twp, MI	Annette Himmell	Port Huron, MI
Kendall Harrington	Hemlock, MI	Lindsay Lipovsky	Durand, MI
Lee Hubbell	Hemlock, MI	Shelly Marshall	Saginaw, MI
Tymothi Lewis	Midland, MI	April Proudfoot	Midland, MI
Jeremy Mason	Bay City, MI	Cathy Ryan	Saginaw, MI
Dennis McWethy	Midland, MI	Marcella Sheridan	Midland, MI
Ted Meyer	Saginaw, MI	Peg Siebert	Midland, MI
Gene Pickelman	Freeland, MI	Julie Stevens	Saginaw, MI
Craig Pinkleman	Newport, MI	Jennifer Tessin	Hemlock, MI
Greg Proudfoot	Midland, MI	Ruthann Voss	Saginaw, MI
Charles Richardson	Midland, MI	Pam Ward	Shepherd, MI
Brian Ryther	Saginaw, MI		
Robert Schultz	Freeland, MI		
Gary Siebert	Midland, MI		
Gary Sieggreen	Saginaw, MI		
Todd Terwillegar	Freeland, MI		
Daniel Tessin	Hemlock, MI		
Daniel Toporski, Jr.	Bay City, MI		
Chris Townley	Freeland, MI		
Daniel VanPelt	Clarkston, MI		
Paul Walker	Midland, MI		
Steve Witchger	Saginaw, MI		
Benjamin Wright	Midland, MI		

SUMMER WEEKENDS #74

Trinity Lutheran Church,
Midland, MI

Men - July 29 - Aug 1, 2010

Women - Aug 12-15, 2010

ULTREYA INFORMATION

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, St Clair

APRIL ULTREYAS

Tri Cities

Friday, April 16, 7:00 pm
St. John Lutheran Church
915 Federal Street, Saginaw

Reed City

Friday, April 9, 5:30 pm
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
22275 4 Mile Rd., Reed City

Monroe

Friday, April 2, 7:00 pm
Grace Lutheran Church
630 N. Monroe St., Monroe

Warren

Friday, April 9, 7:00 pm
Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
29860 Dequindre, Warren



*And so must all love be
of every bright color. . .*



From the Lay Director

HEAVEN

Some of you might have seen this cartoon where what appears to be a man in a hospital bed is talking with his doctor. The doctor says, "Here is your patient bill of rights. You will receive top-of-the-line care, promptly and effectively delivered in a compassionate and sensitive manner, at no cost to you or anyone else." To which the patient replies, "Great, what's the catch?" The doctor says, "You died. This is heaven."

A couple of months ago I wrote about "are we on the right road". For some reason, this month I have the urge to talk about heaven. This is a subject that we all talk about, but no one is sure what it is all about. Recent surveys have shown that at no other time in American history do more Americans believe in the existence of

heaven. We all want to know what it is all about and we all want to know what heaven is like.

We all want to go to heaven and we all expect to go because of Jesus. We pray, read the Bible, and we try to do the right things most of the time. So we are going to heaven, right?

The Bible is not very clear about certain details about heaven. It tells us very little of the temperature of hell or the furnishings of heaven. I believe there are two reasons for that. Number one, there is just no way that human language can capture the majesty and the grandeur of heaven. Secondly, I think the Bible does not give us many details so that we will not make an idol of heaven. The

Periodical Format Information

Organization: Lutheran Via de Cristo of Central Michigan (LVCCM)
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Bible does tell us everything you and I need to know.

What is heaven like? Maybe a better question to ask ourselves is will we be ready for what heaven is like? In the third chapter of Philippians, Paul spent a lot of time talking to the early Christians about what eternal life with Christ will be like. He said that the reality of heaven should impact the way you and I live in the world as Christians. We should model our lives after Jesus and after other Christians who are living Godly lives.

