



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

De Colores!

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TOP TEN PREDICTIONS for 2016 and BEYOND

With all the problems the world is facing, it can be unsettling to the mind. Today we share with you ten predictions that are true!

1. The Bible will still have all the answers.
2. Prayer will still be the most powerful thing on Earth.
3. The Holy Spirit will still move.
4. God will still honor the praises of His people.
5. There will still be God-anointed preaching.
6. There will still be singing of praises to God.
7. God will still pour out blessings upon His people.
8. There will still be room at the Cross.
9. Jesus will still love you.
10. Jesus will still save the lost when they come to Him.

Isn't it great to remember Who is really in control, and that "... the Word of the Lord endures forever." (1 Peter 1:25)

We hope you found this encouraging and will send it to friends! Sometimes we need the reminder of just "WHO" is really in control.

'Til the nets are full, keep on fishing.

I want to be a fisher of men
Go down to the water and jump right in
Let down the nets and haul them in
I want to be x x a fisher of men!

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Contact Butch for info @ open positions.

Secretariat meetings are held the third Saturday of each month. You are welcome to attend. Contact Lay Director Butch Seeley for the place and time of each meeting.

God loves you and so do we!

Via de Cristo of Ohio Annual Meeting



Please join others from the VdC Community on **Saturday January 16 at All Shepherds Lutheran Church, 6580 Columbus Pike, Lewis Center, OH 43035**. We'll begin at **11:00 am** for the brief business meeting to elect our Lay Director and Secretary. Our speaker will be National VdC Spiritual Director Doug Given who will then join us for Worship and Holy communion. Potluck will follow. Of course, we'll also sing so bring your Songbook.

We'll also vote on a proposal to have future Annual Meetings in June beginning in 2017. **We look forward to seeing you all !**

Welcome Vicky and Mark

It is with pleasure that Secretariat announces two new members who have taken on positions that are very much needed.

Vicky Sakala will be the **Prayer Chain Co-ordinator**. Daily she will monitor the new Prayer Chain email address which is prayingforvdc@gmail.com and pass on to all of us our Via de Cristo brothers' and sisters' requests for prayer. All of you who receive the Newsletter by email are on Vicky's distribution list (unless you request otherwise). For those of you who get the Newsletter by US Mail, you may phone your prayer request to Vicky at 419-884-1573 and your request will be sent out for prayer by those who use email. We have not yet worked out an efficient way to spread prayer requests to those without email.

Mark Ludrosky will be the **Logistics Co-ordinator**, a position which has taken on more responsibility. As many of you know, the Catholic Church which runs the Cursillo Center in Columbus, where many of us made our Weekends, learned the building can no longer be used for overnight activities because it does not meet fire code regulations. Much of the material used on Weekends was stored there. Now it's necessary to store everything elsewhere and transport it all to whatever site will be used for each Weekend. Mark has taken on that task as well as the task of finding people to help with the loading, transporting and unloading of all the items at the beginning and end of each Weekend. Perhaps he'll call on you to help; please say yes!

Wow! Matching Grant Opportunity

It is also with pleasure that Secretariat announces the receipt of an anonymous matching grant opportunity. The donor says that he/she will match your gifts to Via de Cristo of Ohio up to **\$1,500** if your donation is made by the conclusion of the VdC Annual Meeting on Saturday January 16.

With the need to find different locations to hold our VdC Weekends (see explanation in the article at left), the cost for each Weekend has significantly increased over what we paid in Columbus. Secretariat has chosen to try at least four different sites for Weekends; the decision may be made to choose one site for the future or to continue to use different ones.

For those of you who have made donations to VdC in the past or regularly send contributions, we thank you! Please continue. For others, please consider a donation now to take advantage of the match. God has blessed every one of us richly with faith in Him, and with varying levels of time, talent and treasure. We all serve Him in different ways. For those of you who have served Via de Cristo in the past on Weekends, Secretariat and other things but feel you might need to cut back your service due to health or busy-schedules, perhaps you can consider giving some of your treasure if you can't give your time.

Bring your donation to the Annual Meeting or send it by mail to Treasurer Raleigh Sandy at 9418 Hacker Farm Lane, Centerville, OH 45458-5318.

Weekend Orientation Set For Saturday, January 30, 2016 At Trinity Lutheran In Kent

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 to questions, then you are invited to learn about the weekend experience and being a team member by attending a **Weekend Orientation** (the new name for Leader's School) meeting set for Saturday, January 30, 2016 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 600 S. Water Street, Kent, 44240, from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

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.

We are having this session in conjunction with an **Ultreya** that will bring together the Team and Pilgrims from Co-Ed Weekend #1. This training session is open not only to members of the Co-Ed weekend, but also any member of the Ohio Via de Cristo who would like to serve on a team.

Everyone throughout Ohio is invited to the Ultreya which will follow at 3:45 p.m. with discussions, Worship and Holy Communion. After that, there will be a pot luck at the church.

