



# SALVdC Newsletter

Volume 19 No 3

May 2013

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE VIA DE CRISTO SECRETARIAT

Recently the members of the Secretariat have been very busy with reviewing, discussing and proposing changes to the Southern Arizona Lutheran Via de Cristo Bylaws and Policies. This happened at a Saturday retreat meeting and involved great discussions on where our movement has come from and where it is headed. The proposed changes to the Bylaws will be presented at the June 9<sup>th</sup> Ultreya at Resurrection Lutheran Church and then voted on by the community at that time. I want to personally thank all the members of Secretariat for their time and energy given to this endeavor.

The Secretariat has also added an additional Secretariat member, Sandra Gibbons, as a representative from the VDC Secretariat to the Tirosh Secretariat. This addition will focus on keeping good communication between the two groups.

Other topics of discussion from Secretariat over the past few months include future fund raising events, an annual financial review, updating weekend manuals for Rector/Rectora and others serving on the 3 day weekends, updating Parish Rep duties, future additions to the SALVDC website, as well as the upcoming National VDC annual meeting and their proposed constitution changes.

The Secretariat welcomes anyone who would like to attend a meeting or any input you may have for the good of the Via de Cristo movement. For either of these please feel free to contact me at [candmstein@comcast.net](mailto:candmstein@comcast.net).

Cindy Stein, Lay Director  
VDC Secretariat





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

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## **ULTREYA**

The next Ultreya is Sunday June 9, 4-6 pm at Resurrection Lutheran Church. Our action/service project for the month is hygiene items and school supplies for YOTO - Youth On Their Own - specific items needed are:

Toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, shaving cream, razors and soap. Notebooks, pencils, pens, loose leaf paper, highlighters, calculators, erasers and note cards.

These are the items that have been requested by Jane Stash, a member of their board.

Please bring what you can and a dish to share for the potluck. It is tradition that the host church brings meat dishes. Hope to see you there! God bless you.

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## TIROSH EXPERIENCE

My experience at Tirosh was truly inspiring. The presence of God never left us that weekend and His love filled our hearts. Building new relationships and strengthening our relationship with the Lord couldn't have been more fun. All of the inspirational talks, all the lessons, the letters from people in the community and people out of state. It made us all realize that God is always with us, no matter what we're going through. In my own personal opinion, the best part was the Agape dinner. Walking into the room holding the hands of my new friends, my new brothers and sisters in Christ, and seeing the tables laid out like a cross. Seeing the picture of Jesus at the head of the table. It took my breath away. I felt loved. I felt like I belonged. And I knew Jesus was in my life, that he would always be there for me, and that I could always count on him for love and guidance. I can't wait until I can go back next year and be one of the "cooks", the people to pray for the kids in that weekend. To pray for one specific child and get to meet them the last day. Meeting my specific "cook" was emotional. I loved finding out that I had someone praying just for me, watching over me and loving me. Tirosh was one of the most amazing experiences I have ever had and I will keep the memories and friends I made there for most of my life, if not forever.

Katie Muirhead

## 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)



## **Co-Ed Weekend October 10-13, 2013**

I hope you are each busy talking about the upcoming co-ed weekend. You know it is five months away. Those five months will pass quickly.

The registration form, medical forms (2) and the questionnaire to assist sponsors is on the website and is easily printed or downloaded.

Please plan on attending a short meeting on August 13 right before the Utreya at Streams in the Desert. Secretariat has requested that I make sure you are all aware of your responsibilities or getting participants and sponsors for them prior to the weekend. If you have questions, bring them to the meeting on August 13.

I will send another reminder as we get closer to August 13. Have a wonderful summer and stay cool!

Sandy Holm

“Be still and know I am God” - Psalm 46:10

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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 1:00 PM after the team meeting on Sept. 7th. at Streams in the Desert. Please RSVP to Laura Eskridge, 468-1779, if you plan on attend



## Thoughts from a Member of the Secretariat

As the Post-Weekend Via de Cristo person on the Secretariat, I strive to come up with new and inventive ways to increase attendance.

