



# SALVdC Newsletter

Volume 18. No. 2

[www.soazviadecristo.org](http://www.soazviadecristo.org)

May 2012

## 2012 Via de Cristo Weekends:

We're excited to announce the planning has begun for this year's men's and women's Via de Cristo weekends. Please join us in praying for the forming of the teams for these weekends and the participants that God will be bringing to us.

### Men's Weekend

October 18-21, 2012

Rector: Dan Meeboer

[dan@lasercutting.com](mailto:dan@lasercutting.com)

### Women's Weekend

November 8-11, 2012

Rectora: Cindy Stein

[candmstein@comcast.net](mailto:candmstein@comcast.net)

If you feel called to serve on team, please contact Dan or Cindy at the e-mails listed above.

## Ultreya

Future Ultreyas 2012– Please attend!

Sundays 4 – 6

**DATE CHANGE!**

June 10 Lord of Grace

August 5 Streams in the Desert

October 7 Tanque Verde

December 2 Resurrection

Annual Meeting Dessert Ultreya 2013 TBA



# 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
- Light the Way—Pastor Dale Moe
- 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

## *Ultreya News*

Via de Cristo Ultreyas - something that Betty Whaples started at Streams (and we continue) is that we have a church ultreya in the off months from the city-wide ultreyas. We use the same format as those ultreyas. We have fellowship, a witness talk, singing and a communion service. We also invite people from the church who have not gone through Via de Cristo to introduce them to more information about the weekends. It is a good way to keep us accountable and we have some fellowship with our church Via de Cristo community as well as possible new pilgrims. You know how we Lutherans just love potlucks!

Sandy Holm

Sometimes the angels fly close enough to you that you can hear the flutter of their wings...

Psalms 55:22 "Give your worries to the Lord, and he will take care of you. He will never let good people down." NCV



## *Tirosh Board*

The Tirosh Committee met on Saturday, April 21, 2012 at Mount Zion Lutheran Church. There were six enthusiastic members in attendance. There are six others who are interested in serving on the committee, and they will be contacted before our next meeting. Our first order of business was to decide when and where to have a Tirosh weekend. We will be checking with Tanque Verde Lutheran Church to see which of three tentative weekend dates might be available. In order to make the weekends accessible to as many youth as possible, and to avoid conflicts with school schedules, we are going to see if it would be possible to start the weekends at 6 PM on a Friday, and end around 6 PM on Sunday. We will be working on a basic schedule to see if all activities can fit into this time frame. Our goal is to be able to have a weekend in place, fully staffed, by early 2013.

The committee prayed over a list of names for those eligible to serve as Lay Directors for the weekend, and then voted on who to call. As soon as the dates are confirmed, the calls will begin.

# Our Community

## Tirosh Board

Please prayerfully consider answering "yes" if you are called on for Tirosh team. We also need everyone to spread the word in their congregations that Tirosh is back! Get the youth excited about attending, and be ready to sponsor them.

The executive board was set up, with other positions to be filled at a later date. Spiritual Director is Pastor Craig Larson of Mt. Zion; Lay Director, Dorothy McLean; Assistant Lay Director, Suzie Strussenberg; Secretary, Virginia Reymer; and Treasurer, Toni Joyce. The other member present was Dave Grieser. Virginia volunteered to be the liaison with Via de Cristo Secretariat.

The next Tirosh Committee meeting will be on Saturday, May 5, 2012, at 11:30 AM at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church. Meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend. Please keep the committee, future team members, and future participants in your prayers. We welcome your suggestions, ideas, and most of all your prayers.

In His service,

## NLS Selects an Executive Director

**The National Lutheran Secretariat (NLS) selected Nancy Peterson as its first Executive Director. The NLS Executive Board has long recognized the need for such a position. The Executive Director's role is to be the primary point of contact for all questions related to Via de Cristo and increase the communications within the associated Via de Cristo Secretariats. At its Annual Meeting last summer in Charlotte, NC, the gathered delegates from the affiliated Secretariats directed that a search committee be formed and an Executive Director be selected. The search committee consisted of three past NLS Executive Board members (Past President Doug Burrows, Past Spiritual Director John Propst, Past Secretary Leona Fox) and three present board members (Ed Broestl (President), Carolyn Hawkins (VP - Administration), and Steve Barnett (Treasurer) selected Nancy from a group of very well qualified candidates. Nancy is a volunteer to this position and will work with associated Secretariats to discover their best practices and where they need assistance. Please pray for God's leading and wisdom be given to Nancy and the entire Executive Board.**

# Our Community

## New Lay Director

My name is Bill Wardle. Recently, I was asked if I would accept the position of Lay Director for Southern Arizona Via de Cristo, thus filling the shoes of my predecessor Dorothy Mclean. Why would I accept such a position when I know how hard it would be to perform at Dorothy's level? Well, let's start by telling you a little about myself. My ancestry came to this country from England at the turn of the century. I grew up attending the Episcopal Church. I was baptized and confirmed into the Church of England at an early age and remained faithful by attending that church until I entered college. I attended three different colleges to obtain the degrees that were necessary for my specialty. While at Creighton University, I looked at Catholicism since it was a Jesuit school, but upon graduation I remained Protestant. Then, I entered the United States Air Force where I had several wonderful assignments i.e. the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado and Japan on two different tours and occasions. I was then assigned to the hospital at Davis Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Arizona. After five years on station, I retired from the Air Force and entered private practice in the Medical Square here in Tucson with a satellite office in Green Valley. During my Air Force career, where ever we were stationed, my wife, children and I attended church services on Base.

