



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

De Colores!

VOLUME 38, ISSUE 7

September 18, 2017

A Message from VdC Ohio Spiritual Director Pastor G. Karl Gaston

We spent the weekend here in Ohio glued to the weather channel, watching the movement of Hurricane Irma wreaking havoc on anyone and any place in her path. We watched her destroy an island in the Caribbean. We watched as it ripped through Cuba and on to the Florida Keys. We watched as she decided to go up the west side of Florida rather than the east coast. We watched as it landed in Naples and continued north toward Fort Myers. We prepared to hear the worst about our property and our friends living in and around Port Charlotte. Many friends decided to ride out the storm and to assist elderly people who were unable to evacuate. I wasn't sure that was a good idea. It was a long night and we fully expected to hear the worst once the storm had passed. We were prepared to hear that our new home had been destroyed. But then we began to hear little by little that everyone we knew was safe, that there was very little damage, and even the electricity remained on. We had weathered the storm. We were thankful and it was time to say so to God. At the same time we continued to pray for those who were not as fortunate.

We had many thoughts that brought us comfort and courage as we waited and waited to hear of the fate of Irma.

First and foremost, we live by faith that trusts that God is always with us no matter what. We remembered the words of Psalm 46 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult . . ."

I thought of the question Jesus posed to some people in Luke 13:4. When they wondered where God was in a tragic accident. "Those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?" As if to say, sometimes we find ourselves in the wrong place at the wrong time.

I remembered the numerous times Jesus said, "Do not worry," and "Do not be afraid."

In Matthew 5:45, "He makes the sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteousness."

The lyrics from a contemporary Christian song were comforting.

"In the eye of the storm
you remain in control.
You alone are the anchor
when my sails are torn.

Your love surrounds me
in the eye of the storm."

Whenever the present or the future is uncertain, no matter what brings worry, concerns or even terror, we are to live by the promise that we are never alone. We know that Jesus is with us, will walk alongside of us through the storm and then help us rebuild a new future.

Pastor G Karl Gaston

Fellowship on a Larger Scale—the 2017 National Via de Cristo Gathering

Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:25

If you weren't there, we missed you, and you missed another great gathering. The 2017 National Lutheran Secretariat met on July 27-30, 2017 at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The theme for the gathering was from 1 Peter 1:8—**Love, believe, and indescribable - glorious joy in Jesus.**

For those who do not know, the gathering is structured much like a weekend (Thursday-Sunday). We kicked things off Thursday afternoon with an orientation, lunch and then opening worship. Our Key note speaker was Bishop Tim Smith (fantastic!) followed by a business session #1, dinner, photos, evening vespers, and evening fellowship & hospitality.

Friday we started with a hearty breakfast, worship, business session #2, and moved into a presentation “Preparing the soil- gaining pastoral support” by Pastor Cedric Gibb followed by discussion and then lunch.

After lunch we had a choice of multiple development workshops, business session #3, and moved into a presentation “Pruning the vine—a prayerful partnership between you and God” by Eliick Morey. We then had discussion followed by dinner. We wrapped up the day with regional meetings, evening vespers and followed by fellowship & hospitality.

Saturday we again started with a filling breakfast, worship, business session #4, and then a presentation “Preparing the Harvest” by Butch Seeley (yes, me). We moved into lunch, developmental workshops, regional meetings and then an Agape dinner in a barn type setting. (Yummy barbeque). We finished up with evening vespers followed up with fellowship and hospitality (ice cream sundaes!).

We started Sunday with another filling breakfast and then had our final worship. We said our god byes and headed back to Ohio.

Workshops that you could participate in:

- Building Banners for new Secretariats
- Lay Directors-My role in the vineyard
- Spiritual Directors-A focus on the Spiritual Directors' manual
- The Clergy Experience—**(Given by our own Dick Brenneman-fantastic Job!)**
- Understanding NLS business
- Available resources for my Secretariat
- License/Finance/501©3 for my Secretariat
- Spiritual Directors-focus on expanding our numbers
- Music Chas-Sharing the music of today
- Building your 5 year Strategic Plan
- Future hosting of a National Gathering

There was a Prayer Chapel set up the entire time of the gathering.

