



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

# *De Colores!*

VOLUME 38, ISSUE 3

April 3, 2017

Dear Community,

Greetings and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Later this month, April 27-30<sup>th</sup>, Co-ed #2, will gather at Camp Otyokwah. August 3-6<sup>th</sup>, Men's #75 and August 17-20<sup>th</sup> Women's # 79, will bless us all at Saint Leonard's Retreat Center. Opportunities abound for prayer, sponsorship, service, food and general Palanca, financial gifts, serenades, and much more.

As I reflect and wait on His mighty works,... I can't help but be thankful.

What has this movement meant to you?

What has it meant to me?

I can't speak for you, ....but let me write what the Ohio Via de Cristo has done for me. It was a spiritual awakening, and a rekindling to serve the real true ideal. During the weekend I identified my true Ideal, I experienced His grace, I began to understand my role as laity in the church, I experience more of His grace, I began to understand piety and study, I experienced more of His grace, I learned of Apostolic action, I learned the obstacles to His grace, what it means to be a leader, how to influence my environment, it widened my understanding of the Christian community, I experienced yet more of His grace, I learned of the ways, "tools" of group reunion and Ultreya, .....and yet more and more of His love and grace.

Christ is counting on us, to make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ. He is counting on us to Christianize our environments in a lost and hurting world.

The Via de Cristo is a way to sustain and grow in our relationship with our Lord. "The way of Christ". Like many of you, I use the Pilgrim's guide or service sheet. I too re-read my old notes from my weekend, or re-read my old palanca. These are all blessings, but to me, they represent a part of a larger event. The Via de Cristo experience is hard to put into words, and sometimes the faces of the Pilgrims at the Clausura (Closing) say it all.

I thank God my Sponsors asked me to attend; what a beautiful gift.

I give all praise and honor to God for what he does, ..and what He will do.

What will this movement mean to the Pilgrims?

Recently, I asked a group of community: if you could say one word to your Sponsor what would it be? Most of them replied "I would say thank you".

Come on, get on board to support the weekends and the movement. Can you be a Sponsor? Can you send Palanca? Can you pray? If not you, who? If not now, when?

In Christ,

Warren (Butch) Seeley, Ohio Via de Cristo Lay Director

As National Via de Cristo Vice President of Administration, I also invite you to view your invitation to the National Gathering this summer. Do Ctrl & click on [@017 Via De Cristo National Gathering.mp4](#) to view it.

VdC Ohio Secretariat is still seeking a used trailer, enclosed, around 400 sq. ft., to store and transport our materials and divider panels. If anyone knows of a quality used one for sale or has one they may wish to donate, please let Mark Ludrosky, Logistics Coordinator, or Lay Director Warren Seeley know. Contact Mark at [mludrosky1@neo.rr.com](mailto:mludrosky1@neo.rr.com) or 330-671-1940. Reach Wcarren at [harleyrider751@ymail.com](mailto:harleyrider751@ymail.com) or 614-332-1357. And perhaps someone artistic would volunteer to paint it?

## Co-Ed Weekend #2....aka CE2

**Co-Ed weekend #2 is upon us, April 27-30.** (By the way, it's now CE2—no more CO2 from science class.) **You may still register Pilgrims by contacting Registrar Kevin Hoch, (513) 931-8797 or [khoch@cinci.rr.com](mailto:khoch@cinci.rr.com) who will send you Pilgrim and Sponsor Registration forms.**

You may also volunteer to be a pray-er during the Rollos for all or part of a day. Contact Chapel Cha Donna Ruark by using [ruark.donna@gmail.com](mailto:ruark.donna@gmail.com) or 740-507-1564. You're welcome at the Sendoff at the camp on Thursday evening too.

The Weekend is at the retreat center at Camp Otyokwah, a Christian event and retreat center located near Butler, OH (and about 7 miles from Bellville). It's at 3380 Tugend Road, Butler, 44822, 419-883-3854, [info@otyokwah.org](mailto:info@otyokwah.org). To get there from I 71, use Bellville exit 165 for St. Rt. 97. Follow 97 east through Bellville, continue on through Butler, going about 1.5 mi. to Benedict Rd. and turn right at the sign for "Otyokwah". Go on Benedict about 1.5 mi. to Tugend Road, turning left at the sign for "Otyokwah" and continue 1.6 mi. to the camp.

