

### **Vision Path Development Team:**

A recent article found in the Englewood Sun (Williams, W., 2/18/14, p. 7) entitled “Americans Sanctioning Evil” focused on government edicts about income, distribution, spreading the wealth, and giving this practice an aura of moral legitimacy by way of noble sounding socialist expression. From a Christian perspective there is a greater dimension at accepting evil which is observed and felt every day. We are surrounded by abortion advocacy, promotion of homosexuality, and corruption in business and government at all levels.

This atmosphere stems largely from a reliance on the human being self-sufficient and capable of all things. This concept of humanism (Google: humanist manifesto) or secular humanism is pervasive in our culture. It operates extensively in our education systems, and at all levels of our societal structure. It has been quite prevalent during our interviews with young parental groups. Some younger parents firmly believe that there is no need for God or Church to be part of their lives. These individuals believe they are good citizens, socially responsible, and law abiding.

Why is this a concern for the Vision Path Development Team and we as Lutheran Christians? There appears to be two underlying and vitally important reasons for secular humanist attitudes and behaviors.

1. There is no place within their thinking or reasoning for GOD and/or anything spiritual
2. All decisions and subsequent behavioral practices should favor society as a whole. Spiritual intervention or God never “come into play”.

These are concerns on matters beyond the immediate purview of the Vision Path Development Team areas of responsibility or even Redeemer’s congregation as a whole. However, they constantly loom as obstacles confronting the Team when addressing the Vision Path of “fostering the needs of young families”. Nevertheless, since humanist tendencies and/or secular humanism influence our own doctrines and theology negatively, we should not ignore their presence but be well aware of their insidious character. GOD is always with us.

Every fire starts with a spark; what should we do?