



SALVdC Newsletter

Volume 17. No. 1

www.soazviadecristo.org

March 2011

SALVdC ULTREYA SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 3rd, 2011

Tanque Verde Lutheran Church

4-6pm Fellowship Potluck Dinner, Witness talk, Music, Communion Service Project: Easter Basket food basket ministry project. Holiday meal and food for one week to families mostly recommended through the school districts.

FUTURE ULTREYAS

Sunday, June 5, 2011

Streams in the Desert - 4-6pm

Sunday, August 7, 2011

Lord of Grace - 4-6pm

Sunday, October 9, 2011

Mt. Zion - 4-6pm (tentative)

Sunday, December 4, 2010

Resurrection Lutheran Church - 4-6pm
Reunion Ultreya!

January 28, 2012

Dove of Peace Lutheran Church - 7pm



WELCOME NEW SECRETARIAT MEMBERS

Sandy Holm, Vivian Wilson and Bob Kridler

THE 2011—2012 SECRETARIAT

Dorothy McLean—Lay Director

Betty Whaples—Asst. Lay Director

Pam Endrihs—Treasurer

Vivian Wilsdon—Secretary

Sandy Holm—Pre-Weekend

Bill Wardle—Three-Day

Bev Kercheval—Post-Weekend

Cindy Stein—Palanca

Bob Kridler—Communications

Pastor Tom Dunham—Spiritual Director

Thank you to Barry Noyce, Linda Kress, and Virginia Reymer for your service on Secretariat. Also, a big thanks to Pastor Tom who has agreed to serve for another year.

ULTREYA ATTENDANCE

Southern Arizona Lutheran Via de Cristo usually holds six Ultreyas each year. Have you noticed that attendance is dwindling at the Ultreyas? How many of you attended in the past year? Your Secretariat is trying to find ways to increase attendance, as Ultreyas are a very large part of our 4th day! It is an opportunity for a huge "family reunion", and to meet brothers and sisters that you didn't know you had! Our Tucson area VdC community is so large, that if we all came together at one time and in one place, we would test the facility's capacity to hold us all! Wouldn't that be a wonderful challenge?

If you have ever sponsored someone to attend a weekend, why not invite them to go with you to Ultreya? If you know some brothers or sisters in Christ who do not like to drive outside of their neighborhoods, invite them to ride with you to Ultreya. If there are those you haven't seen at Ultreya in a while, call and invite them — tell them they are missed.

Check with your parish Reps for a list of all Christoistas in your congregation, and start a phone or email chain to get everyone involved in Ultreyas—they are reunions of God's family!

WHAT DOES IT COST TO PUT ON A WEEKEND?

Via de Cristo weekends are offered free of charge to participants in Southern Arizona. This is not the case in other places around our country and the world. There are, of course, several costs involved for a weekend to take place. Some of these are obvious: food, meals, snacks, and drinks; Bibles for all participants, crosses—our visible testimony that we have attended a weekend; notebooks, paper, pens, markers, crayons; cooks aprons; paper plates, cups, napkins, plastic utensils—you get the idea!

These expenses are met through monetary donations from the community. Did you know that if every Christoista family donated just \$10.00 annually, the weekends would be fully funded? However, this does not happen. That is why Via de Cristo has the Gaslight Theater fund raiser and the Silent Auction at the Reunion Ultreya. We take donations at team formation meetings, and at Ultreyas. We also have some extremely generous Christoistas who go above and beyond the \$10.00 annual in their donation to Via de Cristo.

If you find that God has blessed you financially, you might consider a larger donation to help cover those who cannot give as much. We want to keep our weekends free of charge for participants. We pray that everyone who is called to attend a weekend can do so without an additional financial burden.

Donations can be given to your Parish Rep, to any member of Secretariat, or mailed to VdC at: SALVdC, PO Box 18349, Tucson, AZ 85731. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of helping to fund our VdC weekends. May God continue to bless your 4th Day.

