

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

HOLY SPIRIT



Do you believe that the Holy Spirit is only in the word? We know that the Holy Spirit is in the word, but is that the only place where the Holy Spirit resides? One of our professors in the Deacon program made the statement that The Holy Spirit was only in the word. That started an ongoing debate in the class that went most of the day.

Jesus said, "I will not leave you comfortless. I will send you another Comforter, who will be with you forever. But when he, the spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truths. He will bring glory to me. He will tell you what is yet to come."

pel, we get a flavor of the atmosphere among the disciples as they saw Jesus ascending to His Father in heaven. Then they worshipped Him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. They spent most of their time in the temple praising God, waiting with a mixture of anticipation and fear to see if Jesus would fulfill his promise. Suddenly the room started shaking with a violent wind, accompanied with tongues of flame. The tongues of flame separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the spirit enabled them.

In the last few verses of Luke's gos-

(Continued on page 2)

Chancel Steps

WESTERN THEOLOGY



I was challenged recently by Brennan Manning in The Relentless Tenderness of Jesus. So prepare yourselves to share my challenge and exercise your imagination. He writes that Wes Seeliger has developed a model called Western (think cowboys) Theology. He proposes that there are two radically different theologies: settler and pioneer.

For settlers, Christianity is all about security and predictability. The church is the courthouse, God the Father is the mayor, Christ the sheriff and the Spirit the saloon girl. In the settler model, the church is like the

courthouse, the symbol of order and security and where the scary bad guys are kept out of our lives. Settlers are all about "No adventure please." God, the mayor, is predictable and remote but there if you need Him. Jesus is like Destry, the kind of meek and mild sheriff who drinks milk and is surprisingly fast with His gun. Bad guys don't have a chance when He's around. You want to stay on His good side. The Spirit as saloon girl sounds blasphemous. His job is to encourage the settler, lonely, sad and discouraged. Oh, and the pastor resembles the keeper of the general

(Continued on page 2)

WINTER WEEKENDS #73

Peace Lutheran Church,
Saginaw, MI

Men - Jan 21-24, 2010

Women - Feb 4-7, 2010

ULTREYA INFORMATION

NOVEMBER ULTREYAS

Tri Cities

Friday, November 20, 7:00 pm
Peace Lutheran Church
3427 Adams, Saginaw
Corner of Adams and Mackinaw, next to Arthur Hill High School

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

DECEMBER ULTREYAS

Tri Cities

Friday, December 18, 7:00 pm
St. John's Lutheran Church
915 Federal Street, Saginaw

Reed City

Friday, December 11, 5:30 pm
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
22275 4 Mile Rd., Reed City

Monroe

Friday, December 4, 7:00 pm
Grace Lutheran Church
630 N. Monroe St., Monroe

Warren

Friday, December 4, 7:00 pm
Amazing Grace Lutheran Church
29860 Dequindre, Warren

From the Lay Director (continued from front page)

HOLY SPIRIT

The Spirit came like a wind, the same wind that drove back the Red Sea and blew the plague of locusts over the land of Egypt. It can also be used to describe some form of empowering from outside. A force beyond human experience takes possession of a person. And this wind was accompanied by fire, a symbol of God's presence. (Remember the burning bush?)

Throughout the Old Testament, the Spirit came on people for specific tasks. Again and again we read of the Holy Spirit giving the power needed for special service. The spirit came upon Gideon and gave him courage and leadership; the spirit came upon Samson and gave him great strength; and the Holy Spirit gave the apostles their inspiration to share the word of God.

So what do we know about the Holy Spirit? The most important idea to grasp about the Holy Spirit is that we are not talking about an "it" but about a personality. Throughout the book of Acts, the Holy Spirit is described as a dynamic person working in and through people. The Holy Spirit is the spirit of Jesus, the spirit of mission, spirit of the church and the spirit of power.

So where does that leave us? Are we like the apostles gathered together on that momentous Pentecost, or do we have a personal experience and knowledge of this power in our own lives? It's the same now as it was two thousand years ago. The Holy Spirit gives to those who follow Jesus the power to speak to God, to defend our faith, the power to speak boldly, to face adversity and to en-

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sure physical abuse. The Holy Spirit also enables us to discern truth from error, he enables us to discern new direction for our lives, and lastly, he enables us to be of service to others. How often in our lives have we felt that little nudge that tells us to make ourselves known to a visitor or to speak to someone who looks troubled, and how often have we ignored it?

God is at work in us, just as he was on that Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came with such power to the Apostles, and the Christian church was established. If such an experience of the Spirit was characteristic of the first Christians, is there any reason why we should not expect to share it today?

Chancel Steps (continued from front page)

WESTERN THEOLOGY

store, where the essentials of life can be purchased for a price.

In the pioneer paradigm, Christianity is all about the journey and the adventure waiting around the corner. God the Father is the wagon master, Christ the scout and the Spirit is the buffalo hunter. For pioneers, the church is the Conestoga wagon, designed to be on the move. God the Father is the trail boss who lives, eats and fights with His people. Jesus is the scout who rides out ahead, sharing the danger, marking the path ahead, eyes always fixed on the horizon. The Spirit is the buffalo hunter, an unpredictable character who rides along side the wagon and provides the food that keeps them going. You just don't know when He will come or go, let alone what He will do next. The pastor is the cook; he just dishes up what the buffalo

hunter provides to feed the pioneers.

