

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

TO SUBMIT OR NOT TO SUBMIT

Ephesians 5 says, "***Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord***", and to the other end of the chapter, "***however, each one of you must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.***"

Some have a problem with this passage because Paul seems so outdated. In the society Paul wrote to, where the roles of men and women were very set and determined, these words seemed to challenge the authority. This passage can be viewed as subversive, overturning the traditional order of male dominance. In our culture to talk about submission is countercultural because such an idea appears to be synonymous with oppression, subjugation and dominance. In writing about this passage, I run the risk of being misunderstood and possibly burned at the stake (Ha

Ha). The problem is compounded for the passage has been perverted and abused by sinful men. Just because there are a few men who take this passage very literally does not mean we should throw this passage out or forget it was ever written.

If we are honest with ourselves, there are differences between men and women. People notice but do not want to talk about it. Remember that book from a few years back, Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus? It has been proven that when a man and a woman are given the same job, they will go about it differently.

To understand the differences and to understand why Paul makes the statements he does about husbands and wives, we have to go back to creation. In Genesis

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Chancel Steps

THREE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

What are the three most important questions facing Christian-Americans today? Here's a hint, universal health care is not one of them, neither is the prospect of mega-trillion dollar national debt, or whether enhanced interrogation is torture. It's not abortion versus choice or same-sex marriage versus traditional marriage. Each of these are highly divisive and controversial and I believe there is a Biblical answer to each. If I get one or more of these issues 'wrong', it will not exclude me from heaven.

However, there are three questions, really, that I must have the right answer to. They are in fact **crucial** (pardon the pun). The three most important issues that every

American must take a stand on are: (1) Who is hanging on the cross? (2) Why is He hanging on the cross? (3) What does this mean for me? If you are reading this newsletter, I am confident you know that the answer to the first question is Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Man, God Himself come in flesh and blood. You'll also know quite well that He is on that cross accomplishing for us what we could never do, the innocent for the guilty, reconciling us to God the Father. He took our sin and exchanged it for our righteousness. This reconciliation is ours by Grace Alone and by Faith Alone, a truth we discover in the Word Alone.

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WINTER WEEKENDS #73

Peace Lutheran Church,
Saginaw, MI

Men - Jan 21-24, 2010

Women - Feb 4-7, 2010

ULTREYA INFORMATION

OCTOBER ULTREYAS

Tri Cities

Friday, October 16, 7:00 pm
St. John's Episcopal Church
405 N. Saginaw Rd, Midland

Reed City

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

Monroe

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

Warren

Friday, October 2, 7:00 pm
Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
29860 Dequindre, Warren

NOVEMBER ULTREYAS

Tri Cities

Friday, November 20, 7:00 pm
Peace Lutheran Church
3427 Adams, Saginaw

Reed City

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

Monroe

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

Warren

Friday, November 6, 7:00 pm
Immanuel Lutheran Church
415 N. 9th, St. Clair

From the Lay Director (continued from front page)

TO SUBMIT OR NOT TO SUBMIT

2:18, we are told in the perfect creation that something is wrong; Adam is alone. In the garden before the entrance of sin into the world, the only thing that was not good was that Adam was alone. No matter what jobs God gave to Adam, there was still a void in man's life.

What Adam needed was a helper. Not a helper in the sense we often think about. Not a helper who is second-rate to the person he is helping, but a helper in the sense who has the powers and resources that the other person has not.

That is the kind of helper that God gave to Adam. There are things that men can do better and there are things that women can do better. Together as one, they can do almost anything with the help of God. How the wife completes the husband and how the husband completes the wife may well depend on that wife and that husband.

How does this information help us to understand what Paul is saying in Ephesians 5? The husband and wife are to complement each other. Submission is the placing of oneself at the disposal of another, yielding to the other. The command was given to the wife, but it is not all women to all men. Submission is not giving unconditional authority or doing everything and anything the other desires. Submission is always in the context of what God commands. Submission does not lessen the believers' standing; it confirms their place. God made us equal in his image to walk side by side, not one behind the other. The only one that we should follow is Christ.

God Loves You And So Do I.

Steve Brown



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

Pastor Hill has advised that we have a full complement of spiritual directors for the upcoming winter weekends.

There was a youth challenge the weekend of September 17-20th even though the State said it was not in the budget. God is so good!

The secretariat is looking for a few people who are willing to form a committee to go through our policy manuals and old minutes to extract all policies that were voted on over the years we have been in existence. Call me at 989-964-1810 if you are interested.

Steve Brown
 Lay Director

Chancel Steps (continued from front page)

THREE IMPORTANT QUESTIONS

In a way, our weekends are all about leading Christians to find the answer to "What does it mean for me?" Candidates are led by the Spirit and the Via de Cristo process to discover "*how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ*" (Eph 3:18). There, soaked in Grace and surrounded by intercession, they encounter the Living Christ. As this occurs, the answer unfolds in the candidate's heart. What is the answer? The answer is simply this—everything must change.

Let me end with a quote from Bonhoeffer for you to contemplate. "*There are only two ways possible of encountering Jesus: one must die or one must put Jesus to death*".

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Jim



UPCOMING KERYX WEEKENDS SEND UNDATED PALANCA & REQUESTS TO:

Chippewa Corr. Facility #31
 Oct 22 - 25

Kinross Corr Facility #52
 Oct 8 - 11

Straits Corr Facility #11
 Nov 19 - 22

Marquette Branch Prison #32
 Oct 2009

Newberry Corr Facility
 Fall 2009

Huron Valley Corr Facility
 For Women
 Fall 2009 (3 weekends)

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

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

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

Rick Weiss
 389 Gros Cap
 St. Ignace, MI 49781

Wendy Jean-Francois
 139 Leafy Lane
 Roscommon, MI 48653

PLEASE SEND PALANCA UNDATED

Palanca Chair

OUR SEASONS



Last time I wrote about the fresh produce of the summer months. We all know fall comes after summer and with that season comes raking leaves.