APOSTOLIC ACTION

“As the father has sent me, so I send you.” (John 20:31)

This is the verse on the green card under action. Do we stop to read this, or do we skip over it and go directly to what our action has been for the week?

According to our green card section on action, we are to ask ourselves: “What have you done this week to share Christ with the world so that others might know His saving love?” And “What have you done to bear the burdens of others in obedience to Christ?”

Did you know that each of our Ultreyas has a service project that helps us to answer these questions? The Parish Reps from the host community choose an apostolic action to which each of us is invited to contribute.

Please check the Via de Cristo website (www.soazvidecristo.org) to find out the date, time and service project for each Ultreya. Then call a friend or two to carpool to the Ultreya. See you there.

FYI

Lord of Grace Lutheran Church has started a ministry called Angel Food Ministries. It is a non-profit, non-denominational food cooperative committed to providing food assistance to families throughout the United States. For additional information go to the LOG website. Type in (www.lordofgrace.com). Go to Ministries. Go to Angel Food Ministries. We pray that it will help families who are in great need for something like this. Your church may also consider other types of ministries.

The next Ultreya at LOG is scheduled for August 7, 2011, 4 to 6 p. m. All are welcome! Details to the event have not been determined as of now. Keep us in mind and watch for additional information.

God Bless!

Richard Krohn, LOG Parish Rep.

Resurrection Lutheran Church Via de Cristo Meeting

Resurrection Via de Cristo members met at our home Saturday for a picnic meeting. We discussed our interest in serving on team, sponsoring members, grouping, and getting more members from Resurrection to the November weekend. We will work on publicity in August, September and October. We plan to publish in the Sunday bulletin and the Vision—our church newsletter. Also, Pastor Rick will make announcements as the weekend gets closer.

Melissa Ecklebarger

SERVANT SCHOOL

Servant school will be held on Saturday, June 4, 2011, at Streams in the Desert Lutheran Church at 2:00 p.m. and will last approximately two to three hours. In order to work on a team or to sponsor a candidate, you must attend a Servant School. I look forward to seeing you there. VdC means so very much to me and I know it does to you also.

Betty Whaples

Phone (520) 721-4299

INSPIRATION BY GOD

At the end of the fourth century, the Roman Emperor Theodosius ordered the massacre of more than 7000 in revenge for the murder of a top military governor.

A short while afterwards, the bishop of Milan who had heard of the massacre had a dream in which God instructed him to contact the emperor and advise him to repent publicly. As a result Theodosius performed several months of public penance. In Matthew 18:21-22 we read:

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times? Jesus answered, **“I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.”**

VIA de CRISTO CHURCHES and PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

Abounding Grace— Virginia Reyster, 745-3052, C-3319313
 American Lutheran—Pastor Kim Taylor, Church— 623-3661
 Beautiful Saviors—Pastor Kate Schlechter, Church- 744-2665
 Christ Lutheran Vail (Mo) Pastor David Hook, Church – 468-7075
 Parish Representative— Nancy Taylor – 468-7075
 Desert Hope (LCMC) - Linda Kress,—721-7181, Church—722-9134
 Dove of Peace— Larry Paxton,—Cell— 444-2519
 Faith Lutheran— Jane and Dale Schlak,— 298-2613
 Lord of Grace—Richard Krohn,—Home— 744-2335,
 Cell— 940-0504-
 Mt. Zion—Rhonda & Bob Warner,— Home— 883-7138,
 Church— 883-7138
 Resurrection—Mike Skilsky,—Home— 722-2775, Cell– 400-0674
 Sierra Vista Lutheran– Pastor Mark Perry,—Cell– 907-5508
 Streams in the Desert—Betty Whaples, 721-4200, Cell— 971-0047
 & Scotty Gulbandsen
 Tanque Verde—Joe Smothers & Dee Sundby, –Church 749-1606
 Our Saviors—Pastor Marilyn Acaraza,—Church— 327-6521
 Light The Way Lutheran (LCMC) Maranna, Pastor Dale Moe



