

Good News! Via de Cristo

Of SE Michigan & NW 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.

Good News! Via de Cristo

September 2013

What is Via de Cristo?

Via de Cristo, a Spanish phrase meaning “Way of Christ,” is a spiritual method for the renewal of Christian Life.

The Via de Cristo method includes an inspirational three-day weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christians and bring them to a new awareness of living in God’s grace.

The purpose of Via de Cristo is, above all, to see the world reconciled to Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:20). The Via de Cristo method assists individual Christians to actively be the church. Laypersons are encouraged to strengthen their partnerships with their pastors, to be “extensions,” building up the body of Christ.

Via de Cristo is a movement within the

Church of Jesus Christ. The focus is not on Via de Cristo, but on the local church – your church and my church. The objective of the movement is to inspire, challenge, and equip local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, and communities.

Through the Via de Cristo method, we are encouraged to persevere and grow in our faith, to become an ef-

fective channel of God’s love to others, and to strengthen a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

With spring weekends quickly approaching have you been thinking about who could benefit from attending one of these weekends? Start with prayer and then look around your environ-

ment. Who is on your heart? Step out and invite that someone.

There is detailed information about the Via de Cristo weekend on our website: www.gnvdc.org or you can call or email and request a brochure. Our toll free phone number is 888-468-3295 and our email is info@gnvdc.org.



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Community At Work

I feel so blessed to be part of this wonderful Good News Community. Serving the Lord is what we have been called to do. I wanted to share with all of you how God's will for his children work through those called by Him to accomplish His goal. At the men's serenade in the spring during chapel time a few of us were nudged by Him to put together a fundraiser to help one of our sister's in need. Shannon DeWall needed help to purchase a new handicap accessible van so she could continue to be independent driving to work and to her law school classes. She is the breadwinner of her family as her husband Allen is a stay at home dad that takes care of their two little boys. I know many of you either know the DeWall's or at least their story. They are wonderful Christian people who are always praising the Lord, no matter their circumstances.

We prayed about how to go about this monumental task to raise the money needed to help with this cause. In six weeks time, with a lot of prayer we hosted an event at St. Michael in Canton. So many of the community came together and pitched in doing the foot work needed to do God's will. Only with His leading, much prayer, and stepping out in faith, were we able to raise over \$53,000.00. In fact, when Shannon heard the total raised, she said that was the exact amount needed to supplement what they were able to come up with in their family budget. Coincidence?, luck?, I don't think so. It was one of those God moments we realize when we follow the Spirit calling.

We have been called to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and mind and also to love our neighbors as ourselves. This is what we do as brothers and sisters in GNVDC. It can't get any better than that, Hallelujah and Amen!!!!

GLYASDI, Diane Lupo weekend #44 table of Lydia

After the Weekend . . . Living Your Fourth Day

Reunion Group List

Reunion groups are vital to our fourth day and for serving on a team. To better assist our fourth day community, we have created a list of all active reunion groups.

This list is available at all GNVDC team meetings, Ultreyas, Serenades, and online at www.gnvdc.org under the community tab after you log in.

If you don't see your group listed or need to make changes, you can contact:

Jason & Tammy Nordbeck
Phone (888) 468-3295
communications@gnvdc.org
www.gnvdc.org/community

You may attend a Via de Cristo weekend only once in your life. Via de Cristo is not a retreat, or a substitute for a retreat. Via de Cristo does not end when the weekend ends.

After you have attended a Via de Cristo weekend, you are considered to be living your Fourth Day—the rest of your life. After attending your weekend, you are asked to do two things in your Fourth Day:

- (1) Expand your inner spiritual life through study and church participation, and
- (2) Become a more active witness for Christ in your daily life.

An effective Fourth Day is the fulfillment of the Via de Cristo method. It is the tree that produces the fruit.

Via de Cristo offers two ongoing means of perseverance:

Ultreya-

Meetings of the local community for encouragement, fellowship, and study.

Reunion Groups-

Small groups of men or women who meet regularly for a short period to help one another in their quest for spiritual development.

Participation in these two groups is a voluntary part of Via de Cristo and is strongly encouraged.

