

Lutheran

# Via de Cristo of Central Michigan

JULY 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

## BRINGING GOD BACK TO AMERICA

Israel was established by God Himself, and God gave Himself to them. He also gave them the law—the 10 commandments and the covenant. And He gave them Canaan, the best land of the earth at that time. And so God gave them the Lord, the law, and the land.

God only asked them for one thing in return—that they would love Him, obey Him, and serve Him. What did Israel do? They denied the Lord, they defied the law, and they defiled the land. So, God had to judge them.

The parallel with America is obvious and alarming. No nation has ever had a Christian beginning like the USA.

Chancel Steps

## PRAYER REQUEST

Paul writes *"Not that I have already obtained all this or have been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me."* (Eph 3:11-12)

It's so easy to put ourselves on Christian cruise control and think that we have arrived. Every once in awhile our Lord will put someone or something across our path to get our attention and give us a better view of our hearts. It happened to me a week ago.

Dale shipwrecked his life by the choices he made and now is imprisoned. He's separated from everyone

We, too, have been given the Lord, the law, and a land, and we've denied Him, defied Him, and our land is being defiled. The Lord is slowly but steadily being expelled from every public venue. It started in the public schools, and has spread to public places, courthouses, our coins, our pledge of allegiance, and on and on to the point where today we are fighting battles about what we can even say in the church! It is no longer just about the separation of church and state but rather the separation of America from the God Who founded her and has so blessed her!

The Supreme Court says that it is

*(Continued on page 2)*

he loves and treasures. Yet, in prison he found a new love through a radical encounter with Christ. In the words of Brennan Manning, he was found by "...a Savior of boundless compassion, infinite patience, unbearable forgiveness and love that keeps no score of wrongs." Today he serves Christ by supporting and leading the Christian men within that prison.

I was so impressed by his witness that I offered to pray for whatever he needed. He returned the next day with four pages of tightly written requests. To my surprise, only one of

*(Continued on page 2)*

## SUMMER WEEKENDS #74

Trinity Lutheran Church,  
Midland, MI  
See map on page 4

Men - July 29 - Aug 1, 2010  
Women - Aug 12-15, 2010

## ULTREYA INFORMATION

### JULY ULTREYAS

#### Tri Cities

Friday, July 16, 7:00 pm  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
706 W. Flint St, Davison

#### Reed City

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

#### Monroe

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

**Warren Ultreyas have been discontinued.**

### AUGUST ULTREYAS

#### Tri Cities

Friday, August 20, 7:00 pm  
Faith Lutheran Church  
3033E. Wilder Rd, Bay City

#### Reed City

Friday, August 13, 5:30 pm  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
22275 4 Mile Rd., Reed City

#### Monroe

Friday, August 6, 7:00 pm  
Grace Lutheran Church  
630 N. Monroe St., Monroe

From the Lay Director (continued from front page)

## BRINGING GOD BACK TO AMERICA

against the law to display the 10 Commandments in a public place (though their building displays them!), reasoning that if you display them, people might ponder them and if so, they might obey them, and that would be a violation of the separation of church and state. We are doing just what Israel did. It is now the official position of our government that the 10 commandments are dangerous! Wouldn't want kids in school to see 'thou shalt not kill' because what if they obeyed it!

Ladies, what if you broke down in the worst part of town and had to walk, after dark, to find help. While you walk, four men leave a house you are

passing and begin walking just behind you. How do you feel? As you listen to what they are saying, you notice they are talking about God, and they have just left a Bible study session. You turn around and see they are all carrying Bibles. How do you feel now?

The new direction our once Christian nation is now going in is just foolish, and contrary to basic common sense. We don't force our beliefs on anyone, but we have allowed the world to chip away at our core of morality.

Our founding fathers made it abundantly clear that this land was founded on God and the Bible. The

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Bible was the first and only book to be used in public schools for years.

It's time to get back to God in our country. We in the Via de Cristo community are doing our utmost for our God and God is everywhere in our weekends. Let us continue to honor God with all we do.

God loves you and so do I.

Steve Brown



Chancel Steps (continued from front page)

## PRAYER REQUEST

the requests concerned himself, and that is what I'd like to share with you.

