



# SALVdC Newsletter

Volume 19 No 4

August 2013

***“Let us thank God for his  
priceless gift!” 2Cor 9:15  
(GNT)***

Greetings VDC Community:

Coed Weekend #33 is progressing well. Thank you for your prayers! We have completed our four Core Team Meetings and are preparing for the first of six Team Meetings beginning on August 24th. Our team selection philosophy for this year has been to develop the next generation of VDC/Tirosh leaders by seeking many first time cooks/co-cooks, call those who have a had a hiatus from the weekends, seek out prior year Rollo backups as this year's primaries, and add a new Assistant Spiritual Director - Pastor David Hook. With God's help and prayers we have been able to accomplish this...God is good, all the time! We have an awesome community, something we can all be proud to be associated with. Your continued prayers are needed as we eagerly await the arrival of our Pilgrims on October 10th. Please join us on Saturday, October 12 for Buenas Noches and Clausura on Sunday, October 13

Yours In Christ, Mike

## **Southern Arizona Lutheran Via de Cristo 2013 Secretariat**

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Pastor Tom Dunham, Spiritual  
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## **Prayers**

Please keep Melissa and Michael Eckelbarger in your prayers as they mourn the death of Melissa's mother.

## **Next Ultreya**

The October 6, 2013 VdC Ultreya is to be held at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Vista, Arizona.

The Secretariat plans to coordinate transportation so we can share the ride. Please contact Bob Kridler if you plan to attend, if you plan to drive or need a ride. (520)749-8767 or bobkridler@msn.com.

## **Core Team Members Co-ed**

### **Weekend #33**

Rector: Mike Stein  
Co-Rectors: Barb McNaughton and Bob Kridler  
Spiritual Director: Pastor Tom Dunham  
Assistant Spiritual Directors: Pastor Mark Perry and Pastor David Hook  
Head Cook: Suzie Strussenberg  
Co-Cooks: Toni Joyce, Paul Cassidy and Len Mowinski  
Music Director: Lysa Byl  
Community: Dave Strom

## **Palanca Deadline for Coed**

### **Weekend #33**

Palanca is requested to be at the church by 7:30pm, Saturday, October 12, 2013

## **2014 Tirosh Weekend**

The 2014 Tirosh Weekend will be held at Streams in the Desert Lutheran Church.

Any person in the 9th grade to age 20 is welcome to attend.

Contact Michael Eckelbarger for more information.  
Michael@dragonworxusa.com

## **Volunteer Opportunity**

Casa Maria Soup Kitchen operates 7 days a week feeding 500 people daily.

No prior experience needed. Get a friend and go - 3rd Avenue and 24 Street - 8:30 to 11:00am— Questions call Brian Flood.

## **Favorite Bible Versus**

Paul Cassidy—Joshua 1:9

Cindy Stein—Luke 1:38

Laura Eskridge—1 Corinthians 13:4

Dorothy McLean—Habakkuk 3:17-18

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## VIA de CRISTO PARISH REPS & CHURCHES

March 2013

Abounding Grace - Virginia Rymer  
[vareyme@aol.com](mailto:vareyme@aol.com)

American Lutheran – Pastor Kim  
Taylor - [rekrt@aol.com](mailto:rekrt@aol.com)

Christ Lutheran – Nancy Taylor –  
[littleparie@q.com](mailto:littleparie@q.com)

Desert Hope – Pam Endrihs –  
[pendrihs@gmail.com](mailto:pendrihs@gmail.com)

Dove of Peace - Larry Paxton –  
[wildcatlarry@gmail.com](mailto:wildcatlarry@gmail.com)

Faith Lutheran - Jane & Dale Schlak  
– [jaledane@aol.com](mailto:jaledane@aol.com)

Lord of Grace Tim Murphy –  
[tim.murphy1@comcast.net](mailto:tim.murphy1@comcast.net)