Thanks to Dad Hengeman (See Genesis 3) 01-03-2002

OUR RESOLUTION LAST YEAR COULD HAVE BEEN
 "LESS FRUIT", BUT NO ... WE WENT WITH
 "TRUST PEOPLE MORE"

OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

Mobile Meals of Tucson is a volunteer based, non-profit organization delivering special diet meals to the homebound. Since 1970, Mobile Meals has provided special diet meals to homebound adults who are limited by disability, age, convalescence, or illness. Mobile meals began operation with 8 delivery routes serving 40 clients out of four food preparation facilities. The organization has grown considerably in the past 38 years. In 2008, Mobile Meals operated 29 delivery routes with an average client base of 211, and served over 91,000 meals from 9 food preparation facilities.

How can you help? Volunteer! Mobile Meals is looking for volunteers. Volunteers manage the delivery process, client interviews and all the paperwork involved in serving the clients. Positions needed are drivers, driver scheduler, paperwork liaison, office support and client interviewer.

If you can help, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at (520) 622-1600. Volunteer drivers are urgently needed!

PRIMAVERA NEEDS APPLIANCES

Upgrading to new appliances? Primavera Foundation for the Homeless can use your old discards. Their guidelines are the following: the appliances cannot be over 10 years old and must be in working condition. Refrigerators, stoves, washers, dryers and microwaves are needed to put in apartments for families. Donation receipts are available upon request. Call Jenny Cowen 623-5111 X102.

FRY'S GIFT CARD

5% OF EVERYTHING YOU PURCHASE WITH THE FRY'S CARD IS DONATED TO SALVdC.

For more information contact Betty Whaples 721-4299



FOOD PANTRIES

Food Pantries always need food and cash donations. Give to the pantry at your local church or the Community Food Bank. You can contact the CFB at 622-0525 or visit their website: <http://communityfoodbank.org>



Guidelines for VdC Participants

Revised 3/25/2011

To be eligible to attend a Lutheran Via de Cristo, applicants must be 21 years of age or older, baptized, and active members of a Christian congregation. Applicants can be married or single. If a married person applies, it is preferred that the spouse apply at the same time. If the spouse does not wish to attend, or cannot attend, the application/pre-registration will be prayerfully considered by the Secretariat during a regularly scheduled convened meeting.

Application/pre-registration forms must be approved and signed by the applicant's pastor and sponsor.

Requests for exception to the policy regarding married couples attending the same pair of weekends (or same co-ed weekend) will be reviewed by the Secretariat on an individual basis. The applicant's Pastor should send a written explanation of the reason for the exception, and a recommendation for or against participation. After prayerful consideration, the Secretariat will make a decision whether or not to approve the application. The Lay Director of Secretariat will notify the applicant, their Pastor, and the sponsor of Secretariat's decision.

Guidelines for Selecting Teams for VdC

Revised 3/25/2011

Via de Cristo is meant to develop Christians into leaders who will influence their environments with the message of the Gospel. When people are called to serve on a Via de Cristo team, they are called to serve as leaders and examples for the participants and for other team members.

The process of team selection raises questions such as these:

What factors should determine who is called to serve on a Via de Cristo team, especially those who serve in leadership roles?

How shall we ensure that we call the people God wants to serve on team?

What if we disagree about who should serve?

We would all want a leader to be someone who has no scent of scandal around them, but is that really the best criteria, or is it even God's criteria?

When we look at the Bible, we see that most of the greatest leaders were people who had committed serious sins.

Abraham – let another man sleep with his wife, whom he said was his sister, because he was afraid he would otherwise be killed.

Moses – murdered an Egyptian and fled to avoid punishment.

David – committed adultery and arranged for Bathsheba's husband to be killed in battle.

Peter – denied Christ three times

Mary Magdalene – a former prostitute

Paul – zealously persecuted Christians before his conversion; was often at the center of controversy.

It seems that God doesn't always choose the ones with no blemish on their record to be a leader! Perhaps God is often most able to use those who have been humbled by the knowledge of their own faults. They know that they are indebted to God and must rely on God's grace. They know that God has given them a second (or third, or fourth) chance. As a result, they are able to be "servant leaders".

