

Good News! Vía de Cristo

Of Southeast Michigan and Northwest Ohio

Our Mission: By grace with the Holy Spirit, we challenge leaders to discover and achieve their personal calling, assisting them with a method for influencing their environments.

February 2015

Volume 32

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Supporting A Weekend

Every weekend is a unique experience. God calls a specific group of people to serve as team, gathers a group of specific participants, and places them in a community for three days of growth, sharing, and grace.

Even if you are not on the team, you can be involved on the weekend. The team makes a financial commitment, sacrifices their time, and puts great efforts into preparation. The community at large can help with important tasks that make the weekend run smoothly and gives the team added support.

1.) Help with set-up. You can help team move all of the essential supplies into their appropriate places on Wednesday night.

2.) Make a donation. Contact the head cook to contribute food items needed for the weekend. Financial contributions can also be accepted toward food and supplies.

3.) Pray! Sign up on the prayer vigil list at www.3dayol.org

4.) Participate in the prayer chapel. Community are welcome to pray with the team in the chapel during rollos. Contact the head server to coordinate access to the building.

5.) Kitchen/dining room help. Contact the head server to make arrangements to help prepare a meal, wash dishes, set tables, etc. Many hands make light work.

6.) Write letters or contribute gifts of love. Hand written notes and

thoughtful gifts of love show grace to the participants.

7.) Serenade. Attend the Saturday evening serenade and shower the participants with grace

8.) Help with tear-down. The team is tired on Sunday afternoon. A group of community with fresh energy to clean up is always welcome.

The head cooks and head servers for the upcoming weekends are:

Men:

Head Cook: Jeff Enderlen
jenderlen@twmi.rr.com
248-344-2809

Head Server: Kevin O'Brien
kobrien@ford.com
248-735-8520

Women:

Head Cook: Debbie Maxwell
mrsdebbie228@msn.com
Head Server: Amy Gassman
amygassman@comcast.net
734-233-7555



Rediscover and Recommit

Do you feel like you need a refresher course on the principles taught on a Via de Cristo weekend? Do you know someone who completed a weekend that hasn't been active in a while? Would you like to renew your commitment to walk daily with Jesus?

On Saturday, February

21, we will be holding a Rediscover and Recommit event at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church (5631 N Adams in Bloomfield Hills, MI). This one-day workshop is presented by our National Lutheran Secretariat and brings an opportunity to revitalize our community and individuals.

For more information about this event or to RSVP contact Phil Meuser, Lay Director at laydirector@gnvdc.org.



From the Lay Director

Greetings and Happy New Year!

Whew! All the holidays are behind us and we are off to a new start in a New Year.

Hopefully you have your calendar marked for Saturday, February 21 for our Rediscover and Reconnect Event at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Bloomfield Township, MI. This can be a great opportunity to do just that – rediscover the spark of our weekend and to reconnect with brothers and sisters in Christ and with the Good News! Community. Carol and I attended an event last year and it was well worth the time! We hope to see you there.

Looking to the future we are getting closer to 2016 when in July, Good News! will be hosting the Annual Lutheran Secretariat Gathering! We have had several meetings and there will be a schedule in this newsletter of future meetings that we hope you will attend to get on board with the planning of this event. The 2015 Gathering will be in the Quad Cities of Illinois starting on July 23 and we would welcome as many as possible from Good News! to attend to get a "feel" for the excitement of a national gathering. If you might be interested in attending, let Tracy Schmidlin or me know and we will get you more information.

Scott Koenig and several of our brothers and sisters have started the year off doing a fundraising activity in Toledo called "Winterfest", which was staffing the Marcos Pizza stand at Fifth Third Field at an outdoor hockey event. There are other fundraising opportunities available in the Detroit area for the spring, summer and fall. Let me know of any interest and we can get the ball rolling up there too.

The spring weekends are approaching so let's take a look at some people in our congregations that might be deserving of attending a weekend with you as the sponsor. The dates are in the newsletter so get your thinking caps on!

