



SALVdC Newsletter

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www.soazviadecristo.org

February 2012

Meet The New VdC Lay Director

Bill Wardle is a retired Air Force veteran and a member of Streams in the Desert Lutheran Church. He has served as president of church council, was a member of the building and grounds committee and sang in the church choir. He also attends Bible study and VdC grouping. He attended VdC #23 and served on the cook team, in the Rollo room, and on the VdC Secretariat. Welcome Bill to your new position.

Meet the new Secretariats

Introducing Emmet Sweat newly elected member and serving on the Three-Day. Emmet was born in Woodberry, New Jersey and is the son of a Polish immigrant. He moved to Tucson when he was five years old. His hobbies are hunting and fishing. He is married he and his wife, Patricia have an 18 year old daughter and are proud grandparents. He is a member

Ultreya

Future Ultreyas 2012– Please attend!

Sundays 4 – 6

April 1 Abounding Grace

June 3 Lord of Grace

August 5 Streams in the Desert

October 7 Tanque Verde

December 2 Resurrection

Annual Meeting Desert Ultreya 2013 TBA

of Abounding Grace Lutheran Church and has served on the church council and the property committee. Emmet went through the VdC weekend #28. Welcome to the Secretariat Emmet.

Welcome Laura Eskridge to the Secretariat. Laura will serve as assistant lay director. She went through VdC #18. She previously served a three-year term on Secretariat as the 4th Day Person. She has served on several women's weekends, on Tirosh weekends and on the first co-ed weekend. Laura is married to Dennis and they have two daughters and a stepson. She is employed by TUSD as a second grade teacher. Welcome Laura.

New Representatives

This new year brings with it four new parish reps. Tim and Mary Murphy from Lord of Grace, Barb Philipp from Tanque Verde and Melissa Eckelbarger from Resurrection. Thank you all for serving our Lord in this way. Welcome, all.

Parish Reps and Churches

- Abounding Grace—Virginia Reymer
- American—Pastor Kim
- Christ Lutheran—Nancy Taylor
- Desert Hope—Pam Endrihs
- Dove of Peace- Larry Paxton
- Faith- Jane & Dale Schlak
- Lord of Grace- Tim & Mary Murphy
- Mt. Zion- Rhonda & Bob Warner
- Resurrection- Melissa Eckelbarger
- Sierra Lutheran- Pastor Mark Perry
- Streams in the Desert- Sandy Holm & Scott Gulbrandsen
- Tanque Verde- Dee Sundby & Barb Phillip

Southern Arizona Lutheran Via de Cristo

- Lay Director: Bill Wardle
- Assist. 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



Our Community

The Ultimate Ultreya

Those of us who were privileged to attend the Memorial Service for Betty Whaples at Streams in the Desert were witnesses to an Ultreya in every sense of the word. It was a gathering of the family of God to rejoice in the life of a child of God, called home to rest in the arms of Jesus. We shared worship, joys, memories, tears, - all the things associated with an Ultreya. The turnout was fantastic – Streams was filled to capacity, and then some. All for the love of our sister, Betty. We all wanted to be there for her final send off.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could have that kind of turn out for all of our Ultreyas? We never know how many more we have to attend. Shouldn't we all want to be there? To share our joys, worship together, share memories, laughter and tears – with such enthusiasm! Remember the feelings you had on your weekend, the people you met, the love you felt. Bring that to every future Ultreya and make each one a celebration of praise and thanksgiving to the One who loved us first.

ULTREYA!

Tirosh Board

VdC Secretariat is happy to announce the formation of a new Tirosh board! Currently agreeing to serve are:

Toni Joyce – Mt. Zion,

Virginia Reymer – Abounding Grace

Pam Robinson – Streams in the Desert

Dorothy McLean – Mt. Zion

Pastor Craig Larson – Mt. Zion, as Spiritual Director.

We have not yet scheduled our first meeting, but will do so shortly. Anyone who wants to serve on this board is urged to contact any one of us already committed to serving. Also, please keep us in your prayers. Further information will be forth-coming as it becomes available. Praise the Lord!

Gaslight Theater

Southern Arizona Lutheran VdC

Presents

The Three Musketeers

April 13, 2012

Doors open at 5:15 PM

\$18.00 per adult

Show Time 6:00 PM

\$15.00 per child

(12 and under)

*Thrivant will match funds

See your Parish Rep or contact Laura Eskridge at 579-5720 or lleskridge@hotmail.com

National Lutheran Secretariat

NLS President's Report

NLS 2012 Annual Meeting

July 26 – 29, 2012

Hosted by Colorado VdC of the Rockies

On behalf of the National Lutheran Secretariat and the Host Committee

from Colorado, you are officially invited to attend the National

Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting in Denver, CO, July 26 through

July 29.

