

Lutheran

Via de Cristo of Central Michigan

MAY 2010



Newsletter

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

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

From the Lay Director

CREATIONISM OR EVOLUTIONISM

There is cultural war raging in Western Civilization and the outcome of this war is far from certain. There are many hotly contested battlefronts, but the root of each battle is man's desire to replace God with himself. Self-centeredness and mankind's desire to escape accountability to the creator is apparent everywhere. Whenever clear biblical teaching on the evidence for creation is presented, it is opposed with passion. The intensity of the opposition to the biblical viewpoint is an indication of mankind's lack of humility and hatred for moral accountability. It is also an indication of the importance of this issue.

Evolution lays the groundwork for rejecting any absolute standard of behavior,

because it undermines the Bible as a source of authority. The Bible makes it quite clear that God created everything, life only reproduces after its own kind, and that He sent a global flood as judgment for man's sin and rebellion. If these facts are denied, then people will draw the wrong conclusions about the origin. If we do not believe or trust this, why should we trust anything else in the Bible?

There are many well-documented books with the scientific evidence supporting biblical creation, but the battle will not be won in the academic world. It will be won in our homes, schools, and neighborhoods. There are only two possible alternatives for the origin of

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Chancel Steps

IF YOU STAND ALONE, YOU WILL FALL

His call came on Saturday, a broken voice confessing, "I've fallen." Eight, almost nine years ago, he walked away from an extremely close one-on-one accountability relationship with me and from our reunion group. Nothing could change his mind in those days. His attitude: 'I'm stronger now; I can handle all the old demons that once ravaged my life. I don't need you anymore.' Even given the warning "If you stand alone, you will fall" did not deter him. He cut himself off from every support system. When any of us occasionally met somewhere, always by accident, he was distant, cold, and unapproachable. He was in 'the distant country squan-

dering his life'. (Luke 15)

I drove past his home almost daily for all those years. Every time the pain of failure rose up within me and I asked, "Why Lord? What might I have done differently? How much trouble has he gotten into?" I confess, I never anticipated the day when he would rise up, leave the swine, and head for home.

When the call came, suddenly I knew why the spiritual assaults against me were particularly fierce this Lent. This very night, I meet with him and if he is earnest and repents (Rev 3), I will walk

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SUMMER WEEKENDS #74

Trinity Lutheran Church,
Midland, MI

Men - July 29 - Aug 1, 2010

Women - Aug 12-15, 2010

ULTREYA INFORMATION

MAY ULTREYAS

Tri Cities

Friday, May 21, 7:00 pm

Grace Lutheran Church

4690 Tittabawassee Rd, Saginaw St.

Reed City

Friday, May 14, 5:30 pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

22275 4 Mile Rd., Reed City

Monroe

Friday, May 7, 7:00 pm

Grace Lutheran Church

630 N. Monroe St., Monroe

Warren

Friday, May 7, 7:00 pm

Immanuel Lutheran Church

415 N. 9th, St Clair

JUNE ULTREYAS

Tri Cities

Friday, June 18, 7:00 pm

Fountain Ministries Christian Fellowship

Hampton Towne Center

(old Hampton Mall)

Corner of Center & Pine, Essexville

Reed City

Friday, June 11, 5:30 pm

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

22275 4 Mile Rd., Reed City

Monroe

Friday, June 4, 7:00 pm

Grace Lutheran Church

630 N. Monroe St., Monroe

Warren

Friday, June 4, 7:00 pm

St. Paul Lutheran Church ELCA

375 Lothrop, Grosse Pointe Farms

From the Lay Director (continued from front page)

CREATIONISM OR EVOLUTIONISM

mankind—creation or evolution. Many people like to believe that God used evolution to “create” us. However, this just sidesteps the real issue by assuming that evolution has happened. Such a false compromise leads people away from, not toward, the personal God described in the Bible.

In reality, evolution is based on a religious concept that has been summarized as follows. In the beginning there was no intelligence or purpose; there were only particles and impersonal laws of physics. These two things plus chance did all the creating. Without them nothing was made that has been made. Primitive people not having science to tell them what had happened dreamed up a creator they called God. This belief is what is taught in our schools today.

