



SALC NEWS

VOLUME 5, NO. 4

SEPTEMBER 2000

ULTREYA

Date: Saturday, September 30, 2000 Place: Faith Lutheran Church
5:30 Contemporary Worship 6:45 Gathering 7:00 Ultreya

If you need child care, call: Dale & Jane Schlak 298-2613

Bring a dessert to share.

APPLICATION dead line is 9/30/00 applications will be collected at this gathering.

Next Ultreya —December 2, 2000 TVLC

A message from the Lay Director...

It is that time of the year again. Footballs are flying and the Cowboys, Packers, and those less fortunate 49ers are still without a win. But the most important thing going on at this time is not the activities of the fall gridiron but the 9th and 10th weekends that are well underway. We need to start praying for the participants/pilgrims who are planning to attend these weekends. May their hearts be opened to the blessings that will fill them. We need to pray for the team leaders and members who have given up their time to be God's servants. May all go into this weekend leaving their pride, their agendas, and their hearts open so it can be His weekend and not ours. We need to pray for the families of the participants/pilgrims and team. May all their lives be blessed and no troubles fall upon them, and may they be safe and sound in heart and mind so they too can share in God's joy and love.

You have probably noticed that I alluded to pilgrims in the preceding paragraph. Pilgrims is the new word that replaces Cursillistas. Southern Arizona Lutheran Via de Cristo is coming to fruition. We should be a legal entity by the 20th of this month. We have signed the Articles of Incorporation and they have been filed. The By-laws have been written, rewritten, and passed. So now we are only waiting on our 501c (3) non-profit status to be reviewed and accepted. May your prayers for this process continue we have just a few more hurdles to cross.

With all that is going on this time of the year, please indulge me and let me share with you another activity we all can participate in as fellow Christians. A few years ago, a group called Kairos came to Secretariat and asked if we wanted to get involved. At that time we were so busy trying to put on weekends we, the Secretariat, felt that there was not enough manpower or time. So we made the decision to pass on our involvement at that time. Without mentioning names, Kathleen, someone from SALC served on a team and passed along my wife's name. With prayers and a little nudging, Paula began attending Kairos Outside team meetings. She mentioned that they were short on cooks and suddenly I was helping to plan the weekend's menus. **Cont'd page 3**

Upcoming Weekends

SALC #9 October 19-22—Earl Klaege, Sr, Rector

SALC #10 November 2-5—Betty Skudder, Rectora

SALT #7—February 22-24, 2001

SALVdC on the Web

Check out our new site.

www.soazviadecristo.org

2000 SECRETARIAT

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Send address changes and newsletter articles to:

Southern Arizona Lutheran
Via de Cristo
P.O. Box 30087
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SALVdC #9 Men's Team Roster

**"Ask and it will be given
to you; ..."Matthew
7:7&8**

Core Team

Rector - Earl Klaege, Sr.
Head Spiritual Director -
Kent Tuohino
Head Cook - Jim Dahnke
Co-Rectors -
Charles Brolyer
Dan Falkner
Keith Ostrander (Bubba)
Asst. Spiritual Director -
Philip Petrasek
Asst. Spiritual Director -
John Wittkop
Music - Bill Leedale

Rollistas

Mike Bartz
Allen Haeger
Richard Krohn
Bill Kuhn
Ken Nolen
Barry Noyce
John Reeves
Scott Schaffer
Andrew Schlecht
Jim Stevenson

Cooks

Co-Cook - Norm Fladoos
Co-Cook - Ron Miko
Andrew Eibl
Ed Gatlin
Ralph Jensen
George Kalmar
Ken McKean
Doug Pearson
Jon Rose
Dale Schlak
Monty Schultz
Kim Taylor
Ken Teeters
Glenn Weber

SALVdC #10 Women's Team Roster

**"You are the light of the
world." –Matthew 5:14**

Core Team

Rectora - Betty Skudder
Head Spiritual Director -
Dan Valasakos
Head Cook - Mary Lou
Leedale
Co-Rectora - Joanna Jongsma
Co-Rectora - Diane Haeger
Co-Rectora - Kathy Paxton
Asst. Spiritual Director -
Sondra Krogstad
Asst. Spiritual Director -
Shealds Smith