We have a lot going on and hope that you will be participating. Looking forward to seeing you at Send Offs, Closuras and the R & R next month.
Remember,

God Loves you and so do I!

Phil Meuser

Lay Director,

Good News! Via de Cristo



Spiritual Director's Corner

I enjoy social media and, when it comes to the topic of prayer, I see two themes: we ask God to act in some way, and we speak of our gratitude for what God's done. There's a weird dynamic on the latter theme. It goes this way: "I'm not going to ask you for anything, God. I just want to say 'Thank you' for everything I have!"

It sounds thoughtful and pious, but it's small, like we're re-living the six days of Creation. Once the pieces of our lives are all or mostly or sufficiently in place, we sit back in God's presence and call pronounce it as "good." And feel pretty good about doing it.

But God continues to create. The world continues to change. And just like creation,



we are designed to grow and change, too. God desires our growth and change. In fact, the absence of growth and change is a certain sign of death. Is that theme of growth present in our prayer lives? Are we asking God to grow us? Are we actually seeking God-given growth? Christian leaders are ordinary people who let God grow them, who ask God to grow them. Without growth, Moses doesn't stand up to Pharaoh. Without growth, Joshua doesn't succeed in Canaan. Without growth, David never becomes king. Without growth, Peter doesn't share the Gospel with anyone but the Jews. Without growth, Paul doesn't teach effectively.

They were called to do great things, but they were not capable. Not on their own merits. Not until God grew them – and kept growing them. First and foremost, they grew through prayer. Worship and praise was important, yes, but prayer was essential. In fact, Moses was changed so mightily by his life of growing prayer, even his physical appearance was changed.

One of the prayers God is eager to answer is a request for personal growth that God would be glorified with our lives. It's

a bold and daring prayer: "Show me where I can grow, God, where I must grow – then grow me." Increase my faith. Show me how and where I can be more generous. Teach me to forgive. Strengthen me to be bolder. Teach me to love like Jesus. Make me restless on matters of injustice. Teach me to be less practical and more hopeful. Create in me a more reverent heart.

What would happen if you gave God a week? A month? A season? A year? Who would you be? A better question: Who does God desire you to be – and will you invite God to take you there?

Spiritual Director's Corner features a different clergy from within the Via de Cristo community will be featured each month.

This month's submission is from Pastor Kathy Meyers, Good News! Via de Cristo weekend #8, table of Abigail

Transitions

De Colores! 2015, We have a year ahead of us in which to Worship our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am excited to see what the Lord will reveal to me, and how I can glorify Him in all that He directs my way. I am ever so grateful for His mercy and Grace that I will need this coming year.

This year I will be transitioning off the Secretariat as the secretary. The past three and one half years have been such a blessing. Meeting monthly with the other secretariat members has been so uplifting, encouraging, and has challenged me to continue to grow in my faith and to evangelize to my environments. The secretariat members are commissioned to direct, coordinate, inspire, and serve our movement Good News! Via de Cristo so in turn we can serve the life and ministry of the Church.

Every year some positions come up to be re-filled. A nominating committee is being formed, but if you are interested in serving you can contact a member of Secretariat to offer your name. Please prayerfully consider if you are being led to this ministry as a leader in GNVDC. Open positions this year include lay director, secretary, leaders, pre-weekend, and supplies.

God Loves You and So do I, Tina Gans, weekend #21, table of Naomi

Good News! Via de Cristo is Hosting National Lutheran Secretariat for 2016

National VdC Meeting in 2016
Ephesians 2:13

I know it seems like a long way off, but to have the details in place, it really isn't. We have about 25 to 30 people who have said they are willing to work on the team and that is exciting! However, we still need some team leaders. So I am asking you, YES YOU, to consider prayerfully where you might be able to help out.

You are reading this and you have gifts, talents and time. Maybe you are thinking you do not have time right now, then maybe you can work the actual weekend with greeting attendees, helping to escort people to their rooms, assisting in the dining hall or singing at the Serenade.

Maybe you like putting together packets, or taking pictures or driving a golf cart... all things that need to be done.

