

Lutheran

Via de Cristo of Central Michigan



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

WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT

I do not pray for these only, but also for those who believe in me through their word, that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. The glory which thou hast given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and thou in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that thou hast sent me and hast loved them even as thou hast loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom thou hast given me, may be with me where I am, to behold my glory which thou hast given me in thy love for me before the foundation of the world. O righteous

Father, the world has not known thee, but I have known thee; and these know that thou hast sent me. I made known to them thy name, and I will make it known, that the love with which thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them. John 17:20-26, RSV.

There is a song we sing that really fits the title of this article. The title is part of Jesus' farewell prayer where Jesus prays for His disciples before He leaves them. His prayer is about unity, about all of us being one in Christ. The song we sing every Via de Cristo weekend is They Will Know We Are Christians.

(Continued on page 2)

Chancel Steps

BOXERS OR BRIEFS?

During the recent presidential campaign, a reporter asked candidate Obama, "Do you wear boxers or briefs?" He replied, "I don't answer humiliating questions but I assure you whatever I wear, I look good in them." That came to mind recently when considering the disciple to rabbi relationship. Saul (Paul) had such a relationship with Gamaliel.

The disciple's job is simple but profoundly difficult to become the rabbi. The way that happens is a long-term commitment to intimacy and transformation. If Rabbi Gamaliel always clears his throat before answering, the

disciple does the same. If Rabbi Gamaliel sleeps on his side instead of his back, cuts his meat with his left hand or says "Gesundheit" instead "God bless you", the disciple learns to do the same. If Rabbi Gamaliel wears boxers, the disciple abandons his briefs.

He learns all these things through close and intimate observation. More than externals, the disciples learns to think like, react to and feel like Rabbi Gamaliel. When the disciple one day becomes the rabbi, he will constantly reflect back to Rabbi Gamaliel as his

(Continued on page 2)

SUMMER WEEKENDS #74
Trinity Lutheran Church,
Midland, MI
 See map on page 3
 Women - Aug 12-15, 2010

ULTREYA INFORMATION

AUGUST ULTREYAS

Tri Cities

Friday, August 20, 7:00 pm
 Faith Lutheran Church
 3033E. Wilder Rd, Bay City
 I-75 to Wilder Rd exit, go east.
 Church is just east of 2 Mile Rd.



Bring your own lawn chairs; weather permitting, we'll be outside, pavilion area.

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

SEPTEMBER ULTREYAS

Tri Cities

Friday, September 17, 7:00 pm
 St. Timothy Lutheran Church
 450 Wilson, Otisville, MI

Reed City

Friday, September 10, 5:30 pm
 St. Paul's Lutheran Church
 22275 4 Mile Rd., Reed City

Monroe

Friday, September 3, 7:00 pm
 Grace Lutheran Church
 630 N. Monroe St., Monroe

From the Lay Director (continued from front page)

WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT

He says in the verses above that Jesus plus the Father plus those who believe equals one. One!! We are all one in the body of Christ with one leader, one person in charge, Jesus Christ.

Jesus knew that the 12 disciples needed someone to be in charge. Someone had to be the leader. And that leader was Him. There could not be one chosen successor to Jesus. His message had to go forth. It had to go forth as a light in the darkness, as a gift in a world sorely lacking in love.

It was the message of Jesus, told in His words, in the story of His life. A single successor might be deified, might become the focal point for all the love and faith people had for Jesus. And so, there were 12 disciples, 12 teachers, 12 messengers, 12 men who would be cowering, hiding behind locked doors, fearing for their lives, silenced.

We sometimes forget that we need someone in charge, someone we can turn to. We need more than a com-

mittee. A committee can never win the hearts of people. A committee can never inspire passion. A committee can never lead as a light shining in the darkness.

We need to be one, we need to support each other, we need to remind each other of the story of faith. When one falters, another is there to support. When one falls, another is there to stand in the breach and to pick up their fallen comrade.