The focus of the gathering is to create an environment for community to share ideas. **You do not have to be a member of Secretariat or a delegate to attend the national gathering.** The cost runs about \$250.00 per person and is pretty reasonable for lodging and food for three days.

Key components of the Via de Cristo are the perseverance tools of Group Reunion and Ultreya. The National Gathering could be thought of as a Grand Ultreya in some respects. It is a fellowship of the community of believers from around the U.S. and Canada to worship and share ideas. It is a way to re-energize our walk with Christ and the movement.

Via de Cristo has a simple/complex formula (methodology) to evangelize the world: Make a friend, be a friend, and introduce your friend to Jesus. We are called to Christianize our environments for Christ.

The NLS national gathering is an inspirational pilgrimage to put oil in our lamps. I invite you to attend the 2018 National Gathering, July 26-29, 2018 at West Palm Beach University in West Palm Beach, Florida.

God loves you, and so do I,
Butch Seeley, Lay Director, VdC Ohio and Vice President for Administration, National Lutheran Secretariat

We Need Your Garage Sale Items!

Since becoming a more mobile organization, we have discovered that we are in need of a few items that are not always available at the different facilities we have been using. Rather than going out and purchasing these items, we realized that an individual or church may have gently used items lying around that they would be willing to donate. Items for which we are looking include:

- **More Bells** (non-breakable, please)—Sadly, the Mallorca bell has been misplaced. Currently we have a small brass bell but it is not very loud. Plus, we used to supplement our bell supply by the numerous ones at the Cum Cristo Center in Columbus where we held so many of our Weekends. Most of the retreat centers we use now do not have extraneous bells lying around for us to borrow. (Qty = 6)
- **Music Stands** (sturdy but collapsible preferred)—Some of our music chas bring their own but we would like to have a couple on hand so that we can leave them in the areas where they will be used most during the Weekend—the Rollo Room & Chapel. (Qty = 2)
- **Easels** (sturdy but collapsible preferred)—Again we used to borrow the heavy wooden one at the Center in Columbus. Some of the facilities we have used the past few years have had ones we could borrow but not all of them do. This would be extremely beneficial for displaying signs for the Legs of the Tripod (Piety, Study and Action) as well as other visuals during presentations. (Qty = 3)
- **Dry Erase Boards & Markers** (no bigger than 6'x4' but larger than 2'x3')—Gone are the days of chalkboards all around the Rollo Room. Although most teams use "fill-in the blank" write-down forms now, there are still times when the Rector, Professors, or Spiritual Directors would like to write or draw on a board. (Qty = 2-3)
- **6' Foldable Tables** (lightweight but sturdy that fold in half for easier storage)—It may seem like most Retreat Centers would have enough tables for our needs but sadly that is not the case. Sometimes provided tables are too bulky to move to where we actually need them. For example, at Avon, we need extra tables in the loft to create the Palanca area but are unable to move the provided tables up there. (Qty = 2)
- **Communion Cup Trays** (any style)—Although Common Cup Communion has been the norm over the years, many SDs are starting to use a pouring chalice with individual communion cups. Although standard food trays or plates have been used in the past, communion cup trays would be more convenient. (Qty = 2)
- **Coffee Carafes** (table-side carafes like food servers use)—Again, you may think these would be available at all Retreat Centers but places like St Leonard's, which is mostly used for youth events, don't find them a necessity. (Qty = 5)

If you or your church can donate any of the above items, please contact Christine Brill (email: goosebrill@msn.com or cell: 614-579-8586) and she will arrange for items to be picked up.