He wrote:

*"Please pray for me, that I may continue to be obedient, humble, and faithful. That I may be still when He wants me to be still and to speak when He needs me to speak. Pray that I never grow weary of fighting the good fight and being a living example of His Word."*

When I first read those words, I confess the eloquent evidence of a heart fully devoted to Christ blew me away. Then, to be honest, my second reaction was to lower my head in humility

and pray that I might one day have a heart like this. In fact, that is why I am sharing this prayer with you. A moment ago you read this prayer. May I challenge you to go back and pray it for Dale, for me, and for yourself.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Jim




## ALLEGIANCE

Christian artist Ray Boltz sang these words by which we all should live.

***I pledge allegiance to the Lamb  
 With all my strength, with all I am.  
 I will seek to honor His commands.  
 I pledge allegiance to the Lamb.***



LVCCM Men's Weekend #74			LVCCM Women's Weekend #74		
July 29 - August 1, 2010 Trinity Lutheran Church, Midland, MI			August 12 - 15, 2010 Trinity Lutheran Church, Midland, MI		
Set-up	Wednesday, July 28	5:30 pm	Set-up	Wednesday, August 11	6:30 pm
Send Off	Thursday, July 29	7:00 pm	Send Off	Thursday, August 12	7:00 pm
Memorial Presbyterian Church 1310 Ashman, Midland, see map on page 4			Memorial Presbyterian Church 1310 Ashman, Midland, see map on page 4		
Serenade	Saturday, July 31	7:00 pm	Serenade	Saturday, August 14	7:00 pm
Tear Down	Sunday, August 1	Kitchen 1:00 pm Chapel 2:00 pm Site 3:00 pm Rollo Room 4:00 pm	Tear Down	Sunday, August 15	Kitchen 1:00 pm Chapel 2:00 pm Site 3:00 pm Rollo Room 4:00 pm
Closing	Sunday, August 1	4:30 pm	Closing	Sunday, August 15	4:30 pm
Rector	Graham Currie		Rectora	Marcy Howell	
Head Cha Cho	Ike Smith		Head Cha Cha	Jessica Beadle	
Spiritual Directors	Pastors Jim Hill, Robert Schultz, Rev Norm Conrad		Spiritual Directors	Pastors Jim Hill, Bernie Philabaum, Gerald Ferguson	
Servers	Rick Huger (Head Server), Duane Schooley (Asst)		Servers	Janine Bock (Head Server), Pat Perry (Asst)	
Cooks	Russ Boone (Head), Marc Bingham, Neil Gorney, Ron Gorney, Kevin Ullum		Cooks	Karin Anderson (Head), Mary Boughton, Alicia DelCore, Joan Jackson, Teresa Yaeger	
Cha	Gene Champagne (Rollo Room), Dave Appleby (Asst)		Cha	Ruth Ann Gorney (Rollo Room), Ann Gensler (Asst),	
Chos	Gary Gray (Head Music), Ruben Razo, George Widiger (Music), Skip Randall (Chapel), Mark Gould (Asst), John Rabassa (Mail Room), Charles Collins (Asst), Joe Bonadies (Facilities), Leonard Leavens (Snacks), (Cha Chos) Chuck Broomall, Don Dietzel, Jeff Fauver, Dave Foster, Ed Howell, Bill Maki, Steve Strickling		Chas	Jane Lacher (Head Music), Lynn Boone, Sherry Gray, (Music) Chris Shann (Chapel), Linda Richards (Asst), Bridgette Trudell (Mail Room), Wendy Russell (Asst), Janet Ringle (Facilities), Carrie Schellhas (Snacks), (Cha Chas): Debi Bartley-Ullom, Maria DeCaire, Sue Miller, Karen Morden, Cindy Raysin, Nancy Walk	
Table Professors	Jeffrey Kelley, Richard Rousselo, Rodney Sauers, Kristopher Zastrow		Table Professors	Kathy Dearing, Shirley Gould, Carol Schellhas, P J Walcik	
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Meals 8:45 am, 1:00 pm, 7:10 pm</b>		<b>Friday</b>	<b>Meals 8:45 am, 1:00 pm, 7:10 pm</b>	
10:20	Ideal	Travis Jones	10:20	Ideal	Dee Ann Pawley
11:35	Grace I	Pastor Jim Hill	11:35	Grace I	Pastor Jim Hill
1:35	Laity	Wayne Schmidt	1:35	Laity	Michelle Burkhard
3:05	Grace II	Pastor Robert Schultz	3:05	Grace II	Pastor Gerald Ferguson
5:05	Piety	Mike Boetefuer	5:05	Piety	Sheila Kissane
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Meals 9:00 am, 1:55 pm, 7:10 pm</b>		<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Meals 9:00 am, 1:55 pm, 7:10 pm</b>	
9:55	Study	Ron Lacher	9:55	Study	Cynthia Kreil
11:20	Day in the Life	Pastor Jim Hill	11:20	Day in the Life	Pastor Bernie Philabaum
2:45	Apostolic Action	Chuck Wolverton	2:45	Apostolic Action	Sue Storey
4:15	Obstacles to Grace	Pastor Robert Schultz	4:15	Obstacles to Grace	Pastor Jim Hill
6:00	Leaders	Vic Chichester	6:00	Leaders	Noelle Fenske
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Meals 8:15 am, 12:30 pm</b>		<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Meals 8:15 am, 12:30 pm</b>	
9:05	Environment	Paul Schuette	9:05	Environment	Dawn Bock
10:15	Life in Grace	Rev Norm Conrad	10:15	Life in Grace	Pastor Bernie Philabaum
11:15	CCA	Norm Halstead Jr	11:15	CCA	Trisha Osterland
1:20	Total Security	Graham Currie	1:20	Total Security on	Marcy Howell
<p>Community chapel begins 15 minutes before each rollo and continues until the rollista returns to the chapel for post-rollo prayers. We welcome your spiritual and physical presence in chapel.</p> <p>When dropping off palanca, please be aware that mail chas can't distribute palanca to individual candidates. Palanca that won't fit in an envelope should be given after closing.</p>					
			<p><b>COMMUNITY HELP NEEDED</b></p> <p><b>A lot of help is needed before Sunday's closing</b> to help pack supplies and clean the facility. The teams are tired and should not have to stay to help get the church back the way it was before the weekend. <b>Remember, last winter's weekend team members should be helping with tear down.</b> We also need <b>STRONG WORKERS</b> to load the trailer.</p>		

