



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

De Colores!

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June 4, 2011

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are almost to Pentecost Season. Pentecost is celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. I must admit, I had heard these passages for years. But I am not sure I experienced the Holy Spirit until my Former Pastor Dave came to St. Paul. My church was his first call. I remember his first several weeks as I was asking questions every week after the service. Finally, someone asked me why I was bugging him every Sunday. I was at a loss for words (sometimes, even I am speechless); I didn't realize I was doing this. I had hoped that I hadn't offended him. So I asked him. He looked at me and smiled and said that is the Holy Spirit working in me. I just kind of looked at him liked he was crazy and said "Oh, right." This was over twelve years ago. I now can look back on this and say it was the beginning of the Holy Spirit working in me and he still is working in me for I have much to learn.

In the April newsletter, I mentioned sharing your Joy, Junk and Jesus. Have you done that? It is easy to find junk as I am a sinful human being. Finding Joy and Jesus take more work some times. I would urge you to see if this is true for you.

We are blessed this year to have two summer weekends fast approaching us. As always, your prayers are needed for the rectors, the teams and the pilgrims. Ask God if he has someone for you to ask to attend. We need you as community to offer prayer for the weekends, to come to the send off and the closing as well as the serenade and wake up. Sign up for prayer times for the weekend. This half hour does make a huge difference on the weekend. Remember how you felt when you heard about the prayer chart and it came into the room. Since these weekends are in the North, it may be hard for many of you to travel up here but your prayer time could bless us all. Prayers can and do make a huge difference. Prayer is mighty palanca and the best there is!!!

I also ask that you pray for our Secretariat. We have some changes and challenges coming. I Praise God for the years of work that Doug Hertlein has given this movement as he moves off of secretariat. Thanks, Doug! Jim Wilson has agreed to do logistics.

May God our Father, Jesus our Brother and the Holy Spirit continue to bless us all!

Cathy Doering
 Lay Director

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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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Ohio Via de Cristo Spiritual Director Doug Pretorius

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Great grace and abundant peace be with you all.

The great lie that is promoted by our society is that we are independent and can do it all by ourselves. We Americans love the story of the penniless orphan who rises above the tragic circumstances of life to pull himself up by his bootstraps – to use the phrase that conveys the essence of this myth – to become a successful businessman, a devoted family man, and a great community leader. The female version of this myth has a spin off that says a woman can be a mother, career professional, and not even need a man.

The most powerful of lies work because they contain a strong mixture of truth. Indeed we do not have to look far to find people who have overcome great adversity to become successful, no matter how you define successful. There is within us a tremendous capacity to do more and be more than we realize. We need to hear the word “You are not defined by your circumstances,” but we need to root out the lie “You can do it alone.”

On a Via de Cristo weekend we are reminded that God calls us to be in a relationship of dependence upon him so that we can live the abundant life promised by Jesus. Living apart from God leads to disaster and so we are invited to pay attention to the practices that keep us connected to God: practices of being in relationship – piety; practices of hearing God speak – study; and practices of doing the work for which God created us – apostolic action. However, the deeper lie that can seduce us is, “Now that you have God, you and God alone can do it all.”

This is precisely the reason we need each other, and this is the reason that the Via de Cristo method stresses reunion groups. Others can see the lies that we tell ourselves easier than we can see it ourselves. In our quest to live according to the truth we need the insight and wisdom of others to discern truth and lies. And they need our ability to see what is really happening in their lives.

None of this can happen, however, if we are not safe, if the group is not practicing rigorous honesty, absolute confidentiality, complete vulnerability, and – most important of all – total loving, grace-filled acceptance of each other. Rare is the group that practices this. It requires hard work and focused attention to move beyond the superficialities, to risk being hurt – again, to engage in the struggle to know ourselves and to know God, and to live in trust. Because humans have failed us in the past, it is difficult to trust that another human being can hold in safety our most precious secrets, our deepest fears, and our impossible dreams.

But God can. The glory of God is that he risked everything in becoming mortal with all the limitations, weaknesses, challenges, and difficulties involved in being human. Then with the power of the Holy Spirit within him, Jesus lived out life that is really living. And he did not do it alone. He entrusted himself to three men who knew him intimately, to twelve men who heard his most private thoughts, and to seventy men and women who received his most intensive teachings and his call to action.

