



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

De Colores!

VOLUME 32, ISSUE 9

September 1, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Since we have covered Piety and Study in previous newsletters, the next topic will be Action. What is your action for the Lord? We are sent out to make Christ known as stated in John 20:31 *“As the Father has sent me, so I send you”*. Have you witnessed to someone this week? Have you shared someone’s burden? What service have you done for the Lord? Remember, we are not called to be successful, we are called to be faithful and to treat others with the Grace of Christ as it has been extended to us.

Does your reunion group plan activities? Do you all socialize together? Do you hold each other accountable? These are all questions that continue to help us in our Fourth Day.

Everything that happens is a part of our Fourth Day and having the Lord to walk with us is beyond price. Last year, we were devastated when our Daughter living in San Diego told us her husband wanted a divorce. We loved our daughter and our son-in-law but things happened and he wanted out. Many of you know of the struggle they had with the planning and having their wedding, not to mention getting the military to recognize that they did indeed get married. But last summer, Charli moved back home. I am sure this never occurred to her that at 27, she would be coming home to live with her parents again. No one really chooses these kinds of events but they happen. But I have to be honest-- while I am very sorry that she had to travel down this road of heart-ache, I love having her home. I enjoy spending time with her.

This month we are pleased to start recognizing people who have graciously shared their money with us along with those who made in-kind donations. We all know that team members are very giving of their time to attend the team meetings and actually **pay to work** the weekends. There are many others who send donations to Via de Cristo. There are many who pray for our movement and the secretariat. All of these things are needed – for we cannot do what we do without the help of you in the community. We are also blessed to have some talented people on Secretariat (past and present). We praise God for your willingness to help however you help.

The year is flying by. At times, I just want it to slow down. I just get the books closed for the month at work, and another month end is fast approaching. Where do I see myself in the coming months? How can I use the gifts that Lord has given me, even though at times I feel inadequate for the task at hand. For it is certainly true, with God all things are possible. He has made me a leader just as he has made you one. For many years, I didn’t want to be a leader or even a Christian Leader. The responsibilities are large and the risk is great. Sometimes sacrifices are made to do what the Lord requires. Help is needed at the church level and with many organizations. It can be overwhelming, but if we each do one thing,

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PLEASE NOTE: If you have any questions or suggestions please feel free to call any Secretariat member. Also, anyone from the community is welcome to attend Secretariat meetings.

Via de Cristo of Ohio
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there would be enough volunteers. Please pray about what God wants you to do. We start with one person at a time.

We have a great opportunity coming up on Saturday, October 22. (There is no OSU game that day.) We have a statewide Ultreya planned at Lutheran Memorial Camp near Mt. Gilead. Please invite a friend and come join us. See flyer for some of the information with more information in the October newsletter. Take some time to be with our community for you all are a part of it. For so many of us, the travel time would be an hour or two. Won't you join us?

Consider sending us your faith story to share in the newsletter. When did you realize that God loves you? Was there something that happened to you on the weekend that helped you in your walk as a Christian Leader? Please only write about yourself and not someone else. These stories provide encouragement and hope for all of us. Send your story to Nancy at vdcnewsletterohio@earthlink.net.

Have you encouraged your pastor? Have you touched someone's life? Please send a note to someone – you may never know the power of kind words spoken in Christian love to someone. It can be very short, yet the Holy Spirit will make it powerful. I have seen this in notes that I have sent and received. We can make a difference!

God loves you and so do I!

Cathy Doering
Lay Director – Via de Cristo of Ohio

UPCOMING VIA de CRISTO EVENTS

Event	Scheduled Date	Location	4 Week Cut-Off Date	2 Week Cutoff Date
Men's #70	April 19-22, 2012	Holy Cross Cursillo Center Columbus, Ohio	March 22, 2012	April 5, 2012
Men's #71	October 11-14, 2012	Holy Cross Cursillo Center Columbus, Ohio	September 13, 2012	September 27, 2012
Women's #73	May 17-20, 2012	Holy Cross Cursillo Center Columbus, Ohio	April 29, 2012	May 3, 2012
Women's #74	October 25-28, 2012	Holy Cross Cursillo Center Columbus, Ohio	September 27, 2012	October 11, 2012
LEADERS' SCHOOL September 10, 2011 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM		Hosanna Lutheran Church 7714 Hazelton-Etna Road Southwest Pataskala, OH 43062-8486		Karen Schwartz (740) 964-0324 kls9195@gmail.com
Fall Gathering Grand Ultreya!		October 22, 2011 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM		Lutheran Memorial Outdoor Camp 2790 State Route 61 Fulton OH 43321
Rector/Rectora School	November 5, 2011 (Time TBA) Information in October's newsletter		Hosannah Lutheran Church, Pataskala OH	
Via de Cristo Annual Meeting	January 28, 2012		Information in Upcoming Newsletters	