Getting Involved with GN!VdC

There are many opportunities to serve. If you are willing to serve on a team, please go to our website at: www.gnvdc.org and log-in, go to "update your profile", and select yes or no next to the question "willing to serve". This will then be updated in our database. Also on our website is a "team availability survey" which is posted in the community page. Maybe you are not able to serve on a team but would like to help out in some way. Below are some ways you can

Weekend help –

- † Palanca - Prayer Banner
- † Palanca - Personal Letters
- † Pre-weekend setup
- † Post-weekend tear-down
- † Attend Send Off
- † Attend Clausura
- † Attend Serenade
- † Food Donations
- † Table Decoration
- † Help Wash Dishes
- † Sponsor Someone
- † Make a Monetary Donation

Year Round help –

- † Contacting new participants
- † Considering organizing a Ultreya at your Church
- † Become a parish rep
- † Start a new reunion group
- † Website/Programming
- † Help with the newsletter
- † Serve as a Parish Rep
- † Write a personal testimony for the newsletter

For More Information, Contact Jason or Tammy Nordbeck at
(888) 468-3295 or email: communications@gnvdc.org

Get The News Out!



We have new Good News! Via de Cristo brochures, Pastor and Congregational informational booklets, a 12 minute DVD, Posters for the church bulletin board with upcoming Via de Cristo weekend dates, and people that are willing to come to your church and let them know what Via de Cristo is all about! If you need any materials or are interested in a temple talk, you can e-mail Angie Colbeck at accolbeck@comcast.net or call (734) 453-3105. †

God is Crazy About You

God even knows how many hairs are on your head.

Matthew 10:30

There are many reasons God saves you: to bring glory to himself, to appease his justice, to demonstrate his sovereignty. But one of the sweetest reasons God saved you is because he is fond of you. He likes having you around. He thinks you are the best thing to come down the pike in quite a while...

If God had a refrigerator, your picture

would be on it. If he had a wallet, your photo would be in it. He sends you flowers every spring, and a sunrise every morning. Whenever you want to talk, he'll listen. He can live anywhere in the universe, and he chose your heart...

Face it friend.
He's crazy about you.

—Max Lucado

Taken From: **A Gentle Thunder**

Find us on



If you haven't joined already, Facebook is a great way to connect and share with friends. We have a facebook group, and we'd love you to join.



Search for :
Good News! Via de Cristo

Upcoming Events

Fall Weekend

Men's Weekend # 53

October 10-13, 2013

Bethel Lutheran Church

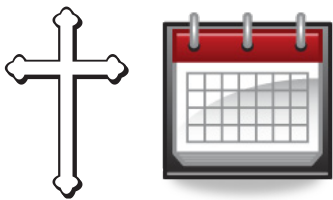
St. Clair Shores, MI

Women's Weekend #53

October 17-20, 2013

Bethel Lutheran Church

St. Clair Shores, MI



Deadlines for Weekend #53 applications: (10 days before the weekend OR earlier if full)

*Men's— October 1, 2013

*Women's— October 7

Please mail or fax application to :

P.O. Box 549

Sylvania, OH 43560

(888) 468-3295 Phone

(888) 468-3295 fax

Applications are available on our website:

www.gnvdc.org/

Want to have God's complete and happy attention? Get into a Reunion Group – or a prayer group or a Reunion partnership or whatever can work for you. Connect with your group or partner. Talk about your moment closest to Christ – and you will have God's attention.

Malachi 3.16-17a (NIV) describes God's response to this kind of conversation: *"Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in His presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored His Name. 'They will be mine,' says the Lord Almighty, 'in the day when I take up my treasured possession...'"*

Malachi was speaking to a generation that had

Pastor's Corner

turned its back on God. Cynicism and arrogance ruled the day. Even the religious leaders had grown indifferent. But there were faithful men and women who still gathered together and, when they were together, they "honored His Name." They spoke of God's goodness and love, of His mercy and kindness.

Sure, they were living in troubled times, but they wholeheartedly believed in the goodness of God. Not just believed, but they spoke of that goodness to each other and God heard every word. What gets translated into English as "listened and heard" is a single Hebrew word meaning "listened with great attention."

We not only encourage

each other as we speak of those moments when we have felt God's closeness. Our words delight God, too, and He watches with pleasure as that moment of conversation is recorded for eternity. Stay alert to those moments close to Christ. Continue to speak of God's goodness and love to each other. God is listening – and the servants of His heaven are ready to write something down.

Pastor Kathy Meyers
GNVDC #8

Good Habits

Easy to do the same with your faith. It's tempting just to stay where we got in and never move.