### FOOD DONATIONS

Food costs for an LVCCM Weekend are about the biggest expense of a weekend. Our food buyer watches for sales and does a fine job of holding the costs down, but donated items help a lot. **WE DEPEND ON FOOD DONATIONS.** Head Servers are asked to get food donations for both the snacks and the meals. Whatever has not been donated or promised the week BEFORE the weekend, our buyer buys using the grocery fund.

If you are able to make a food donation, **BEFORE the weekends, please call Head Servers: Rick Huger, 734-289-1214, and Janine Bock, 989-879-2481,** to ask what is still needed and when it is needed at the site. Please leave your name, number, and a message if you get voice mail. Thank you.

Also, if you are interested in **decorating tables** for a meal for either weekend, please contact Rick or Janine.

Thank you for your generosity and willingness to help.



### COMMUNITY HELP NEEDED

Please come and support the Men’s and Women’s Summer Weekends with your PRAYERS, PRESENCE, and HELP!!!

In the kitchen you can help prepare meals, and most of all, help keep the kitchen utensils and dishes washed.

The Head Servers need help serving meals (especially Friday and for all breakfasts), cleanup after meals, and setting up for the next meal.

Please come to the Community Chapel to lift the rollistas in prayer as they give their rollos. The Chapel is a wonderful way to see and feel the Holy Spirit working throughout the whole weekend.

Another way to help before Sunday’s closing is to help pack supplies and clean the facility. The teams are tired and should not have to stay to help get the church back the way it was before the weekend. **Remember, last winter’s weekend team members should be helping with tear down.** We also need STRONG WORKERS to load the trailer. The community is very much appreciated and needed to help.



Send Off Site for Weekends #74  
Memorial Presbyterian Church  
1310 Ashman, Midland



Site for Weekends #74  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
3701 Jefferson Ave, MIDland

Palanca Chair

## ARE YOU A PRISONER?

How many of us have felt imprisoned or shut out? Was it self-imposed? How tall is the wall you've built and are you hiding behind?

Lots of questions, but do you have the answers? So often we bury our problems, they pile up and soon we don't see a way over the wall. Examples are anger, arrogance, greed hate, envy, pride jealousy, just to name a few. These are some of the "bricks" on our wall. They pile up and are cemented by sin. The longer they sit, the harder the cement becomes and it's very difficult to take it down. Our hearts become hardened and unloving. We push those away that try to help us. The devil is working overtime.