Surprisingly, most Air Force Chaplains where we were stationed were of the Lutheran faith. Three of my four children were baptized by these wonderful men who were serving in the military at the time. My forth child, Judith, her husband, and their young daughter were later baptized at Streams in the Desert Lutheran Church by Pastor Tom Dunham. What a wonderful event that was! Following retirement from the Air Force and private practice, I briefly attended St. Albans and St. Phillips of the Foothills Episcopal Churches but somehow was not completely comfortable with their message. I knew of the Lord for years but I just could not reconcile what I was thinking and feeling. A piece of the puzzle was still missing. About that time, I met a fellow who was attending Streams in the Desert Lutheran Church and he basically said to me "Come and see" and my wife, Barbara and I have been at Streams ever since. During our involvement at Streams, I became aware of a program called Southern Arizona Via de Cristo and I was anxious to attend. It turns out I went through Southern Arizona Via de Cristo #23 and my wife Barbara, attended Via de Cristo #24. I have often felt that I had accomplished a lot and attained many lofty goals in my life for which I seemed to have been taking all the credit. Now it became obvious – the Via de Cristo weekend had jolted me to my senses and I suddenly realized what a remarkable life God had chosen for me and my family. He did it!

# Our Community

## New Lay Director Cont.

Whether it was a combination of the events of the weekend or I had just received a "God Smack" - there it was! This was the missing piece of the puzzle I had yearned to find. Suddenly, I realized it wasn't me at all that was at the center of the universe, it was Him! I remember how as I sat on the edge of my cot in the gymnasium that night shedding a few tears, I suddenly felt my body being infused with love, kindness, and a willingness to be closer to Him, to serve Him, and to be a part of the Via de Cristo movement. Since then, I have had a busy 4<sup>th</sup> day serving in both Tirosh and Via de Cristo as a cook and in the Rollo Room. What a distinct pleasure it has been to serve on teams and to serve in my own church – Streams in the Desert Lutheran as Council President, Building and Grounds, and Stewardship. Just being in the service of the Lord gives me great pleasure and inner peace. This is why I have accepted the position of Lay Director for this year's weekend. I have asked the Lord to help me and to know my heart, and through Him, I know we all will have another great weekend!

## Want to take a cruise?

Back in March, I took a cruise to the Mexican Riviera, leaving out of San Diego, CA. Several members of Mt. Zion voiced their desire to be able to take a cruise, as well. I thought it might be fun to set a date, choose a cruise ship and destination, and

then open up the idea to everyone in the Via de Cristo community – just to see who really wants to take a cruise!

To that end, I have chosen Carnival Cruise Lines (they are the lowest priced, and most convenient); seven night cruise to the Mexican Riviera (Puerto Vallarta & Cabo San Lucas); leaving from Long Beach, CA (they no longer depart from San Diego); sailing Oct. 7 thru Oct. 14, 2012. Costs range from right around \$500 up to about \$700 per person, depending on the type of cabin and number of people in your party.

The cost of the cruise includes your cabin, which is cleaned/freshened twice each day, all meals and snacks, and entertainment. Shore excursions cost extra. They are a lot of fun, but not necessary. Sodas, alcohol, and gambling are also extra. There is a walking/jogging track, mini-golf, basketball, ping-pong, exercise machines, pools/hot tubs, and many other diversions – all included in the cost of the trip.

If we get enough interest, we could car-pool to Long Beach, splitting the cost of gas and parking. So far, there are 8 – 12 folks interested. That would involve 2 to 3 cars/vans for transportation.

A few tips: have at least 2 people in your group, but no more than 4 in a cabin. Inside cabins are small, so having 2 or 3 persons is best – 4 would get a bit crowded. If you want 4 in a cabin, I strongly suggest an outside cabin with a balcony – a bit more costly, but worth it.

## *Our Community*

### *Want to take a cruise?*

If there are just two of you traveling together, you might want to look at the "up and down" – a single bed with a single bunk – it comes in a room with a porthole, and looks really cute, and costs less! Regardless of the cabin size, there is only one bathroom – so plan on sharing with everyone in your cabin.

If you are interested, check out [www.carnival.com](http://www.carnival.com) to see more about life at sea. Then, if this is something you want to try, book your cruise! If you have any questions along the way, give me a call – 903-4666. Also let me know if you decide to go, so we will have a list of all those on board. Hope to see you on board in October!