As many of you know the ELCA decision of a few years ago, caused some strife for our membership despite the fact that Via de Cristo should be Lutheran and based on Lutheran Doctrine and not under the direction of any particular Synod.

I would like to feel that hearts and minds have begun to heal from that, and I would ask the membership to look in their hearts to perhaps call on those members that they have not heard from or seen for a while and stretch out that hand of Christ's healing Love. Invite those people to attend the next Ultreya or even offer to car pool.

I would ask Parish reps to call at least 5 members from their church and ask each of them to call five more. Call those people we have missed, and yes, even those we may not have missed but that God call us to Love. Let's make the next Ultreya the best one ever. Don't forget our Tirosh Brothers and Sisters.

The June Ultreya's Service project is for YOTO - Youth On Their Own. Please read the separate description of the June Ultreya announcement for more details. I hope to spend most of the Ultreya welcoming old friends I have not seen for a while!

In His Wondrous Love

Michael Eckelbarger



## DO YOU HAVE A FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE???

Would you be willing share the Bible verse with the VdC community through the VdC Newsletter? Please send your verse to bobkridler@msn.com so it can be published in the upcoming article of the newsletter.

One of Pastor Tom's (Streams) - Jeremiah 29:11 - "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." NRSV

Sandra Gibbon's (Mt. Zion) - Romans 8:28 - "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." NIV

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## THOUGHT PROVOKERS

Give thanks frequently to God for all the benefit he has conferred on you, that you may be worthy to receive more. **St. Louis IX**

Reflect upon your present blessings, of which everyone has many; not on your past misfortunes, of which all have some. Charles Dickens

Our real blessing often appears to us in the shape of pain, losses and disappointments; but let us have patience, and we soon shall see them in their proper figures. Joseph Addison

To realize the value of a sister/ brother - ask someone who doesn't have one!

To realize the value of ten years-ask a newly divorced couple.

To realize the value of four years – ask a graduate.

Time waits for no one.

Treasure every moment you have.

Remember - Hold on tight to the ones you love!



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*You are cordially invited to*

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

**“HOEDOWN”**

**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  
Email -  
3421 E. Calle de la Bajada, Tucson, AZ 85746**



**Palm Beach Atlantic University**



## **NSL 2013 Annual Meeting in West Palm Beach Florida**

**July 25-28, 2013**

**Hosted by Region Seven - The Florida Secretariats**

If the first third of 2013 has been as stressful for you as it has been for us (we can tell you more in July!), please think for a moment about the sounds of water. Whether it is a waterfall, a gentle stream, or the mechanical fountain sitting on your desktop, there is a soothing power to the sound of water flowing. You will have the opportunity here in West Palm Beach to hear the gentle lapping of the intra-coastal water way along the campus of the university. This God-given location is one of the reasons we chose the theme of "Streams of Living Water." All the planning for this annual meeting is designed to remind us that "I can do all things through Christ's strength" – and His alone.

Please plan to attend this year's NLS Annual Meeting! We encourage members from all Secretariats to send your full complement of eligible representatives plus non-voting visitors. The annual meeting experience is not just for elected or appointed secretariat members but also for community-at-large. Each year the meeting proves to be an exciting, uplifting and wonderful forum in which we can exchange information, share ideas, make new friends, and renew old friendships. You will be led, fed and encouraged with music, worship, the Eucharist, meals, laughter, and God's love together with brothers and sisters in Christ from all over the United States! (If funds are an issue for your Secretariat, please contact NLS VP of Outreach, Steve Gielda at [sgielda@verizon.net](mailto:sgielda@verizon.net) regarding possible scholarships.



## NSL Spiritual Director's Report

The word "love" has appeared on countless banners. It has been printed in thousands of books. It has been sung in endless songs. All that is to the good. But simply repeating the word and glorifying the concept accomplishes very little.