A Message from VdC Ohio Music Adviser Jen Briner

Via de Cristo Friends,

I mentioned a couple of newsletters ago that I was tasked with adding some more current praise and worship songs into our Songbook. The current Songbook will not change at this time. An insert will be created, allowing music chas a greater variety of music choices on a weekend. This will be available by the next set of lay weekends! The insert will include, "Cornerstone", "Jesus Messiah", "We Believe", "One Thing Remains" and "At the Cross (Love Ran Red)", to name a few! I have even included suggested usage for each song for those giving future Rollos. Music Chas and team members can still introduce new and different songs provided the song is covered by our ccli license and that it is easy to pick up with little practice. If you ever have any questions on things like that, don't hesitate to contact me. Next newsletter, I will give you a list of all the new songs so you can start practicing in your car or your shower, where all voices sound like the angels!!

God loves you and so do I,

Jen Briner

Ultreya News

Stow Area Ultreya

St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 3725 Kent Road, will host an Ultreya on **Saturday, November 11 at 3 pm.**

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.

July Ultreya in the Bellville Area

The next Bellville Ultreya will be **Sunday, October 8 at 3:00pm** at 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.

Bellville Ultreyas will be the second Sundays of January, April, July and October

Cincinnati Area

The next Cincinnati area Ultreya will be Saturday, **October 14 at 7:00 pm** at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mt. Healthy. Address is 1553 Kinney Avenue, Cincinnati 45231. Please call Kevin Hoch, 513-931-8797, to confirm. Otherwise, Cincinnati area Ultreyas are usually the first Saturday of each month.

Parma/Cleveland Area

The next Ultreya is **Sunday, October 15 at 3:00 pm** 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, especially the women of Weekend #79. See future Newsletters for information.

Call Leslie Crowe at leslie.crowe@aol.com, 440-263-4552 or Judy Junker at JudyJunkmail@aol.com, 440-537-0867 with any questions. God loves you and so do we.

North Dayton Ultreyas 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

Once each quarter, From 5:30pm-8:30pm, at All Shepherds Lutheran Church, 6580 Columbus Pike [RT 23], Lewis Center, Ohio. 43035. The next ones are **Saturday September 23, 2017** and 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.

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.

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 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, on Facebook or reading the Newsletter. Most value their connection by prayer.

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 or 419-886-4420 or 4025 Andrews Rd., Bellville, 44813.
Nancy Martin, Editor

For assistance to find or form a Reunion Group for your Pilgrim—or yourself—contact Fourth Day shepherd Dave Lann, 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 or 614-579-8586), or Newsletter Editor Nancy Martin (vdnewsletterohio@gmail.com or 419-886-4420).

Weekend Orientation Set For Saturday, October 7, 2017 At St. Paul in Bellville

Have you ever been to Leader's School? Have you ever been on a team for a Weekend? If your answer is no to these two questions, then you are invited to learn about the Weekend experience and being a team member by your attendance at a **Weekend Orientation** (our new name for Leader's School) meeting set for **Saturday, October 7, 2017** at St. Paul Lutheran in Bellville from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

During this three hour session, we will be explaining how a team is formed, the responsibilities of all team members and many other important pieces of a Via de Cristo Weekend!

As a reminder, anyone who is called to serve on a team **must** have attended Weekend Orientation before serving. The cost for this event is \$10 and we would ask that you either call or email if you are attending this event so we can prepare refreshments and other materials for all attending.

If you have questions, please send me an email at dbbrenneman@gmail.com or a phone call at 740-694-1755.

Again, please email or call and let us know if you can attend so we might have enough materials for all.

Blessings!

Dick Brenneman

Via de Cristo of Ohio—Weekend Orientation

(Formerly Leaders School)

Saturday, October 7, 2017

St. Paul Lutheran Church, 48 Church Street, Bellville, Ohio 44813

9:00 AM—12:00 PM (Noon)

This school is for all men and women who have attended a Weekend and are interested in serving in the future. The program will include information about the way the Weekend "works" (the things you didn't see on your week). The cost is **\$10**. Check should be made out to **Via de Cristo of Ohio** and is payable either **before registration** or **on October 7th at the door**.