Those of you who attended the Annual Meeting in Charlotte, NC, will

soon be receiving a letter from us with the registration enclosed. Additional

forms will be available on the NLS web site

www.viadecristo.org. Please note that you may take advantage of a

special "early bird" discount if you register before May 1. Also note that on the registration form there are options for an extra night's stay, as well as additional meals in the dining room. Be sure to include the

cost for the extra night and meals with your total payment when you make your reservation.

Regis University in Denver will be the site of this year's annual meeting.

Even though Regis is a small campus, you will be walking at a higher altitude. You will need to stay hydrated and use sunscreen lotion.

We will be providing detailed information about the prevention of altitude sickness with the confir-

mation of your registrations.

Transportation between buildings on campus will be limited. Walking provides the most direct route and we are encouraging people to walk as much as possible.

The dorm rooms are suites with the bathroom facilities in the middle and a sleeping room on either side. As in NC no more than four people will be sharing the bathroom facilities. Regis is a no smoking and no alcohol campus.

We encourage members from all Secretariats to send representatives to this year's annual meeting. If funds are an issue for your Secretariat, please contact NLS VP of Outreach, Steve Gielda (sgielda@cox.net), regarding possible scholarships.

Each year the meeting proves to be a wonderful forum for exchanging information, sharing ideas, making new friends, and renewing old friendships. You will be led, fed, and encouraged while sharing music, worship, the Eucharist, meals, laughter, and God's love with Brothers and Sisters from all over the United States.

On behalf of the Colorado 4th Day Community, we look forward to being your hosts and greeting you at Denver International Airport and Regis University in July.

God loves you and so do we!

The Colorado 2012 Host Committee

NLS Executive Committee

President - Ed Broestl

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President's Report Cont...

PRAISING GOD!

Our celebration of Christmas 2011 has passed...the New Year was “rung in”...and...if you are anything like me you are probably “rung out” and possibly still recovering! I praise God for His coming to us...not just at Christmas – but – everyday. I also praise God for “grace-filled” editors! Yes, this was written a few days after the publication deadline! However, I have an excuse – I was ill... probably from trying to do too much in too short a time over Christmas and New Years! Speaking of time - it is difficult for me to believe that six months ago we were gathered in Charlotte, NC and in six months we will be gathered in Denver, CO. I trust that all who read this would consider attending our Annual Meeting in Denver, July 26th through the 29th. The Host Committee is preparing for the events and the Board is preparing a program that will help each Secretariat as we learn from one another. (Proverbs 27:17) As with all our weekends, I trust that you are praying for our preparation and for the peace that comes, as we trust in the Lord.

I have long thought that the thing that binds us together as a Via de Cristo community was God's love for us, our love for God, and our common shared experience. No matter what “flavor” of Cursillo we experienced, the Essentials were followed and we relate to one another because of the experience. There is no question that our primary bond is God's love for us and our love of God and all of God's creation. So, because each of our journeys are different...the common shared experience brought to us via the Cursillo method gives us yet another thing in com-

mon. However, with each passing day, God continues to remind me that it is not just His love for us which we experience on a Via de Cristo weekend, it is the certain knowledge that through our taking Christ into our environments (congregations, vocations, callings, ministries, etc.) that we are participating in something much greater than ourselves. WOW! What a blessing! It is not about us...it is all about God...and...what God is doing in each of our lives...in and through our experiences and Via de Cristo communities.

It is my goal – and – the goal of your Board to help you in whatever way we can to allow God to use you and your Via de Cristo community to be the light and life God wants all to know and experience. I was reminded on New Years Day of John 10:10b “I [Jesus] have come that they [all people including you and me] may have life and have it to the full.” Make no mistake– I am not referring to the “Prosperity Gospel.” I am referring to the certain knowledge that we, as the people of God, may know His peace, love, mercy, and grace – trusting in God's leading.

May God bless you each and every day. In a recent Bible study I was reminded that there is a really good reason we call each day “the present” – because it is! It is a present from God.

