



SALVdC Newsletter

Volume 18 No 3

August 2012

REPORT FROM THE RECTOR –

Team selection is continuing. The Core team met for the third time on August 8th, 2012. We have decided on five team meetings on September 8 at Lord of Grace, 15 at Dove of Peace, 22 at Streams in the Desert, 29 at TVLC and October 6 at American Evangelical. The Eve of Dedication for the men's team will follow the Ultreya at TVLC on October 7th. The men's team will also do "Buenas Noches" (an evening service on Saturday October 20th) instead of Mananitas which was traditionally very early Sunday morning. This worked very well at last year's co-ed weekend. My hope is that this will encourage many more people from community to come and rejoice for the men with a loud voice. Please encourage folks who want to attend the weekend to turn in their registration forms sooner than later. We ask for your continued prayers for the men's and women's teams as well as the participants and all of our families and friends.

Your Brother in Christ, Dan

2012 Core Teams

Men's Weekend - **October 18-21, 2012**

Head Spiritual Director: Pastor Kim Taylor

Asst. Spiritual Director: Pastor Dan
Valasakos

Rector: Dan Meeboer

Co-Rectors: Dave Strong & Larry Paxton

Head Cook: Dave Pearson

Co-Cooks: Michael Eckelbarger & Ray Gage

Weekend Verse: Jeremiah 29:13 God said,
"And you will seek Me and find Me, when you
search for Me with all your year" (NKJV)

If you have any questions, please contact Dan -
dan@lasercutting.com

Women's Weekend - November 8-11, 2012

Head Spiritual Director: Pastor Tom
Durham

Asst. Spiritual Director: Pastor Lars
Hammar

Rectora: Cindy Stein

Co-Rectoras: Vivian Wilsdon & Laura
Eskridge

Head Cook: Lynda Reeves

Co-Cooks: Lori McGee & Susie
Strussenberg

Weekend Verse: Psalms 46:10 "Be still and
know that I am God."

If you have questions, please contact Cindy,
candmstein@comcast.net

**The deadline for applications for both
weekends is midnight October 7, 2012.
The applications are to be in the pos-
session of Sandy Holm**

ULTREYA

October 7 –Tanque Verde

December 2 - Resurrection

**Annual Meeting Dessert
Ultreya 2013 TBA**



REPRESENTATIVES

THE 2012 SECRETARIAT

Lay Director: Bill Wardle
Assistant Lay Director: Laura Eskridge
Treasurer: Pam Endrihs
Secretary: Vivian Wilsdon
Pre-Weekend: Sandy Holm
Three-Day: Emmet Sweat
Post-Weekend: Bev Kercheval
Palanca: Cindy Stein
Communications: Bob Kridler
Spiritual Director: Pastor Tom Dunham

The Secretariat is considering reinstating a training program for VdC Representatives. If you have any comments, please contact members of the Secretariat.



2012 - PARISH REPRESENTATIVES

Abounding Grace: Virginia Reyrer.
vareymer@alo.com

American Lutheran: Pastor Kim Taylor,
revkrt@aol.com

Christ Lutheran: Pastor David Hook,
littleparirie@q.com

Desert Hope: Pam Endrihs,
pendrihs@gmail.com

Dove of Peace: Larry Paxton,
wildcatlarry@gmail.com

Faith Lutheran: Jan & Dale Schlak,
skilskyfamily@gmail.com

Lord of Grace: Tim & Mary Murphy

Mt. Zion: Rhonda & Bob Warner,
warner1of4@aol.com

Our Saviors Lutheran, Pastor Marilyn Ascarza,
prmarilyn@lutheran.org

Resurrection Lutheran: Melissa Eckelbarger,
melissa@dragonworxusa.com

Sierra Vista Lutheran: Pastor Mark Perry,
selc@sierralutheran.org

Streams in the Desert: Sandy Holm,
smilnirshryes@cox.net & Scott Gulbrandsen,
office@streams.tuccoxmil.com