An attitude of servanthood and humility are the qualities Jesus lifts up as crucial to be a leader.

James and John once asked Jesus to let them sit at his right and left hands, when he comes into power. "When the other ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'" (Mark 10:41-45, NRSV) In John 13, we read how Jesus washed his disciples' feet to make a point about servant leadership. After he had finished, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord – and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them." (John 13:12-17)

Humility also includes being cautious about judging others: “Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor’s eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ while the log is in your eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor’s eye.” (Matthew 7:1-5)

With these passages in mind, the question for us is not whether to exclude from teams those who, in our view, have committed serious sins, because God can often use those people in a powerful way. We have often experienced this in Via de Cristo.

But it is not their own moral faults (or strengths) that make these people a powerful witness to the Gospel. It is the fact that they have experienced the grace of God, and that they can testify to the power of God’s grace to forgive our sins and turn our lives around.

So, a leader does not have to be someone free of scandal or serious sin in their past, but those things must be in their past. None of us are free of sin, but if someone is currently not trying to live a Christian life and be a positive Christian example for others, then they are not in a position to be called to be a leader. If someone wants to be a leader because of their own personal agenda or to satisfy their own ego needs, and not with an attitude of servanthood and humility, then they are not in a position to be called to be a leader.

The practical problem for us, as people called to be leaders in Via de Cristo, is how do we avoid putting ourselves in the position of judging others harshly (“Judge not, lest you be judged”), while seeking to avoid putting someone in a leadership position that may cause someone else to stumble, or that may lead to scandal or uproar within the Via de Cristo community?

The Process of Selecting Team Members

Ideally, the team coordinator for the weekend (i.e., the rector/a) and the head spiritual director for the weekend should work together in the selection process. Sometimes this has been difficult in actual practice, but as soon as the lay coordinator and head spiritual director have been identified, they must both strive to communicate clearly and frequently in order to avoid second-guessing each other. All those to be considered for team service must have completed participation in a 3-day movement week-end retreat.

As for the selection of other core team members (co-rector/a), if the team coordinator does not already know the potential core team members well, their pastors should be consulted before a call is issued. This is not normally advised for other team members, unless there is some question about whether a person should serve on team (see below).

Discussions of who should serve on team should be surrounded with prayer, asking for the Holy Spirit’s guidance. Care should be taken to include new people on team, and people who might be overlooked because they are not well-known.

When someone is called to serve on team, in any capacity, they should be asked the following questions (suggested follow-up questions are in parentheses):

1. Are you currently an active member of your church?

(If not, why not? Are you willing to become active now?)

Note to caller: An “active member” attends worship regularly, and participates in other groups or activities in the congregation.

2. Are you currently grouping?

(If not, would you be willing to start now?)

Note to caller: If someone has not already been grouping, they should serve on the cook team and not in the rollo room, because in the rollo room they would be expected to testify to the importance of grouping for living the Fourth Day.

3. Have you attended Servant School?

(If not, could you attend the next one on _____?)

Note to caller: You do not need to ask this question if you are already certain that the person has attended servant school. If there is some doubt, you should ask.

4. Are you willing to commit to attending all required meetings?

(If not, what exceptions are needed?)

Note to caller: Check with the rector/a to find out how many meetings and which ones it may be OK to miss. We have generally allowed team members to miss a maximum of two meetings.

5. Are you aware of anything in your life, right now, that may negatively affect your witness to Christ as a member of this team?

(If so, is it serious enough to preclude you from serving on team? Or would it be better to serve in a less visible way, such as on cook team rather than give a talk?)

Note to caller: You do not need to probe for what might be the underlying issue if someone says “Yes” to this question. Remind them that all of us are sinners saved by God’s grace. In a sense, we all have faults that may negatively affect our witness to Christ. The real question is, “Have I already repented, or am I willing to repent and be forgiven?” We are not looking for perfect people, only those who know that they are forgiven and powered by God’s grace.

