



Via de Cristo of Ohio Newsletter

Affiliated with the National Lutheran Secretariat

De Colores!

VOLUME 40, ISSUE 7

November 5, 2019

*****Men's Via de Cristo Weekend # 76*****

April 23-26, 2020

(Registration Deadline February 23, 2020)

Akron Rotary Club

4460 Rex Lake Drive

Akron, OH 44319

*****Grand Ultreya/Annual Meeting*****

Saturday, June 27, 2020

Mt. Gilead State Park

4119 State Route 95

Mt. Gilead, OH 43338

*****Co-ed Via de Cristo Weekend #5*****

August 13-16, 2020

Lutheran Memorial Camp

(Registration Deadline June 13, 2020)

2800 State Route 61

Fulton, OH 43315

Message from Lay Director Dave Lann

Hello 4th day community,

This is to update you on next year's weekends.

April 23 - 26, 2020 Men's # 76 Akron Rotary Club

June 27, 2020 Grand Ultreya / Annual meeting Mt. Gilead State Park

August 13 - 16, 2020 Coed # 5 Lutheran Memorial Camp

The first one is the Men's Weekend that was scheduled for November 7. People have said they need to know well in advance when the weekends are. The two for Akron were published a year ahead. We only had 1 woman's applicant, and 5 men's the two months before the weekend. There were a couple other possible Pilgrims for the men but applications were not in by the registration deadline, and I have seen so many times where "possibles" never came through. Being that there was a good base and trying to use a new place, the Men's Weekend was rescheduled for April 23, 2020. At this facility we can have Community involvement with providing food Palanca along with Thursday team dinner and Saturday Community Palanca meal as we have done in the past.

The one thing we need is stability for the movement. So, when we say we need registrations for 8 Pilgrims 2 months before each Weekend in Registrar Kevin Hoch's hands, that's what we have to stick to. This is done to keep the dynamics of the Weekend flowing well, make Team meetings more energetic knowing the weekend is a go, and save cost as we can get full deposits back 2 months before. The cut-off date for this Men's Weekend is February 23.

The next thing is our Annual Meeting and Grand Ultreya on June 27, 2020, at Mt. Gilead State Park. We are trying to keep this on the weekend after Father's Day every year.

Coed # 5 will be at Lutheran Memorial Camp in Fulton, Ohio. This is in the Mt. Gilead general area. This is to try to be in a central area of the state plus trying to not be as expensive. Paul Sakala is the Rector for this weekend. The cut-off date is June 13.

To wrap all this up, we need Community support to make these events happen. Most pilgrims recently have been invited by Team members. I can understand the benefit if that helps the Pilgrim be more at ease, but we also need to reach out in our Communities and invite those who will realize they are Christian leaders to transform their environments. Besides asking people from our own churches, what about the people you spend social time with, work with, or other activities?

Pray about it, invite them and talk to their pastor to make sure of no unforeseen issues and get the applications in to Kevin well before the 2 months. If we are blessed to be overwhelmed with applications we will look to add more Weekends next year later in the year.

Blessings to everyone,
Dave Lann

Message from Raleigh Sandy, Treasurer

HELP! YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED!

We have experienced a major change in holding our Weekend experience with the location of our events. The Cum Cristo Mission Center in Columbus is no longer available to us and to find a location convenient to our Weekend experience has increased our cost to over \$5,000.00 where it used to be around \$1,000.00. Many of our Team members have been our funding resource in donations between \$180.00 to \$200.00 each to offset the expenses. Our members outside the Team have provided less than 5% of our costs. Our financial balance in our accounts is a little over \$2,000.00 and is not enough to fund our upcoming events. For us to continue providing Weekends to prepare people to take on the leadership of your congregations, we need your support. We have each received a cross that states "Christ is Counting on You". We have four members who are providing gifts to VdC Ohio on a monthly basis. Some of you could join them or provide a onetime gift to assist in the support of our mission. Perhaps you could consider covering the cost of one Pilgrim as a gift, even if you don't know the particular Pilgrim.

Our volunteers are paying to serve. We ask you to support them so that we can continue to provide the best experience for the Pilgrims we serve.