Tanque Verde Lutheran: Dee Sundby -
deesundby@q.com & Barb Phillip -
blf58@cox.net



Our Community

LETS GET THE WORD OUT

Now's the time of year when we need to get out there and promote our men's weekend - October 18 - 21 and our women's weekend - November 8 - 11. It takes ALL of us to get the word circulating. Why not wear your VdC name badge to church on Sundays? Or you could spread the flier "What is Via de Cristo" around. Or a past participant could give a short talk during your Sunday service. Or you could hold an informational meeting. Or you could continue to ask those you have asked in the past to see if 2012 is the right time (it took me three or four years of friends "encouraging" me to attend the weekend). Or if you're a parish representative you could do some recruiting of past participants to help in the recruiting process. If you are a past participant, you could volunteer to help your parish rep. Parish reps are listed on our website. Or you could come up with your own creative ideas.

SERVANT SCHOOL

August 22, 2012

Following the team meeting -
12 noon - 2:00 pm
Streams of the Desert

Servant Training is needed to serve
on a team or to be a
Sponsor

Please RSVP—Laura Eskridge
520-468-1779

TIROSH UPDATE

There are still openings on the Tirosh Board, but in spite of that, we are moving ahead towards the 2013 Tirosh weekend. Louis Liss has agreed to be the boys' Lay Director, and I have accepted the position of girls' Lay Director. I do not have any further information on the boys' team. For the girls' team, Virginia Reymer is Head Cook, Lorrie McGee is a Co-Cook, and Jennifer Danhke is Co-Lay Director. I am waiting to hear about a Music Director, as I just spoke with her at the last Ul-treya at Streams on August 5th.

As of this writing, we have had two Tirosh roundtable meetings, and will have had the third on Saturday, August 11th. The purpose of these meetings has been to review the important aspects of a Tirosh weekend, learn/re-learn Tirosh terminology, and find out who is interested in carrying Tirosh forward. We have also revised the timetable for the weekend – it will start at 5:00 PM on a Friday evening and end around 5:00 PM on the following Sunday evening. With this timetable, there is no need for anyone to have to miss school, or be concerned about rodeo weekend. In fact, 2013's weekend will be from January 25 thru January 27, at Tanque Verde Lutheran Church campus.

We will be having one more roundtable meeting, hoping to catch anyone who has not been able to attend any of the previous meetings. The date and place has not yet been determined.



Our Community

TIROSH UPDATE cont'd.

We will make that announcement right after the August 11 meeting, so those who are interested can mark their calendars.

If anyone feels called to serve on the weekend, or on community, please let us know. Males should contact Louis at Louis.liss00@gmail.com, and females should contact me at Dorothy.J.McLean@ul.com. We will be very happy to hear from you. If you feel called to serve on the board, please let me know, or call Pastor Craig at Mt. Zion – 883-0627.

Please keep Tirosh, the leadership, the teams to be formed, and the participants-to-be in your prayers. Without prayer, and without the blessing of our Lord, there will be no weekend. We feel strongly that we have been called to bring Tirosh back, and we covet your prayers and support to bring it back BIG TIME!

In His service, and for His children,

Dorothy



The date for the Gas Light Theater is March 8, 2013. Pat Hyland is in charge of the fundraiser.

WOMEN'S TEAM MEETINGS

The Women's Team #32 is now complete and we are looking forward to starting our team meetings in September. Please encourage people to send in their registration forms soon and remember to keep them, as well as the team, in your prayers.