We as Christians know the real explanation for our existence. In the beginning, God created all that we have and all that we ever will need. We rebelled and God still did not destroy mankind; but when creation started a downward spi-

ral of sin and death (referred to as “the fall”), God sent the flood to virtually wipe out all life on the planet.

In an incredible display of mercy, God forewarned the entire world of what was coming. Yet only one family believed God and was saved. From the first rebellion of mankind in the Garden of Eden to the crucifixion of Jesus on the cross, God has been reaching out to us. It is only by placing our faith in what Jesus has already done that we may return to fellowship with the Creator of the universe. We can never be good enough to earn our way to heaven.

These are the two competing viewpoints, but only one is backed up by the word of God, the Bible.

God loves you and so do I.

Steve Brown



Chancel Steps (continued from front page)

IF YOU STAND ALONE, YOU WILL FALL

with him back to the Father and stand by his side. I’m in for the long haul. However, I dare not stand alone either, so last night, I sat with a reunion brother, shared what I could, and asked him to pray during the hour the prodigal and I meet.

Have you had a similar experience, a brother or sister who willfully chooses to walk away from the light? Perhaps it was you. There are many lessons in this experience. May I commend three ‘lessons learned’?

1. “If you stand alone, you will fall” is a principle born out of painful reality. As we Lutherans are wont to say, “This is most certainly true.”
2. Over time, I gave up on him. The Lord never did.
3. Practice the principle of not standing alone by calling in a reunion brother.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Jim

Periodical Format Information

Organization: Lutheran Via de Cristo of Central Michigan (LVCCM)
Return Address: LVCCM
P.O. Box 1092, Midland, MI 48641-1092
Title: Newsletter of the LVCCM
How Often Published: Monthly

SECRETARIAT CORNER

Over the past five or six years, we have been slowly but surely expending our finances in the Via De Cristo movement. We as a secretariat have been working very hard to try to remedy the situation. Because of the rising costs to put on the weekends, we have decided to put the weekend cost at seventy dollars per candidate.

We will also be asking the head chas to keep track of the team donations on the weekends. If someone on team cannot pay, it will be up to the rest of the team to help out. That is what team is all about. We all know that God will provide and we believe He will continue to bless this movement.

Ken David and Connie Brown will be organizing our policies; when they are complete, they will be available for all to see on our web site.

Thanks for all your support.

Steve Brown,
Lay Director



KERYX MINISTRY

UPCOMING KERYX WEEKENDS SEND UNDATED PALANCA & REQUESTS TO:

Keryx Re-Entry Tuscola #2
May 13 - 16

Richard Kall
4160 Scarlet Oak
Saginaw, MI 48603

URF-W #12
(Formerly Straits Corr)
May 13 - 16

Chaplain Jim Bolton
c/o URF-W Corr Facility
4387 West M-80
Kincheloe, MI 49785

Pugsley Corr Facility #17
May 20 - 23

Traverse Area Keryx
P. O. Box 2231
Traverse City, MI 49685

SPRING CLEANING



Well, the bug finally bit—spring cleaning. I usually put it off and then it's summer, can't find the time, it's too hot, too busy. I find more excuses not to do it. Once I get started, I'm on a roll sorting—yes, keep pile, no, discard pile. I've put too many things back in the closet, haven't worn them, even if they still fit, so this time they go.

I also spend time going through boxes, envelopes, pictures. I do a lot of reminiscing. I have things from my parents I can't part with. I feel closer to them when I have a coat, a set of keys, something written by them. Things my children and grandchildren have done over the years are more things I can't get rid of.

Then there are over 50 years of my journals. I've been very faithful in keeping up with them. They'll never make the best-seller list, but I go back and re-read what I did over 30 years ago, where I was then, where I am now, and how things progressed along the way. There are good and bad times, and I successfully made it

through, with a lot of help from God and my family and friends.

That's something we all need to do—Spring Cleaning of our soul. We all carry extra baggage. Just can't seem to let it go. It accumulates and weighs us down. We get depressed, anxious, nothing goes right. That's when we need to stop whatever we're doing and think of where we're heading. The wrong way on a one-way street. That's an accident waiting to happen!!!