Dorothy McLean

### *Great Buys*

#### **Display your Via de Cristo affiliation**

**with pride** while looking stylish in a denim shirt with the Southern Arizona VdC logo on the pocket! Shirts can be ordered through the VdC "store" which will be present at future 2012 Ultreyas. Shirts can be purchased/ordered in long or short sleeve, for yourself or for a gift for a loved one. Prices are based on shirt size and sleeve length. If you have questions, please contact Lynda Reeves via email at [John3lyn2san@comcast.net](mailto:John3lyn2san@comcast.net). Also available at the "Store" are other Lutheran logo t-shirts and coffee cups. Come to the next Ultreya in June and check us out.

**Christian Book and CD sale** - We all have used Christian books on our shelves that have been lovingly read and then retired. There are Christian CDs on our racks

Why not donate those gently used books and CDs to the Via de Cristo Store which is attempting to raise funds to help support the 2012 men's and women's VdC weekends. Books will generally be priced at \$2 for a paper back and \$5 for a hard cover book and \$5 for a CD. **ALL** proceeds go to fund the upcoming weekends! Please help us bring a Christ filled weekend to as many participants as possible this year. Thank you for your help, in advance.

## WELCOME TO THE NLS BOARD

### *Nancy Peterson:*

Hello. My name is **Nancy Peterson**; I worship at Augustana Lutheran Church in West St. Paul, MN. I made my Via de Cristo weekend in August 1992 in St. Paul, MN, going through the last co-ed singles weekend that Minnesota hosted. I grew up on the Canadian border by International Falls, MN and attended a small country church, Bethany Lutheran, where my roots in Christ were seeded and nurtured. While in junior high and high school I served as church organist and taught Sunday School. My career has been centered in the services to persons with disabilities field where I worked in and ran group homes and day habilitation programs. Since 1996 I have been employed at ARRM, a private, not for profit trade association for providers of services to individuals with varying disabilities. Organizing all of our events – from small workshops to 3 day conferences with 1600 in attendance has been the core of my responsibilities. I enjoy working with people and building relationships and have recently also taken over the member services responsibilities of ARRM. It has been a pleasure to work with and share my faith with many people in this field of human services. Mission work has always interested me and as such, the support of colleagues was a blessing when I was able to do mission work in Tanzania, East Africa in 2000 and 2004. The subtle ways God puts the people you need into your life at the time you need them continues to amaze me.

After working a number of VdC teams, I was elected to the state council in Minnesota, attending my first NLSAM at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles in 2006.

I cherish the many friends I have made through this blessed ministry and look forward to working with and for you –and for Christ - during my time as Executive Director. It is a daunting task ahead of us as we shape this position but never before have I felt such a strong sign from Christ that He is in charge and He clearly has a plan for the future of Via de Cristo and related Christian renewal movements. It is but for us to be still and listen – knowing God is leading us. Thank you for the honor of serving as your first Executive Director. God will lead us in this ministry if we but keep the main thing the main thing and stop to hear His voice. Please pray for your Executive Board as we pray for you, your secretariats and weekends. May the Lord grant each of us His grace and love to share with others.

Peace,

Nancy Peterson

[execdirector.nls@gmail.com](mailto:execdirector.nls@gmail.com)



# National Lutheran Secretariat

## NLS President's Report

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 common. 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



# 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](http://www.viadecristo.org). 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 confirmation 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](mailto: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**



## From our NLS Vice President of Out Reach

### *Walk the Talk*

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 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

## The Wheel Leading to The Way

A Three-Part Article for the Conexiones Newsletter

(Beginning with the November 2011 issue)

"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life." John 14:6 As I reflect on the theme of our 2011 National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting, I am filled with gratitude for God's gift of the Via de Cristo method of Christian renewal. We have all experienced that grace-filled weekend and are dedicated to continuing "The Essentials" so that others may know and live their Fourth Day, also. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, a learning process takes place during each weekend. One way to explore the effectiveness of the Via de Cristo method is to view it as a wheel, or a cycle, of learning. By progressing around that cycle, this series of articles will discuss the "why," "what," and "how" of adhering to Eduardo Bonnin's Cursillo vision.

**Part 1:** Connecting Heads and Hearts through the Via de Cristo Method. It is fairly common to hear Cursillistas, or pilgrims, refer to the connection between head and heart that often occurs during or after a Via de Cristo weekend. Surrounded by visual, tangible evidence of God's great love for us in

sending His only Son, Jesus Christ, and filled to overflowing with a new understanding of God's grace, men and women, through the Holy Spirit's power, are called to apostolic action as Christian leaders in their environments. So, why is it that the intellectual and spiritual aspects are drawn together so closely throughout a weekend? Created in God's image, human beings have been blessed with the ability to learn, and each of us learns in his or her own unique way. There are those who are more creative and imaginative

while others look for the hands-on, practical applications of knowledge. Some have analytical strengths, and some learn best by teaching fellow learners. It is one of the gifts of the Via de Cristo method that the Essentials and the structure of a weekend address each learning style group. We will explore more specifics in the next issue of this newsletter. Allow me to close with a favorite quote of my great-aunt, Morella Mensing, who taught in Lutheran schools for over 50 years: "*Christian education is a happening in the heart.*"

Praise God that He has shown us The Way!

By Magdala Ray