To us as Christians, heaven is our
(Continued on page 5)

Chancel Steps

IF I COULD CHANGE VIA DE CRISTO

I read a testimony recently of a young man who left the legalistic church he grew up in and went on to become a Lutheran pastor. Shaken by his falling into a youthful indiscretion, he found no comfort or forgiveness when he prayed for forgiveness. So, he went to confess to his pastor. There he found himself hammered on the anvil of the Law. Timidly, he asked "What about Grace?" The answer was stark – "Grace is for unbelievers, Christians are under the Law". If you are like me, you thank God the man left to find a church that understands Grace, Forgiveness and Reconciliation.

When someone asks me what this movement is all about, I say Via de Cristo is an apostolic movement of Grace. If you have been on a weekend with me, you know that I talk about being bathed in Grace, soaked

right down to our BVDs. Now I have to ask a tough question: Is Grace just for weekends? I love this movement passionately, but I have to tell you that too often we who are on our 4th Day treat each other in ways we would not tolerate on a weekend. To quote James 3 – 'This should not be'. This happens often enough to draw my attention.

In the Obstacle Rollo, I ask the candidates to write these words down: "Up on the mountain, it is easy to love unconditionally, easy to forgive and easy to serve." Down in the valley, on our Fourth Day, not so easy is it? Sometimes sparks will fly, feelings get hurt, opinions and gossip will be passed around – typical of any family. Last time I checked we were all sinners, so I am not surprised. Very often, we are protecting our rights and feel we are justified.

Maybe so, but Grace trumps our rights. (Read the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant again. He was protecting his rights and justified in what he did to his fellow servant, too.)

When we don't self-correct, (repent) or hold each other lovingly accountable, we open the door and let hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy slither into our midst. And the acts of the sinful nature drive out love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal 5). If I could change one thing about Via de Cristo, it would be for us to work just a little harder to extend the Grace so richly poured out on us.

Your brother in Christ,
 Pastor Jim





PRISON MINISTRY



**"I WAS IN PRISON
AND YOU VISITED ME."**

Matt 25:36

ALLAH OR JESUS?

Last month I attended my annual training session that is required for maintaining my state prison security clearance. During the training session, there was a presentation by three speakers representing the Roman Catholic, Protestant, and Muslim faiths, who explained their belief systems.

I was particularly interested in what the Islamic Imam had to say. The Imam gave a great presentation of the basics of Islam, complete with a video. After the presentations, time was provided for questions and answers.

When it was my turn, I directed my question to the Imam and asked, "Please correct me if I am wrong, but I understand that most Imams and clerics of Islam have declared a jihad (holy war) against the infidels of the world. And that by killing an infidel, which is a command to all Muslims, they are assured of a place in heaven.

If that is the case, can you give me the definition of an infidel?"

There was no disagreement with my statements, and without hesitation he replied, "Non-believers!"

I responded, "So, let me make sure I have this straight. All followers of Allah have been commanded to kill everyone who is not of your faith so they can go to heaven. Is that correct?"

The expression on his face changed from one of authority and command to that of a little boy who had just been caught with his hand in the cookie jar. He sheepishly replied, "Yes."

I then stated, "Well, sir, I have a real problem trying to imagine Pope John Paul commanding all Catholics to kill those of your faith, or Pat Robertson or Dr. Stanley ordering Protestants to do the same in order to go to Heaven!"

The Imam was speechless.

I continued, "I also have a problem with being your friend when you and your brother clerics are telling your followers to kill me. Let me ask you a question. Would you rather have your Allah who tells you to kill me in order to go to Heaven, or my Jesus who tells me to love you because I am going to Heaven and He wants you to be with me?"

You could have heard a pin drop as the Imam hung his head in shame.

Chuck Colson once told me something that has sustained me these 20 years of prison ministry. He said to me, "Rick, remember that the truth will prevail." And it will.



Rick Mathes
(a well-known Prison
Ministry Leader)

REQUEST FOR DONATIONS

Due to the expansion of the program, KERYX Prison Ministry is in need of 12 tables that are to be used for the KERYX programs at the Tuscola Regional Re-entry Facility and the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility. The cost of each table, including shipping, is \$170.

