

GOOD NEWS! VIA DE CRISTO

OF SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN AND NORTHWEST OHIO

AUGUST 2016



FALL WEEKEND LEADERSHIP:

MEN'S WEEKEND

◆ Rector:
Bill Schmidt
419-822-5561
wesgls@windstream.net

◆ Head Cha:
Jim Getzinger
419-836-1855
jim.getzinger@gmail.com

WOMEN'S WEEKEND

◆ Rector:
Gail Heino
586-212-7492
RGheino@yahoo.com

◆ Head Cha:
Marsha Bobowski
586-786-1171

Fall Weekend is Coming Soon!



Our spring rectors are hard at work calling and training teams to serve this Spring. As a community, we are called to support them. Here is what you can do to help:

- Donate food or supplies. Contact the head chas for more information. At the time of this publication, head cooks had not yet been established.
- **Attend set-up** (Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.) Serenade (Saturday evening at 6 p.m.) **Clausura** (Sunday afternoon

at 4:30 p.m.) and help with **tear down** (Sunday following the clausura)

- Pray. Visit gnvdc.org and follow the link to our **online prayer vigil sign up**. Can you spend 30 minutes in prayer for the team and participants?
- **Volunteer**. Contact the head cook or the head server. Extra hands in the kitchen to chop, wash dishes, and set tables can give the team extra encouragement.
- Visit the **prayer chapel**. This is especially meaningful if one of your reunion group members is giving a rollo. Check with the head server to get access to the building and for schedule details.

- Write letters and give gifts of grace in addition to your prayer palanca. Hand written palanca to participants is always preferred—but any message can bring a gift of grace. All letters should be turned in by Saturday's serenade. Gifts of love are appreciated on Thursday to allow the palanca chas to plan appropriately for distribution.



Have you approached potential participants yet?

It's never too early to pray for a potential participant on a weekend. If there's someone you've been praying about, have you approached them yet?

Deadlines for weekend applications are October 3 for the men and October 10 for the women—but it's not too early to get those applications in!

Applying early has benefits:

- 1.) The community gets the names and can start praying.
- 2.) The participant has time to plan ahead for things like child care, pet care, time off work, etc. This can greatly ease the stress of attending a weekend.
- 3.) As a sponsor, you have time to collect palanca letters from family and friends. It can take time to contact those important people. Having time to get letters returned to you means your participant will receive those message of love and grace on Sunday from more people.
- 4.) The team can be assured that the weekend will take place. It can make a team anxious to prepare when they don't know a weekend will happen for sure. When participants register early, it eases the nerves of the team and helps them focus on serving with enthusiasm.

So have you talked to your potential participants yet? The time is NOW!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>From Our Lay-Director</i>	2
<i>Selecting a Participant</i>	2
<i>Update Your Contact Information</i>	3
<i>National Lutheran Secretariat Report</i>	3
<i>Upcoming Events</i>	4

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A Word from our Lay Director

Dearest GNVdC Community,
I just returned from the 2016 VDC National Gathering. I'm returning quite energized and excited about having met several of my Lay Director peers and many other folks from secretariats within our region (5) and all around the country.

I'll share with you a story that might hit home to a few of us. Outgoing National Spiritual Director Pr. Doug Givan addressed the attendees on Friday. His message included a story of having met an old relation that had made a weekend in his home secretariat several years back and upon meeting him, they reminisced a bit. I have

permission from Pr. Givan here to paraphrase, the gentleman asked if Via de Cristo was "still a thing", and that he thought that perhaps Via de Cristo had "run its course".

Pr. Doug assured him that indeed VDC is "Still a Thing". Although like many secretariats around the country, we have had to cancel or defer weekend due to a lack of participants, we are a 4th day Movement and not a Weekend Movement and that we should not be judging our health by how well our weekends are attended, but rather by how strong our reunion group ministries are. The point is that if we are healthy in our fourth day, we

will be attractive to our environments and folks should be saying, "I want some of that!".

Let's be that attractiveness in our environments and the health of our weekends will take care of itself. If you are not in a small group you should look around a find one. It doesn't have to be VDC, but that would be nice. Remember that an isolated Christian is a paralyzed Christian. Let's be salt and light to all those around us and the best way to do that is in community.

GLYASDI,
Jack Eggenberger
GNVdC Lay Director

How do we select a participant?

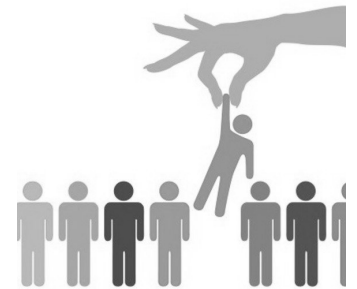
Whether this is your first time sponsoring someone for a weekend or you've sponsored several participants in the past, it's always good to review the details. Consider these lists as you pray about and ask participants for an upcoming weekend. When we, as sponsors, take time to carefully consider who to ask, the participants are better prepared and the weekend can have a greater impact on all who attend.

About you as a sponsor:

- Have you been living the fourth day and understand the goals of Via de Cristo?
- Prayed for guidance before taking action to sponsor this participant?
- Spoken to the participants pastor?
- Told the participant about the fourth day?
- Ensured that he/she really wants to participate and is not just doing you a favor?
- Offered to assist the participant with baby/pet/house sitting, etc.?
- Offered the participant transportation to and from the weekend?
- Agree to support the participant through prayer, written palanca, and your presence at the sendoff and the closing?
- Agree to actively assist them join a reunion group?
- Agree to support the participant in their fourth day for at least six months after the weekend?
- Shared with them about the \$100 suggested donation that will be discussed at the end of the weekend?