I recently did a Keryx weekend. I saw firsthand what abused and battered women felt. They turned to drugs, alcohol, prostitution, stealing, murder, anything to take the pain and suffering away. They built a wall around themselves so as not to feel the pain, both physical and emotional.

They felt worthless and unloved. They became victims.

We showed them how to become survivors. We showed them love from us and most importantly, from God. They were forgiven of the crime they did. That was stressed over and over—that God loved them so much He sent His Son to die for their sins. Psalm 103:12 says, "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us".

There are many people among us who feel abandoned and unloved. Are they your neighbor, brother, aunt, cousin? Do they do hurtful and harmful things for attention? Let us reach out to them. Show them you care and that they are special. It takes awhile to break down the walls, to show someone you care, to show them God loves them, no matter what they've done.

Take that first step to help bring someone over their wall and leave the

bricks behind them and walk by faith, not by sight with Jesus at their side.



In His Love,  
Bev Wright

Weekends to pray for:

### July 1 – 4

Men's and Women's Kairos Inside, TX

### July 8 – 11

Men's Anglican Cursillo, New Zealand

### July 15 – 18

Girl's Chrysalis Flight, VA  
Women's Renewal Cursillo, IL

### July 22 – 25

Men's Camino, KS  
Coed Presbyterian Cursillo, TX

### July 29 - Aug 1

Men's Via de Cristo, MI  
Women's Camino, KS  
Youth Happening, Texas

## WICKER COAL BASKET

Each morning, Grandpa was up early sitting at the kitchen table reading from his old worn-out Bible. His grandson, who wanted to be just like him, tried to imitate him in any way he could. One day the grandson asked, "Papa, I try to read the Bible just like you, but I don't understand it. And what I do understand I forget as soon as I close the book. What good does reading the Bible do?"

The grandfather quietly turned from putting coal in the stove and said, "Take this old wicker coal basket down to the river and bring back a basket of water." The boy did as he was told, even though all the water leaked out before he could get back to the house. The grandfather laughed and said, "You will have to move a little faster next time", and sent him

back to the river with the basket to try again. This time the boy ran faster, but again the old wicker basket was empty before he returned home.

Out of breath, he told his grandfather that it was impossible to carry water in a basket, and he went to get a bucket instead. The old man said, "I don't want a bucket of water; I want a basket of water. You can do this. You're just not trying hard enough." And he went out the door to watch the boy try again.

At this point, the boy knew it was impossible, but he wanted to show his grandfather that even if he ran as fast as he could, the water would leak out before he got far at all. The boy scooped the water and ran hard, but when he reached his grandfa-

ther, the basket was again empty. Out of breath, he said, "See Papa, it's useless!"

"So you think it is useless?" the old man said. "Look at the basket." The boy looked at the basket and for the first time he realized that the basket looked different. Instead of a dirty old wicker coal basket, it was clean. "Son, that's what happens when you read the Bible. You might not understand or remember everything, but when you read it, it will change you from the inside out."

Moral of the wicker basket story: Take time to read a portion of God's word each day; it will affect you for good even if you don't retain many words.



### FRIENDS

A simple friend, when visiting, acts like a guest. A real friend opens your refrigerator and helps himself, and doesn't feel even the least bit weird shutting your pop drawer with his foot!

A simple friend has never seen you cry. A real friend's shoulder is soggy from your tears.

A simple friend doesn't know your parents' first names. A real friend has their phone numbers in her address book.

A simple friend brings a bottle of wine to your party. A real friend comes early to help you cook and stays late to help you clean.

A simple friend hates it when you call after he has gone to bed. A real friend

asks you why you took so long to call.

A simple friend seeks to talk with you about your problems. A real friend seeks to help you with your problems.

A simple friend wonders about your romantic history. A real friend could blackmail you with it!

A simple friend thinks the friendship is over when you have an argument. A real friend calls you after you have a fight.

A simple friend expects you to always be there for her. A real friend expects to always be there for you!



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.

### INFORMATION DIRECTORY

**LVCCM Prayer chain**

If you have a prayer concern, call or email:  
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  
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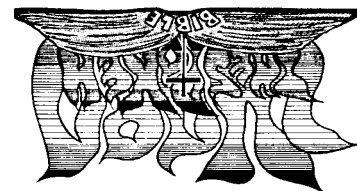
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**Web site [www.keryx.org](http://www.keryx.org)**

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