Rollistas

Michelle Balko
Pat Hyland
Allena Knowe
Linda Kress
Patti McKean
Beth Premo
Lynda Reeves
Sue Rose
Lois Van Haren
Betty Whaples
Andrea Wilson
Sandie Wooster

Cooks

Co-Cook - Jane Dunfee
Co-Cook - Kathleen Miko
Ellen Beck
Kathy DeVinney
Sue Jensen
Lalita Kuhn
Terri Messelt
Jean Moser
Judy Nolen
Linda Petrasek
Patti Roberts
Vallorie Schlecht

We ask that you pray for our teams as they prepare for the upcoming weekend. And for the participants who are being called. Pray for the discernment needed and guidance to bring each name presented before the Lord for his assignment.

Palanca or Memento?

Do you have an envelope or bag at home filled with things from the weekends that you have been involved in? Do you go back and read these items over and over again? Well I do, and I can tell you I cherish each one of these memories. They give me strength when I am down. They give me encouragement when I need a push. But are they palanca or just souvenirs or mementos? The answer is, it depends. So let's make sure we all agree on what palanca is and is not. From some of the things that I see today, I am not sure that the distinction between palanca and memento is clear.

So what makes anything palanca? The answer is very easy. Palanca is sacrificial. In some small way it demonstrates the sacrifice that Christ made for each of us as he gave his life that we might be saved. If your palanca is not sacrificial, it is not palanca. It may be a wonderful gift and very inspirational, but if it did not require sacrifice, it is not palanca. Given that very simple requirement, let's examine some palanca practices and see if they pass the test.

Is prayer palanca? That one is easy. Prayer is sacrificial and is palanca. It takes your time and energy in an important and beneficial way. It takes a real and conscious effort to pray for pilgrims on the weekend and thus prayer is palanca. In fact, it is the most meaningful form of palanca.

Let's try another. If I buy and give a bookmark to a pilgrim, is that palanca? The answer is no. The bookmark could, however, become palanca. The key here is making this a sacrificial gift. In that sense almost anything can become palanca. Suppose I pray over that bookmark and ask our Lord and Savior to use it to mark the passages that he knows the owner will need to guide her in her life. At that point I would say that this is palanca. The moment we make our gift a sacrificial one it becomes palanca. It becomes an example of our servanthood for Christ and that is a key distinction between palanca and memento.

One more. If I sit down and make crosses for the pilgrims on a weekend is that palanca? The answer here is yes. If you give, as a servant, of your time in creation, then the thing that you create is palanca. But, be careful. Do not make this what I call "incomplete palanca." You really need to make it complete. You need to take a few minutes, each day of the weekend, to pray that the sacrifice you made will be an example to the pilgrim in his/her life. You see, the intent of palanca is not to make things, but to be an example of Christ-like servanthood. You are trying to demonstrate, through your actions, the sacrifice that Christ made for each of us. This is indeed a tall order.

One final example. When I spend significant time writing personal notes to people who are attending weekends, is that palanca? Most certainly it is. We all know how much time and effort that takes. It is certainly sacrificial. It does demonstrate the act of servanthood and can be easily enhanced by prayer to under gird what we write. This is a great form of palanca but, some of us are not gifted in the writing area, so don't consider this the best or only form of palanca available. It is just one of many. Creativity can be unlimited in palanca. One great suggestion I heard is the donation of time at a soup kitchen in the name of a pilgrim. A great act of servanthood.

Does this focus on sacrifice mean that the remarkable and wonderful technology we have at our fingertips cannot be used to create palanca? Of course not. The key here is that technology can assist us in creating the means to inform others of our palanca but is not the palanca in and of itself. Let me try to clarify that. Downloading palanca from a well-intentioned web site and printing it is not palanca. You can turn that into palanca by adding the element of sacrifice to the gift. Suppose that you download a beautiful poem and graphic from a palanca web site. I might do this because I am creatively challenged. What I have here is the start of a great palanca project but it is not complete. I must then make the sacrifice. I must demonstrate my servanthood. I could do this by adding a note to the page telling the pilgrim that I will be in prayer for them for an hour during their weekend. When I then complete my commitment by praying for the pilgrim and sacrificing my time in servanthood, I have genuine palanca.