Mt. Zion - Rhonda & Bob Warner –  
[warner1of4@aol.com](mailto:warner1of4@aol.com)

Resurrection Melissa Eckelbarger –  
[Melissa@dragonworxusa.com](mailto:Melissa@dragonworxusa.com)

Serra Vista Evangelical Lutheran - Jan  
Andre  
[janandre@sierralutheran.org](mailto:janandre@sierralutheran.org)

Streams in the Desert Sandy Holm –  
[smilnirisheyes@cox.net](mailto:smilnirisheyes@cox.net)

Tanque Verde - Bob Kridler –  
[bobkridler@msn.com](mailto:bobkridler@msn.com)

## Do you have a Shopping Card?

The Gift Card Fundraising Program never ends, it just continues every 6 months. The gift cards never expire, they can become inactive, when they are left at a Zero balance after 3 months on the 91<sup>st</sup> day, they will become inactive and they will need to get a new card from you. If you could let them know that if they leave at least a penny on their card, this will help keep it from become inactive. I attached the information on the gift card program to help you understand it a little better. This is the rebate percentage:

\$2,000 – \$10,000 = 3%  
\$10,001 – \$25,000 = 4%  
\$25,001 – \$75,000 = 5%  
\$75,001 – UP = 6%

If you shop at Fry's, you can help earn money for VdC! You buy a card for \$5.00. It comes with \$5.00 on it so it doesn't cost you anything. Then you put money on the card. It's like a pre-paid charge card. It doesn't cost you anything and VdC will receive a percentage of what we spend. They will be available at the Ulteyas or you can contact Laura Eskridge - 468-1779 or [lleskridge@hotmail.com](mailto:lleskridge@hotmail.com)

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## NO ONE STANDS AS TALL AS A CHRISTIAN ON HIS/HER KNEES

Relax your mind and humble your heart to focus on Christ. Allow God to be the only person on your mind while you read this prayer.

*Dear Lord, I thank you for this day. I thank You for my being able to see and to hear this morning. I'm blessed because You are a forgiving God and an understanding God. You have done so much for me and You keep on blessing me. Forgive me this day for everything I have done, said or thought that was not pleasing to you. I ask now for Your forgiveness.*

*Please keep me safe from all danger and harm. Help me to start this day with a new attitude and plenty of gratitude. Let me make the best of each day to clear my mind so that I can hear from You.*

*Let me not whine and whimper over things I have no control over. Let me continue to see sin through God's eyes and acknowledge it as evil. And when I sin, let me repent, and confess with my mouth my wrongdoing, and receive the forgiveness of God .*

And when this world closes in on me, let me remember Jesus' example -- to slip away and find a quiet place to pray. It's the best response when I'm pushed beyond my limits. I know that when I can't pray, You listen to my heart. Continue to use me to do Your will. Continue to bless me that I may be a blessing to others. Keep me strong that I may help the weak.

Keep me uplifted that I may have words of encouragement for others. I pray for those who are lost and can't find their way. I pray for those who are misjudged and misunderstood. I pray for those who don't know You intimately. I pray for those who will share it with others. I pray for those who don't believe. But I thank you that I believe.

*I believe that God changes people and God changes things. I pray for all my sisters and brothers. For every family member in their households. I pray for peace, love and joy in their homes that they are out of debt and all their needs are met.*

*I pray that there is no problem, circumstance, or situation greater than God. Every battle is in Your hands for You to fight. I pray that these words be received into the hearts of every eye that sees them and every mouth that confesses them willingly.*

*In Jesus' Name, Amen*

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## SERVANT TRAINING

If you Plan on serving or being a sponsor you need to complete servant training. The next one will be at 1:00pm after the team meeting on Sept. 7 at Mt. Zion . Please RSVP to Laura Eskridge, 468-1779, if you plan on attend.

## From Our Spiritual Advisor

I am reminded of the story of the little boy whose grandmother regularly took him to her weekly prayer meeting. He was bored silly, but being a good boy he endured it.