If Jesus was a part of a “reunion group” consisting of Peter, James, John and himself, dare we risk not following the same pattern? We have seen from the Scriptures what the result of living in so connected a community did for them. The three disciples were utterly transformed. Jesus completed the action God chose for him to do. Allow God, through your reunion group, to bring you the freedom, the power, and the life that flows from living the truth.

Peace,

Pastor Doug Pretorius

From the Rector—

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

One of my favorite verses in Scripture is Micah 6:8. He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. What does the Lord require of you? To act justly, love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”

I find it is not always easy to do this because as soon as I begin to walk humbly, Satan begins to try to puff up my ego and take me away from my walk with Jesus. I ask for your prayers and support for me and the team for the upcoming summer weekend. Our goal and desire is to fulfill God’s desire to let us all walk humbly so others may see and glorify Him.

As preparation for the weekend progresses I am constantly reflecting on my first weekend. It was an ecumenical cursillo back in 1982. I went because a friend asked me to go. By Friday afternoon I could tell this was going to be a highly spiritual experience. By Friday night I was sitting on a bunk with a Spiritual Director trying to explain to him why I wanted to go home. I had only been a Christian for a few years, and in that short time I had had a few of these close encounters with Jesus, but they were short and seemed to fade quickly. I did not want to go through this experience again and have it just fade away. He explained to me that Via de Cristo was designed to not only allow a pilgrim to experience His love and come closer to Him but that it also provided a way to continue and even grow the relationship that would result from the weekend. He explained the group reunion to me, which sounded good to me and I agreed to continue the weekend. I did experience Jesus on a mountaintop that weekend and have continued to group ever since.

The mountaintop experience doesn’t always occur each time we meet but the reunion group keeps me near the mountain. The group and meeting place has changed many times over the years but the support and blessings continue to grow and bless me. The Holy Spirit can and does work through my brothers and that is why I look forward to again working on a weekend. He has called a group of us together to “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God”, and by the grace of God and your prayer support we will be the conduits that help Him carry out His great plan of bringing all of creation back to Him (Eph 1:10). Without Christ we can do nothing but with Him we can do all things. Remembering the words of commissioning during the weekend “Christ is counting on us,” we go forward into this weekend to glorify Him. Please pray without ceasing that we stay focused and humble.

In His name.

Barney Rowe
GLYASDI



Prayer: First and most important . . . the OIL that turns layman-made weekends into a spiritual encounter with Christ! From the calling of the leaders and team, through the Closing, the weekends need your on-going prayer support! During the Rollos, the Chapel is open for your direct in-person prayer support! Before the weekend as well as during the weekend itself, you support the Pilgrims and Team by praying at home or wherever you are. Please pray for us! Thank you.