There is more than one way to take care of leaves that have fallen. Some remain where they fall, as in a forest. Others are mulched back into the earth, some raked or blown into piles so kids can jump into them, some burned, or composted or bagged. It depends on the area one lives, how the leaves are handled.

Whatever is done, there is a process that begins soon after they fall to bring fresh leaves to us again next spring. It's a circle, constantly changing, but always has the same results until the tree comes down, by natural causes or by man cutting it down.

So it is with our lives. In the spring of our lives, we are young and vibrant. We can take on the world. Our bodies are strong and healthy. As summer comes, we may wither a little, need more water and nourishment. In the fall it becomes evident we can't do things as we used to—mow the lawn, clean the house, take care of ourselves. Then comes winter when we really need to be careful so we don't slip and fall. Maybe not drive any-

more, or cook; we can't see as well—body parts aren't working up to par or need to be replaced.

That's when we sometimes ask God to please "Take us home" to Him. We feel it's time, but only He decides when. Even though we're not quite "up to speed" anymore, that is no reason to leave this earth. Through us being here on earth, we can still minister to others, help others with our knowledge, and give encouragement to someone worse off than we are.

Matt: 24:36 says ***"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."***

May God bless you in your season.

In His Love,
Bev Wright



Weekends to pray for:

Oct 1-4

- Men's Lutheran Cursillo, Southern CA
- Women's Walk to Emmaus, Atlanta, GA
- Men's Kairos Inside, TX
- Women's Journey to Damascus, Corpus Christi, TX

Oct. 7-11

- Men's Great Banquet, Indianapolis, IN
- Women's Via de Cristo, Central NY
- Coed Episcopal Cursillo, Diocese West TX
- Women's Tres Dias, South East TX
- Men's Via de Cristo, St. Claire Shores, MI

Oct 15-18

- Women's Via de Cristo, St. Claire Shores, MI
- Women's Kairos Outside , Corpus Christi, TX
- Men's Tres Dias, Northern IL and Southern WI
- Coed Via de Cristo, Las Vegas , NV

Oct 22-25

- Men's Walk to Emmaus, Cedar Rapids, IA
- Women's Catholic Cursillo, St. Louis, MO

Oct 29-Nov 1

- Men's Via de Cristo, Reading, PA
- Women's Walk to Emmaus, Southern CO
- Men's Episcopal Cursillo, Albany, NY
- Coed Episcopal Cursillo, Western NC
- Men's Kairos Inside, FL



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

Matt 25:36

REFLECTIONS FROM KERYX #30

The marvels of God's love for each of us become evident as we step back and look at how His hand guides us when we allow ourselves to trust in Him. I thought that I would be able to put my thoughts about the last Keryx into words quite easily; but I realize that no matter how I try, I can't put the length, width and depth of God's love into words. That is why He came to show us what His love is like. Romans 5:8 tells us, "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

I think the most rewarding part of the Weekend was seeing the development of the bond of team members. We began to build a trust and to share some of the things that we held captive in our own private little dark corners. We worked together toward a common goal of showing Christ's love to someone that may otherwise never really see Him.

God uses us to accomplish His purpose. He gives each of us special gifts. It was evident that God's hands were guiding

this weekend. I'm reminded of going through the team volunteer list and making contacts. I thought, "Wow, this is really going easy." I picked out assignments for everyone and sat back and looked at what I had done and thought to myself, "Boy, I really know what I'm doing." Be reminded that I did bring these things to God in prayer, but I don't think I was presenting my petitions with the proper attitude. I figured I was capable of doing what was needed and He

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REFLECTIONS

guided me through the groundwork. Then I got a call from someone having to drop out and my plan had to change. This time my prayers changed to ask God to be in control and for me to be still and listen. Acts 17:27 reads, "God did this so that men would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us."

We lost a few team members and a few new ones came on board. The assignments were changed around a little and I kept looking to God Who was close at hand. Now I'm able to look back and see that God had messages that only specific persons were able to convey to someone else.

We had some changes with candidates at the last minute which could only be explained by the intervention of God. The very first thing we did on Friday morning was pray for Darnell to be able to join us,

and within minutes our prayers were answered and he was allowed to come.

I would like to summarize Keryx 30 with these verses from Jeremiah 29:11-14: "For I know the plans I have for you", declares the Lord, "plans for welfare and not calamity, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for me with all your heart. And I will be found by you." declares the Lord.

May God bless,

Harry Weikel
Rector Keryx #30



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

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**

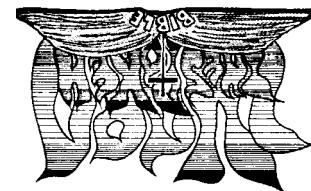
Armie Beiser (Public Relations)
 989-686-0935 (H) or 686-4900 (W)

Bob Keidel - **bob.ministry@gmail.com**

Eugene Drenth (Chippewa and Kinross)
 231-588-7131

gandpdrenth@torchlake.com

Gregg Lange (Carson City and Ionia)
 989-792-2840



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Lutheran Via de Cristo of Central Michigan
 P.O. Box 1092
 Midland, MI 48641-1092

OCTOBER 2009

Nonprofit Organization
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Midland, MI 48640
 Permit No. 169

Issue #2009/10
NEWSLETTER OF LVCCM
PUBLISHED MONTHLY