God wants us to seek and find His living Word in the witness of a brother/sister, in the mouth of a man/woman. Therefore, the Christian needs another Christian who speaks God's Word to him. He needs him again and again when he becomes uncertain and discouraged, for by himself he cannot help himself without belying their truth.

As we walk with Jesus it rubs off on those around us. As we walk with Jesus as our guide, our life is fulfilled. He touches us and then we

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touch those around us.

I didn't trust Him at first to be in control of my life. I thought I could control my life, but I discovered He knows how to handle even the roughest roads in my life.

Now I'm learning to be quiet and follow Him, even in the strangest places. I'm beginning to enjoy the view, the challenge of the ride, as well as the cool breeze on my face with my delightful constant companion, Jesus Christ.

When it seems I just can't take anymore, I keep my eyes and faith on Him. He looks at me, with a big smile, and says, "Be one in the spirit."

God loves you and so do I.

Steve Brown



Chancel Steps (continued from front page)

BOXERS OR BRIEFS?

authority.

To become the rabbi is the passion of the disciple's life. Two first century principles exemplify this relationship: "cover yourself in the dust of your rabbi's feet" and "drink in their words thirstily." Validation came when an outsider could say by observation, that man is a disciple of Rabbi Gamaliel.

Isn't that to be our goal? To become like our Rabbi Jesus? We must also live by covering ourselves "in the dust of our rabbi's feet" and "drink in His words thirstily." These word pictures

urge us to follow as closely as we can, wherever He goes. Conversely, they admonish us not to hang back.

Intimacy and transformation are the heart of discipleship. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote in The Cost of Discipleship, "When we are called to follow Christ, we are summoned to an exclusive attachment to His person." What is the purpose of this attachment? Intimacy and transformation. For us this is also simple but profoundly difficult. The last thing our sinful nature wants to do is lie down and die. If Jesus wore boxers, our sinful nature would stubbornly cling

to briefs.

How do we overcome our resistance? Structure, discipline, accountability, and transparency. Where do we find these things? Reunion groups and Ultreyas, but they are not enough. It takes one more thing: commitment. We need to rouse ourselves from our comfortable ways of following, from our complacency, and cover ourselves in the dust of our Rabbi.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Jim



LVCCM Women's Weekend #74

August 12 - 15, 2010
Trinity Lutheran Church, Midland, MI

Set-up	Wednesday, August 11	6:30 pm
Send Off	Thursday, August 12	7:00 pm
	Memorial Presbyterian Church	
	1310 Ashman, Midland, see map below	
Serenade	Saturday, August 14	7:00 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 15	4:30 pm

Rectora	Marcy Howell
Head Cha Cha	Jessica Beadle
Spiritual Directors	Pastors Jim Hill, Bernie Philabaum, Gerald Ferguson
Servers	Janine Bock (Head Server), Pat Perry (Asst)
Cooks	Karin Anderson (Head), Mary Boughton, Alicia DelCore, Joan Jackson, Teresa Yaeger
Cha	Ruth Ann Gorney (Rollo Room), Ann Gensler (Asst),
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	Linda Bakke, Kathy Dearing, Carol Schellhas, P J Walcik

DE COLORES!

Friday		
Meals 8:45 am, 1:00 pm, 7:10 pm		
10:20	Ideal	Dee Ann Pawley
11:35	Grace I	Pastor Jim Hill
1:35	Laity	Michelle Burkhard
3:05	Grace II	Pastor Gerald Ferguson
5:05	Piety	Sheila Kissane

Saturday		
Meals 9:00 am, 1:55 pm, 7:10 pm		
9:55	Study	Cynthia Kreil
11:20	Day in the Life	Pastor Bernie Philabaum
2:45	Apostolic Action	Shirley Gould
4:15	Obstacles to Grace	Pastor Jim Hill
6:00	Leaders	Noelle Fenske

Sunday		
Meals 8:15 am, 12:30 pm		
9:05	Environment	Dawn Bock
10:15	Life in Grace	Pastor Bernie Philabaum
11:15	CCA	Trisha Osterland
1:20	Total Security	Marcy Howell

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.