I think at this point you have picked up the common threads. They are PRAYER and SERVANTHOOD. These are clearly sacrificial and thus they are palanca. If your palanca can pass the test of these elements, then it is true palanca. If it cannot, it is not palanca, and it is only a pretty gift or trinket.

In closing, I would like to reiterate one point. Prayer is the ultimate palanca. We all know that prayer drives our movement and our local weekends, but it also is key to the fulfillment of the weekend for each pilgrim. I would trade a hundred mementos for one hour of sacrificial prayer. Think of the memento as the notification tool for your prayer sacrifice, and you can't go wrong.

Mark Carnes, National Palanca Chairperson, National Lutheran Secretariat

Cont'd from page one. Kairos is an ecumenical prison ministry made up of lay and clergy who have attended three-day weekends, for example the Methodist Walk to Emmaus, Catholic Cursillo, Presbyterian Tres Dias, and now Lutheran Via de Cristo. All of God's people working together, sharing His love and forgiveness. Kairos Outside is designed to support the families of those who are or have been incarcerated. The spouses, parents, and other relatives of the incarcerated often "do time" right along with their loved ones. It is important for them to know that they are not alone and that there is a Christian community that cares.

How can we help? On Friday the 15th of September at 5pm the weekend begins and your prayers are needed. But we all can show our support and attend the Closing Ceremony this Sunday, the 17th of September at 4pm. Please join us this weekend at Catalina United Methodist Church, 2700 E. Speedway Blvd., just east of David Robinson's Baskin-Robbins. Let's show them they are not alone and we are a Christian community of Lutheran Tiroshites and Cursillistas, oops, Pilgrims that care and love them too. If you would like to share in providing Agape, such as letters to encourage 15 women to begin their walks, or maybe cookies, or possibly brownies, or even muffins, it all would be greatly appreciated.

I am praying that I see y'all this Sunday at the Closing Ceremony. But if you can't attend, I hope to see you at the next Ultreya on the 30th at Faith Lutheran. If I can end this in something I have just finished reading from Ken Gire's Between Heaven and Earth and authored by an Anonymous Confederate Soldier:

I asked God for strength that I may achieve; I was made weak that I may learn to serve. I asked for health that I might do great things; I was given infirmity, that I might do better things. I asked for wealth, that I might be happy; I was given poverty, that I may be wise. I asked for power, that I might earn the praise of men; I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God. I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life; I was given life, that I might enjoy all things. I got nothing I asked for, but all I hoped for. Despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered. And I am, among all men, most richly blessed.

God's peace and blessings unto y'all,

Ultreya Schedule

September 30, 2000, Faith
Lutheran Church
Reunion—December 2, 2000 TVLC Family Life Center
January Business Meeting—TBA

SALVdC/SALT Web Site.

Thank you to Scott Schaffer
for all of the work on coordinating the SALVdC/SALT Web Site.

You can find our site at
www.soazviadecristo.org

Newsletters, information and team rosters can be found at the site.

If you would like to share in this project, contact Scott Schaffer at
sjnc.puzzle@prodigy.net.

PALANCA OR MEMENTO?
See the article on page 2 from
Mark Carnes, National Palanca Chairperson,
National Lutheran Secretariat

Wanted

Newsletter Editor. No meetings to attend. No envelopes to seal or stamp. If you would like to know more please contact Carol Sesma—722-4238

Musicians Wanted

We are looking for more musicians to help with music at Ultreyas and Mañanitas. If you can help, call Allen Haeger at 790-8078.

Contributions

Remember that Cursillo is funded solely by the generosity of its community. Send tax deductible gifts of any amount to:

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Cursillo
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