Ohio Men's Weekend #69
July 28-31, 2011

Men's Team #69			Pilgrims and Sponsors		
Name	Call	Church	Name	Sponsor	Church/City
Barney Rowe	Rector	Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran, Stow	Danny Westbrook	Melinda Bratton	St. John's Lutheran
Jon Paul	Head Cha	St. Stephen Lutheran, Stow	David Krenrick	Clare Duncan	St. Paul Lutheran, Bellville
Pastor Laurel Bobb	Spiritual Director	Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran, Stow	Howard Trupp	Clemens	St. Mark's Anglican, Branford, Ontario
Pastor Ken Hacker	Spiritual Director	St. John Lutheran,	Wen Anderson	Barney Rowe	Gloria Dei Lutheran, Hudson
Adam Gsellman	Chapel Cha	Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran, Stow	Nelson Williams	Zane Ziegler	Emmanuel Lutheran, North Georgetown
Dale Mortensen	Music Cha	Prince of Peace Lutheran, Westlake	John Kleinhenz	Barney Rowe	Gloria Dei Lutheran, Hudson
Stu Smith	Music Cha	First Evangelical Lutheran, Poland			
Bob Gsellman	Palanca Cha	Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran, Stow	<p>Please pray and ask God who he is leading you to invite as a pilgrim. There is plenty of room for more pilgrims.</p>	<p>Bob Gsellman is the Palanca Cha for this men's weekend. He'd love to hear from you with your sign up time for prayer 'rgsellman@neo.rr.com'</p>	
Gregg Bobb	Head Kitchen Cha	Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran, Stow			
Skip Dodds	Kitchen Cha	Grace Episcopal, Willoughby			
Vince Mallen	Kitchen Cha	Advent Lutheran, Mentor			
Fred Gesell	Kitchen Cha	St. John Lutheran,			
Paul Crooks	Kitchen Cha	Barley Lutheran,			
Bob Dieter	Kitchen Cha	St. Stephen Lutheran, Stow			
Al Moorman	Kitchen Cha	Advent Lutheran, Mentor			
Jeff Wright	Kitchen Cha	St. Paul Lutheran, Bellville			
Mike Yaquinto	Head Rollo Room	St. Stephen Lutheran, Stow			
Matt Gyulai	Rollo Room Cha	Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran, Stow			
Larry Bratton	Rollo Room Cha	Emmanuel Lutheran, North Georgetown			
David Kronenberger	Ideal Rollo	Royal Redeemer Lutheran, North Royalton			
Keith Lawson	Laity Rollo	Strongsville UMC, Strongsville			
Jeff Thomas	Piety Rollo	St. Stephen Lutheran, Stow			
Jim Caldwell	Study Rollo	Living Word Lutheran,			
Brian Kuntz	Action Rollo	Deerfield UMC, Deerfield			
Norbert Peiker	Leaders Rollo	St. Paul Lutheran, Bellville			
John McDowell	Environment	Community of Hope Lutheran			
Doug Hertlein	CCA Rollo	Peace Lutheran, Canal Winchester			
TBA	Fourth Day Couple	Winchester			
Thursday and Friday, July 28-29, 2011		Saturday, July 30		Sunday, July 31	
Thursday – Send-off 7:30PM		Study	9:00AM	Gather in Kitchen	QUIETLY!!!
Pilgrims arrive at Retreat Center at 7:00		Grace Filled Days	10:20AM	Wake-Up Serenade	6:00AM
Friday		Apostolic Action	1:40PM	Environment	9:20AM
Ideal	10:15AM	Obstacles to Grace	2:55PM	CCA	10:20AM
Habitual Grace	11:25AM	Leaders	4:25PM	Life in Grace	12:00PM
Laity	1:50PM	Serenade Practice	5:00PM	Group Reunion and	1:50PM
Actual Grace	3:00PM	(at TBD)		Ultreya	
Piety	4:45PM	Serenade	6:30PM	Closing (TBD)	5:00PM

More from the Rector—

BECAUSE HE LIVES

How profound are these three little words. When combined in this order, however, they mean the world (other world) to me and to all believers. When I was asked to be the rector for this summer weekend (7-28 thru 7-31) these are the words that the Holy Spirit laid on my heart immediately. I have been pondering them ever since. This is the confirmation of our Faith, the reason for our Hope, and the reason that we Love. It is the answer for everything. This is the reason for our being. I can go on and on but I don't want to be accused of writing like St. Paul.

The team that the Holy Spirit wants is formed and the pilgrims that He wants to be part of this weekend are being called and are responding. There are more pilgrims out there that the Holy Spirit has prepared for an invitation. I am confident that as we continue to pray about them we will invite and encourage them to "come and see what the Lord has in store for them". The excitement is building as preparations are being completed and we begin to do the hardest thing for a human being to do – GIVE CONTROL OVER TO HIM. We can, however, give control over to the Holy Spirit as we continue to pray for each other, the pilgrims, and the 4th day. Remember, I can do nothing alone but with Him all things are possible. I am also reminded that we should not only pray for each other but we should also remind Satan that he is defeated and has lost his battle to gain control over us. Pray to bind him from us and our efforts to accomplish Jesus' will to show the world that we are trying to become like Jesus BECAUSE HE LIVES !!!!!

BECAUSE HE LIVES
Barney Rowe

[Click here: The Bible on One page](#)

Save this to your Favorites place and find whatever you want in the Bible in seconds? Thanks to someone for all their work!