Upcoming Meeting Dates in OHIO

Bellville	Second Sunday of even-numbered months at 5:30PM	October's meeting will focus on Reunion Groups: their value, renewing existing ones, establishing new ones.	Paul Martin (419) 886-4420 pnmartin1@earthlink.net
Boardman (Youngstown Area)	Held at 7:00 PM on third Saturday of odd-numbered months	Boardman United Methodist Church 6809 Market Street Boardman, OH 44512	Sue Drewette gduzbraille@sbcglobal.net
Cincinnati	Held at 7:30PM on the first Saturday of each month.	Trinity Lutheran Church 1553 Kinney Avenue Mt. Healthy, OH 45231	Kevin Hoch (513) 931-8797 khoch@cinci.rr.com
Clayton	Held at 6:30PM on the third Saturday of each month.	United Christian Church 8611 Hoke Road Clayton, OH 45315	Wes Scoates (937) 837-1683 Scoatesw@aol.com
Columbus	Further information forthcoming	Linden Lutheran Church 1230 Oakland Avenue Columbus, OH 43224	Donna Gough (614) 948-3833 goughdonna@aol.com
Dayton	Held at 7:00PM on the second Saturday of each month.	Abiding Christ Lutheran Church 326 East Dayton-Yellow Springs Road Fairborn, OH 45324	Ann Hughes (937) 431-1087 amhughes722@sbcglobal.net
Western Reserve – Seven Hills	Held at 7:00PM on the second Saturday of each month.	Seven Hills United Methodist Church 7593 Elmhurst Drive Seven Hills, OH 44131	Vince Mallen (440) 257-2235 vince.mallen@yahoo.com
Western Reserve - Mentor	Held at 7:00PM on the fourth Saturday of each month	Mentor United Methodist Church 8600 Mentor Avenue Mentor, OH 44060-5874	Vince Mallen (440) 257-2235 vince.mallen@yahoo.com

GRAND ULTREYA

Ohio Via de Cristo "Return to the Mountaintop" fall gathering/picnic/Ultreya

When: October 22, 2011 from 11:00AM to 4:00PM

Where: Lutheran Memorial Camp
2790 State Rt. 61
Fulton, OH 43321

Pastor Al Sager to speak

There will be bible study and questions as well as worship

Bring: Songbook, name tag, place settings, drinks,

POTLUCK – bring your best dish!

Need Musicians to play songs from our new songbook

Questions: Contact Secretariat members (names listed in Newsletter)

RSVP: Cathy Doering with how many will be coming by October 10.

Cdoering1@aol.com or 330-618-0858

Men's Via de Cristo #69
BECAUSE HE LIVES I CAN FACE TOMORROW

Wow – This was not only the theme for the recent men's weekend – it is a phrase I can't get out of my mind and heart. How about you? Without Jesus in our lives as a living presence today, tomorrow, and eternity are most fearful. With Jesus in our lives as a living presence today, tomorrow, and eternity are peaceful, exciting, and awesome. I heard it over and over again at the closings of the men's and women's weekends. When we are aware of Jesus in our lives we have a purpose and a value. Jesus has work for us to do. Not to save anyone but to be His hands, feet, mouths, and heart to a world that doesn't know Him as Savior and Lord. How awesome is that? It is always interesting to me that during the weekend Jesus is so obvious that we don't want to ever leave that retreat center. In our 4th day if we would only look around us with His eyes we would see still see Jesus at work – just as obvious as He was in those three days of the weekend. The pressures and temptations of the world are constantly trying to divert our attention from Him. Our sinful nature and free will allow us to succumb and lose that awareness of our value and purpose. God has given us tools as gifts to safeguard our relationship but we must persevere. Our service sheet, Group Reunion, and Ultreya are just a few tools that are available to us. The Bible, Prayer, Worship, Witness, and resisting the Devil are other tools that God has provided. Tools don't work, however, unless they are used. Let's pray brothers and sisters that we are striving to constantly build God's kingdom in our own lives and show others what they could have, also. We have some weekends planned in the future and God has prepared the hearts of many to experience them. We must not wait until just before the weekend to invite them. We can get commitments from pilgrims NOW. We must be out there doing our Father's business. Let's see if we can fill the future weekends and create a waiting list. Jesus is doing His part in providing the pilgrims – we must do our part in finding and inviting them. Don't be fearful – **BECAUSE HE LIVES..... GLYASDI!**

Barney Rowe, Rector
 Men's Weekend #69

Women's Via de Cristo #72
"You are the light of the world." Matt. 5:14

These three days just glowed from the start with the light of Christ. The pilgrims called to attend #72 ranged in age from 21 - 85. Talk about an intergenerational gathering of women! They also came from 8 different religious denominations, a fact that reminds me that it is all about Grace through Faith and not about religion. There were tears, laughter and transformations happening all at once. "Surely the presence of the Lord was in this place."