The Clausura (Closing) will be held on Sunday, April 30, at St. Paul Lutheran at 48 Church Street in Bellville. Look for an update to the Newsletter in a few days with the time schedule for all the events of CE2 as well as open places on the 72 hour Prayer Palanca.

The best Palanca you can give is your prayers, but as you remember from your Weekend, Palanca items are always nice too. If you have letters for the Pilgrims and/or Team (handwritten is especially nice) or other items for them, please give them to a Team member before the Weekend if you can. You may also bring them when you come to Sendoff (Thursday) or Serenade (Saturday). Your other option is to get them to one of the co-Palanca Chas, Dave Lann at 3155 Sandy Lake Road, Ravenna, 44266, or to Kevin Hoch, 2691 Altura Drive, Cincinnati, 45239. Another option is to send to St. Paul Lutheran Church, 48 Church Street, Bellville, 44813. If you are mailing things, please be sure to get them to their destination in advance of the start of the Weekend on April 27. And however you send the Palanca, be sure to put your own stamp of prayer on it!

We can all share in praying for the Weekend, the Team and the Pilgrims whom God has chosen and those you will still invite. The basic facts are:

- ✚ April 27-30, Thursday evening to Sunday evening
- ✚ Camp Otyokwah (<http://otyokwah.org>) (southeast of Mansfield)
- ✚ Rector Mike Meier ([614-753-3685](tel:614-753-3685)) ([mpmeier@hotmail.com](mailto:mpmeier@hotmail.com))
- ✚ Head Cha Jackie Lann
- ✚ JOHN 14:1-7
- ✚ "I AM the Way"

Jesus told us that He is the Way. YOU might be part of the Way for someone and you may not even be aware that they are watching. Christ and I are counting on you. De Colores!

Mike Meier, CE2 Rector

**Pilgrims for Co-Ed Weekend #2 aka CE2**

<b>Pilgrim</b>	<b>Congregation and Town</b>	<b>Sponsor(s)</b>
<b>Sue Starn</b>	Hosanna Lutheran, Pataskala	Tony Starn
<b>Rene' Stufft</b>	St. Paul Lutheran, Bellville	Mindy Wood
<b>Jonathan Stufft</b>	St. Paul Lutheran, Bellville	Mindy Wood
<b>Dave Koepke</b>	St. Paul's Lutheran, Bucyrus	David Wolfe
<b>Matt Crall</b>	St. Paul's Lutheran, Bucyrus	Jane Greenler
<b>Christi Crall</b>	St. Paul's Lutheran, Bucyrus	Jane Greenler
<b>Blanche Tyree</b>	Mt. Hope Lutheran, Shiloh and First Lutheran, Plymouth	Carol and Doug Pretorius
<b>Curtis Tyree</b>	Mt. Hope Lutheran, Shiloh and First Lutheran, Plymouth	C. and D. Pretorius
<b>Robin Adams</b>	Mt. Hope Lutheran, Shiloh and First Lutheran, Plymouth	C. and D. Pretorius
<b>Mike Huttleston</b>	Mr. Hope Lutheran, Shiloh	C. and D. Pretorius
<b>Gretchen Huttleston</b>	Mt. Hope Lutheran, Shiloh	C. and D. Pretorius