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.



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



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

COMMUNITY HELP NEEDED

Please come and support the Women's Summer Weekend 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 Server needs help serving meals (especially Friday and for all breakfasts), cleaning up 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 team is 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.



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

Matt 25:36

WOMEN'S KERYX #5 - HURON VALLEY CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

We are all familiar with "Jesus is the Good Shepherd" in John 10. When reading it today, verse 16 jumped out at me. It reads, "I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd." I know that the "other sheep" is referring to the non-Jews at that time, but today it speaks to me of the men and women incarcerated in prisons everywhere. Keryx #5 had a mighty impact on the women of Huron Valley Correctional Facility, as well as both the inside and outside teams. The girls were so touched by the love, grace, and forgiveness of Jesus and they did listen to His voice. Proof of this was at the Closing of Keryx #5. Here are some notes that I took so that you would have an idea of the growth that was made during the weekend. God surely used the inside and outside teams in a mighty way! God is so good and so faithful!

- I'm free! I want to feel God's love all the time and share it. God IS love!
- I was taught what true Godly love is! I didn't think that I deserved better. Now, I'm excited about what God has planned for me.
- The Palanca bags are a reminder of all that we gained.
- I felt more love than I thought possible from God. I feel light and refreshed now!
- Now I will be able to help others come to Christ.
- I am full of joy! I will hold this weekend in my heart for the rest of my life. I AM blessed!

- When I first came here, all I could think about was that I was abused – beat, molested, raped. I felt I was no good. I tried to cover my pain with drugs. I lost my children. I lost my mom to drugs. I felt worthless. NOW, I feel loved and chosen. I am free. Now I'm on a mission to change myself. I will stop the inner lies.
- The ice around my heart melted.
- I gave my concerns to God and now I feel lighter.
- I'm not a victim any more. Now I'm a survivor! (This was repeated many times.)
- As I walk around the Compound, I'm going to play back (in my mind) all that I heard. (Then this woman jumped straight up in the air and yelled, "Whoopee!")
- I'm free of bondage. I felt the love of God. I was able to talk to a person and tell them how I feel and forgive them even though I might not forget.
- I felt love and was able to let go of things buried deep inside.
- A ray of sunshine filled my soul and spread out on the Compound. Now I'm going to pay it forward!
- I made a giant step – I accepted Christ into my heart! I feel at peace.
- I came into a room of "wall crushers" and received unconditional love as my wall came down. I learned it's ok to let people in, let go and let God. I'm cleansed!
- I came in carrying baggage. I rebuked Satan and now I'm super blessed!
- We did some cookin' with Jesus. I'm a work in progress. I feel hopeful, better, and content.
- I felt alone before I came here.

Now I know I'm not alone. I have God and prayers from all over. I felt an aura of love.

- I spent my whole life in church but I never accepted God until now.
- I came in broken and struggling in my walk with Jesus – hungry for knowledge. Now I feel the love of Christ. My spirit is lifted. I'm not alone. I can love myself.
- I'm going to stop tearing down and start building up.
- My anger and the million pounds of burdens on my shoulders are lifted like a fog being lifted – I just let it go. My Bible will be out now.
- My walls are broken down. I'm a survivor. I have a new beginning!
- This was NOT a "Jesus 101" class! This was a sumptuous feast with Jesus!
- I learned how to give and not to always have to receive.
- My mom's inside this prison, too. She needs to do a Keryx.
- I am NOT forgotten!

If you haven't been part of a Keryx team, you might want to prayerfully consider it. God can really use you. You WILL be blessed in so many ways and if you are like me, your faith will be strengthened beyond measure.

God loves you and so do I!
Chris Schuster LVCCM #58
May 3, 2010

FILL 'ER UP!!

Most of us reading this remember that term. You'd pull into a gas station, the attendant came to your car, you told him the grade of gas and how much you wanted. He also checked your fluid levels, tire pressure, and washed your windshield. Those days are long gone, along with stores closing at 9 p.m., not open on Sunday, turning the knob to change channels on the TV, rotary dial phones. I could go on and on, but I'm sure you remember "The Good Old Days".

