



*Via de Cristo of Ohio Newsletter*  
*Affiliated with the National Lutheran Secretariat*

# *De Colores!*

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VOLUME 39, ISSUE 3

April 7, 2018

## **A Message from VdC National Spiritual Director**

I pray this finds you still filled with joy and hope after just having lived through another Resurrection Day. I pray that your day spent in worship and with family and friends will carry through today and every day this week. But here's what I know: we're back at work... we're back at school... we're back to our daily routines and Easter's event, though grand and spectacular, is going to have to stay there because we have things to do... places to go... people to see... and we have no time to waste. Oh, we won't forget about the Resurrection, but it won't be the highlight as it was that Sunday.

Today, in my Bible reading, I was reading of Joshua taking the people of Israel over the Jordan River to get to Jericho and the Promised Land (Joshua 3-5). What caught my eye, and made my mind spin, was God telling Joshua to take a man from each of the 12 tribes of Israel and have them pick up a boulder from the middle of the Jordan River and bring it with them to shore. Then they were to set them up, one of top of the other, and make a memorial. And here's what Joshua said to them...

"Let this be a sign among you, so that when your children ask later, saying, 'What do these stones mean to you?' then you shall say to them, 'Because the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD... these stones shall become a memorial to the sons of Israel forever.'" Joshua 4:6-7

That heap of stones was to be a talk piece for family and friends as they were reminded of the great things God had done for them as they entered the Promised Land.

Well, it seems to me that we might not have a heap of stones to talk about, but we certainly have a stone to talk about after Easter's events. You know, that big one that was rolled in front of Jesus' tomb and sealed, with soldiers stationed around it to keep anyone from stealing the body of Jesus. Ya, that stone!

That stone which took quite a few men to put into place but only One to move it aside. That stone that protected the Lord's body for three days. That stone that obeyed it's Creator's voice and made way for the coming out of the Risen King.

You see, Resurrection Day is not over. It should never be over in our lives. We should still be talking about it. If we don't, I know another group of stones that will - they will cry out.

Here's my word of encouragement for you today: Resurrection Day is only over if you want it to be over. But it is the greatest day in history. It's why you can celebrate. Jesus is not here! He has risen! Who you going to tell?

Father,

Don't allow me to keep the Resurrection of my Savior all to myself - they stone reminds me of that. Jesus in Your name I ask this, Amen.

Rev. Dr. MM Marxhausen

## A Letter from Sharon Gsellman, Rector of Co-Ed Weekend #3 In the Light

The theme of every Via de Cristo Weekend is the Amazing Grace of God.

In the Light of Grace, we desire to live lives of discipleship. We long to “Walk in the light” because God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. (1 John 1:5-9) In our world darkness abounds. We know so many hurting, lost people. We see evil in many forms. The beloved of God want to “Walk in the Light” and be used as reflections of His transforming Grace.

Here in N.E. Ohio, Spring has arrived as a calendar date only. Today, the gray skies once again shower us with snow. We wait with eager longing for Spring’s light, its warmth, its color.

In much the same way, the Spring Co-Ed Weekend has a spot on the calendar. Team members have been praying and working by the light of the Holy Spirit with faithful expectation that once again all of the Holy Spirit’s Light, Warmth, and Color will permeate yet another weekend.

Spring will arrive naturally according to God’s timing. But, a Spring VdC weekend will only come by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in Pilgrim hearts and by the Ohio VdC Community, working in the light of the Holy Spirit to invite and support.

Thank you for working together with the Lord to love His Pilgrims! We walk together in His light!

GLYASDI, Sharon Gsellman

*Walk in the Light* 1 John 1:5-9

Thursday and Friday, May 3 and 4, 2018	Saturday, May 5	Sunday, May 6
Thursday--Pilgrims arrive at Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Newark at 7:00 pm Send-Off at 7:30 pm	Study 9:05 AM Day in the Life /Sacraments 10:20 AM Apostolic Action 1:20 PM Obstacles to Grace 3:00 PM Leaders 4:20 PM Serenade Practice 5:30 PM (Solarium of Center— Chas will guide you From front door) Serenade 6:15 PM	Gather in Dining Room QUIETLY!! Wake-Up Serenade 6:00 AM Environment 9:05 AM Life in Grace 9:55 AM CCA 11:15 AM Group Reunion and Ultreya 1:05 PM Clausura (Closing) 5:00 PM Chapel of Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center
Friday Ideal 9:50 AM Habitual Grace 11:05 AM Laity 1:25 PM Actual Grace 2:25 PM Piety 4:15 PM		