Send your donation to: Via de Cristo of Ohio, c/o Raleigh Sandy, Treasurer, 9418 Hacker Farm Lane, Centerville, OH 45458-5318. You will receive a receipt for your donations. Because we are a 501c3 entity, your donations are tax-deductible.

Thank you for supporting this important service to our community.

Raleigh Sandy, Treasurer

Message from Christy Brill, Technology Coordinator

Technology Assistance Needed!

We've come a long way over the past five years or so, but we need help to bring VdC-OH further into the 21st century and are seeking qualified individuals to volunteer in the following positions:

- **Social Media Specialist:** Keep our Facebook Page and private Group up to date with inspirational posts, prayer concerns, events, and announcements with the possibility of expanding our social media presence to other platforms.
- **Web-site Coordinator:** Work directly with Web-site developer to make updates to the vdcoho.org Web-site as requested, regularly update the Web-site calendar, and keep the Secretariat apprised of Web-site traffic and current best-practices while adding new features such as, but not limited to, online giving, member portal, and group email capabilities.
- **eNewsletter Editor:** Collect, edit, and disseminate articles from secretariat and the community at large through an email marketing system such as ConstantContact or MailChimp. This position would also maintain an online membership database that could be linked to a Web-site member portal and used for team formation and mass emails as needed.

If you are interested in or would like more information about any of the above volunteer opportunities, please contact Assistant Lay Director, Christine Brill (614-899-7429 or goosebrill@msn.com).

Remember, Christ Is Counting on You!

Message from Jen Briner

“We Have Come into His House” was written by Bruce Ballinger in 1976. It is based on passages from Psalms 100 and 122. Bruce was an ordained minister in the Assemblies of God church, and served as well in many other churches throughout his career. I had the opportunity to play this song in my church service this past weekend. I had referenced the lyrics in our announcements the week before (“forget about yourself and concentrate on Him”) and a member approached me after the service to ask me if we could sing it in church the following Sunday.

We have come into His house and gathered in His name to worship Him
We have come into His house and gathered in His name to worship Him
We have come into His house and gathered in His name to worship Him
Worship Him, Christ, the Lord

So forget about yourself and concentrate on Him and worship Him
So forget about yourself and concentrate on Him and worship Him
So forget about yourself and concentrate on Him and worship Him
Worship Him, Christ, the Lord

Let us lift up holy hands and magnify His Name and worship Him
Let us lift up holy hands and magnify His Name and worship Him
Let us lift up holy hands and magnify His Name and worship Him
Worship Him, Christ, the Lord

As we were singing it, I was struck by the intentionality of the lyrics and what they mean in a worship setting.

Verse 1: We need to “come” and “gather” in His name weekly to refresh and renew. This will equip us for the week ahead to make a difference for Christ in all our environments.

Verse 2: This is my favorite verse. I have a hard time shutting off my brain from my long-running “to-do list”. We don’t lose our sense of self in worship, but through focusing our attention upward, we become one with our Lord Jesus and our church family. I need that reminder that it’s not “me”, it’s “we”!

Verse 3: Those of us who are Lutherans know that some of us have a hard time with the hand raising! Others of us do it easily. However, we can metaphorically “lift up holy hands” (or actually do it) in praise and worship. Again, the focus is upward. The word “magnify” literally means to “extol or praise”. Our Lord is worthy to be praised!!

In short, this song is my reminder to **gather, concentrate** and **magnify**.

May it be a reminder to you as well. God Loves You and So Do I,

Jen Briner (VdC #26)

Message from Pastor Rhonda Gallagher

When I think of sharing what Via De Cristo means to me, I am reminded that I knew no one when I received a letter at my home church. I had prayed and prayed that God would show me grace. No explanation in my prayer but GRACE.

I sat in a council meeting, upcoming events being passed one by one barely noticed – when W-H-A-M there it was...right before my eyes the paper screeched to a halt before me – I saw those words “Come learn about Grace.” I never ever had taken a step in my life to reach out on my own with strangers, but I made the call. The next day (Yes, they took me as a late pilgrim) I was on my way to a place unknown, with a man named Joe whom I had never met, to spend a weekend with??? I had no idea, but I was going!