TEAM MEETINGS

9/15/12 & 10/6/12 - Lord of Grace
9/22/12 & 9/29/12 - Streams in the Desert
10/13/12 & 10/27/12 - Tanque Verde

Thank you,
Cindy



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**WELCOME TO THE 2012 NATIONAL
LUTHERAN SECRETARIAT- DENVER, CO**

ANNUAL MEETING

There are 44 VdC Secretariats operating in 30 states. Through 2011 there have been over 102,000 cursillistas making weekends, including 3,200 clergy. At the 2012 NLSAN, 176 VdC members came from 26 states to celebrate the NLS's 40th Anniversary. The event was held on the campus of Regis University in Denver Colorado. The Theme was "Rejoice always, pay without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

The annual meeting schedule included daily worship and vesper services. The daily schedule included small group sharing, seminars, regional and business meetings. The speakers and worship leaders were inspiring. John Bradford was elected the new NLS spiritual director. The vice president of administration and treasurer were re-elected. A topic for one of the business meeting was where should the money come from for the salary of the new executive director, Nancy Peterson. She has been in her position for a years as a volunteer. It was suggested that the dues of the local secretariats might have to be increased to pay a portion of her salary. There are 44 secretariats operating in 30 states.

Opening Morning Worship

In a spirit-filled setting on a beautiful day, the 2012 NLSAM Worship Team led the opening worship service with 15 minutes of heart-warming and Spirit-moving gathering music. Presiding Pastor Doug Brauner welcomed Pastor Steve Harten, Spiritual Director of the Via de Cristo of the Rockies.

Pastor Steve delivered the sermon, using 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19 as the spring-board for his message. First, he asked attendees if they could name three marks of a faithful life. He reminded us that as the gyroscope was the leveling and steadying mechanism that guided the astronauts in space, so JOY is that mechanism in a Christian's life. Our joyful message to others is simple: Jesus loves you, and you are part of God's family. Sustained by that love and joy, we are able to weep with those who weep; we are able to go through personal tragedies of our own and of our loved ones, still rejoicing. Founded on faith, nourished by prayer, rejoicing is the gyroscope that guides us through the ups and downs, even in the face of seemingly inexplicable events.



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KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19

It's Not about the Experience, It's about the Journey

Keynote Address: Rev. Joe Nilsen

Joe sees many challenges in the future for VdC. He encouraged the delegates and the guests to do all that can be done to preserve and promote this precious gift of God. In listening to an interview with author and seminary professor Lauren Winter on the radio, Joe discovered his theme for the keynote address: ***"It's not about the experience, it's about the journey."***

According to Joe, we often make the experience of the weekend the most important thing. "We need to dispel the notion that the weekend stands alone." That is not our message; "it's not about the experience, it's about the journey." Joe offered a challenge to the audience: "Refocus the energy from the weekend to the Fourth Day. We will not taste the full bounty of God's grace until we do the Fourth Day as well as we do the weekend." Joe also encouraged attendees to look for the power of the Holy Spirit to be unleashed in our lives and in our movement through such things as reunion groups, where members hold each other accountable.

"We should say (to the pilgrims), 'Welcome to the table! May this be the beginning of a rich journey,'" Joe told the group. "It's not our work," Joe emphasized. "It's the Spirit's work. As we look towards our next 40 years, what will we do to preserve this gift for coming generations?" Joe said that while the essentials must remain the same, our style can and must change. "Churches have always ministered to the people of their times. Living the gospel through the years has had to take many twists and turns." For example, Cursillo started out just for men, so allowing women to attend was one of the first major changes. Joe wondered what we can do to bring VdC to Gen-x'ers? Can we hold a weekend just for one congregation? Or for a group of congregations? How can we utilize technology?

"When the essentials are present, the message is blessed," Joe pointed out. We shouldn't be fearful of trying something new, such as using PowerPoint slides or pre-printed write-downs.



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Keynote Address continued:

Joe then noted that the future of VdC also depends on our unity as a group. NLS exists, Joe said, to support and enhance the efforts of the local secretariats. “We must move to the next step in order to be fully effective – and that is the hiring of a national executive director. There is an elephant in the room, the \$1,000,000 needed to accomplish this. This is not God’s obstacle; it’s ours.” Joe pointed out there are many ways to raise this money.