We need to reassess our life situation. Are you happy or sad, employed or looking for work, have friends or lonely? Do you have a purpose in life? A reason to get up in the morning?

There's always been a constant in our lives. God and His message of salva-

tion are the same yesterday, today, and forever. That's a wonderful feeling. Knowing we always have a friend, no matter how down and out we get.

I know when things aren't going well for me, it's because I haven't been faithful in my devotions, church attendance, or prayers. God has a way of saying, "You're not on the right track. Come to me and I will help you, all you need do is ask."

That's when it's time to go to church, partake of the sacrament, and say to God, "Fill 'er up with Your word, love, and guidance. I need You to be by my side in everything I do".

In His Love,
Bev Wright



Weekends to pray for:

August 5-8
Women's Walk to Emmaus,
Zimbabwe
Women's Via de Cristo, CO

August 12-15
Women's Via de Cristo, MI
Boy's Chrysalis Flight, VA

August 19-22
Men's Walk to Emmaus, TX
Men's Kairos Inside, TX

August 26-29
Women's Kairos Inside, GA



KERYX RE-ENTRY RETREAT

Dear Christian Community,

In October 2009 the first ever Keryx Re-entry Retreat was held at the Tuscola facility in Caro for short-term parolees. There were 40 candidates and 35 volunteers from our community. After the weekend, the administration was asked if they wanted to schedule another weekend. The answer was ABSOLUTELY.

We scheduled the next one for May 2010. When forming the team many other Keryx weekends were going on at the same time, so we were limited with experienced team members; but as with all of God's plans, He provided nine first time volunteers from this community as well as first time

ex-offenders on this team.

When meeting with the facility staff, my co-rector Bill Brown and I heard the superintendent proclaim that only one of the candidates from the first weekend in Oct. had returned for parole violation. Praise God for His grace and direction in their lives.

On our #2 team, we had ex-offenders sharing their 4th day experience and Christian community action in their lives. After 30 years of prison volunteering with the Keryx Prison Ministry, it was a blessing to see the fruits of God's leadership in the many weekends throughout the various prisons in Michigan. There were seven graduates of Keryx serving as Cha-

Chos from this facility, each one a willing servant of God, anxious to be sharing the love of Jesus that was shown to them when they made their weekend.

One of the first-time volunteers said in a letter he wrote after the weekend, "I did get to witness some lives turn to Christ. Lots of seeds were planted. So how many lives were changed? One I know of for sure—MINE! As for the rest, I leave you with this passage, Matthew 13: 3-9"

God Loves you
and so do I.

Dick Kall, Rector





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

Newberry Corr Facility #7
Sept 9 - 12

Rick Weiss
389 Gros Cap
St. Ignace, MI 49781

Pugsley Corr Facility #18
Sept 16 - 19

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

Keryx Re-Entry Tuscola #3
Fall 2010

Richard Kall
4160 Scarlet Oak
Saginaw, MI 48603

Huron Valley Corr Facility
For Women #6
Fall 2020

Wendy Bell
139 Leafy Lane
Roscommon, MI 48653

INFORMATION DIRECTORY

LVCCM Prayer chain

If you have a prayer concern, call or email:
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brigchik224@aol.com

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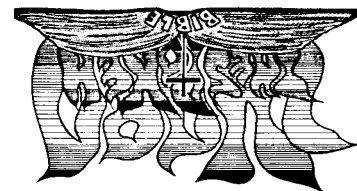
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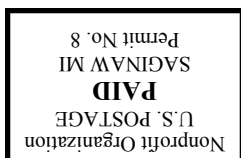
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The *LVCCM Newsletter* is designed to keep the LVCCM community informed about Via de Cristo activities, inspired toward a closer relationship with Jesus Christ and encouraged and challenged by the witness of renewed peity, study and action in our midst. 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 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.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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