



Volume 14 No. 2
May 2008

Ultreya

Saturday, June 7, 2008
Community of Hope

- 6:00 PM Gathering
- 6:30 PM Dessert Pot Luck
- 7:15 PM Worship and Praise w/ meditations,
music and grouping time.
- 8:30 PM Closing

Theme: Larry Paxton

The outreach project will be focused on Larry Paxton. Please bring an Arizona memento: ornament, map, postcard, etc., as well as funds to support his ministry with the students at the Lutheran High School where he teaches.

As always, feel free to bring non-perishable food for the COH food closet.



Future Ultreyas	
August 2, 2008	Lord of Grace Lutheran Church
October	Date and Location to be determined
December 6, 2008	Resurrection Lutheran Church Includes the 5th annual Silent Auction

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Servant School

Servant School is required to serve on team or to be a sponsor.

*Please contact:
Michael Eckelbarger
834-2163*

For more information .

*The next Servant School is tentatively scheduled for
August 2, 2008
at
Lord of Grace
Before the Ultreya
(noon to 4 pm)*



From the Editors:

If you have a story you'd like to see in this newsletter please email it to us for review. The next newsletter will not be until the end of July so the deadline is July 18, 2008.

Thank you, Barry and Jennifer Noyce

Email us @: benjmn_01@msn.com

From Secretariat



Please lift up this
years VdC weekends
in your prayers.

SALVdC #26
November 6-9, 2008

SALVdC #25
October 23-26, 2008



Your 2008

Lay Director

Sue Jensen

Assistant Lay Director

Michael Eckelbarger

Treasurer

Linda Kress

Secretary

Dorothy McLean

Spiritual Director

Pastor Tom Durham

Three Day

Joe Smothers

Palanca

Steve Mac Lellan

SALT

Jim Kress

Pre-VIA de CRISTO

Virginia Reymor

Post-VIA de CRISTO

Laura Eskridge

Communication

Barry and Jennifer Noyce

Fry's Giftcard Fundraiser

• You must get the card from a VdC representative

- Gift Cards have an initial value of \$5.00. You only need one card.
 - You can recharge the Gift Card at any time. The card can be recharged at any register in the store or at the Customer Service Center for any denomination between \$5 and \$500. You can use cash or a credit/debit card to recharge the Gift Card.
 - When you make a purchase using the Gift Card, the balance remaining on the Gift Card will be printed at the bottom of the register receipt
 - If the magnetic strip on the back of the card will not work and the card number cannot be keyed in at the register, contact the Fry's Consumer Services Department (1-800-828-5235) and you will be issued another card for the balance that is on the original card
 - Recharges to the card need to be done before the cashier starts to ring up the order, so that your purchases go towards supporting VdC
- Gift Cards are like cash; if they are lost or stolen, they will not be replaced

All well and good but where do we get our money from?

5% of everything you spend using that card comes back to Via de Cristo.

Did you know?

Via de Cristo is funded solely by the generosity of its community. If each household in our current community donated \$10 per year, our weekends would be fully funded?

If the Lord is calling you to make a tax deductible gift, you may send it in the envelope provided to:

**Southern Arizona Lutheran
Via de Cristo, P.O. Box
18349, Tucson, Arizona,
85731-8349**

FYI - - Info & Address Changes

You can change your address or delete your name from the mailing list on the VDC web page at:

http://www.soazviadecristo.org/viadecristo/db_update.html

CONTACT US:

Due to an increased amount of spam, our email addresses have been eliminated from the newsletter and the website. If you'd like to contact us, go to the website and click on the word "email" under the respective member of secretariat that you wish to contact.

~Thank you

From Secretariat



Arizona Smith And The Relic of Doom...

...Was a re-
sounding suc-
cess and a great
time was had by



DON'T FORGET!!!

Our December Ultreya and 5th Annual Silent Auction is fast approaching!

If you have hand crafted items you would like to donate, it might be time to start thinking about making them. We will also accept new, unused items as well.

This is an auction not a rummage sale.

Contact information will be announced soon. In the mean time, if you have any questions, contact a member of your VdC Secretariat.

Our VDC Community News



Last Chance!!

VIA DE CRISTO



NATIONAL SECRETARIAT

ANNUAL MEETING

July 24-27, 2008 in Phoenix, Arizona
at Grand Canyon University

PEOPLE OF VDC ARE
NEEDED AS WORKERS
ON SATURDAY, JULY 26.
CONTACT VIRGINIA REYMER IF YOU
HAVE SPECIFIC QUESTIONS

**If you would like to attend, please go to the
website listed below.**

If you want to know what it's like to go, talk to someone who has gone before...