On or before Tuesday, October 1, please send this registration to:

Dick Brenneman, 13256 Shipley Road, Fredericktown, Ohio 43019

OR Call 740-694-1755

OR Email to: ddbrenneman@gmail.com

Please bring your Name Tag, Song Book, and Pilgrim's Guide. A continental breakfast will be provided.

Registration Form for Weekend Orientation

Saturday, October 7, 2017

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Bellville, Ohio

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ Email _____

UPCOMING EVENTS

Weekend Orientation (aka Leaders' School) Saturday, October 7, 2017, 9:00 am to Noon
St. Paul Lutheran Church, 48 Church Street, Bellville, 44813

Co-Ed Weekend #3 May 3-6, 2018 at St. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Newark
Rector Bob Gsellman and Head Cha Sharon Gsellman

Clergy Experience #3 Monday October 1-Thursday October 4, 2018
St. Peter and St. Paul Retreat Center, Newark
Rector Dick Brenneman and Lead 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

Other Weekends for which you may pray

Indiana/Kentucky Men's #77—September 21-24, 2017 Indiana/Kentucky Women's #78—September 28-October 1, 2017	VdC Southern Arizona Co-Ed ASLVdC#38- October 12-15, 2017 at Tanque Verde Lutheran Church, Rectora Kathy DeVinney
FaithWalk Jackson, TN Men's #17—September 21-24, 2017 FaithWalk Jackson, TN Women's #18—Sept. 28-Oct. 1, 2017	Florida Gold Coast VdC Men's #95 – September 28 – October 1 St. Paul Lutheran, 701 W Palmetto Park Rd, Boca Raton, FL
Michigan Prison Weekends: Alger Correctional facility - #6 – October 12-15, 2017	Lighthouse VdC Men's Weekend #51 – October 12-15, 2017
Keryx – UPKIC – Men's #9 – October 12-15, 2017 Keryx - UPKIC – Women's #9 – Sept. 28 – Oct. 1, 2017	Heart of Illinois VdC Co-ed Weekend – October 12-15, 2017
VdC of Southern California and the Central Valley VdC #53 – October 5 – 8, 2017, Mountain Pointe Camp	Prairie Sunshine VdC Men's #20 – November 9-12, 2017
	Sherryl Patterson, VdC Ohio Palanca Cha

Secretariat

Lay Director Warren Seeley (614) 332-1357 harleyrider751@gmail.com	Logistics Coordinator Mark Ludrosky (330) 882-4244 mludrosky1@neo.rr.com	Rector/Weekend Orient Dick Brenneman (740) 398-0945 dbbrenneman@gmail.com
Asst. Lay DirectorChristy Brill (614) 899-7429 goosebrill@msn.com	Fourth Day Shepherd Dave Lann (330) 296-6929 vdclann@yahoo.com	Technology Media Specialist .. Christy Brill (614) 899-7429 goosebrill@msn.com
Secretary Kevin Hoch (513) 931-8797 khoch@cinci.rr.com	Prayer Chain Vicky Sakala 419-884-1573 prayingforvdc@gmail.com	Newsletter Editor Nancy Martin (419) 886-4420 vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com
TreasurerRaleigh Sandy (937) 885-1868 sandyjr@donet.com	Music AdviserJen Briner (614) 901-0896 jenbriner@yahoo.com	Contact Lay Director Warren "Butch" Seeley with your interest in serving on Secretariat.
Spiritual Director Pastor G. Karl Gaston (614) 364-3110 jgaston550@yahoo.com	Palanca Cha Sherry Patterson (740) 262-0563 dcspf20@the-franklins.net	Contact 4 th Day Shepherd Dave Lann with your interest in reaching out to people in your area of Ohio to encourage them for Reunion Groups and Ultreyas.
coach Butch Seeley (614) 332-1357 harleyrider751@gmail.com	RegistrarKevin Hoch (513) 931-8797 khoch@cinci.rr.com	

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.

VdC Prayer Chain is 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 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
National Via de Cristo Website www.viadecristo.org
Kairos Website www.kairosohio.org