If someone does tell you why they don't think they should serve on team, remember to respect the confidentiality of any sensitive information! Avoid gossip! If there is some unresolved issue, they should be encouraged to talk with their pastor, as well as other Christians, as to whether they should serve on team.

Notice that in each of the above questions, if the potential team member answers "no" (or "Yes" to question 5), that does not automatically preclude them from serving on team. The questions also put the burden of decision on the potential team member first, not on another person. These questions are meant to cause potential team members to examine their own conscience and their own practice of piety, study and action, and decide if they are willing and able to make the commitment needed to serve on team.

While it is important for us to have rules and guidelines for the Via de Cristo movement to function as an effective witness to the Gospel and a means to build up the Body of Christ, those rules and guidelines need to be flexible so that we don't "quench the Spirit". Remember the example of biblical leaders. God may work most clearly through people we might be inclined to judge and reject.

If there is a disagreement between the core team members as to who should be called to serve on team, they should first seek to resolve it among themselves. They should be mindful of Jesus' advice in Matthew 18:15-17, keeping the issue private and respecting confidentiality. They may want to ask for a recommendation from a pastor or youth minister at the church the person attends. It may be appropriate for the lay coordinator and the head spiritual director to meet privately with the individual in question. If the core team cannot resolve their disagreement, the final decision will be made by the Via de Cristo Secretariat.

Of course, all of these decisions should be surrounded by prayer, as well as a spirit of Christian charity, respect and love.

If, after someone is called to serve on team, there is gossip or the potential for gossip about their actions in the past, it is imperative that the team coordinator and head spiritual director discuss this issue up front with the whole team, and not let it simmer. May we all be mindful of the warning in James – "The tongue is a little member and boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire." (James 3:5-6)

Instead of allowing gossip to undermine the process of team formation, we need to follow the advice in Ephesians 4:15-16, "...speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love."

The Via de Cristo movement is meant to build up the body of Christ. It does not exist for itself, but in order to strengthen individual Christians, congregations, and the Church as a whole. As we seek to raise up more "servant leaders" for the Church, may we also practice being servant leaders in Via de Cristo.

(Prepared by Rev. Kent Tuohino, Spiritual Director for So. AZ Lutheran Cursillo Secretariat, May 1999; Revised by Secretariat March 25, 2011)

NLS President's Report

De Colores!

This year we are celebrating 30 years of being a National Lutheran Secretariat and 25 years as Via de Cristo. We are making an effort to get every community's history and contact some of our early "founding" people as well as those who have served on the National Lutheran Secretariat Board. If you are one of those people and have not yet been contacted, please contact one of us! Our 2011 Annual meeting is going to be celebrating who we are, where we have been and where we hope to go. Our seminars and forums are listed on-line (www.viadecristo.org) and we are excited about those presentations. We have three(3) positions on the board up for election and if YOU have any suggestions, please send them in! Email or call one of us. Because, you see, this community is about YOU – all of you – and the input you give.

We cannot stop working together and reminding each other what we are about – reconciling the world to Christ. It is not about us, it is not about "religion", it is not about following a set of rules without regard to individual situations, it is not about telling others what they can and cannot do – IT IS ABOUT THE GRACE THAT JESUS MAKES POSSIBLE. It is about a Savior who loves us and died for us and has asked us to share that message with the hurting people of this world and, oh by the way, sharing it with each other as we support one another in this method called Via de Cristo.

God Loves You and So Do I!