From the Rector's seat I actually saw and experienced the body of Christ. I Corinthians 12:12 states "The body is one unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all of its parts are many, they form one body. So, it is with Christ." This and the remaining verses of chapter 12 came to life before my very eyes as I watched the servanthood of the team and the transformation of the pilgrims.

My prayer is that each of you remember that you are the light of the world and when all of our lights are assembled into the body of Christ, we just glow brightly for His Glory and shine continually to serve as Christ's hands and feet in this world.

Lovingly Serving and Shining for Christ,

Jane Koch, Rector
 Women's Via de Cristo #72

2011 Donations

We are pleased to recognize those who generously supported Via de Cristo of Ohio to date this year – these were monetary donations (not team money, registrations or in-kind donations).

Ruth Lindsay	Mary Ervin	Cathy Doering
Susan Smith	Kathleen Medley	Mary McGinnis
Pastor Doug Pretorius	Melinda Caspary	Patricia Kruz
Clarice Soppe		

Community of Living Word Lutheran Church – Galena
Community of Hosanna Lutheran Church – Pataskala

Many of you contribute by donating meals at the meetings, team dinners on Thursday nights before the weekends, Saturday night dinners for the weekends or items that we gratefully use on weekends (example – aprons, picture printing, Pilgrim's Guide or songbook covers, etc). All these items are considered in kind donations but our weekends could not happen without them. Here is the list of those who helped:

VK Ziegler	Ron Craig	Brian Kuntz	Jane Hecht
Barney Rowe	Ralph & Beth Minton	Stewart Smith	Jean Byce
Jane Koch	Fran Dieter	Dan Brill	Dee Fraser
Melinda Bratton	Beth Reynolds	Karen Lindsey	Barb Hamblin
Jon Paul	Dan Steffey	Judy Pech	Diane Daugherty
Mike Yaquinto	Dave Lann	Joan Conaway	Charlotte Wilson
Bob Dieter	Larry Bratton	Chuck Conaway	Jim Wilson
Barb Bratton	Tom Martalla	Sherry Petrosky	Doug Hertlein
Matt Gyulai	Adam Gsellman	Demi Wiper	Lori Hertlein
Cathy Doering	Bob Gsellman	Emily Hoff	
Donna Gough	Zane Ziegler	Lynn Simmons	

Community of Hosanna Lutheran Church – Pataskala
Community of St. Paul Lutheran Church - Bellville
Community of St. Stephen Lutheran Church – Stow
Community of Resurrection Lutheran Church of the Western Reserve – Stow
Community of Messiah Lutheran Church - Reynoldsburg
Community of Divinity Lutheran Church – Parma Hts.

We are grateful to Bob Dieter and Dave Lann and crew for hauling all the items to the St. Leonard Youth Retreat Center for the Summer weekends. Praise to Joan and Chuck Conaway for the use of their truck for this endeavor. Everything that we use at the summer weekends has to be brought in. It is very different from the Columbus weekends where the building itself is broken up to use properly.

At Via de Cristo, we are blessed to have people who work the teams and **pay to work**. That list is found in our previous newsletters.

We are very blessed by **All Communities** who had people involved with Send off, Saturday serenade, Prayer Chart Ministers, Wake-up and Closing. All of this, plus palanca items and letters freely given, enables our weekends to show God's Love and Grace to all involved. We thank you all for your efforts. We praise God for your willingness to serve and be Christ's hands and feet and voice.

I apologize if your name was missed. Please forward it to Cathy Doering for future newsletter recognition.

We really are the priesthood of all believers. Praise God for you all!