Men and women are invited to VdC Co-ed Weekend #3. **They may be couples or individuals.** Housing will be in rooms for two with twin beds (one couple or two women or two men per room) with bathrooms. Rooms are upstairs, but no elevator. Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center is between Newark and Heath. Its address is 2734 Seminary Rd, Heath, OH 43056. All activities, including Serenade practice and Closing, will be on the property.

Pilgrim and Sponsor forms are attached for you to print for US Mailing to Registrar Kevin Hoch at 2691 Altura Drive, Cincinnati 45239, phone 513-931-8797. If you prefer to submit them electronically, go to the website [www.vdcoho.org](http://www.vdcoho.org) to find the forms. **PLEASE REGISTER PILGRIMS BY THURSDAY APRIL 26** so final count can go to Retreat Center.

## Via de Cristo Co-ed Weekend #3 Team

Rectora	Sharon Gsellman	Resurrection Lutheran (LCMC), Stow, OH
Head Cha	Robert Gsellman	Resurrection Lutheran (LCMC), Stow, OH
SD-Female	Rev. Laurel Bobb	Resurrection Lutheran (LCMC), Stow, OH
SD-Male	Rev. Doug Fidler	Trinity Lutheran (ELCA), Kent, OH
Music Cha	Jen Briner	Living Word (LCMS), Galena, OH
Palanca Cha	Mary Crooks	Bedford Presbyterian, Bedford, Pennsylvania
Chapel Cha	C.J. Salamon	Resurrection Lutheran (LCMC), Stow, OH
Ideal	Doug Hertlein	Peace (Evangelical Free Lutheran Church) Canal Winchester, OH
Laity	Margaret Meagher	Trinity Lutheran (ELCA), Kent, OH
Piety	Jon Paul	St. Stephen Lutheran (ELCA), Stow, OH
Study	Lori Hertlein	Peace Evangelical Free Lutheran Church Canal Winchester, OH
Action	Judy Junker	Divinity Lutheran (ELCA), Parma Hts., OH
Leaders	Paul Crooks	Bedford Presbyterian, Bedford, Pennsylvania
Environment	VK Ziegler	Emmanuel Lutheran (ELCA), N. Georgetown, OH
Christian Community in Action (CCA)	Andrea Anderson	Trinity Lutheran (ELCA), Girard, OH
Head Rollo Room Cha	Jane Koch	St. Stephen Lutheran (ELCA), Stow, OH
Rollo Rm Cha #1	Kevin Larkins	St. Paul Lutheran (LCMC), Clyde, OH
Rollo Rm Cha #2	Ray Olson	Tallmadge Lutheran (LCMS), Tallmadge, OH
Rollo Rm Cha #3	Paul Sakala	St. Paul Lutheran (ELCA), Bellville, OH
Rollo Rm Cha #4	Susan Weber	Jackson Friends Church, Massillon, OH
Head EO Cha(Essential Other Cha)	Lynn Steffey	Redeemer Lutheran (LCMS), Cuyahoga Falls, OH
EO Cha (female)	Vicky Sakala	St. Paul Lutheran (ELCA), Bellville, OH
EO Cha(male)	Zane Ziegler	Emmanuel Lutheran (ELCA), N. Georgetown, OH
EO Cha-(male) Go-Fer	Sandy Mueller	Northside Fellowship (Presbyterian) Westerville, OH
Fourth Day Couple	Dave and Jackie Lann	Trinity Lutheran (ELCA), Kent, OH

For assistance to find or form a Reunion Group for your Pilgrim—or yourself—contact Fourth Day shepherd Dave Lann, [vdclann@yahoo.com](mailto:vdclann@yahoo.com) or 330-296-6929. He can look in the VdC Archive for names of people in your area and give you their most recent contact information. But some of the info in the Archive is out of date. If you know people who haven't received a Newsletter or heard from a VdC friend in a while, please send their new contact information to **Secretariat Webmaster and Data Collector Christine Brill** ([goosebrill@msn.com](mailto:goosebrill@msn.com) or 614-579-8586), or Newsletter Editor Nancy Martin (419-886-4420) or [vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com](mailto:vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com)).