Tracy

Address Changes

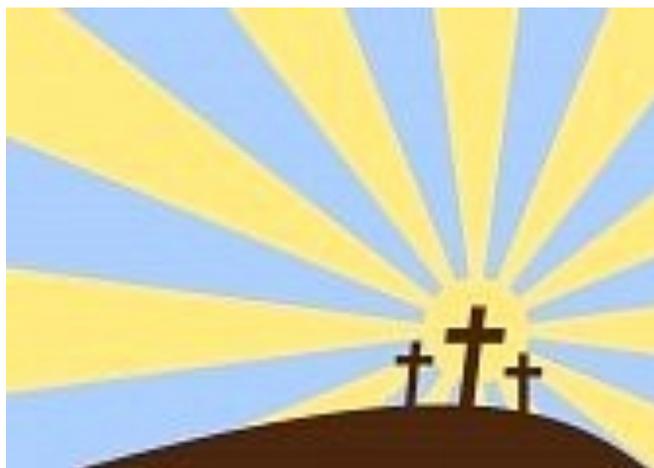
Phone & Mailing address: contact Ralph Jensen @ 721-7843

E-mail address change or to remove yourself from the SALVdC database, go to www.soazvidadecristo.org/vaiadecristo/db_upgrade.html

If you have trouble making your changes on the website, contact Ralph Jensen or Scott Schaffer 721-1790



Happy Easter!



2011 NATIONAL LUTHERAN SECRETARIAT ANNUAL MEETING

FORUM AND SEMINAR DESCRIPTIONS

Forums

Topics we think everyone will enjoy and should attend. Forums are held in a large space so that everyone can attend at once. Don't miss the 2011 Forums:

Anniversary Forum

Come "listen in" as individuals who were instrumental in starting what has come to be the now 25 years old Via de Cristo recollect those early days.

General Forums

Your heart is bound to be touched, maybe even inspired, as you hear the story of how Via de Cristo has touched the life of a Cursillista.

Seminars

Seminars are held in smaller rooms. Everyone attending the annual meeting is encouraged to sign up for and attend three of the four seminars offered. For those attending from a single Secretariat, it is wise to split up and go to different seminars. Your Secretariat can then benefit from all four seminars as well as nuances that may arise between different sessions of the same seminar as a result of participant dynamics.

In 2011, the seminar rooms can accommodate approximately 45 attendees per session so it is important for you to include your seminar choices on your reservation and attend the sessions you are assigned to at the assigned time.

Seminar 1: The Way

Learn more about the path bringing us to where we are today. Start in Mallorca, Spain and journey all the way to the 2011 National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Seminar 2: The Truth

Love of God, love of neighbor, and love the world are possible because of God's love for us. It is this truth that is the core truth and essential center to every Via de Cristo weekend. What did Eduardo Bonnin say is essential, important, and accidental about our weekends? More importantly, find out about tools available to you to help you keep focused on the essentials.

Seminar 3: The Life

There is music in the beating of our hearts that gives us life. Music is a part of our lives and a part of our weekends. How can we use music in Via de Cristo to underscore that which is essential and enhance the experience for all?

Seminar 4: The Law

While we might prefer to live focused simply on His grace, the truth is that we need to adhere to U.S. law as we journey our way into the lives of those in our local Secretariats through our Via de Cristo activities. How can the law help Via de Cristo? What are the latest changes in the law that you need to know? Come find out.



Air Travel Information Form
National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting 2011
 Thursday, July 28 through Sunday, July 31, 2011
 Queens University of Charlotte
 Hosted by Western North Carolina Lutheran Secretariat

• PLEASE PRINT •

First Name	Last Name	
Home Phone	Cell Phone	Work Phone
Fax	E-mail Address	

Transportation will be provided to Queens University of Charlotte from
 Charlotte Douglas International Airport (CLT) only.

Any changes to your travel arrangements after submitting this form should be made to Rathel Goodman.
 E-mail: rgoodman@ctc.net

My Flight Itinerary is as follows:

ARRIVAL:

Date: _____ Time: _____ Airline: _____ Flight Number: _____

Departing City: _____ Departing Airport: _____

Connecting City: _____ Connecting Airport: _____

Number of people traveling together on this flight _____

Names: _____

DEPARTURE:

Date: _____ Time: _____ Airline: _____ Flight Number: _____

Number of people traveling together on this flight _____

Names: _____

Please return this form with your completed registration form and payment, or send separately to the following address:

NLS Annual Meeting 2011
 Larry & Beth Bowman
 1043 Rolling Green Drive
 Newton, NC 28658