What a blessing that as children of God we have been called into Christian ministry by the grace of God through Jesus Christ in our baptism. We are all called to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ in those waters...as we leave those waters, whether we are carried out as babies from the font or walk on our own from the waters. God’s call is on our life. Our wet footprints are alive, marked on the ground from our movement showing where we have traveled – we are the living example as we are led into our ministry through our lives, our experiences, and our shared times. Our roles and situations are as diverse as the many situations where we find ourselves, and become our

shared ministries that make up our leadership. Yet there are ways in which our tasks, experiences and situations are common to Christians everywhere.

We are so blessed that somewhere, somehow, we were brought into the experiences of a Via De Cristo Weekend. We brought our experiences, learned of other’s experiences, and shared Christ. We learn as we seek to be leaders wherever it is that we find ourselves – for some that’s in our family, for some it is the community through volunteer service or love to our neighbors, and for some we have even been called into the professional ministry of Word and Sacrament.

We share our VDC experiences, each different to us all. We experience our piety, study and action many ways, helping us to grow so we can learn and serve. We are touched through our worship and small table families to see new ways of sharing Christ. We learn ways in which our lives and experiences may lead others in and through the ongoing ministry of Christ’s church and for all people everywhere.

We seek together to share Christ in a world that quite honestly isn’t always easy, but so very needed as we learn ways which show us opportunities for growth, learning or serving. We also rejoice in God’s gifts of love and grace through Jesus the Christ, by which we are empowered to do the will of God and to proclaim the Good News of God’s work in our lives – in our environments. We help each other through our reunion groups, praying and sharing our lives, building each other up in prayer, pointing out each other’s strengths, helping overcome our weaknesses – and sharing our lives.

How could we not want to share that experience? How can we not want to live in the newness of what we learned everyday as we shout from the mountaintops “Come and See what Christ has done for you, will do for you, and will help you become.” Or simply put “Come and See.”

We would not still be involved in Via De Cristo if it hadn’t moved us in our lives in some way. But keeping to ourselves is not allowing our friend, our neighbor, our co-worker that same experience of grace to learn and grow in Christ.

Well, my friends, we have cancelled several weekends because we didn’t not have the minimal number of pilgrims to continue the weekend. So, we need to look – pray – invite. Find a friend, be a friend, bring your friend to Christ – to Via De Cristo. Who do you see? Or as we say in my meditation group “that the good in me may see the good in you.” Are we looking? May we step out in boldness and make a difference in the lives of others - as we allow others to make a difference in our lives. Call each other to the table of discipleship and commitment, call each other to prayer as we seek Christ leading us, as Ron Anderson was led sending that letter to Messiah Lutheran Church in Green, trusting God’s grace was sufficient...let’s help build – one person at a time, let’s help.....

Christ is counting on us...and we are counting on Christ!

Blessings & Peace

Pastor Rhonda Gallagher, VdC Ohio Spiritual Director

From VdC Ohio Palanca Coordinator Sheryl Patterson

Prayer sits upon the foundation of our faith. It's the greatest palanca we can offer. You're invited to give that palanca for the people involved with the following Weekends. In turn, Sherry invites them to pray for our Weekends.

10/31/19	C #28	Indiana/Kentucky VdC
11/7/19	C #3	Sunbeam Florida
11/7/19	C #1	Ignite VdC, MN
11/7/19	C #105	Lutheran VDC of N. Texas
11/7/19	M #49	Northern Light VDC-Wi/Upper Michigan
11/7/19	W #50	Northern Light VDC-Wi/Upper Michigan
1/10/20	Men's	Iowa VDC
1/17/20	Women's	Iowa VDC
2/27/20	M #81	INKY VDC, In/Ky
2/20/20	# 44	VDC, Colorado

VdC Prayer Chain is prayingfordvc@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

Secretariat

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<p>Contact Lay Director Dave Lann with your interest in serving on Secretariat or 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 most months at different locations. You are welcome to attend. Contact Lay Direct Dave Lann for the place and time of each meeting</p>		