**I don't know all the possible ways that Christ is counting on you and you on Him. But I would love to hear your version, to share with others in the VdC Community.** Contact me at [vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com](mailto:vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com) or 419-886-4420 or 4025 Andrews Rd., Bellville, 44813. Nancy Martin, Editor

*If you know of a Cursillista who has recently entered the Church Triumphant, please let Christine Brill know [(614) 899-7429 or [goosebrill@msn.com](mailto:goosebrill@msn.com)] so that we can honor their memory as well as update our records.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Co-Ed Weekend #3** May 3-6, 2018 at St. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Newark

Rector Sharon Gsellman and Head Cha Bob Gsellman (330-688-4965 or [sagsellman@gmail.com](mailto:sagsellman@gmail.com))

**Annual Meeting of Via de Cristo Ohio** Saturday June 23, afternoon

Mt. Gilead State Park Pavilion and campsite

Worship, business meeting with election of officers, covered dish lunch

Burgers & dogs, drinks and paper products provided

Games for kids and adults, s'mores and songs

Morning golf outing and overnight camping for any who choose

Details, times and address in upcoming Newsletters

**Clergy Experience #3** Monday October 1-Thursday October 4, 2018

St. Peter and St. Paul Retreat Center, Newark

Rector Dick Brenneman (740-398-4664 or [dbbrenneman@gmail.com](mailto:dbbrenneman@gmail.com)) and Spiritual Director Pr. Doug Pretorius

Invite some Pastors to introduce them to Via de Cristo methodology and to love on them and show them Grace.

**Further information for ALL of these will be in upcoming Newsletters**

If you would like to be part of a Team, contact the Rector or Lay Director Butch Seeley (514-332-1357)!!!

Hello 4th Day Community,

I hope your Fourth Day Walk has been a blessed one. I have reached out before to get info for Reunion Groups across the state. I have about twenty groups on a list. The reason for this info is so people who move into our area or those who are no longer in a group can contact me and I can look into finding a group for them in their general area.

This is not to see who is grouping or not. It is part of Via De Cristo's Ideal. It can be very beneficial to be in a group of brothers or sisters in Christ to be there for you in time of need or to help keep your daily walk strong.

If you're not in a group and would like to be in one, contact me and I will see what I can do for you. Those already in groups: please contact me with your group name, where you meet plus city, day, time and if you have room for more.

The second thing is the upcoming Co-ed Weekend. There are opportunities to be involved. There is Prayer Palanca, money Palanca ( to help cover the cost for the weekend ), Send off, Serenade and the Closing. Look elsewhere in the newsletter for this information as for times or contacts.

Another thing you can do is sponsor someone. Lately the trend seems to be for the Team to sponsor the majority of the pilgrims. Remember when you received your cross on your weekend? On the back of that cross it says "Christ is counting on you." If all the active people in VdC would sponsor a pilgrim every few years, we would have a waiting list for the Weekends.

Community needs to be active for these Weekends to be successful. Do you know Christian leaders (even if they do not yet know they're leaders)? Pray about them to God, contact their pastor to make sure there isn't an issue they're dealing with, then invite them to a weekend. Make sure Kevin gets the paperwork sooner than later. When we procrastinate we cause a lot of frustration to the team. They need to work out all the logistics for the weekend but it's hard to do without having the information on the pilgrims. **CHRIST IS COUNTING ON YOU!**

God Bless,

Dave Lann [vdclann@yahoo.com](mailto:vdclann@yahoo.com) 330-296-6929

**Editor's note:** The goal of Via de Cristo is to strengthen people of faith and to equip people of faith to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in their environments. That takes on many forms! Most Cursillistas (that means people who've been on a VdC Weekend as Pilgrims) become more active in their churches; many start new groups such as for Bible study or teaching children or serving their community; some boldly witness to strangers on the street or in a store; some become Christian mentors to family members or co-workers. They often stay connected to VdC through Reunion Groups and/or Ultreyas. Some become very active as Team members or Secretariat members. Some stay connected with the Website ([www.vdcoho.org](http://www.vdcoho.org)), on Facebook or by reading the Newsletter. Most value their connection by prayer.

