

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

WHAT'S NEW

This being a Newsletter, I thought it time to pass along information which I hope will be of interest.

With Rector and Rectora for the winter weekends in place and calling team members, it's time for the rest of us to consider possible candidates. The following is from "The Essentials of the Via de Cristo published by The National Lutheran Secretariat in 1997."

"Candidate preparation: Pray for clear guidance as to which of your friends to invite for a weekend. When we are confident of Christ's direction, we may then invite him/her to a fuller understanding of these things through

the action of Christian community on a Three-Day Weekend. In doing this we always remember that Via de Cristo is not for everyone. Yes, Jesus Christ is for everyone, but not every Christian should make the weekend. Remember, Via de Cristo is just one way of many ways to serve Christ. The participant for the weekend is a baptized Christian, reasonably stable and mature, with a desire for God's love and a longing to be set on fire with a zeal to do God's work in the Church and in the world. Before we ever sponsor a person to a weekend we take a prayerful look at his/her Christian life. Do you see Christ in this person? Is this person able to see

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Chancel Steps

FESTIVE SEASON PERSPECTIVE

Greetings in the Name of our Risen Lord and Savior Christ Jesus.

We are quickly approaching the festive time of the year within the church and in our society. It begins with Thanksgiving and goes through to the celebration of the New Year.

In preparation for the festive season, let us look at what this season is in meaning with our relationship with the Lord and His Church.

Thanksgiving is a National Holiday and was first recognized as giving thanks to the Lord for the bountiful blessings He has given us over the past year with the harvest of food. For the first European immigrants, the pilgrims in what is now known as Massachusetts, it was truly a time to give thanks that they survived the voyage from Europe and the first year of survival in the New Land which the Native Americans helped them with the introduction of food raised in this

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WINTER WEEKENDS
#77

Peace Lutheran Church,
Saginaw, MI

Men - Jan 19-22 2012
Women - Feb 2-5, 2012

ULTREYA INFORMATION

NOVEMBER ULTREYAS

Tri Cities

Friday, November 18, 7:00 pm
St. Mark Lutheran Church
2565 N. Miller Rd, Saginaw



Reed City

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

Monroe

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

DECEMBER ULTREYAS

Tri Cities

Friday, December 16, 7:00 pm
Immanuel Bible Church
, Saginaw



Reed City

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

Monroe

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

Chancel Steps (continued from front page)

FESTIVE SEASON PERSPECTIVE

New Land. We continue the tradition with taking time to give thanks to the Lord for His bountiful blessings in our lives with food, home, and family.

Advent is the season of preparation for the second coming of the Lord. Many Christians, today, mistake this season as a time of preparation for Christmas. Though the worldly side of life sees this as the season of spending and buying Christmas presents, it is my prayer that we take time to recognize that this is the season, in reflection of our Lord's first coming, that He has and continues to prepare us for His coming again which is one of the last promises to be fulfilled from the Scriptures.

Christmas is the celebration of our Lord's first coming to this world in the form of the baby born in Bethlehem so many years ago. Though there is question as whether or not the Lord was born in December, since the scriptures, from reference to where the shepherds were with their flocks and with the travel of the magi, it was decided by the "Church" in 325 AD that December 25th would mark the date we are to celebrate the birth of Christ, though a portion of Christendom has decided to celebrate in January as to a date they believe the magi arrived to give their gifts to the Lord. (If you desire more historical and biblical evidence of Christmas check into the book "The Fullness of Time", The Reverend Dr. Paul Maier, and the section entitled "The First Christmas".)

New Year's Day, according to Scripture, and recognized by the Church is the Naming and Circumcision of Jesus. This is the day you find the baby Jesus brought to the temple by his earthly parents, Mary and Joseph, in accordance to Jewish custom, and Mosaic Law, to have their son cir-

cumcised and named. This is where you find the encounter with the prophetess, Anna, and the prophet, Simeon. Of all the holy days within the church, this day is most forgotten, yet it is as significant as the birth of the Lord.

I'm aware that I have shared much information with may or may not have been known to you, but my reason for sharing is to remind us all that there is much reason for why we have this festive time of year and it is my prayer that it may be ever more meaningful to you in your relationship with the Lord.

Have a blessed Festive Season with Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and New Year!

Καλα Χριστουγεννα Και ευτυχες τον νεον ετος
(Beautiful Christ's Birth and Blessed New Year)

God Loves You and So Do I!
Rev. W. Roger Stauffer

Periodical Format Information

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A Scripture for the Holiday Season I CORINTHIANS 13 A CHRISTMAS VERSION

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator. If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook. If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing. If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.