Pick a time in the not-to-distant past. A year ago or two. Now ask yourself a few questions. How does your prayer life today compare with then? How about your giving? Have both the amount and the joy increased? What about your

church loyalty? Can you tell you've grown? And Bible study? Are you learning to learn?

Don't make the mistake of the little boy. Don't stay too close to where you got in. It's risky resting on the edge.

—Max Lucado

Taken from : *When God Whispers Your Name*

So let us go on to grown-up teaching. Let us not go back over the beginning lessons we learned about Christ.

Hebrews 6:1

I like the story of the little boy who fell out of bed. When his mom asked him what happened, he answered, "I don't know. I guess I stayed too close to where I got in."

PALANCA, PALANCA, AND MORE PALANCA

Palanca is sacrificial prayer. This sacrificial prayer can take many forms in doing a part of helping with any GNVDC Weekend. You can help with any of these ways to show the Participants that many are praying and caring about them during their 3 day Weekend.

One of the best ways to do Palanca is to sign up to pray for one or more 30 minutes segments during the 72 hours that any GNVDC Weekend is going on. You can sign up at www.3dayol.org. Go to Prayer Vigil. Find Good News! Via de Cristo. You can then click on the date of either the Men's or Women's Weekend. You can then click on the time slot that you would like to sign up for. You are asked to give your name, city, state, and country. This information is used to make up a Prayer Banner that is presented to the Participants by the Team on Friday afternoon during the "Grace In Action" Rollo. Each time slot has name of the

person praying for the Weekend on one sheet of colored paper. Each paper is taped together to make a long banner. This is displayed around the Rollo Room for the rest of the Weekend. The Participants can visually see that Prayer surrounds them the entire 72 hours of their Weekend. For those that do not have computer access, you can get someone else to sign up for you, sign up on a hard copy available at Ultreyas and Team Meetings.

Another way you can show Participants that you are praying for them, is to send a note or letter to the Weekend. The Participants are given large envelopes with notes/letters from the Team, Sponsors, their family members, and the GNVDC Community. These notes/letters can be brought to Send-off and/or Serenade. I have had some snail mailed to me and delivered to the weekend: P.O. Box 549 Sylvania, OH 43560.

You can send small trinkets that can be given to Participants during the Weekend.

These are given to the Participants on their beds, at meals in Dining Room, or at tables in Rollo Room. Sometimes these trinkets are given by individuals, sometimes they are given by Reunion Groups.

You can also help with food donations and/or Dining Room table decorations. You can sign up to donate food through the website: gnvdc.org or contact Kitchen Chairs, Alan & Lynn McGowen.

These are some ideas about how you can pray and encourage the Participants on the Weekend. Remember how special all of these gifts of love and the knowledge that so many were praying for you was for you as a Participant. Remember you can participate in giving of Palanca whether you are working the Weekend or not. You are an important part of the GNVDC Community!

Karen Warsop,

WNC #32

Palanca Chair



Being a parent in Your 4th day

How did you face your 4th day? Did you feel out of place in the “real world”? Did you feel like a different person? A different friend? A different employee?

If you are a parent, did you feel like a different parent?

Jason and I were blessed to be a part of weekend #46 in Ottawa Lake. When we came home to start our 4th day, our four children were between 22 months and 9 years old. Parenting was a full time commitment, and obviously one that could not escape the change in direction that the weekend caused in our life.

We have always taught our children about Jesus. What the weekend changed was our understanding of Grace. That can be a difficult thing to process in a parent/young child relationship. If a child consistently does NOT follow their parent's instruction, should we meet every error with grace? Do we demonstrate the unconditional love of God by allowing our children to make their own choices and offer them grace over and over and over?

Proverbs 22:6 tells us “Train a child up in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”. The Bible instructs us to train the child in the Way. Simply put, we are here to guide our child, and also to instill in them the path they are to take.

Today, I had two of our kids at the store. The cashier mentioned to me how nice the kids were. I started a conversation with her about intentionally parenting them to be nice. (I didn't notice until I got back to the van that I was wearing a shirt emblazoned with “Jesus is my everything”).

We try to show grace to our kiddos, just as Jesus shows it to us daily. We are all sinners, and we rely on God to show us mercy and grace and bring us back into the fold. Our kids need this understanding of grace. That a wrong turn isn't the end of the world.