Maybe you would like to help us brain storm now about music, worship, activities surrounding the event, creating a logo to go with our theme, signage for the weekend. Or maybe you know someone I don't that would be good at something and they haven't really felt invited. Invite them!

Maybe you cannot be there or attend meetings but you would like to donate. We need basic items like: 200 1/2 inch notebooks, 200 bags to carry the notebooks in, snacks for 3 days, pens, pencils, 100 Sheets of half size poster board, gifts of love made with prayer, copy paper – reams of it, coffee, tea, you get the idea.

We need people to help us promote this event, to help us finance this event and to help us make it real.

I know you can pray for this event and the process that it takes to get it accomplished. Prayer is at the heart of everything we do. Without it, we are empty. With it, we give the glory to God and watch Him work! Please, if nothing else fits your agendas, pray.

Our theme is taken from Ephesians Chapter 2 especially verse 13. "But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ".

If you want to hear more about the theme and the teams that are evolving, come to a meeting. They are posted on Facebook and the Website or email me at TZVdC@aol.com. This is your invitation!

God Loves You and So Do I,
One of God's Children, Blessed by His Grace
Tracy Schmidlin



National Lutheran Secretariat Gathering
July 28-31, 2016

Good News! Secretariat 2014-2015

Lay Director — Phil Meuser
laydirector@gnvdc.org

Spiritual Director — Rev. Jim Wenger
spiritualdirector@gnvdc.org

Secretary — Tina Gans
secretary@gnvdc.org

Treasurer — Mark Belcik
treasurer@gnvdc.org

Communications — Michelle Ketepa
communications@gnvdc.org

Leaders — Tony Selk
leaderschair@gnvdc.org

Palanca — Cindy Jurosek
palancachair@gnvdc.org

Post-Weekend — Penny Jongeward
postweekendchair@gnvdc.org

Pre-Weekend — Scott & Laura Koenig
preweekendchair@gnvdc.org

Kitchen — Ray & Patty Blashill
kitchenchair@gnvdc.org

Supplies — Debbie & Gary Maxwell
Supplies@gnvdc.org

National Lay Delegates
Diane Lupo & Linda Lynch
laydelegatenonvoting@gnvdc.org

**Call GN!VdC toll free
1-888-468-3295**

Team Leaders Needed

In preparation for the 2016 National Lutheran secretariat, leaders are needed to head up various teams. Some volunteers have already come forward—can you fill one of the vacancies?

Team Leaders Already in Place:

General Chair and Co-chair: Tracy Schmidlin and Phil Meuser

Spiritual Director: Pr. Paul Schmidlin

Treasurers: Mark Belcik & Raliegh Sandy

Secretary: Sherryl Patterson

Hospitality: Patti & Ray Blashill (greeters, snacks, morning coffee)

Music: Mary Doll (For Worship services and night time activities)

Transportation: Scott Koenig (To and from Detroit Airport and on-site to and from buildings)

Registration & Housing: Debbie Maxwell & Diane Lupo (Distribute Information & Find Rooms)

Worship: Randall Ginardi (Assist with creation of worship services, Assign worship assistants)

Palanca: Terry Grundy (This includes hanging Banners, manning a small prayer chapel and creating meaningful gifts of love for 200 people)

Team Leaders Still Needed:

AV Technical: (Assistance with Computer issues on site)

Facilities: (Someone to help with room arrangements for meetings and activities)

Information Management: (The Office, the hub of communication on the weekend, the copier room, and the daily newsletter creation)

Meal Liason: (Working with the Dining Hall to help where we can)

Public Relations: (Promoting the Event, Fund Raising, Signage)

Supplies: (To spear head and inventory the supplies we have and need)

This effort will come from mainly from Good News! VdC, with Ohio VdC and other Region 5 members who are willing to help as they are able. Region 5 includes Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, New York, Delaware and New Jersey pilgrims.