One day he was invited to attend the circus. He had never been to a circus before. He came away from this experience anxious to share with his dear grandmother what he was feeling. *"Grandma,"* he said, *"I went to the circus today, and let me tell you, once you have been to the circus you'll never want to go to another prayer meeting."*

Those of us who have been to a Via de Cristo weekend know what he's talking about. On the weekend God opens our minds to understand and experience God's marvelous, incredible risen presence. Something happens that sets us free, which renews and refreshes our sense of God's love, grace, and forgiveness that simply cannot be contained.

But rather than not wanting to go to another prayer meeting, a three day retreat makes us want to go all the more so that we can tell others about the incredible love of God that we have experienced. VdC prepares us to go back home and tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

And that in turn gives us opportunities to invite others to share in the joyous renewal that we have experienced. The next coed weekend is coming up in October. Tirosh will take place in February. Now is the time that each of us should be telling and asking and inviting. This is just too wonderful not to share it!

Pastor Tom Dunham





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*You are cordially invited to*

**Southern Arizona Lutheran Via de Cristo/Tirosh  
Benefit Dinner & Dance**

**“HOEDOWN”**

**August 24, 2013  
6:00pm to 9:00pm  
with  
Live, foot stompin’ music by**

**“Joyful Noise”**

**Smokehouse BBQ and all the fixins’  
Homemade Cobbler & Ice Cream**

**Cost: Free Will  
Streams in the Desert Lutheran Church  
5360 E. Pima Street**

**Make reservations by August 17**

**For information contact Toni Joyce  
520-954-2313  
3421 E. Calle de la Bajada, Tucson, AZ 85746**



## **HOW VIA de CRISTO ENVISIONS ITS MISSION AS INTEGRAL WITH CHRIST'S CHURCH IN AMERICAN**

Grounded in the call, sending and empowerment of the Holy Spirit

Even as the church's identify and mission is focused in the work of the spirit, so the signature of prayer of Via de Cristo remains "Come Holy Spirit".

It is the Holy Spirit who engages us in the double movement of COME AND GO.

COME to receive the forgiveness of sins; come to lay down all burdens and brokenness; come to be welcomed into abundant living.

GO then in recognition that Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, to become allied with God's mission and leading in the world to make all things new.

God's WORK, engages our HANDS!

## **The 2013 Annual National Lutheran Secretariat Meeting**

West Palm Beach, Florida, hosted by Region Seven, the Florida Secretariats. The NLS Meeting is over, but not forgotten.

The Host Committee's theme was "Streams of Living Waters John 7:37 –39. We were housed on the beautiful campus of Palm Beach Atlantic University, a non-denominational Christian University.

The keynote speaker was Pastor Sager from Columbus, Ohio. Pastor Sager celebrated 50 years in the Lutheran ministry. His subject was "Discipline for the Journey". He said, " streams of living water suggest the witness ought to be refreshed, moving, and deep enough to be solidly reassuring, while also embracing challenge." In regard to



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the VdC mission, he said, “Trust God for what has been given to us and we should trust what He wants us to do with it.” “We should try to please God and not worry about pleasing man.” “Be dedicated to what God calls us to do.”

“In our pow-wows, Jesus gives us ‘pows’ and ‘wows’.”

Pastor Al challenged us, “Do we have a long term vision to make disciples?” Jesus called his disciples for three years not for a 3-day Weekend. If we are not in the disciple- business, we need to get out of the weekend business and start over. We manage a journey, not just a weekend.”

The agenda included worship/communion services, small groups, regional meetings, dialogue groups, practice forums, business meetings, vesper services, fellowship and hospitality. During the forums, several speakers shared the inspiration of their journeys into VdC, with topic titles “Living the Journey” and “Strengthening our Journey Together.