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

Matthew 13: 31-32

The Kingdom of Heaven is like

- performing small unknown acts of kindness and generosity
- welcoming the stranger
- sharing a meal
- making a child laugh
- helping to heal an old family wound
- being the first to reach out to the one who has wronged you
- paying attention when your spouse needs to share his/her day
- passing the peace even and especially when you don't feel like touching another person
- eating and drinking at the altar with the last person with whom you want to eat and drink at that moment
- listening to the wind blowing through the Ponderosa Pines at the church picnic
- not taking your life for granted and going through the motions
- being thankful for everything God gives you
- being thankful for everything God gives us
- listening for the Holy Spirit, for God's breath in your conversations so your words are not merely your words but are God's words
- rejoicing at all times
- rejoicing at ALL times
- rejoicing in all circumstances
- REJOICING in ALL circumstances

The Kingdom of Heaven is like you in this world. You are the Kingdom. You bring the Kingdom. Repent. Rejoice. The Kingdom of God has come near you.

"Do good and don't look back." [Old Dutch Proverb.]

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The family of Juliann Purner (Women's #48), including her sons, Wesley (Men's #62) and Kenneth Purner, her brothers, Fr. Frank Gough and Oran Dean Gough, and stepmother Donna Gough would like to express their heartfelt thanks to everyone in Via de Cristo for all their loving support in the death of their mother, sister and daughter recently. The cards, condolences and supporting presence at her funeral all helped the entire family to know the love of God to be more real and healing. Thank you, everyone.

This is a synopsis of a statement drafted by the National Lutheran Secretariat of Via de Cristo at the annual meeting held in July, 2011. It clearly emphasizes our chief focus on God's grace.

Via de Cristo (Way of Christ) is a Lutheran "Fourth Day" movement comparable to Roman Catholic Cursillo but autonomous from any church body. In regards to various recent church actions regarding human sexuality/homosexuality., Via de Cristo Ohio, consistent with the position of the National Secretariat, maintains that we do not, as a matter of policy, endorse, denounce or pass judgment on actions by any church body in general and specifically on any Lutheran church body. We believe strongly that taking any formal stance would be contrary to our purpose.

Via de Cristo is based on the fundamentals of Christianity, concentrating on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ. The purpose of the movement is to inspire, challenge and equip local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches and communities. The focus is not on Via de Cristo itself but on developing leaders within the church. We emphasize a method of living the faith that people can use in daily life. All participants are encouraged to develop a vital relationship with their own pastor. As a "Fourth Day" movement, we strive to build up the one true church as described in Ephesians 4:1-6 and remain consistent with the historical Lutheran confessions.

Again, we do not take any official stances on the actions of any organized church body - we are not a church, a church within the church, nor a para-church organization. As a simple movement within the church, our priorities remain on teaching the gospel of grace, assisting participants to influence their environments with the gospel, and encouraging a renewed personal relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Our prayers will continue for all persons embroiled in controversy. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the authentic love of God our Father, and the true fellowship that is provided by the Holy Spirit, embrace us all.

We welcome honest inquiries as to who we are and about the role and function of our movement. Further information is available at our web site, www.viadecristooh.org.

We pray for God's love and grace to become known to all, in Christ Jesus our Lord!

GOD LOVES YOU AND SO DO !!!!!

Via de Cristo School for Leaders

September 10, 2011

School for Leaders will be held on Saturday, September 10, 2011 (registration deadline is September 7, 2011). The purpose of this school is to provide a better understanding of all aspects of Via de Cristo. Topics covered include: Theology of the Weekend, Dynamics and Psychology of the Weekend, Team Roles and much more. Attend to gain a fuller understanding of your weekend experience. You must attend the School for Leaders to serve on a Via de Cristo team.

The school will be held at Hosanna Lutheran Church, 7714 Hazelton-Etna Road, Pataskala, OH. You can register with the form below. The cost is \$10 per person. **Registration MUST be submitted by September 7, 2011.**

We will gather at 8:30 with worship at 9 AM and will finish at 2:00PM. Please wear your name tag, bring your song book and pilgrim's guide. If you have any questions, please call Cathy Doering at cell phone number 330-618-0858 or Karen Schwartz at 740-964-0234.

Directions to Hosanna Lutheran in Pataskala: from the North or South take I-71 to I-270 East to I-70 East. From the West take I-70 East. Follow I-70 East to the Rt. 310 (Pataskala) exit. Turn left and go North approximately 1 ½ miles to the church, on the left.

We look forward to seeing you there. God loves you and so do we!

SCHOOL FOR LEADERS REGISTRATION March 12, 2011

Please print all information

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Cell phone (____) _____

Church _____

E Mail Address _____

Attended Via de Cristo Weekend # _____ Other _____

Where was the weekend held ? _____

Please enclose a check payable to Ohio Via de Cristo (\$10 per person) with subject line "Leader's School and send it along with this form to Karen Schwartz, P.O. Box 465, Pataskala, OH 43062. You may also register by email to Kls9195@gmail.com or by phone to (740) 964-0324 and pay at the door.