Fundraising for NLS 2016

In order to provide all the necessary pieces to at National Secretariat Meeting, fundraising is needed! During the summer of 2014 groups from Good News Via de Cristo worked concession stands at games for the Toledo Mudhens. A portion of all sales were donated to our group, and are designated for the NLS meeting. Special thanks to Scott Koenig for his work in coordinating this effort.

In a similar fashion, Ford Field offers fundraising opportunities for groups of volunteers. To do this, we are looking for a coordinator to take on this project. Are you interested? Contact Phil Meuser at laydirector@gnvdc.org for the needed information to get started!

Several positions
for leadership
have been filled—
but more help is
needed.

Stay connected to GNVDC:

Find us on Facebook — search for group Good News! Via de Cristo and request to be a member.

**Update your profile — visit www.gnvdc.org and follow the links to update our database, including
your contact information and to be placed on our email communication list.**

Upcoming Ultreyas —

Fun and Fellowship with your Good News! Family

ULTREYAS

Ultreyas are a great place to reconnect. Join us for conversation, songs, prayer, and a meal. Find encouragement and support for your 4th day as you spend time with your GNVDC friends. Bring a dish to pass if you are able and come join us for the afternoon. Child care is usually provided. Contact the post-weekend chair if you require this service to make sure it's available.

Spring Post-Weekend Ultreya

Sunday, May 17, 2015
3:00-6:00 p.m.
St. Michael Lutheran Church
5790 W Temperance Rd
Ottawa Lake, MI

Summer Picnic

Sunday, August 8, 2015
3:00-6:00 p.m.
St. Michael's Lutheran Church
7000 Sheldon Rd
Canton, MI

2nd Annual GNVDC Weekend

Campout

Friday-Sunday July 10-12
Myers Lake Campground
10575 W Silver Lake Rd
Byron, MI

Space is limited to 10 camp sites and booked on a first come-first served basis. Cost for the campsites is \$58 per family for the two nights. Electricity is available at each campsite with water/restrooms available nearby. A deposit will be required to hold your space.

Day visitors are welcome. A pot-luck supper will be held on Saturday evening.

To sign up or for more information contact:

Tammy Nordbeck
jtnord@sbcglobal.net
734-523-0528
or
Joanne DeHetre
jdehetre@wowway.com
734-261-7322



Ultreyas are a source of encouragement and support, as well as a chance to see friends!

Reunion Group List

Are you in an active reunion group?

As our new participants complete weekends, they often are lost when it comes to finding a reunion group. Sometimes a sponsor can help. Other times they find members of their home congregation to meet with. But occasionally these options do not work for participants because of schedules, geography, or other reasons.

When we help other Christians, we are blessed as well.

You can help by adding your reunion group to the list maintained by secretariat. When a new participant inquires about a reunion group, this list helps them find others in their area. As a community, it is imperative that we offer our support to everyone on their walk. Occasionally this may mean that some reunion groups add members, divide, or spend some time helping a new group get started. When we help other Christians remain strong in their faith, we are blessed as well! Should your group be contacted by someone looking for a group, prayerfully consider how you can help.

To add your group to the list, or to update your information, visit gnvdc.org or contact the post weekend chair at postweekendchair@gnvdc.org

Palanca for weekends

Palanca from the community is encouraged every weekend.

- 1.) Please pray for the participants and team. Our greatest gift is to surround them with prayer.
- 2.) Writing letters for each participant offers our encouragement in a personal and profound way. Hand written letters are encouraged over mass-produced printouts. All letters should be turned in to the weekend by Saturday evening.
- 3.) Attend send-off, serenade, and clausura. Your presence shows support for the participants.
- 4.) Gifts of love may be given. If you choose this form of palanca, ensure that there is enough for everyone and bring it to the weekend ready to be distributed at an appropriate time. If you have questions, contact the weekend's palanca chair or email the palanca chair for secretariat at palancachair@gnvdc.org

How do you select a participant?

The Via de Cristo is an instrument of renewal in which a specific method is developed. Through this method there is one objective: the Christian renewal of society.