Merry Christmas to you and yours,
Author Unknown

"In everything give thanks:
for this is the will of God in
Christ
Jesus concerning you."
I Thessalonians 5:18



JOY

Webster defines joy as: a strong feeling of happiness, to be glad, rejoice. We all like to feel joyful and happy, but it doesn't happen all the time and sometimes it's short-lived.

During these next few months we gather with family and friends to give thanks for our many blessings and to celebrate Christ's birth and ring in the New Year. They are all joyous occasions, but not for everyone. There may be an absence of family members, distance may separate you, a rift in relations may make being together uncomfortable or not a possibility.

We need to remember what it says in Ps. 118:24--"This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it." Put aside all the hurts from the past, start anew. Forgive as God has forgiven you. Ps.95:1 states: "Come let us sing for joy to the Lord. Let us

shout aloud to the Rock of our Salvation".

Let your light shine and you'll be showing everyone your love for them through Jesus. He is our joy and salvation. For this we rejoice and sing his praises. I close with this saying:

Life itself can't give you joy,
Unless you really will it.
Life just gives you time and space,
It's up to you to fill it.

Fill it with Christ
It's never ending.

In His Love,

Bev Wright, Palanca Chair

Weekends to pray for:

Nov 3-6

Women's Tres Arroyos, Florida

Nov 4-6

Boy's Kairos Torch, Indiana

Nov 10-13

Women's Discipleship Walk
Indiana

Nov 18-20

Youth Footsteps, New York

Nov 24-27

Tr Ana Pono, New Zealand

Dec 9-11

Men's Kairos Inside, TX

Women's Kairos Outside, TX

Dec 29- Jan 1

Boy's Chrysalis Flight 71

Men's Adult Chrysalis 48
Georgia

WHAT' NEW?

commitment. They may doubt it, but you see them as leaders."

The Secretariat has discussed this topic and applications will be looked at more closely in the future. If there is a question about the readiness of a person, the pre-weekend Chair will review with the sponsor whether it is appropriate for that person to attend the weekend. Also, last minute applications are getting to be numerous and make things hectic close to the weekend. Please try to be timely on submission of applications.

Following a weekend, both the Rector and Rectora send a report on how the weekend went, including issues, suggestions for improvement, etc. The Secretariat has been reviewing these to see what action, if any, should be taken. One item is the size of the tables used in the Rollo Room. The current plastic tables are smaller than

the old wooden ones, and things get too crowded at times. We are getting prices on larger plastic tables and will make a decision when prices are available.

Another topic being discussed is improvement in the team training, including better training for the Escort Chachos and Chachas and Palanca Professors, how to operate an efficient and effective mail room, and better job description for what a Chacho or Chacha does on a weekend? The Secretariat leadership chair and the Rector and Rectora trainers are in the process of documenting additional material to help in this area, along with identifying trainers for specific areas so future Rectors and Rectoras know who is available for training if needed.

I mentioned Rector and Rectora trainers. They are part of a dedicated group of support people who work behind the scenes

whose efforts are critical to the success of a weekend. The current list is shown below. We are blessed and grateful for the dedication of all.

Rector Trainer: Erv Sparapani

Previous Trainer: Cary Scortichini

Rectora Trainer: Mary Ray-Fuentes
(term ends Dec. 2011)

Rectora Trainer: Nancy Walk -
(beginning January 2012)

Head Server Trainer: Open
(Previous trainer Marcy Howell's
term ended April 2011)

Supplies Provider: Kurt Aven
Food Buyer: Open (Eric Malmo
term ended Aug. 2011)

Web Servant: Jim Birch

Cook Trainer-Men: John Nowland

(Continued on page 4)

WHAT'S NEW? continued

Cook Trainer– Women: JoDee Hacker
Prayer Chain: Brigette Trudell
Mailing Labels : Ed Stephenson
Keryx Representative: Armie Beiser

suggestions or comments on any topic. Please continue to pray for the Secretariat and for the whole Via de Cristo movement.

Ultreyas
Reed City: Bud Larsen
Warren: Judy Sutherland
Monroe: Graham Currie
Tri Cities: Walt Eagan/Dan Shupe (Terms end April 2012)
 Ed Thies/Scott Drew (Terms begin May 2012)

God Loves You & So Do I.

In His service,
 Len Leavens

If you are interested in serving or know of someone who is, please contact any Secretariat member. We welcome any

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brigchik224@aol.com

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KERYX INFORMATION

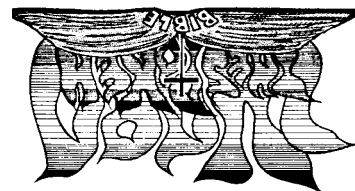
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The *LVCCM Newsletter* is designed to keep the LVCCM community informed about Via de Cristo activities, inspired toward a closer relationship with Jesus Christ and encouraged and challenged by the witness of renewed piety, study and action in our midst.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