The Bible on One Page

Provided by Paul Sakala, St. Paul Lutheran Church in Bellville

Women's Weekend #71 Cursillistas

Debbie Ludwig – St. Peter Lutheran, Norwalk
Samantha Ludwig – St. Peter Lutheran, Norwalk
Sarah Ludwig – St. Peter Lutheran, Norwalk
Flora Jean Watson – St. Peter Lutheran, Norwalk
Heather Nichols – Trinity Lutheran, Mount Healthy
Loretta Livengood – Trinity Lutheran, Mount Healthy
Linda Resch - Messiah Lutheran, Reynoldsburg
Pat Kurz - Messiah Lutheran, Reynoldsburg
Mindy Caspary - Prince of Peace Lutheran, Poland
Nikki Timberlake - St. Paul Lutheran, Bellville
Alexandra Vago - Divinity Lutheran, Parma Heights
Tina Heise – Divinity Lutheran, Parma Heights
Vicki Castle - Abiding Christ Lutheran, Fairborn
Connie Farabaugh – Vineyard, Columbus



Upcoming Weekends, Ultreyas and Events of Interest

Men's Weekend #69			
Weekend Scheduled Date	Location	4 Week Cut-Off Date	2 Week Cutoff Date
July 28-31, 2011	St. Leonard Retreat Center Avon, Ohio	June 29, 2011	July 13, 2011
Women's Weekend #72			
Weekend Scheduled Date	Location	4 Week Cut-Off Date	2 Week Cutoff Date
August 4-7, 2011	St. Leonard Retreat Center Avon, Ohio	July 7, 2011	July 21, 2011
Grand Ultreya			
June 11, 2011 4:00-7:00PM	St. John's Lutheran Church	York, Pennsylvania	
Leader's School			
September 10, 2011 (Time to be determined)	Hosanna Lutheran Church	Pataskala, Ohio	

ULTREYA!

Upcoming Meeting Dates in OHIO

Bellville – On Sunday, June 12 the Bellville Community will meet at St. Paul Lutheran Church to sing joyfully, to worship and commune together. We begin at 6:00PM; refreshments will be served. All are welcome.	Cincinnati – First Saturday of each month beginning at 7:30PM at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1553 Kinney Avenue, Mt. Healthy, Ohio 45231. Please contact Kevin Hoch at (513) 931-8797 or e-mail to khoch@cinci.rr.com .
Clayton – Third Saturday of each month. Next meeting is Saturday June 18 at 6:30PM at United Christian Church, 8611 Hoke Road, Clayton, OH 45315. Contact Wes Scoates (937) 837-1683.	Columbus – Circle the date of July 26, 2011 for the next gathering—more information will be provided in the July newsletter.
Dayton Lutheran Ultreya Saturday – Our next meeting will be on June 11 at Abiding Christ Lutheran Church, 326 East Dayton Yellow Springs Road, Fairborn, OH 45324. Craig Fourman at CraigFourman@abidingchrist.org is the contact person. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on June 18.	Urbana – Friday, July 1 at 6:30PM at Church of the Epiphany, corner Scioto and Kenton in Urbana. Joint Ultreya with Episcopal, Roman Catholic, Methodist and Lutheran Churches. Contact Dick or Marv Swan (513) 484-3189.
Western Lake County – Periodic joint Lutheran-Episcopal Ultreya. Contact George Cyphers at (440) 951-2906 or at work (216) 292-4333.	Western Reserve Walk to Emmaus meetings are the second Saturday of each month at the Seven Hills United Methodist Church and the fourth Saturday of each month at the Mentor United Methodist Church. Each Ultreya begins at 7:00PM. Contact Vince Mallen at (440) 257-2235.
PLEASE CONTACT NANCY MARTIN AT 'vdcnewsletterohio.earthlink.net' with any additions and/or corrections.	PLEASE CONTACT NANCY MARTIN AT 'vdcnewsletterohio.earthlink.net' with any additions and/or corrections.



YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! Information about some Ultreyas is incomplete. Community members with any information about standing dates, times and locations of Ultreyas in their area are requested to send it to vdcnewsletterohio@earthlink.net or to Nancy Martin, 4025 Andrews Road, Bellville, OH 44813. Please send information about specific Ultreyas, such as speakers or programs, as well.

You are Invited to The Grand Ultreya



All,

At the 2010 NLS in Minnesota, Rainbow Via de Cristo, Vineyard Via de Cristo and Journey in Faith Via de Cristo discussed the possibility of having a Grand Ultreya including the three Secretariats which are relatively close to one another. We have batted around the idea ever since, never really coming up with a good time and place that would suit all parties. I'm sure you know how that is!