**Team Members for Co-ed Weekend #2**

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Church</b>
Rector	Mike Meier	Stonybrook UMC, Gahanna
Head Cha	Jackie Lann	Trinity Lutheran, Kent
Lead Spiritual Director	Pr. Doug Pretorius	St. Paul Lutheran, Bellville
Spiritual Director	Pr. Larry Novak	First Lutheran, Bellefontaine
Spiritual Director	Pr. Robin Ramos	Zion Lutheran, Lafayette
Ideal Rollo	Kip Kanya	Divinity Lutheran, Parma Heights
Laity Rollo	Carol Pretorius	St. Paul Lutheran, Bellville
Piety Rollo	Carlo Cherubini	St. Andrews Anglican, Lewis Center
Study Rollo	Sandy Mueller	Northside Fellowship, Westerville
Apostolic Action Rollo	Vicky Sakala	St. Paul Lutheran, Bellville
Leaders Rollo	Beth Reynolds	St. Stephen Lutheran, Stow
Environment Rollo	Nancy Schuman	Good Shepherd Episcopal, Lyndhurst
Christian Community In Action Rollo	Kevin Hoch	Trinity Lutheran, Mt. Healthy
Chapel Cha	Donna Ruark	River Valley Life Center, Lancaster
Head Rollo Room Cha	Dave Lann	Trinity Lutheran, Kent
Rollo Room Cha	Sally Meier	Stonybrook UMC, Gahanna
Rollo Room Cha	Paul Sakala	St. Paul Lutheran, Bellville
Music Cha	Pam Newman	Vineyard Church, Columbus
Co-Palanca Chas	Dave Lann and Kevin Hoch	Trinity, Kent and Trinity, Mt. Healthy
Gofer Cha	Duane Galloway	Clay Memorial Lutheran, Mansfield
Fourth Day Couple	Josie and Ken Riling	St. Paul Lutheran, Bellville

Look for email updates to Pilgrim Roster and 72 Hr. Prayer Palanca openings in a few days

### A Message from our VdCOhio Spiritual Director

In triumph we declare on Easter morning, "Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!" Easter is why we can gather unashamedly and shout what we believe God has done for Jesus and what He has promised to do for us. The scriptures remind us, "God is the God of the living, not the dead."

Comedian Bill Maher sometimes has a segment on his TV show "Real Time with Bill Maher". 'I can't prove it. I just know it's true'. Easter faith is a bit like that. We believe Christ was raised from the dead even though we can't prove it. We just know it's true that Easter Faith is a gift to us through the work of the Holy Spirit.

The first witnesses at the empty tomb didn't really know what to believe, not until Christ appeared to Mary and called her name, not until He came to the Apostles in a locked room where they huddled in fear. Then He said "Peace be with you."

We believe largely because of the witnesses to the Resurrection. We become those who believe even though we have not yet seen. A spoken beatitude to Thomas who declared he would not believe until he could see Jesus himself.

The promise and the faith at Easter is: Life is stranger than death; Love is greater than hate; Mercy overcomes judgement; the sufferings and difficulties of this life are temporary. The last word pronounced by God is new life, eternal life through Jesus Christ. That is our Easter faith.

So with all the faith and confidence we can muster we go to worship on Easter and shout with fellow believers, "Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!" Remember as we sing in VdC, "Every Morning is Easter morning from now on."

Pastor G. Karl Gaston

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Co-ed Weekend # 2 April 27-30 at Camp Otyokwa southeast of Mansfield

**VdC Ohio Annual Meeting** June 17 at Mt. Gilead State Park Pavilion #1  
(See attached flyer)

**VdC National Gathering** July 27-30 at Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem NC  
For your video invitation to the National gathering, see [@017 Via De Cristo National Gathering.mp4](#)

**Men's Weekend #75** August 3-6 at St. Leonard's Retreat Center in Avon  
Rector Fred Gessell, [wgesell@aol.com](mailto:wgesell@aol.com) or 419-332-8398, is forming the Team.  
Head Cha Doug Burrows, Spiritual Directors Pr. Paul Schmidlin and Pr. Gerry Gosnell

**Women's Weekend #79** August 17-20 St. Leonard's Retreat Center  
Rector Leslie Crowe, [leslie.crowe@aol.com](mailto:leslie.crowe@aol.com) or 440-842-7409, is forming the Team

Co-Ed Weekend #3 and Clergy Experience #3 are development for 2018

Further information for ALL of these will be in upcoming Newsletters

If you would like to be part of a Team, contact the Rector

*VdC Ohio Annual Meeting on Saturday June 17*

The Ohio VDC annual meeting will be held this year on June 17<sup>th</sup> at the Mt Gilead State Park Pavilion #1 with fellowship starting at 1:00 pm. The annual business meeting itself will begin at 2:00pm followed by Worship with Holy Communion, and the pot luck dinner will begin at 3:00pm. The Ohio VDC Secretariat will be providing hot dogs, hamburgers and a selection of drinks. Please bring with you a side dish or picnic snacks or dessert to share. We will have 25 tables and there are a bunch of electrical outlets available. We will have music, live and digitized, to lift our thanks to the Lord in song. The more guitars and voices, the merrier!