I ask that you continue prayers for our ministry together and that

we will listen to God as we go forward in His name and by His Grace. In Christ –

Ed Broestl, NLS President



From our NLS Vice President of Out Reach

Walk the Talk

DeColores brothers and sisters in Christ! I hope you all had a blessed Christmas season. As we step into 2012 many of us will take a step back and conduct self-examinations of our lives. We will review our strengths and weaknesses in our personal relationships and in our relationship with God. Many of us will take time out and examine our Piety, Study and Action.

Did we live up to the expectations we set for ourselves?

Was God smiling down upon you and saying, “*well done good and faithful servant*”? We all fail to meet God’s full expectations, and we are grateful for His grace in our lives. However, we can’t take that *grace* for granted. We are all called to be Disciples of Christ. We are called to live in a life of *Piety, Study and Action*.

When we are asked to serve as a Team member of a Via de Cristo weekend, we need to examine ourselves and ask; am I living my *Fourth Day* in a way that others should emulate?

We can’t go serve on a Team and tell others that being in a Reunion Group is a critical part of the Fourth Day if we are not active in a Reunion Group ourselves.

We can’t tell people that Study is a big part of strengthening their relationship with God, if we don’t open the bible or read devotions to strengthen our own relationship with God.

As many of you know, the NLS launched a Leadership Survey this past December. As of today, 572 people have responded to the survey. Early indications show that almost 50% of the people who responded are actively serving on Team and are not in a Reunion Group. This is not “Walking the Talk”. I understand there are many reasons why people may not be in a Reunion Group, but if you elect to not seek out a Group and you elect to join team... you must not put yourself in a position of a hypocrite.

I looked at the reasons why people are not in a reunion group and what I surmise is that many started in a Reunion Group, then the group fizzled out and they never found another.

The number one reason given as to why people are not in a Reunion Group is that they say they can’t find a Reunion Group to join! I would love to find out if these same people attend an Ultreya and ask others about joining or starting a group. Since the number one reason why people are not in a Reunion Group is because they can’t find one, it’s time for us

NLS Vice President's Report, cont...

to *Walk the Talk*. We need to put ourselves out there and let people know that we are here for them. We need to step outside of the comfort zone of our own Reunion Group and be willing to start a new Group. Sure it may be awkward to start a group with people you don't know, but wasn't it awkward to meet the people around your Table Group

for the first time on your weekend? Let God lead you. Let God help you find those who are looking for a Group to join. Let God help you *Walk the Talk!*

God Loves you and So do I,
Steve Gielda

NLS Vice President of Outreach

National Spiritual Director's Report

I'm at my computer key board and I'm preparing to write a message to you about the "newness" of this New Year. I wanted to write about this fresh start God gives and the grace of a new year ahead of us. I was going to write about how we can let go of the old and embrace the new and do that everyday. I wanted to write something upbeat and happy for this new year.

Tonight I'm on call at the hospital as a chaplain and a 6 month old baby died. As I sat with the mother, grandmother and extended family I was overwhelmed with the sadness of the moment. How deep the pain and how deep the flood of tears. For this mother and all the extended family it's not a happy time. The new year is not new

and there isn't much around that is upbeat and happy for them at this time.

Life is like that for all of us. One minute a mountain top, the next can be a valley. We go up and we can also come "down". And God is with us either way. And even with our Secretariats, up one year, down the next, etc.

In a similar way, maybe it's not so rosy in your neck of the woods. Maybe your Secretariat is struggling and your numbers of pilgrims is down and it's harder and harder to get pastors and to fill teams. It's tough out there. It's not always upbeat and happy and nothing can seem new around you personally or in VDC.

As I sat with this family tonight the one thought I couldn't get out of my mind is

Spiritual Directors Report Cont....

that, indeed, Jesus weeps. The shortest verse in our New Testament is "Jesus wept" on the death of Lazarus (John 11:35). God does weep with us when times are bad and when we are sad and feel down and out. God does weep with us and God also rejoices with us. We are also invited, in Romans chapter 12, to "rejoice with those who rejoice AND (caps mine) weep with those who weep." We are not alone on this VDC trip. We are together as one giant family of faith. Did you know you could contact brothers and sisters of nearby, regional secretariats and get together? You could form prayer chains and hold renewal Ultreyas and joint weekends and the list goes on.

We aren't alone! We are Secretariats all around the world, literally. When we do all come together it's for one huge weekend of encouragement where hope is born anew. It's a weekend where we can fellowship together, worship together and grow in new ways so that we can go back and refresh our Secretariats.