Joe spoke of one last change as VdC moves forward. We must dispel the secrecy that has surrounded our movement. We have nothing to protect, but everything to proclaim in our weekends.” He encouraged telling prospective pilgrims that there are three days, lots of good talks, lots of good worship, lots of good food. You can let some things be surprises. “Piety, study and action are God’s gift to the church.” Joe said, “I cannot imagine my life or my ministry without Via de Cristo. My comments today have come out of a deep love of this movement and for my brothers and sisters in it.”

LUTHERAN FORUM: Pastor Paul Schmidlin

Pastor Paul shared he has always loved the notion of “unity without unionism and desire for wholeness among religious hearts without syncretism.” Historically, Lutherans could arguably claim to be “older” than the present Roman Catholic church: we look to our founding in 1517; their “counter-reformation” dates from the councils of Trent, between 1545 and 1563. We could arguably claim to have as many adherents, over the years, as Roman Catholicism, and more than Mohammedanism. So what? Our forum theme phrase is:

IT IS FAR TOO EASY TO LOSE SIGHT OF THE REAL PURPOSE OF AN ORGANIZATION WHEN FOCUSING ON INDIVIDUAL TOPICS. IN ISOLATION IT CAN BE HARD TO GET A DETAILED GRIP ON THE BIG PICTURE. WE NEED TO KEEP THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING.

What is our main thing? John 13:34-35 “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” Matthew 28:19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing



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LUTHERAN FORUM continued:

them to observe all things that I have commanded you and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” How do we keep the main thing the main thing? In Acts 15 we read of how (Jewish) men from Judea went to Antioch, and were teaching that no one could be saved unless they were circumcised “according to the custom of Moses.” This caused controversy, and the question was referred to the apostles in Jerusalem. Acts 15:7- 22 records the ebb and flow of significant parts of the discussion among the apostles and elders in Jerusalem, and their final resolution. As Pastor Paul noted, we can see there existed 1) a

mutual respect among the leaders and 2) a humble desire to be obedient to Jesus Christ. Matters were discussed and decisions reached with much prayer and openness to the Holy Spirit’s guidance.

How can we tell we have lost the main thing? Pastor Paul referred us to the events surrounding the historical split of the Christian movement into an Eastern Church and a Western Church. Controversy existed over the correct bread to use in the Lord’s Supper, and whether the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father AND the Son (the “filioque” statement to the Nicene Creed). In 1054, Cardinal Humbert entered the Cathedral Hagia Sofia in Constantinople, just before the worship service. Going to the altar, he left a letter condemning Michael Cerularius, patriarch of Constantinople. Cerularius responded by condemning both the letter and its authors. These leaders did not have, and did not show, mutual respect. These leaders were not showing a humble desire to be obedient to Jesus Christ. Their decisions do not show a process of mutual prayer or openness to the Holy Spirit’s guidance.

The same flaws would be noted in the (Roman) Church’s response to Luther’s questions of it in 1517. So, what is the essence of Lutheran Via de Cristo? The goal of every Christian is to be faithful to Jesus. Anytime something or someone else replaces Him we have created an idol. What from Eduardo Bonin’s original inspiration required a Lutheran flavor? The more Pastor Paul learned of Bonin, the more he was tempted to think of him as a closet Lutheran. In reality, he was a faithful Roman Catholic churchman. All he did was place himself under the Holy Spirit’s direction and ask Christ to be his head. And that is what we should aim to do, too. We will never discard that which makes us Lutheran for we are all dedicated to being faithful to Jesus. We will recognize the beautiful diversity within all Christian churches. We will maintain a mutual respect among our leaders and a humble desire to be obedient to Jesus Christ. Matters can be discussed and decisions reached with prayer and openness to the Holy Spirit’s



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LUTHERAN FORUM continued:

BUSINESS MEETING

The second business meeting was opened with *Come, Holy Spirit* and moved promptly to nominations for the NLS Board's Spiritual Director, Treasurer and Vice President of Administration. Pastor John Bradford was nominated and elected unanimously for Spiritual Director as there were no further nominations.