So what is the point? Let's look at this in terms of sin and salvation. Sin for the settler is breaking a town ordinance and the path to salvation is being a law-abiding citizen. Sin for the pioneer is turning back from the journey and the path to salvation is one more day of following our trail-blazer Jesus. So which are you, pioneer or settler? Are you on the adventure?

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Jim



God loves you and so do I.

Steve Brown



"In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

I Thessalonians 5:18



Palanca Chair

ARE YOU A GOOD SPORT?

All year long, there are sports being played. Baseball, football, soccer, basketball, tennis, hockey, just to name a few. Some are contact sports like football. Some require many players. Others only need two participants. Even if you've never played, but observed them, you know there are rules to be followed.

Good sportsmanship should be #1. Treat others as you would want to be treated. Obey the rules of the game. All sports have an official who has the final say—umpire, referee, line judge, whatever name they are given, they have the final say. It's great if they have instant replay to help with a call, but this isn't possible on the field. A split-second decision must be made—safe or out, foul, offside—and even if it is disputed, the official has the final say.

Throughout our lives, God asks us to follow his instructions. They are found in the Ten Commandments. How easy is that?

We as human beings fall very short of attaining perfection. That is why we so desperately need our Savoir, Jesus Christ. He did all the work for us. He scored that touchdown, basket, homerun. There is never a question if He's a winner.

He did it all—FOR US!!!! Died, descended into hell and rose again on the third day. We, as Christians, need to be ever observant of the laws and follow them to the best of our ability. Yes, we are human and fail and falter; but Christ is always there to help us through our trials and tribulations. He picks us up and carries us. It's such a comfort to be His child and know we are saved.

May you score that touchdown, homerun or goal, and be forever in His Kingdom.

In His Love
Bev Wright



Weekends to pray for:

Nov 4-7

Men's Kairos Inside, TX
Coed Presbyterian Cursillo, FL
Coed Via de Cristo, IN, KY
Women's Great Banquet, IL
Women's Cursillo, CA
Women's Kairos Inside, IN

Nov 7-9

Women's Kairos Outside, TX

Nov 12-15

Women's Walk to Emmaus, GA
Boy's Chrysalis Flight, Southern CA
Young Men's Epiphany, TX
Youth Footsteps, NY
Young Men's Vida Nueva, GA

Nov 19-22

Men's Keryx, Northern MI

Nov 26-29

Women's Catholic Cursillo, Nova Scotia
Te Ara Pono, New Zealand



PRISON MINISTRY



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

Matt 25:36

Brothers and Sisters,

Today we ended our 3rd Keryx Weekend at Newberry. Newberry has been without a Chaplain since around July, but now has Chaplain Keith Agee who transferred from Kinross.

Because we had no Chaplain for a long while, Ultreyas had been canceled by the MDOC and in its place we had weekly Keryx Grouping on Monday nights. Chuck Roelant, a Keryx brother from the Catholic Community in Newberry, and I have been faithful in attending the weekly

groupings, all the while working with the faithful 24 Inside Keryx men to put on Keryx#3. Louis Litzner from St. Ignace and Phil Becker from Rudyard have also been also periodic attendees to Monday nights.

Because of upcoming weekends, we will continue with Monday groupings until December 13th when we will again start Ultreyas.

I have also been in contact with Father Frank in Newberry for a donation of \$200 and the asking of Cur-

sillo community to being on our board and supplying team. We stayed at the ELCA Lutheran Church and I gave them a letter of hospitality and \$100 as a gift. Once again I am planning on contacting churches in Newberry to try to get some people to the Straits this winter. (Seems all the people who made Cursillo and Emmaus are not interested in Keryx)

Rick Weiss



MICHIGAN YOUTH CHALLENGE UPDATE

On September 18th - 20th at the Rota-Kiwan Boy Scout Camp in Kalamazoo MI, 133 cadets from the Youth Challenge program made a weekend very similar to a Keryx weekend. A total of 105 volunteers put on the weekend with wonderful music, great food, in a beautiful outdoor environment on 200 acres in Kalamazoo.

Numerous cadets accepted the Lord and His forgiveness. The Holy Spirit of God was there and touched the hearts of the cadets and the team as well. God is great!! Please pray for these kids; they come from some very troubled backgrounds.

Youth for Christ in Kalamazoo does a great job with the kids before the weekend and also after the weekend is over with church services and disci-

pliship programs. The Youth Challenge Academy is one of the programs that might be eliminated in the State budget cuts that are being discussed as this letter is being written. Please pray that God would intervene and that funding will be continued in the new budget.

We put on two weekends a year at the Academy, in September and in April. Anyone interested in becoming involved, please contact Bill Patrick as he will be leading the next weekend in April 2010. You can reach Bill at his home phone, 989-435-3579 (please leave a message), or via email at barbpnov2@aol.com.

In Christ,

Rick Moody



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

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To request a hard copy of Newsletter:
 Connie L. Brown.....989-992-9119
swbclb1@charter.net

Keryx Information

www.keryx.org - **NEW WEB SITE**

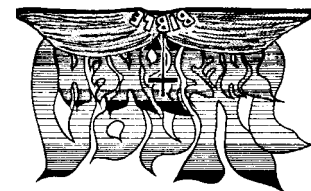
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