



MARCH – APRIL 2026



DECOLORES! BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST.

What should we do during this Lenten time?

How can we make Lent meaningful to us this year?

How do we prepare ourselves for Easter Sunday?

Lent is not just additional worship services, or giving up chocolate. It is an idea of opening our hearts up to encounter God more deeply. How do we do that? Here are some suggestions.

1. Start with a time of self-examination. Spend time in prayer asking God to reveal areas of your life that need attention. Are you drifting away? What habits are pulling you away from Him?
2. Choose 1 or 2 things to focus on. Pick one thing to give up and one thing to add. Then stick with them for 40 days.
3. Find accountability. Share your plan with someone, check in weekly with them. Sharing a commitment can strengthen the resolve to stick with it.
4. If possible, attend extra services. Take this time to reflect on you and your relationship with God.
5. Read through the Gospels. Slowly walk through Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. Take the time to experience Jesus's journey toward Jerusalem and the cross.
6. Time to confess. Use this Lenten season to personally confess sin and receive God's forgiveness and grace. Give it to God.
7. Prepare for Easter morning, realize that this is a time to celebrate. Why? The fact is that because Jesus died for you and rose from the grave, you have a new life in Christ. Christ is risen; He is risen indeed. Alleluia!



Secretariat News

The [SALVdC 2026 Annual Meeting](#) was held on February 1st during the Ultreya at Streams in the Desert Lutheran Church. We had approximately 50 Community members in attendance.

2026-2027 Secretariat Members

Lay Director – Johnice Mitchell

Assistant Lay Director – Toni Joyce

Treasurer – Paul Cassity / Cindy Curtis

Secretary – Diane Deutsch

Third Day – CJ Abraham

Pre-Weekend – Carmen Duerre

Post-Weekend – Ron Eggers

Palanca – Cindy Curtis / Paul Cassity

Communications – Leslie McCourt

Spiritual Director – Pastor Tom Dunham

Committee Members – Janette Carollo and
Lori Brown

There are 9 elected positions with each member serving a rotating 3-year term. Members are able to serve on Secretariat board for two consecutive 3-year terms and then asked to take a break and step down from Secretariat for a minimum of 1 year. After the year off, members are able to run again for re-election.

Elections were held to fill the board seats. Lay Director Lori Brown had served 2 consecutive terms and needed to step down. Janette Carollo stepped down due to a schedule conflict and unable to attend the Secretariat meetings. New members elected were Ron Eggers and Carmen Duerre; and Toni Joyce and Cindy Curtis were re-elected to another term.

Committee members are always welcome to join and support the Secretariat board. We welcome any community to help out in any means or ways. A big **thank you** to Jim Clevon for serving on the Palanca committee for 2025. Janette Carollo and Lori Brown are working behind the scenes with Secretariat on the Palanca and Communications teams for 2026.

Future Ultreyas for 2026 Sundays - 4pm to 6pm

- Apr 12 Desert Hills Lutheran – Green Valley
- Jun 7 Our Saviour's Lutheran
- Aug 2 Sierra Vista Evangelical Lutheran
- Oct 4 Tanque Verde Lutheran (Eve of Dedication)
- Dec 6 Mt Zion Lutheran (Silent Auction Fundraiser)

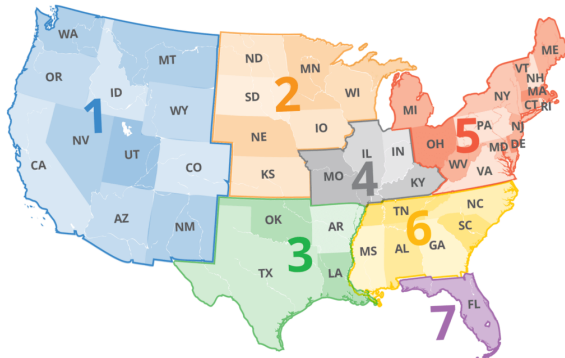
Join Us for Music, Worship, Fellowship and Fun

National VDC News

National Via de Cristo

We are affiliated with the National Secretariat of Via de Cristo, <https://viadecristo.org/> which includes many Secretariat communities similar to SALVdC and in several foreign countries.

Arizona is part of Region 1.



There are 3-day movement weekends held almost every month of the year in the United States? Our Palanca team members send out Palanca letters each month to the various Secretariats holding weekends across the United States. We don't just create Palanca for our

October weekend. Our email address SoAZViadeCristo@gmail.com is published on the National Via de Cristo website with our weekend dates. We receive Palanca letters from other Secretariats and other 3-day movements from the US and also from other countries. **Prayer is also Palanca.** Each weekend has set up a 72 hour prayer vigil. One of the ways we can support our fellow Christian brothers and sisters is by prayer. You can pray anywhere.