The fun can go all evening! We will be setting up activities for everyone after the dinner. If you have corn-hole boards, bocce, basketballs, Frisbee golf discs, etc., please bring them to share and enjoy. We have a nice fireplace in the pavilion where we can roast marshmallows and sing around the fire into the evening hours.

The Mt Gilead State Park is located east of the City of Mt. Gilead off of route 95 west from I 71. The Park has 59 camping sites available if you would like to make a weekend out of the meeting. The very nice web site for the park is <http://parks.ohiodnr.gov/mountgilead>. From there you can get directions, a park map and make your reservations for your camp site if you'd like to stay overnight. (Directions will also be printed in a later Newsletter.) This web site is very well done so you can see which sites are available and where they are located if you want to reserve close to each other. The camping sites are \$25/ night and have electric only or full camper hook ups. There are two cabins but only one is available since I have one booked already for my family over the weekend. It is \$32 per night. Everything is first come first serve, so reserve your campsite right away! Those who pray together should also play together! **GLYASDI**

Mark Ludrosky, Logistics Coordinator

## *Utreya News*

### **June Utreya in the Parma/Cleveland Area**

A Spring Utreya is planned on 6/4/2017 at 3PM at Divinity Lutheran Church, 11877 Blossom Avenue, Parma Heights, 44130. We will have a small group Bible Study led by Pastor Doug Gunkelman. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

Potluck to follow. Bring a dish to share. Meat will be provided. All are invited.

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.

Utreyas in the **Akron-Kent area** of Ohio are often the third Saturday of a month, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kent, at 4:30 pm at 600 S. Water Street, and potluck will be included. For more information, please call Dave Lann, 330-296-6929, or Pr. Doug Fidler, 330-673-5445.

**Cincinnati area** Utreyas are usually the first Saturday of each month at 4:30pm at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mt. Healthy. Address is 1553 Kinney Avenue, Cincinnati 45231. For questions, please call Kevin Hoch, 513-931-8797.

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

**North Dayton** Utreyas are 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 IS RESURRECTED**

Once each quarter, From 5:30pm-8:30pm, All at All Shepherds Lutheran Church, 6580 Columbus Pike [RT 23] Lewis Center, Ohio. 43035.

Saturday March 11, 2017      Saturday September 23, 2017      Saturday December 9, 2017

For more information contact Warren [614.332.1357](tel:614.332.1357) or Wendy [614.332.1352](tel:614.332.1352) Seeley.

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 awhile, 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** ([vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com](mailto:vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com) or 419-886-4420).

Dear Via de Cristo community:

Wow, am I honored! I have been called to serve as Rectora for Women's Weekend #79 to be held August 17-20, 2017 at St. Leonard's Retreat Center in Avon, Ohio. I am beginning to assemble the team that will serve on the weekend. I'm praying daily that those that I contact will hear the call of God to serve.

I have chosen the theme for this weekend from Isaiah 6:8, "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, **'Whom shall I send? And I said, 'Here am I. Send me'.**"

Many of us have heard the voice of the Lord and responded. In challenging ourselves we find growth. Being your Rectora is a challenge for me and I expect to grow in many ways from the experience. I request your prayers for Women's Weekend #79 and in particular for me.

Here is your challenge. Without pilgrims there is no weekend and if you don't ask people to attend who will? People are hungering to be part of a caring Christian community and we see Via de Cristo as that community. Please look at people in your environments and ask them to attend a weekend.

I close all my correspondence with "Peace" and so I wish each of you God's peace.