Well, in the spirit of "just do it," a few of us leaders in the movement realized that we just needed to schedule it in the hopes of getting something like this established; that it would go forward and get bigger and better as time progressed. It seemed like a better idea than continuing to put it off until it was a good time for each and every one.

We scheduled our Grand Ultreya for June 11 from 4-7pm at St. John's Lutheran in York, PA. We have been advertising it for a couple of weeks now. Today we had a conference call to hammer out some details. I mentioned that I had finally been able to get in touch with Damascus Road Via de Cristo and when talking to their Lay Director, I invited their Community, even though it is between 5-6 hours away. It was then suggested that we also invite Good News Via de Cristo and Ohio Via de Cristo and make it a "true" Regional event. Since at a prior National Meeting I heard discussion of that not working in the past because of the distance that our Secretariats are apart, I did not think anyone from either Good News or Ohio Via de Cristo would want to make such a long trip for such a short event. But when someone else suggested it during the call, and since I would love for some of the folks from either Community to attend, I thought why not at least invite you all. The Journey In Faith Community can also put folks up Friday and/or Saturday night if anyone is interested in that. We made the decision to have this great event around the 1st of May and should have invited you then, but we do want to extend an invitation to all of you now in the hopes that some of you may be able to attend. It would be wonderful if you did!

God Bless,

Steve Barnett

Lay Director, Journey in Faith Via de Cristo

610-301-9900

WOW! AND DOUBLE WOW!!!

A Real Life Story by Steven Matthews

A few weeks before Sept. 11th, my wife and I found out we were going to have our first child. She planned a trip out to California to visit her sister. On our way to the airport, we prayed that God would grant my wife a safe trip and be with her. Shortly after I said 'amen,' we both heard a loud pop and the car shook violently. We had blown out a tire.

I replaced the tire as quickly as I could, but we still missed her flight. We both were very upset as we drove home.

Later that morning I received a call from my father who was retired from the New York Fire Department (NYFD). He asked what my wife's flight number but I explained that we had missed the flight.

It was then my father informed me that her flight was the one that had crashed into the south tower. I was too shocked to speak. My father also had more news for me; he was going into the city to help. "This is not something I can't just sit by for; I have to do something."

I was concerned for his safety, of course, but more because he had never given his life to Christ. After a brief debate, I knew his mind was made up. Before he got off of the phone, he said, "take good care of my grandchild." Those were the last words I ever heard my father say; he died while helping in the rescue effort.

My joy that my prayer of safety for my wife had been answered quickly became anger. I was angry at God, at my father, and at myself. I had gone for nearly two years blaming God for taking my father away. My son would never know his grandfather, my father had never accepted Christ, and I never got to say good-bye.

Then something happened. About two months ago, I was sitting at home with my wife and my son, when there was a knock at the door. I looked at my wife but I could tell she wasn't expecting anyone. I opened the door to a couple with a small child.

The man looked at me and asked if my father's name was Jake Matthews. I told him it was. He quickly grabbed my hand and said, "I never got the chance to meet your father, but it is an honor to meet his son."

He explained to me that his wife had worked in the World Trade Center and had been caught inside after the attack. She was pregnant and had been caught under debris. He then explained that my father had been the one to find his wife and free her. My eyes welled up with tears as I thought of my father giving his life for people like this. He then said, "There is something else you need to know."

His wife then told me that as my father worked to free her she talked to him and led him to Christ. I began sobbing at the news.

Now I know that when I get to Heaven, my father will be standing beside Jesus to welcome me, and that this family would be able to thank him themselves.

When their baby boy was born they name him Jacob Matthew in honor of the man who gave his life so that a mother and baby could live.

The story should help us realize this: **GOD IS ALWAYS IN CONTROL.**

We may not see the reason behind things, and we may never know on this side of heaven, but God is ALWAYS in control.

Please take the time to share this amazing story. You may never know the impact that it may have on someone. God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD. HIS LOVES ENDURES FOREVER. Psalm 136.

May God bless you and your family.

GOD LOVES YOU AND SO DO !!!!!