## Suggestions concerning sponsoring:

The Weekend may be thought of as a “mission”. When approaching a potential candidate, tell them they “deserve to go” to a Weekend. Be aware of those who should not attend a Weekend. The Weekend is not the time for someone struggling major issues such as grief, addiction, or a recent divorce. These issues could distract from the purpose of the Weekend.

## Suggestions for duties of sponsors:

Pray, Pray, & Pray

\*Know as much as possible about the candidate

\*After the Weekend, be willing to take the candidate to an Ultreya and get them started into a group.

## Our metrics for measuring success of VdC?

-the number of lives changed

-the number of reunion groups

-the number who have enriched their participation in their local congregations.





## Speakers challenged our Secretariat with these questions:

- \*Does your secretariat have a specific recommendation regarding the length of time commitment required for sponsorship?
- \*Does our secretariat have specific instructions to offer Ultreya speakers when they are asked to speak?

## Suggested guidelines for those giving a personal testimony at Ultreyas:

- \*Speak about your life before your spiritual awaking
- \*Give accounts of the events leading up to the commitment and change
- \*Describe the actual encounter or surrender experience
- \*Share your rejoicing of new life following the event

## **Business at the NLS**

Magdala Ray (secretary) and Steve Gielda (VP of Outreach) terms expired.

Members of the 2014 NLS Board:

President Ed Broestel was re-elected  
Pastor John Bradford, Spiritual Director  
Carolyn Hawkins, Vice President of Administration (re-elected)  
Tedd Smith Vice President of Outreach (newly elected)  
Alice Allison, Secretary (newly elected)  
Steve Barnett, Treasurer  
Executive Director Nancy Peterson (volunteer)

The delegates passed new resolutions to the VdC Constitution. These changes will be sent to the local Secretariats and a 2/3 vote from all Secretariat's is necessary for the changes to be ratified.

## **The 2014 NLS budget was approved.**

There is a NLS Leadership Endowment Fund of two million dollars (\$2,000,000). The goal is to increase this fund to two million five hundred thousand (\$2,500,000). When the fund reaches that amount, the principal of one hundred thousand (\$100,000) would be used to



the executive director's annual salary and medical expenses. The Board hopes to reach this goal in the next two to three years. Currently the executive director is a volunteer who works 10 hours a week. The board hopes to have a volunteer working 20 hours a week until a full-time director can be appointed.

To contribute to the NLS Endowment Fund contact:  
President Ed Brostle\_brosti@comcast.net

### **History of the NLS**

In 1981, the National Lutheran Cursillo was started and continued until February 1986. The organization changed the name to the National Lutheran Secretariat of Via de Cristo. Since that time, 26 NLS meetings have taken place in various cities throughout the United States. The last to be held in Arizona was in 2008 at the Grand Canyon University in Phoenix , Arizona.

VdC now has a total of over one million pilgrims who have made a Via de Cristo Weekend in the United States. In the Southern Arizona VdC 689 pilgrims and clergy have attended a weekend. Sadly, the pilgrims do not continue their relationship with VdC through groupings or Ultreyas. The VdC from Minnesota estimated 17,000 pilgrims attended a VdC Weekend but no more than 500 are currently attending grouping and Ultreys. Please keep all VdCs in your prayers.

At this time there has been no decision where the 2014 NLS meeting will be held. In 2015 the meeting will be in Rock Island, Illinois and in 2016 in Toledo, Ohio.

There are 44 Secretariats in 30 States in the USA. 187 VdC members attended the 2013 NLS meeting. VdC members traveled from various cities in Florida, Texas, Kentucky, California, Minnesota, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Georgia, Virginia, Utah, Colorado, Maryland, Ohio, Indiana, Virginia, South Carolina, New York, Arizona, Alabama, Arkansas, Oregon, and Wisconsin.

The representatives from Arizona at the 2013 NLS were Virginia Rymer and Bob Kridler. We hope you will attend the 2014 NLS.