Talk to God, pray for guidance. He'll get rid of that extra baggage, whatever it is, and open our heart to the Holy Spirit. We'll be filled with love and forgiveness that we can share with others.

Don't keep a closed heart. Open up. Let go and let God. Do that spring cleaning!

In His Love.

Bev Wright



Weekends to pray for:

April 29 - May 2

Coed Anglican Cursillo, Chester, England

Women's Discipleship Walk, Southaven, MS

Men's Tres Dias, Central New England

May 6 - 9

Coed Journey, TX

May 13 - 16

Women's Walk to Emmaus, Western VA

Coed Dias con Cristo, NV

Men's Journey to Damascus, TX

May 20 - 23

Men's Keryx, Traverse City, MI

Women's Walk to Emmaus, South Africa

May 27 - 30

Men's Catholic Cursillo, Hungary

Women's Walk to Emmaus, Australia

Boy's Epiphany, AL

THE SONGBOOKS ARE HERE. THE SONGBOOKS ARE HERE. CALLING ALL MUSIC PEOPLE.



As the Vice Chair for the Via de Cristo Secretariat, one of my responsibilities is the music for the weekends. Imagine that, a person with zero musical talent in charge of music. It's a good thing there are many people in the Via de Cristo I could tap into, and I did.

You may have noticed that at the serenade, we would collect the music sheets because the music is copyrighted and cannot be distributed, yet we would give away music books on the weekends to candidates. It didn't seem right, so I called CCLI, our music provider, and they informed me

we can't give away the book; we were in violation of the copyright. All of the music books had to stay in the possession of the Via de Cristo. This along with the need for more Music Leaders Books was the catalyst for the formation of a music committee.

I want to give credit where credit is due. Some of the top music people in the Via de Cristo came together to form a music committee. After two years and many meetings, we have a new Leaders Book and a new weekend music songbook. The music committee members are; Jessica Beadle, Jan Eggers, Gordon Fergin, Rob

Haugh, Anita Kall, Kurt Kramer George Widiger, and myself. I was there only to start the meetings and pray, everything else was done by these dedicated and musical geniuses. It was pure joy from Heaven to sit and watch as these people put their talents together and made the new book happen. I am thankful for all the efforts of these men and women as they drove many miles and spent many hours putting this book together. **Please thank them when you get a chance.**

On May 16 at 3:00 pm, we are going

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THE SONGBOOKS ARE HERE

to have a Leaders Music Book assembly party at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Saginaw. Everyone from the Via de Cristo Community is welcome and encouraged to come to see the new books and help assemble the Leaders Books. Any Via de Cristo musician will receive a new Leaders Book if they come and help assemble the new Leaders edition. The book will remain the possession of the Via de Cristo, but the Leader will be able to keep the book and mark it up for use on the weekends or the Ultreyas.

One more thing, please. Obviously, there is a cost to printing the books. I would like to encourage the members of the Via de Cristo community to donate toward the creation of this new song book. We have a secret donor that will match all gifts up to a certain

dollar amount, marked for the songbook. Please make checks out to LVCCM, put SONGBOOK on the memo line, and send it to LVCCM, P.O. Box 1092, Midland, MI, 48641-1092.

My deepest thanks to these men and women who put this book together; and my deepest and sincere thanks to you, the Via de Cristo community, for helping to spread the Love of Jesus to the world may God bless all of you.

God Love You and So Do I.

Ken David
Vice Chair



*Note: Denny Hacker is the new Vice Chair starting in May. Any requests for information about music after April should be directed to Denny.

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—Brigette 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

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barbpnov2@aol.com

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swbclb1@charter.net

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www.keryx.org - NEW WEB SITE

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Carson City and Ionia

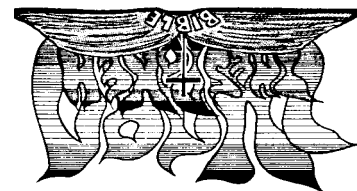
Women's Huron Valley

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

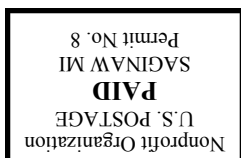
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MAY 2010



Issue #2010/5
PUBLISHED MONTHLY
NEWSLETTER OF LVCCM

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Midland, MI 48641-1092