The KERYX Prison Ministry is soliciting donations from area church groups. The amount of the requested

donation is \$170 to cover the cost of one table.

For your organization's information, KERYX Prison Ministry is a 501(C)(3) organization. All donations to KERYX are tax deductible. More information about the ministry can be found at www.keryx.org.

Thank you in advance for your generous contribution. Please send donations to

KERYX Prison Ministry
c/o Keith Moore, Treasurer
15410 Doyle Rd
Hemlock, MI 48626

Sincerely,



Bud Bowden
Executive Director
KERYX Board of Servants.



PRISON MINISTRY



"I WAS IN PRISON
AND YOU VISITED ME."
Matt 25:36

**UPCOMING KERYX WEEKENDS
SEND PALANCA & REQUESTS TO:**

Newberry Corr Facility #6
March 11 - 14

Rick Weiss
389 Gros Cap
St. Ignace, MI 49781

Kinross Corr Facility #53
April 8 - 11

Chippewa Area Keryx
Agape Chairman
P. O. Box 404
Conway, MI 49722
info@chippewakeryx.org

URF-E #32, April 22 - 25
(Formerly Chippewa Corr Facility)

Marquette Branch Prison #33
April 29 - May 2

Pete Corkin
520 N. Lake Enchantment Dr
Marquette, MI 49855

Huron Valley Corr Facility
For Women #5
April 29 - May 2

Wendy Bell
139 Leafy Lane
Roscommon, MI 48653

PLEASE SEND PALANCA UNDATED

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*



**LVCCM
WEEKEND DYNAMIC WORKSHOP**

So you want to know more about a weekend? Would you like to be considered for future teams? Well, here's the place to find out more.

This workshop helps explain the behind-the-scenes dynamics and the overall dynamics of a Via de Cristo Weekend.

If you have never attended one of these workshops, there is no better time than now. Come to Peace Lutheran Church, 3427 Adams Avenue, Saginaw, on Saturday, April 10, 2010, at 10 am. This is where the past Weekends were held; see the January newsletter for a map.

If you have any questions, call Mike Basner at 989-799-8577 or send him an email at mibasner2000@yahoo.com

*****THANK YOU*****

I want to thank everyone for all the help on both the men's and women's weekends held at Peace Lutheran Church in Saginaw. I know that there was a lot of work that needed to be done to make the weekends successful.

As you all know, it is extremely important for us to respect the flow of the host church's needs to continue their own services on Sunday even though they have graciously agreed to host the Via de Cristo weekends.

It took everyone doing all the parts they did to make it a success for the candidates and the host church as well. Thank you for helping to make it a win-win situation for all.

God loves you and so do I.

Ed Howell, Facilities Chairperson

YOU'VE GOT A VIRUS

These are words no one likes to hear. If you're sick, it means you need to ride out the infection, treat the symptoms until you're better. If your computer is "sick" with a virus, it can mean major problems with your existing programs. Something has invaded your hard drive and your information stored is at risk of being lost or compromised. We're often warned about some new virus that is infecting our software. It comes under many disguises, seemingly innocent titles, and opened, the problems begin.

So it is with our lives. Sin is like a virus, coming to us in many forms—movies, games, drugs, drinks, friends who want to show us a good time. We don't realize what's happening until it's too late. How did we get into this mess? Parents warn children about certain people, activities, and places. But it's not cool to listen to our parents. What do they know?

They're old. We've all had the experience and are now on the "adult" side of the conversation.

Learning by our mistakes is hard and everyone suffers. But we can rectify the situation by putting up a "firewall of protection". Jesus is our all time protector. He's always there, keeping us on the straight and narrow.

The young man in Steve's article last month is a testimony that wrongs can be made right. He'll have to do his time for his crime, but he knows God is right beside him. What a comforting thought.

May we all have our "Firewall of Christ" in place every day of our lives.