Steve Barnett was elected unanimously by acclamation for Treasurer. Carolyn Hawkins was elected unanimously for Vice President of Administration by acclamation. Presentations were then given by Ed Broestl, Nancy Peterson, Diane Purcell and Steve Gilda. Ed began with details explaining the position of Executive Director on a volunteer basis with their expenses paid for twenty four months. He then described what lies ahead for the office of Executive Director and NLS Secretariats.

At the 2013 NLSAM secretariats will be asked to amend the constitution and by-laws for this position. The materials for these changes was promised to be distributed to secretariats at least sixty days prior to the 2013 NLSAM. Nancy Peterson was selected for the position of Executive Director since September 2011 and was next to give a presentation. Nancy stated that the last ten months had been a whirlwind finding balance within the board. She feels called by God in her new position and was excited to report that she is continuing to build relationships with the secretariats. She was able to verbally connect with about 89% of the lay directors. Nancy collected all of the survey information, a job that used to be done by the NLS Secretary. Nancy expressed that she looks forward to another year of connecting with all the secretariats and is seeking ways to be of assistance to you through this position. Vice President of Outreach, Steve Gielda, gave an exciting presentation on the importance of rediscovering and recommitting. Regional Outreach Coordinators dressed as soldiers were marched to the front of the auditorium to stress the importance of a "Dynamic Secretariat" and "Irresistible Sponsorship." Some of the questions Steve posed focused on an effective outreach plan for VdC, needs of the 4th Day Community, and the fulfillment of the responsibility of sponsorship. As the *On the Front Lines in the 4th Day soldiers* marched out of the auditorium they chanted, "Rediscover and Recommit, all for God I'll do my bit!"

The NLSAM in 2013 will be held in West Palm Beach, Florida on July 25-28, 2013. I thank the Southern Arizona Secretariat for sending me as a delegate to the NLSAM. I was the only representative from Arizona and I would like to have many others join me next year in West Palm Beach. Will you consider praying about it?

Bob Kridler



THE WHEEL LEADING TO THE WAY - PART 2

By Magdala Ray

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In this second of a three-part article on learning styles and their connection to the Via de Cristo method, please reflect with me on the role of The Essentials and the weekend structure. Together, these aid in creating meaning in participants' hearts and minds - the meaning of Christ's sacrificial love for us and His boundless grace. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, this is done through a learning experience, on which very clearly follows the cycle of learning.

As I mentioned in the first part of this article (November, 2011), each participant attending a weekend, and each team member serving on a weekend, is likely to have a dominant learning style. While one person learns best by sensing or "feeling" the environment and then processing reflectively, another person may learn best by listening to a talk and then processing that information by energetically leading the table in creating a poster. Every weekend which places the greatest emphasis on The Essentials rather than the non-essential, or adiaborous, activities or things provides a wisely and well-planned learning experience.

To quote the NLS Manual (p.30), "We feel the following items are essential for an authentic Three Day Weekend: palanca, retreat, 72 hours, 14/15 talks, note taking, discussions, posters, decuria sharing, 5 meditations, Celebration of Repentance, Holy Communion daily, closing and crosses." A weekend of any other learning experience, cannot be structure to cater to any one learning style. While one part of the weekend may be a comforting activity for one type of learner, that same activity may be a time of discomfort, stretching of the mind and heart, for another learner type.

The dynamics of the three days contribute to the learning cycle, also. As the participants are guided to reflect on themselves, and then on their relationship with Christ and finally on their relationship with Christ, and finally on their relationship with Christ, their environments, and the world, true Christian community is formed. The learning process of the participants on a weekend depends greatly on examples of love and grace demonstrated by the team; a Christian life is not one only of reflection nor is it one of the constant action without reflection. It is the total experience, incorporating all The Essentials and dynamics, which characterizes the authentic weekend and leads participants to an understanding of the Via de Cristo method of renewal.

In the next issue, we will explore the "how" of learning styles and their application to team formation and training and the structure of the weekend.