- Kees and Joanna Jongsma
- Virginia Reymer
- Ralph and Sue Jenson
- Ken and Norma Teeters
- Glenn and Sue Weber

Or you can find information about this years weekend by going to their website:

<http://www.viadecristo.org/annualmeeting/2008/>

- How much it costs
- Tentative schedule
- Travel information
- **Registration Form**

Parish Representatives

Abounding Grace

Formerly Church of the King and Trinity Lutheran

Virginia Reymer

Tiresh rep: Virginia Reymer

American

Pastor Kim Taylor (acting rep)

Community of Hope

David & Ruth Mathews

Tiresh rep: Sydney Corbett

Dove of Peace

Darla Petering & Sandy Ahlers

Tiresh rep: Marci Hill

Faith (Tucson)

Dale & Jane Schlak

Lord of Grace

Richard Krohn

Tiresh rep: Richard Krohn

Mount Zion

Rhonda & Bob Warner

Tiresh rep: Rhonda & Bob Warner

Our Saviour's

Laura Eskridge

Tiresh Rep: Virginia Walter

Resurrection

Michael Eckelbarger

Tiresh rep: Michael Eckel-

Streams in the Desert

Scotty Gulbrandson

Tiresh Rep: Joel Altamirano and Sandy Holm

Tanque Verde

Joanna Jongsma

Our VdC Community News

SALVdC #25
October 23-26, 2008

I lift up my eyes to the hills - where does my strength come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. Ps 121: 1-2 (NIV)

One of the first fun things I was able to do after accepting the call to be Rector of SALVdC #25 was choose the theme verse for the weekend. The above verse came to me immediately from experience in my faith walk.

As many of you know, one of my favorite pastimes is long distance trail running – specifically trail Ultra Marathons (anything over Marathon distance). My favorite Ultra Marathon is the Leadville Trail 100 – 100 miles in the mountains of Colorado. I didn't start running until I was about 40 years old. But when I started, I attacked with all my might. I found great pleasure running in the mountains and my running strength grew as I spent more and more of my free time out on the trails.

Unfortunately, in many ways the mountains became my god. I did not worship them, but I longed for my time in them as I strove to strengthen myself. I did not give God credit for the joy his creation gave me. I did not give God credit for my accomplishments. However, thank goodness, my God is a jealous God and he intervenes when anything gets in the way of my relationship with him.

I'm a slow learner, but God does not mind. Age is just one of the tools he is using to show me that I am not self-sufficient. I continue to run in the mountains, but it now takes much longer to cover the distance. Through running I have learned that God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – is beside me in all my endeavors. I have learned to reach out to him for strength in prayer, worship, and Christian fellowship as I see him in the faces of the many friends he has placed in my life. Truly – “My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth”.

Dear member of the VdC community, I covet your prayers as the team for VdC #25 forms and prepares to present the joy we have in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to the participants. Pray that our God will show us his plan for the weekend and provide the strength we need to carry out the task.

By Dave Strong

SALVdC #26
November 6-9, 2008

The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing. Zephaniah 3:17 (NIV)

When I received God's call to serve as Rectora for the women's weekend, numerous verses flew into my head. The bible is filled with so many awesome verses it was hard to hear which one God wanted to be the theme for this weekend. I created a long list of verses to pray over, which Zephaniah 3:17 was not on. As I pondered this list in my head, I was reading a book in which Zephaniah 3:17 was the theme of the story, and soon the verse seemed to be everywhere I turned. God was making it pretty apparent this was the verse. This verse is a wonderful expression of His love for us and how His love is experienced on the Via de Cristo weekend. God's love and His promises are awesome! For me this verse will always be a reminder of His love and promises, as I pray it will be for all those who experience VdC#26.

By Laurie Altamirano

Apostolic Action

Giving Tree Outreach Program

Helping the Homeless and Disadvantaged



Contact People:

Libby Wright, Director
(520) 320-KIDS (5437)

Kathy Fast, Assistant Director
(520) 320-5437

Mission Statement

The GIVING TREE OUTREACH PROGRAM, 501 (c)(3) non-profit, faith-based organization, has been serving Tucson's homeless and needy since 1988! (The corporate name is The G.T. Outreach Program, Inc.) We provide meals, emergency food boxes, transportation and referrals to community services. In addition, we provide a home for abused, neglected or homeless babies and children. We invite you to join with professionals and volunteers in Tucson to serve the needs of the less fortunate. You can be the difference in someone's life!

The Giving Tree Outreach Program is an all volunteer organization. We operate numerous programs to serve the homeless and underprivileged of Tucson. These programs include family community faith center, 3 transitional housing facilities: Grace Home for mothers and children, Lighthouse for fathers and children, and Promise Home, an inter-generational home.

The Grace Home houses mothers and their children who might otherwise be homeless or in abusive circumstances. It has long been a dilemma for fathers and their children to find housing where they may stay together as a family. The Giving Tree's Lighthouse was opened for just such families. Residents receive much nurturing in addition to life's basics of food, clothing and shelter. These homes often create a first-time positive experience in the lives of these children and their parents.

Project FEED (Feed Everyone Every Day) operates a biweekly feeding program (Thursday and Sunday) for anyone in need. The program provides hot meals, food boxes, and clothing - as well as personal and spiritual guidance, referrals for housing, shelters, crisis centers and individual assistance for job placement. 200 people now attend that event on both Thursday and on Sunday evenings.

Main office number:
(520) 320-5437

Office Fax Number:

Web site:

[http://
TheGivingTreeOutreach.Org](http://TheGivingTreeOutreach.Org)

Address:

4888 E Broadway
Tucson, AZ 85711

This location is handicap accessible.