The task of selecting participants is of greatest importance. How we select and invite individuals makes a difference in how the weekend flows and the impact Via de Cristo can have on the greater church.

The Via de Cristo is not for everyone. Inviting participants without careful thought, discernment, and prayer is not ideal.

While Via de Cristo seeks to be inclusive, a blanket invitation in your congregation is not the most effective way to involve people in the movement. Individuals are not randomly pulled from the crowd. Instead, Christian leaders are called into an experience for growth. Although there may be authentic experiences of conversion that occur at Via de Cristo from time to time, these weekends are intended for Christian renewal. The Via de Cristo is not a place to send people to solve their problems. Often the participant's pastor can give helpful guidance. Via de Cristo makes the biggest difference when a participant is ready to receive the message and apply it to their life.



Participants are not randomly pulled from the crowd.

Instead, Christian leaders are called into an experience for growth.

The Via de Cristo must never be concerned primarily with increasing its membership rolls, but must see its role in building and renewing Christian Leaders, so that they might more effectively transform their environments. The goal is to select those who are leaders and potential leaders, in order to equip them for the work of the church.

Before you sponsor a participant on a weekend, consider the check-list below to guide your discernment and invitation.

A Check-List for Sponsors

About the participant:

- Does he/she desire to grow as a Christian?
- Have potential for leadership in his/her environment?
- Have the capacity for careful listening and understanding?
- Seriously open to change and spiritual growth?
- At least 18 years old, mature, responsible, and in good emotional health?
- Physically capable of fully participating in the weekend?
- Understand that Vía de Cristo is more than just attending a weekend?
- Really want to attend a weekend?
- At a relatively stable place in their life?

About you as a sponsor:

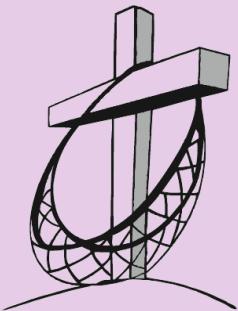
- Have you been living the fourth day and understand the goals of Vía de Cristo?
- Prayed for guidance before taking action to sponsor this participant?
- Spoken to the participant's pastor?
- Told the participant about the fourth day?
- Ensured that he/she really wants to participate and is not just doing you a favor?
- Offered to assist the participant with baby/pet/house sitting, etc.?
- Offered the participant transportation to and from the weekend?
- Agree to support the participant through prayer, written palanca, and your presence at the sendoff and the closing?
- Agree to actively assist them join a reunion group?
- Agree to support the participant in their fourth day for at least six months after the weekend?
- Shared with them about the \$100 suggested donation that will be discussed at the end of the weekend?

**Before you invite someone to a weekend,
use this checklist as a guide.**

Good News! Via De Cristo

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Clawson, MI 48017

Email: communications@gnvdc.org



CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU!

Find us online: www.gnvdc.org



Applications are available by visiting www.gnvdc.org. Submit completed applications to:
GNVDC Registrar
P.O. Box 549
Sylvania, OH 43560

or by fax (888) 468-3295

Spring Weekend # 56 Events

Men's Weekend #56
April 23-26, 2015
St. Michael Lutheran
Ottawa Lake, MI
*Application Deadline: April 13

Women's Weekend #56
April 30-May 3, 2015
St. Michael Lutheran
Ottawa Lake, MI
*Application Deadline: April 20

Set-up
Wednesday, April 22
7:00 p.m.

Set-up
Wednesday, April 29
7:00 p.m.

Serenade
Saturday, April 25
6:00 p.m.

Serenade
Saturday, May 2
7:00 p.m.

Clausura and Tear-Down
Sunday, April 26
4:30 p.m.

Clausura and Tear-Down
Sunday, May 3
4:30 p.m.

Do you have something to contribute to a future newsletter?

Printed newsletters are published twice each year, usually shortly before each weekend is held. The next deadline for a print newsletter is July 20 for August publication. Email newsletters go out more frequently. All submissions can be sent to communications@gnvdc.org and should be in rich text or Microsoft Word format.