Leslie Crowe, Women's Weekend #40

<b>Secretariat</b>		
<p><b>Lay Director</b> . . . . . Warren Seeley (614) 332-1357 <a href="mailto:harleyrider751@ymail.com">harleyrider751@ymail.com</a>  <b>Asst. Lay Director</b> . . . . . Chuck Fahnestock (937) 238-6170 <a href="mailto:charles.fahnestock@wright.edu">charles.fahnestock@wright.edu</a>  <b>Secretary</b> . . . . . Kevin Hoch (513) 931-8797 <a href="mailto:khoch@cinci.rr.com">khoch@cinci.rr.com</a>  <b>Treasurer</b> . . . . . Raleigh Sandy (937) 885-1868 <a href="mailto:sandyjr@donet.com">sandyjr@donet.com</a>  <b>Spiritual Director</b> . . . . . Pastor G. Karl Gaston (614) 364-3110 <a href="mailto:jgaston550@yahoo.com">jgaston550@yahoo.com</a>  <b>coach</b> . . . . . Butch Seeley (614) 332-1357 <a href="mailto:harleyrider751@ymail.com">harleyrider751@ymail.com</a>  <b>Logistics Coordinator</b> . . . . . Mark Ludrosky (330) 882-4244 <a href="mailto:mludrosky1@neo.rr.com">mludrosky1@neo.rr.com</a></p>	<p><b>Fourth Day Shepherd.</b> . . . . . Dave Lann (330) 296-6929 <a href="mailto:vdclann@yahoo.com">vdclann@yahoo.com</a>  <b>Prayer Chain.</b> . . . . . Vicky Sakala 419-884-1573 <a href="mailto:prayingforvdc@gmail.com">prayingforvdc@gmail.com</a>  <b>Music Adviser.</b> . . . . . Jen Briner (614) 901-0896 <a href="mailto:jenbriner@yahoo.com">jenbriner@yahoo.com</a>  <b>Palanca Cha</b> . . . . . Sherry Patterson (740) 262-0563 <a href="mailto:dcscfp20@the-franklins.net">dcscfp20@the-franklins.net</a>  <b>Registrar</b> . . . . . Kevin Hoch (513) 931-8797 <a href="mailto:khoch@cinci.rr.com">khoch@cinci.rr.com</a>  <b>Documentation</b> . . . . . Donna Gough (614) 948-3833 <a href="mailto:goughdonna@aol.com">goughdonna@aol.com</a>  <b>Rector/Weekend Orient</b> Dick Brenneman (740) 398-0945 <a href="mailto:dbbrenneman@gmail.com">dbbrenneman@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Technology Media Specialist.</b> . . . Christy Brill (614) 899-7429 <a href="mailto:goosebrill@msn.com">goosebrill@msn.com</a>  <b>Newsletter Editor.</b> . . . . . Nancy Martin (419) 886-4420 <a href="mailto:vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com">vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com</a>  <b>Columbus Area Representative</b> . . . . . Open  <b>Northern Region Representative.</b> . . . Ken Riling (419) 886-2437 <a href="mailto:kriling07@aol.com">kriling07@aol.com</a>  <b>Southern Region Representative</b> . . . . . Open                       Contact Butch for information on Open Positions.                       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.</p>

Upcoming Weekends in the US for which you may also pray

- April 20-23, 2017 - Western Northern Carolina  
Atlanta Lutheran VDC / Coed #31
- April 27-30, 2017 - West Tennessee, Faithwalk Jackson Men's #15  
Sonshine North VDC / Coed #9  
Gowanda Correctional Facility in Western New York / Keryx #16

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 [vdsnewsletterohio.com](mailto:vdsnewsletterohio.com) or 419-886-4420 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)



# OHIO VDC



## Annual Meeting

### Mt. Gilead State Park

Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup> 2017

Fellowship – 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Meeting & Service – 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Meal Served – 4:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Ohio VDC Secretariat will be providing hot dogs, hamburgers & drinks  
Bring your favorite dish to share



Camping fees: \$25/ night

Go to <http://parks.ohiohr.gov/mountgilead> to reserve your campsite

Come early or stay and camp with us



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Sing along with your favorite VDC songs