About the participant:

- Does he/she desire to grow as a Christian?
- Have potential for leadership in his/her environment?
- Have the capacity for careful listening and understanding?
- Seriously open to change and spiritual growth?
- At least 18 years old, mature, responsible, and in good emotional health?
- Physically capable of fully participating in the weekend?
- Understand that Via de Cristo is more than just attending a weekend?
- Really want to attend a weekend?
- At a relatively stable place in their life?



Have questions about your role as a sponsor? Need help with asking family and friends for palanca letters? Wondering about where you need to be and when?

Visit our website at gnvdc.org or contact any member of the secretariat for more information.

National Lutheran Secretariat Gathering 2016

The National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Event has come and gone. We began the journey three years ago and it is hard to believe that it is over.

My heart is filled with gratitude and pride to the Good News Community who jumped in to help with the National event from its inception until its completion. Whether it was an hour or countless hours, you all made this happen! I believe that more than 120 people in our community helped along the way. An amazing number! In so many ways, you reflected the love of Christ, the attitude of service, the voices of angels and in some cases the patience of Job.

The evaluations and emails that I am still getting are saying this was one of the best weekends they have attended at the national level

and those who were “first timers”, cannot wait to come back! Attendees felt welcomed, served and the Holy Spirit’s presence. They understood the theme of reaching the far away through friendship in the Lord and friendship with others as the base of this movement.

We are the family of God and we have spent some great quality time together with our brothers and sisters in preparing for this event. On road trips, at Mud Hens games, in preparing Palanca and notebooks for the weekend, in worship, in team meetings, in listening to the speakers, a golf cart or during karaoke, in laughter and tears, in accomplishments and disappointments, in song and in sorrow and everything in between.

My prayer is that those who participated in any way have been blessed and this event will re-



main a special time in your hearts where you saw the workings of God and you know that beyond a shadow of doubt you are loved!

Blessings and hugs to all,
Tracy Schmidlin

From our Delegate to National Secretariat...

Hi to all my sisters and brothers of Good News!

I want to take this time to let you know how awesome the National Gathering was this year. I have been to several now as a Lay Delegate for our secretariat and have enjoyed each one. Getting to know other people from around the country and how their secretariats are similar as, well as different from ours. It is a real nice way to network.

This year was especially meaningful as our secretariat along with the Ohio secretariat hosted the event. You remember the blessings you received when you made your weekend, and then the blessings you received when you worked your first team to serve others; well the blessings I received by being a part of the host team was abounding with God at the center of

it all. Was it a lot of work, yes, but when I could look around and see God’s hand in everything I was happy and knew that what we were doing was pleasing to Him.

Lourdes University was a great venue and they could not have been more gracious to host us. Our team worked well together and became closer in our friendships with one another. That’s how it works folks, when you work side by side to accomplish His mission you can’t help but become close. It was never about us or what we did; it was about service to the kingdom and making our guests feel welcome and blessed. I feel we accomplished our mission. We had a wonderful leader in Tracy Schmidlin. She was always encouraging with a smile as we worked for the last three years to make this dream of hosting become a reality. Phil Meuser, who is now in his 5th day with

Christ, had the vision to host this 2016 National Gathering. It was a tribute to all his service and love of this Via de Cristo community.

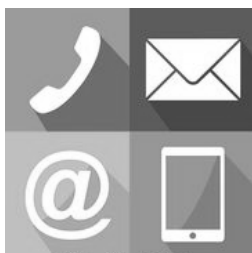
Our theme was Reaching the Far Away. I feel that all who attended, listening and being encouraged by the wonderful speakers, attending the daily worship services that glorified our Lord though praise music and messages given by pastors that also love this movement, and interacting with other Christian brothers and sisters from different parts of the country were energized and revitalized to go out and reach people for God. That is, after all, what He has called us to do. I know my desire and excitement to reach people for Christ has been awakened.

GLYASDI
Diane Lupo

Update your contact information.

In order to maintain contact with you, it is important that we have your current contact information. We have found that many in our database no longer have a working phone number or email on file with us. Email addresses change. More and more people are discontinuing use of a phone at the house and going to mobile phones. If either of these apply to you, please check your records with us to make sure we know how to get ahold of you. There are two ways to update your information:

- If you have a GNVDC login, you can go to www.gnvdc.org and submit your updated information online. There is also a link to request a login if you do not yet have one and would like to have one created for you. This password protected section of the website helps us maintain some privacy, while giving access to information you need to participate in the movement. On your profile you can also update your congregational affiliation, your newsletter preferences, and your availability to serve on team.
- If you do not have a login, you can contact Michelle Ketepa, our communication chair, at communications@gnvdc.org or call 734-883-5899.



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FIND US ONLINE!

WWW.GNVDC.ORG

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

Fall Weekends

Men:
October 13-16, 2016
Application Deadline October 3

Women:
October 20-23, 2016
Application Deadline October 10

Fall weekend location:
Bethel Lutheran Church
26400 Little Mack
St. Clair Shores, MI

Spring Weekends

Men:
April 14-17, 2017
Application Deadline April 4

Women:
April 21-24, 2017
Application Deadline April 11

Spring weekend location:
St. Michael Lutheran Church
5790 W Temperance Rd.
Ottawa Lake, MI



Fall Post- Weekend Ultreya

Sunday, November 6, 2016
3:00-6:00 p.m.

Bethel Lutheran Church
26400 Little Mack
St Clair Shores, MI

Secretariat Meetings are generally held on the second Thursday of each month. For more information about meetings check the GNVDC website for a schedule or contact Jack Eggenberger at laydirector@gnvdc.org.