Below is a list of weekends going on for March and April 2026. There are 9 weekends scheduled. God is Good!

- Mar 5- 8 Northern Light VDC Co-Ed #73/#74 (Northern Wis and the U.P of Mich)
- Mar 19-22 Gold Coast VdC Men's 108 (Southeast Florida)
- Mar 26-29 Arkansas Oklahoma A-OK Via de Cristo Secretariat Weekend #44
- Apr 8-11 Lutheran Via De Cristo of Central Michigan Men's Weekend #102
- Apr 16-19 Tennessee Lutheran Via de Cristo Mixed Weekend #47
Lutheran Via De Cristo of Central Michigan Women's Weekend #102
Gold Coast VdC Women's #108 (Southeast Florida)
- Apr 23-26 Indiana-Kentucky Via de Cristo #39 North
- Apr 30-May 3 Lutheran Via de Cristo of North Texas #114 (Dallas area)



2026 Annual Gathering

will be held in Seguin, TX on July 23-26
at the Texas Lutheran University.

The annual gathering is similar to a 3-day weekend.
There are business meetings, regional roundtable
meetings, worship, music, EOI (Exchange of Information)
workshops, food and fellowship with other
delegates from across the US.



What's New in Our State?

VDC WEEKEND # 45 – COED OCTOBER 8-11, 2026

Mark your calendar! Weekend #45 will be held at TVLC campus
October 8-11, 2026. Jim Clevon is our Rector. The Core Team is
currently in planning mode and starting to make calls. More
details to come as Core Team meets and makes plans!

Spiritual Directors: Pastor Louis Liss, Pastor Andrew Schlecht

CoRector(a)s. Barbara Peterson, Kevin Brown, Ron Eggers

Music Director: Pastor Tom Dunham

Head Cook: Norm Engstrom

Co-Cooks: Al Steichen, Johnice Mitchell

BE STRONG *and*
COURAGEOUS!

DO NOT *be* AFRAID
OR DISCOURAGED.

FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD
IS WITH YOU
WHEREVER YOU GO.

▶▶▶▶▶ Joshua 1:9

This year's selected weekend verse is **Joshua 1:9 NIV**

**"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be be afraid; do not
be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."**

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES

GASLIGHT THEATRE

At the February annual meeting, a poll was taken to ask if people wanted to get tickets for the Christmas show in 2026 or a different show. Majority of the group voiced their enjoyment of the Christmas show. We have requested a buy-out of the theatre for the Friday, November 13, 2026 6pm Christmas show. The name of the show has not been released yet. More details will come in the future. Thank you Toni Joyce for all you do with the Gaslight Theatre.



FRY'S COMMUNITY REWARDS

For those of us that shop at Frys/Kroger, you may know that you can select a charity of your choosing to get a small rebate from Frys/Kroger.

Go to <https://www.frysfood.com/i/community/community-rewards>

1. Create a digital account.

A digital account is needed to participate in Fry's Food Stores Community Rewards. If you already have a digital account, simply link your Shopper's Card to your account so that all transactions apply toward the organization you choose.

2. Link your Card to an organization.

Selecting the organization that you wish to support is as simple as updating the Fry's Food Stores Community Rewards selection on your digital account.

1. Sign in to your digital account.

2. Search for your organization: Southern Arizona Lutheran Via de Cristo EV239

3. Enter the name or NPO number of the organization you wish to support.

4. Select the appropriate organization from the list and click "Save".

Your selected organization will also display in the Fry's Food Stores Community Rewards section of your account. If you need to review or revisit your organization, you can always do so under your Account details.



There is an opportunity for helping the Kairos Prison Ministry.

Gaslight Theatre show for August 23rd, 6pm show

If you have an interest in purchasing a ticket, contact Toni Joyce

to be put on a waitlist for the May 3rd ticket sales.



Kairos Prison Ministry

Help send your friends to Prison

2026 Buyout at Gaslight

Save the Date – Show - August 23

Doors Open 5:00 PM

Ticket Price \$35

Tickets go on sale – May 3



Tickets for 50/50 Raffle sold at the door|

Happy St Patrick's day to all.



Road Rules : Faith Journey

You can't steer a parked car ... go forward and trust God.

You can't sit there if you want to get something done

You can't drive forward without a rear view mirror... move forward and put your past behind you.

You can't drive in the dark without turning on the headlights.

You can't drive safely if you don't face forward.

Let Go. Let God!

You can't run on empty... God will take you on a faith ride of your life!

Amen