The source of love is Jesus Christ who comes as the extreme expression of God's love. That love is renewed wherever Christ enters a human life and begins to recreate that person. Only when Christ has taken over the heart can it be a heart of Christian love. Only the deeds that come from that kind of love can be called Christian actions of love. All others are human love and a lower level.

That same love and newness of life is offered to all of us. All we have to do is reach out with our hearts and faith and embrace it. As we consider Easter, even as we reflect on its beauty and wonder and perhaps even try to hang onto it now that it's over, let it be a time for renewing of love...**Love God; love people –nothing else matters!**

Behold, the old has passed away and the new has come. Now, that's good news.

Pastor John Bradford  
NLS Spiritual Director





## V.P. of Outreach Report

### ***Rediscover & Recommit***

Brothers and sisters in Christ, spring is among us and it's time for the annuals and perennials to start to bloom. It's a time for many to start their spring cleaning, dusting off or deep cleaning their homes.

It's also a good time for us as Christians to examine our personal walk with Christ, a time to Rediscover & Recommit ourselves to our personal journey and our calling as disciples.

As many of you know, the Region Coordinators and I have been working hard for the past year to develop a new workshop for everyone who has attended a VdC weekend. We are calling this workshop, Rediscover & Recommit. Over the past three weeks we have run two pilot programs to ensure we get the program in good order before we launch it to everyone. I want to personally thank Kim and Chris Brownlow for hosting the facilitation team at her home and working so hard to set up all of the logistics for our program in Colorado. We had over 100 people from Colorado VdC and VdC of the Rockies come to learn what it meant to Rediscover & Recommit themselves and their VdC community for God's greater purpose.

This morning I sit in the home of Raleigh and Pat Sandy from Dayton, OH grateful for them for hosting six of us at their home this weekend. We had our own little VdC weekend, all bunked up together in his beautiful home. I also want to thank Cathy Doering for taking a chance and volunteering the Ohio VdC for the second pilot program. She and her team pulled together the logistics and we had over 60 people come from as far as 4 hour to participate in this exciting workshop. Again, the feedback was amazing and people walked away with a deeper understanding of the mission of Via de Cristo and their personal strategy to strengthen their relationship with Christ and how to help VdC achieve its mission. Starting in April, this workshop will be ready for you and your community. Be sure to reach out to your Lay Director and set a date on the calendar!



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Finally, as many of you know, my term as Vice President of Outreach for the NLS Board will be coming to an end in July. Now is the time we need to begin to pray about whom God will call to this elected position. I encourage you to pray about who should be our next VP of Outreach. Is God calling you? Is God calling someone in your community? I

was uncertain and scared about what I was stepping into. You or those to whom you ask may feel the same way. I encourage you to listen to Him. Pray about this and know that I will ALWAYS be available to help if it's needed. Please call me 703-266-7667 or email me [sgielda@verizon.net](mailto:sgielda@verizon.net) if you want to learn more about this blessing the God has provided me.

God loves you and so do I,  
Steve Gielda  
VP Outreach



## **NLS Executive Director**

Lay directors have received requests for survey information from 2012 as well as current secretariat members. Thanks to the 20 secretariats who have fulfilled those requests and sent their information to me. I ask the remaining 24 secretariats to forward their information to me. The information provides the basis for the number of voting delegates each secretariat will have at our annual meeting in July in West Palm Beach, FL. With the proposed changes in the constitution and bylaws, it is very important that all affiliated secretariats be represented.



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The registration information for the NLSAM can be found on the home page of the Via de Cristo website. Please pray and then join us.

As part of the survey, mentioned above, secretariats provide information used to update our database. This information provides accurate mailing and email addresses for communication purposes. A large number of emails are coming back as undeliverable; if you have changed your email address, please forward on your new email to me, [execdirector.nls@gmail.com](mailto:execdirector.nls@gmail.com). We thank you for your assistance.