If you have any questions, please send me an email at dbbrenneman@embarqmail.com or a telephone call at 740-694-1755. Please also email or call and let us know if you can attend so we might have enough materials for all.

We **thank Fred Schneider** for his service in conducting previous Leaders' Schools. Fred has other responsibilities that necessitated stepping down from Secretariat and we'll miss him there.

Blessings!
Dick Brenneman

Ultreya News

<p>Ultreyas 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.</p>	<p>Cincinnati area Ultreyas 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.</p>	<p>Bellville Ultreya will be the second Sundays of January, April, July and <u>October at 3:00pm</u>. It's at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 48 Church Street, Bellville 44813. Worship and Holy Communion are followed by Potluck, table service and drinks provided. Call Ken and Josie Riling with questions, 419-886-2437, or Paul and Vicky Sakala, 419-884-1573.</p>	<p>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.</p>
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Ultreya in Bellville this Sunday January 16 at 3:00 at St. Paul.

Upcoming Weekends around the nation: Please include them in your prayers

Walk to Emmaus in Iowa Men's February 4-7 Women's February 11-14

Northern Minnesota Via de Cristo Men's #632 February 25-28 Women's #633 March 3-6

Wisconsin Sunrise Men's #93 February 25-28 Women's #94 March 3-6

**Blessings from your Palanca Chair,
Sherryl Franklin-Patterson**

Treasurer's Report from Raleigh Sandy

Financially, we need your help to provide Christ filled resources for our Christian community. As you will see in the financial status of our organization, we are sharing God's message using the resources of so few dedicated supporters. Your gifts represent the future for many to see and experience the true relationship with Christ. **One dedicated community member has placed a challenge to match \$1,500.00 by our annual meeting in January 2016.** Any donations received from now to the annual meeting will be matched to that figure.

Donations may be sent to: Via de Cristo of Ohio
9418 Hacker Farm Lane
Centerville, Ohio 45458-5318

Here is our financial status reported to the Secretariat:

Current Bank Balances

Checking	1523.29
Savings	<u>2709.04</u>
Total	4232.33

LOMO due	<u>(3437.50)</u>	(for recently completed Co-ed Weekend)
Available	794.83	

Current Facility Deposits

LOMO Spring	862.50
Otyokwah	550.00
Saints Peter & Paul	<u>1200.00</u>
Total Deposits	2612.50

Here is our concern:

Pending Costs

LOMO Oct15 Coed	2812.50 to 3437.50 (3750.00 (30) to 4375.00 (35) (less 937.50 deposit)
CCLI	450.00 (due January for license fee for music)
Spring Weekend at Otyokwah	3580.00 (\$4130.00 less deposit \$550.00) 35 @ \$118/person
Website	\$40/mo
Insurance	800.00 (due early summer)
National VdC dues	300.00 (due April)
Newsletter expenses	avg 75.00/mo
Clergy Experience 2	\$3600.00 est for 30 (\$4800.00 less deposit \$1200.00) (Fall 2016)

Cost of our recent Coed weekend

LOMO \$125/person plus food and miscellaneous
We had roughly \$800.00 in food/supply donations
Total cost was about \$150/person

A Message from VdC Ohio Music Advisor Jen Briner

As I looked at my Christmas lights twinkling in my family room, I was reminded that Jesus is the Light of the world. Christmas songs reference this Light as does John's gospel, which I have recently been studying.

"In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overpower it." John 1:4-5

I'm also reading the devotional, "Sanctuary" by David Jeremiah. In December I read these words: "The feeblest light is best seen in the thickest darkness."

All of this "light talk" led me to thinking about which song I would profile this month and of course, "Thy Word" came right to mind. Michael W. Smith came up with the tune and the chorus from Psalm 119:105 but got stuck when he came to the verses! Amy Grant heard the demo and fell in love with it. Michael gave it to her and asked her to finish it. She was staying at a ranch in the Rocky Mountains and on the way back to her cabin, got lost. It was pitch black and there were dangers, the least of which were bears. She saw a lamp faintly shining and followed it, not realizing it was leading to her cabin. She sat down on the bed, picked up her notebook and immediately wrote the verses. Remember "Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path." If you don't remember all the words, perhaps you can find your Via de Cristo song book and look them up.

The next time you gaze on your Christmas tree, and every day from now 'til then, be reminded that Jesus is the Light, shining brightly in the darkness of this world. Fix your gaze on Him and He will lead you home.

God loves you and so do I!
Jen Briner

If you know someone who does not get the VdC Ohio Newsletter but would like to, please send the contact information to Nancy.

If you know someone from the Via de Cristo Community who has changed their street address or email address or telephone number, please send the new information to Newsletter Editor Nancy Martin at vdcnewsletterohio@gmail.com or 419-886-4420 or 4025 Andrews Road, Bellville, OH 44813.

The Clergy Experience #2 has been deferred to fall of 2016. Information will come next summer.



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

Look to the February Newsletter for information about Co-ed Weekend #2 coming May 19-22, 2016 !