### A Message from Pr. Gaston, VdC Ohio Spiritual Director

As I get older it seems like I have a lot more questions than I do answers. I have a feeling that I am not alone with that. When it comes to matters of faith, it is often a tension between what I know for sure and what seems to be categorized by the thought, "it seems to be too good to be true."

On Easter morning, Peter, James, John, the two Marys, and all the other disciples were filled with confusion, despair, fear, grief, and oh so many questions about what just happened in the past week and in particular what had taken place on Friday, Saturday, and then Sunday. What did it all mean? What will happen next? Oh so many questions. They just didn't know what to make of it.

Faith often feels fragile and very uncertain. We need a lot of reassuring about what to believe and whom to trust. It helps to know others believe what we do. It helps to have other people of faith walk alongside of us through this journey of life. Our faith is renewed when we worship together, pray together, serve together. We share our faith stories as we live in Christian community.

Our pastor told us on Easter Sunday that we might have our own doubts wondering whether the Resurrection was real. He said that in that way we are not all that different from those first witnesses on Easter morning. He suggested that we take some quiet time to read the Gospel accounts again and then reflect and observe the ways we see God working in our lives today. Perhaps that way we may become aware of Christ's presence with us.

One of my favorite Easter stories is the one when Jesus walked along with two disciples on their way to Emmaus. They didn't know it was Jesus. After all what they knew was that Jesus died on Friday. Jesus talked with them about all that had taken place. He opened the scriptures to them trying to help them understand what had happened.

When they arrived in Emmaus the two disciples invited Jesus to stay with them for the night. As they were gathered for the evening meal Jesus prayed and suddenly they recognized who this stranger was. Jesus was not dead. He was alive. Their faith was renewed and restored.

In VDC we have many opportunities to share our life stories of faith with each other. Whether as a pilgrim, or serving on a weekend team, attending an Ulterya, or meeting with a reunion brother or sister we help build each other up in the faith. In those ways we are drawn closer to the Risen Christ and to each other. We still may have many more questions than answers but together we can discover all the faith we need.

GLYASDI. Pastor G. Karl Gaston

VdC Prayer Chain is [prayingforvdc@gmail.com](mailto:prayingforvdc@gmail.com) or by phone at 419-884-1573. Vicky Sakala is Prayer Chain Cha.

If you know someone from the Via de Cristo Community who has changed their street address or email address or telephone number, or does not get the VdCNewsletter but would like to, please send the new information to Newsletter Editor Nancy Martin at 419-886-4420 or [vdsnewsletterohio@gmail.com](mailto:vdsnewsletterohio@gmail.com) or 4025 Andrews Road, Bellville, OH 44813.



**Via de Cristo of Ohio is now on Facebook!**

We hope you will "like" our new Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/viadecristooh>

Get on the Web – Ohio Via de Cristo [www.vdcoho.org](http://www.vdcoho.org)

National Via de Cristo Website [www.viadecristo.org](http://www.viadecristo.org)

Kairos Website [www.kairosohio.org](http://www.kairosohio.org)

**Weekend Orientation Now A Part of Team Meeting!**

Your Secretariat this year has been discussing Weekend Orientation (formerly Leader’s School) for several months. Attendance at recent Weekend Orientations has been down--only one person attended the last session held in September, 2017.

At the first team meeting, a “Weekend Orientation” was held for all team members of Co-Ed #3. The two-hour-plus session included a power point presentation about all VdC Weekends and was well received by the team members. Three of the team had never attended Weekend Orientation and were a part of the session. We reviewed all facets of the weekend and all present, from those who have only worked one team, to the seasoned veterans who have been on many weekends, gave positive feedback about the training. “It was a great reminder to all of us who have worked in various positions how the weekend flows,” said one veteran.

Previously, Secretariat has said only those who have attended Leaders’ School/Weekend Orientation may be called to be team members. We realize this new process makes a lot of sense for the future development of Weekend teams and simplifies calling people to be on teams.

Dick Brenneman  
Rector and Weekend Orientation Leader

**Message from VdC Ohio Music Adviser Jen Briner**

As I am preparing for the upcoming co-ed weekend, I am playing a lot of the new music I previously mentioned. So with a little twist of irony, I am going to write about a song that's been around for a long time!