It's the essence of the weekend. The pure love, the mercy, the grace and acceptance. Awesome. But then real life hits with school busses, lunches to pack, laundry to do, and work to

get done. And somehow we miss the grace.

Grace needs to be our priority. It's God's. And who are we to second guess Him? So, we parent like He does. Showing the right way, and teaching them to follow. But when they veer off, and they will, we act as a gentle cheerleader and guide them back. Showing God's grace again and again. Forgiving them when they hurt us, and apologizing when our actions hurt them.

GNVdC has changed our parenting. And I would LOVE to say that we are now perfect parents. But there are four small people who might say otherwise. We make mistakes everyday. Every day, we take the wrong turn, over and over. But it's ok. With the King of Grace as our Father, we have confidence to try again and so will our kids. GLYASDWe!

Tammy Nordbeck
GNVdC #46



Congratulations to our Fall Rectors for Weekend #53

Men's Rector

Kevin DeHetre

Weekend #37

Women's Rector

Karen Warsop

WNC #32



Please pray for our new Rectors as they devote so much of their time and talents preparing for this special weekend.

Good News! VdC is Hosting the NLS Annual meeting in 2016!!!

GN!VdC Secretariat recently voted to host the National Lutheran Secretariat (NLS) Annual Meeting in July of 2016. So what does this mean? First, this is a great honor to served the larger VDC community. It will take many volunteers to host, offers an opportunity for wonderful fellowship, and a time to learn and share what others are doing.

The purpose of the NLS Annual Meeting is four-fold:

- (1) Its a gathering of delegates from all member secretariats to conduct necessary business of the NLS.
- (2) It is to learn and share. This may be accomplished through forums, workshops, seminars, small groups and/or guest speakers.
- (3) It is to hold true to and teach the basic fundamentals, while visioning for the future as we change and grow, while maintaining continuity.
- (4) It assists the hosting secretariat in furthering its own movement and developing its' leadership in a non monetary way.

Here are some of the hosting secretariat Responsibilities:

- (1) To obtain a contract
- (2) To provide housing
- (3) Provide meals for all attendees

- (4) To provide space for the annual meeting
- (5) To host the mid-year NLSEB Meeting
- (6) To provide equipment
- (7) To handle all funds received
- (8) To provide transportation
- (9) To provide maps

So you might be asking yourself "how can I help?" There are many jobs that will need filled. On our website www.gnvdc.org/community is a link to the entire guidelines for hosting a NLS Annual meeting, in detail. Here are some highlights of some positions that will need filled. Each chairperson may have several sub-committees.

- † General Chairperson
- † Assistant/Co-Chairperson(s)
- † Spiritual Director(s)
- † Treasurer
- † Secretary/Record Keeper
- † Registration/Housing
- † Meal Liaison
- † Facilities/Physical Arrangements
- † Communications Audio/Visual
- † Hospitality
- † Transportation
- † Music

† Palanca

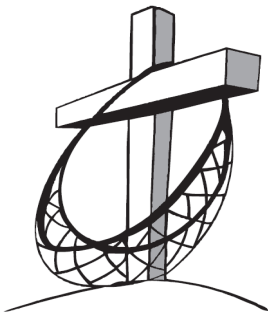
† Public Relations/ Fund Raising

We will need approximately a minimum of 30 people in advance with an additional 30-45 people on site during the week-end. Please pray about whether you are feeling lead to step up and help out. If you are interested contact: Phil Meuser, Lay Director
(419) 842-0507 or email laydirector@gnvdc.org †



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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.

Fall Weekend #53 Events

Join Us!

Mark your calendar for the upcoming events for the Men's and Women's GN!VDC #53. For maps and more information, go to our website at www.gnvdc.org

Men's Weekend #53

October 10-13, 2013

Bethel Lutheran Church

St. Clair Shores, MI

Set-up

Wednesday, Oct. 9

7:00 pm

Send off

Thursday, Oct. 10

7:30 pm

Serenade

Saturday, Oct. 12

6:00 pm

Clausura & Clean-up

Sunday, Oct. 13

4:30 pm

Women's Weekend #53

October 17-20, 2013

Bethel Lutheran Church

St. Clair Shores, MI

Set-up

Wednesday, Oct. 16

7:00 pm

Send off

Thursday, Oct. 17

7:30 pm

Serenade

Saturday, Oct. 19

6:00 pm

Clausura & Clean-up

Sunday, Oct. 20

4:30 pm