We have expanded our feeding program to include Fellowship and Food which takes place on Tuesday evenings at The Compassion Hope Center. It is a simple meal of soup and sandwiches, but our "guests" (homeless, needy) are invited to sit around a table family style and be served. Most homeless families never get to experience this.

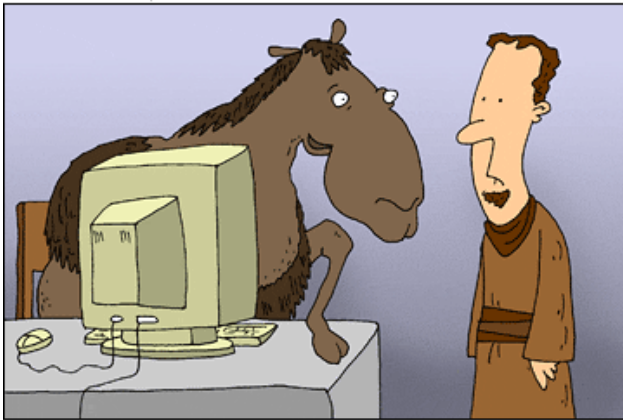
Gaining Employment and Respect (GEAR) helps the hardest to place find living wage employment to stabilize their lives, living conditions and families. Clients receive continued support after successfully obtaining employment which further secures their success.

The Giving Tree programs also provide tutoring, mentoring, Summer Feeding Program for the kids on reduced fee or free school meals, transportation to/from school or doctor appointments - to name but a few.

We would love to count you among our volunteers! Call or email us today. You have gifts and talents that would mean the world to someone. You can be the difference in someone's life.

A Little Humor

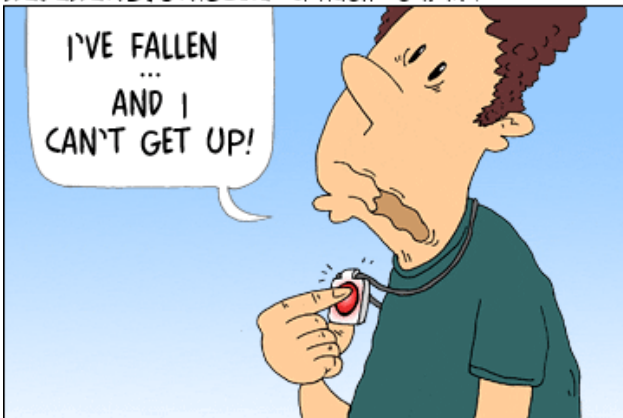
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05-12-2008

OF COURSE I CODE IN CAMEL CASE!

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05-16-2008

THE ETERNAL-LIFE ALERT BUTTON

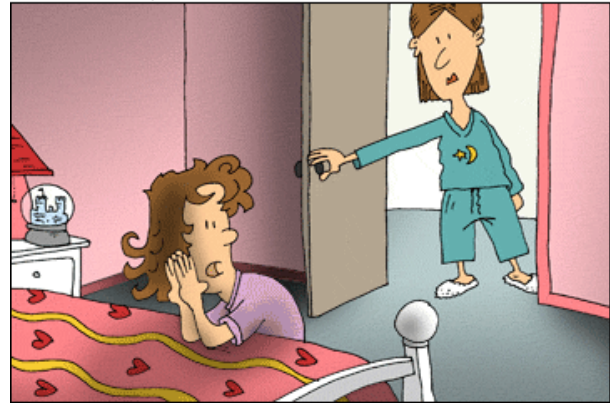
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02-18-2008

IF GOD IS SO POWERFUL AND HE IS SUPPOSED TO BE EVERYWHERE, HOW COME I CAN'T FIND HIM ON EITHER MYSPACE OR FACEBOOK?

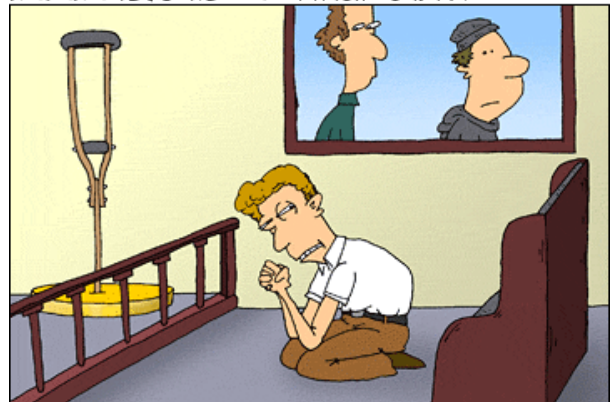
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05-19-2008

Thanks to Pam Winn
I'LL BE IN BED SOON AS I FINISH UPLOADING THIS INSTANT MESSAGE

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05-05-2008

Thanks to Daniel Rivera
HE KNEW THEY THOUGHT HIS RELIGION WAS A CRUTCH, BUT HE DIDN'T CARE

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04-21-2008

Thanks to Pam Winn (See Judges 15)
A YOUNG SAMSON PLAYING WITH THE JAWBONE OF A SQUIRREL