In His love,
Bev Wright



Weekends to pray for:

March 4-7

Coed Anglican Cursillo, Sussex, UK
Men's Walk to Emmaus, South Africa
Women's Great Banquet, Naperville, IL

March 11-14

Men's Tres Dias, Rockford, IL
Men's Lutheran Cursillo, AZ
Women's Walk to Emmaus, South Africa
Men's Keryx Inside, Newberry, MI

March 18-21

Women's Faith Walk, TN
Boys Chrysalis Flight, VA
Men's Kairos Inside, TX
Girl's Challenge #106, Canada

March 25-28

Women's Lutheran Cursillo, AZ
Women's Koinonia, OH
Boy's Challenge #67, Nova Scotia



He did this for us.



From the Lay Director (continued from page 2)

HEAVEN

(Continued from page 2)

eternal home and where we will spend our eternity with our Father. We are just aliens on this earth, just passing through. That is why we have the green card.

Let me leave you with one more story before I end. A lady was told that she had 3 months to live. She called her pastor and asked that he come to her house so that she could make final arrangements. They sat down and planned her funeral and the pastor said, "I will honor all your wishes."

The woman said, "I have two very

important wishes I would like you to honor. I would like to be buried with my favorite Bible and also with a fork in my right hand."

He understood the Bible but had no clue as to why she wanted the fork.

The woman said, "Every time I went to a church potluck, when the main course was over and they came to clear the table they would always say, 'keep your fork'. That was my favorite part of the meal. I knew that something better was coming. It might be a chocolate cake or an apple pie but I knew it would something

delicious.

When people pass my casket and ask about the fork in my hand, just tell them "Keep your fork, the best is yet to come".

None of us is in a hurry to get to heaven; but when we do, we will see perfection beyond anything we could ever imagine.

God loves you and so do I.

Steve Brown



EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN CONTACT



LVCCM has an email prayer chain and Brigitte Trudell is our Email Prayer Chain Contact. Please feel free to send your prayer requests to Brigitte, so that others may also pray for your needs.

If you would like to be added to the LVCCM Email Prayer Chain distribution list, just send Brigitte an email asking to be added. You will then receive all of the prayer requests that others submit to her.

She will put the sender's name in the email when she sends out a request, **unless** someone specifically asks her not to do so. That request will apply only for that specific email request,

not all future requests. You will need to request that your name be omitted every time, if that is your wish.

Brigitte's name and email address are on the back page of every newsletter, in the Information Directory column to the right of this column. Her email address is brigchik224@aol.com.

If you are reading the newsletter online, just click on the Prayer link on the left side, then click on the Let Us Pray image.

Brigitte circulates the requests as quickly as possible.

Let Us Pray!



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 1st 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.

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

Email contact—Brigitte Trudell
brigchik224@aol.com

Applications or Brochures

Leonard Leavens.....989-879-2854
leninpinny@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

Newsletter Editor/Information

Bill Patrick.....989-435-3579
barbpnov2@aol.com

Address/Phone/Church Changes or To request a hard copy of Newsletter:

Connie L. Brown.....989-992-9119
swbclb1@charter.net

Keryx Information

www.keryx.org - NEW WEB SITE

Armie Beiser (Public Relations)
989-686-0935 (H) or 686-4900 (W)

Bob Keidel - bob.ministry@gmail.com

Eugene Drenth.....231-588-7131
Chippewa and Kinross

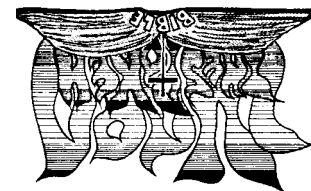
gandpdrenth@torchlake.com

Gregg Lange.....989-792-2840
Carson City and Ionia

Women's Huron Valley

Annette Ripper.....989-633-2797
annette.ripper@charter.net

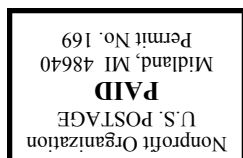
Janet Fergin.....989-430-1894
kakslake11@gmail.com



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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