Many of you might not know this but I work as a part time music teacher at a Christian preschool. I love that this song feels like a favorite with the VdC crowd and the 3 year old crowd. I am speaking of "This Little Light of Mine", of course! Written for children in the 1920's by Harry Dixon Loes, it was later adapted by Zilphia Horten for the Civil Rights movement. The song is famously tied to Civil Rights leader, Fannie Lou Hamer who, while being detained by police on her way back from registering to vote with members of her community, began singing this song in protest. It became one of the defining features of her activism.

The theme of this upcoming weekend is "Light".  
 Are we going to let it shine? Yes!  
 Are we going to hide it under a bushel? No, we are going to let it shine.  
 Are we going to let Satan blow it out? No, we are going to let it shine.  
 Are we going to shine our light around the world? Yes!

Jesus' light living and shining in us. Seen by a hurting world that is living in darkness. So what are we going to do about it?

Let it shine, let it shine, let in shine!  
 God loves you and so do I,  
 Jen Briner

**Secretariat**

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## Ultreya News

Remember, Ultreyas are open to everyone, whether they've made a VdC Weekend or not.

### Cincinnati Area

Cincinnati area Ultreyas are usually the first Saturday of each month at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mt. Healthy. Address is 1553 Kinney Avenue, Cincinnati 45231. Please call Kevin Hoch, 513-931-8797, for the time.

### Stow Area Ultreya

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 3725 Kent Road, will host an Ultreya in the **spring of 2018**.  
There will be worship, Holy Communion, a short talk and discussion.  
Dinner and child care are provided, but please bring your Song Book, Pilgrim's Guide and name tag.  
For questions, call Jane Koch, 330-688-0581, or Cathy Doering, 330-239-0027.

### Bellville Area Ultreyas

Bellville Ultreyas will be the **second Sundays of January, April, July and October at 3:00pm**  
St. Paul Lutheran Church, 48 Church Street, Bellville 44813.  
There will be Worship, Holy Communion, and Potluck with table service and drinks provided.  
Call Ken & Josie Riling, 419-886-2437, or Paul & Vicky Sakala, 419-884-1573 for questions.

### Parma/Cleveland Area

The next Ultreya will be in **October of 2018** in the Chapel of Divinity Lutheran Church, 11877 Blossom Avenue, Parma Heights, 44130. We have a small group Bible Study led by Pastor Doug Gunkelman and Holy Communion with Potluck to follow. Bring a dish to share. Meat will be provided. All are invited. See future Newsletters for information.  
Call Leslie Crowe at [leslie.crowe@aol.com](mailto:leslie.crowe@aol.com), 440-263-4552 or Judy Junker at [JudyJJunkmail@aol.com](mailto:JudyJJunkmail@aol.com), 440-537-0867 with any questions. God loves you and so do we.

### North Dayton Ultreyas

**usually the third Saturdays of every month** at 7pm at the United Christian Church, 8611 Hoke Rd, Clayton, OH 45315. (Bring snack to share.) For questions, please call Wes Scoates at 937 533-7605.

### COLUMBUS ULTREYA

**Once each quarter in 2018**, there will be an Ultreya at All Shepherds Lutheran Church,  
6580 Columbus Pike [RT 23], Lewis Center, Ohio. 43035.  
For more information contact Warren [614.332.1357](tel:614.332.1357) or Wendy [614.332.1352](tel:614.332.1352) Seeley.

### KENT Area Ultreyas

Ultreyas in the **Akron-Kent area** of Ohio are often the **third Saturday of a month** at Trinity Lutheran Church, 600 S. Water Street at 4:30 pm. There will be Worship with Holy Communion, a topic for discussion, and potluck will follow with table service and drinks provided. For more information, please call Dave Lann, 330-296-6929, or Pr. Doug Fidler, 330-673-5445.

Contact Lay Director Warren "Butch" Seeley with your interest in serving on Secretariat.

Contact 4<sup>th</sup> Day Shepherd Dave Lann to reach people in your area of Ohio to encourage them for Reunion Groups and Ultreyas.

Secretariat meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month. You are welcome to attend. Contact Lay Direct Butch Seeley for the place of each meeting. For 2017, they will be in person at 10am in March, May, July, September and November. They will be by conference call at 10am in February, April, June, August and October.