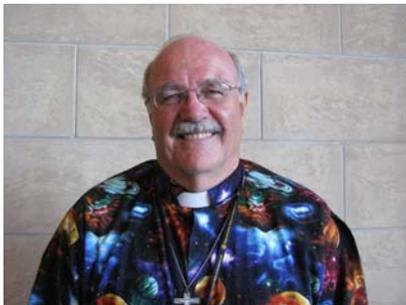




LUTHERAN FORUM: Pastor Paul Schmidlin



Pastor Paul Schmidlin was introduced by his wife, Tracy. We learned Paul wanted to be a pastor since he was 12 years old, and he's been active in the VdC movement for the last 23 years. Paul played football in high school and college (Ohio State), attended Trinity Seminary in

Columbus, played professional ball for the Hamilton Tigercats (Canada), was ordained in the ALC, and since 1986 has pastored a church in Sylvania, Ohio. He made Good News Via de Cristo #2, where he sat at the table of Peter.

Pastor Paul shared he has always loved the notion of "unity without unionism and desire for wholeness among religious hearts without syncretism." Historically, Lutherans could arguably claim to be "older" than the present Roman Catholic church: we look to our founding in 1517; their "counter-reformation" dates from the councils of Trent, between 1545 and 1563. We could arguably claim to have as many adherents, over the years, as Roman Catholicism, and more than Mohammedanism. So what? Our forum theme phrase is: **IT IS FAR TOO EASY TO LOSE SIGHT OF THE REAL PURPOSE OF AN ORGANIZATION WHEN FOCUSING ON INDIVIDUAL TOPICS. IN ISOLATION IT CAN BE HARD TO GET A DETAILED GRIP ON THE BIG PICTURE. WE NEED TO KEEP THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING.**

What is our main thing? John 13:34-35 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." Matthew 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

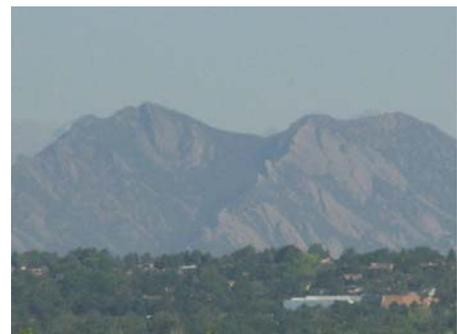
How do we keep the main thing the main thing? In Acts 15 we read of how (Jewish) men from Judea went to Antioch, and were teaching that no one could be saved unless they were circumcised "according to the custom of Moses." This caused controversy, and the question was referred to the apostles in Jerusalem. Acts 15:7-22 records the ebb and flow of significant parts of the discussion among the apostles and elders in Jerusalem, and their final resolution. As Pastor Paul noted, we can see there existed 1) a mutual respect among the leaders and 2) a humble desire to be obedient to Jesus Christ. Matters were discussed and decisions reached with

much prayer and openness to the Holy Spirit's guidance.

How can we tell we have lost the main thing? Pastor Paul referred us to the events surrounding the historical split of the Christian movement into an Eastern Church and a Western Church. Controversy existed over the correct bread to use in the Lord's Supper, and whether the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father AND the Son (the "filioque" statement to the Nicene Creed). In 1054, Cardinal Humbert entered the Cathedral Haggia Sofia in Constantinople, just before the worship service. Going to the altar, he left a letter condemning Michael Cerularius, patriarch of Constantinople. Cerularius responded by condemning both the letter and its authors. These leaders did not have, and did not show, mutual respect. These leaders were not showing a humble desire to be obedient to Jesus Christ. Their decisions do not show a process of mutual prayer or openness to the Holy Spirit's guidance. The same flaws would be noted in the (Roman) Church's response to Luther's questions of it in 1517.

So, what is the essence of Lutheran Via de Cristo? The goal of every Christian is to be faithful to Jesus. Anytime something or someone else replaces Him we have created an idol.

What from Eduardo Bonin's original inspiration required a Lutheran flavor? The more Pastor Paul learned of Bonin, the more he was tempted to think of him as a closet Lutheran. In reality, he was a faithful Roman Catholic churchman. All he did was place himself under the Holy Spirit's direction and ask Christ to be his head. And that is what we should aim to do, too. We will never discard that which makes us Lutheran for we are all dedicated to being faithful to Jesus. We will recognize the beautiful diversity within all Christian churches. We will maintain a mutual respect among our leaders and a humble desire to be obedient to Jesus Christ. Matters can be discussed and decisions reached with prayer and openness to the Holy Spirit's guidance. **WE WILL KEEP THE MAIN THING THE MAIN THING.**



BUSINESS MEETING #2

The second business meeting was opened with *Come, Holy Spirit* and moved promptly to nominations for the NLS Board's Spiritual Director, Treasurer and Vice President of Administration. Pastor John Bradford was nominated and elected unanimously for Spiritual Director as there were no further nominations. Steve Barnett was elected unanimously by acclamation for Treasurer. Carolyn Hawkins was elected unanimously for Vice President of Administration by acclamation.

Presentations were then given by Ed Broestl, Nancy Peterson, Diane Purcell and Steve Gilda. Ed began with details explaining the position of Executive Director on a volunteer basis with their expenses paid for twenty four months. He then described what lies ahead for the office of Executive Director and NLS Secretariats. At the 2013 NLSAM secretariats will be asked to amend the constitution and by-laws for this position. The materials for these changes was promised to be distributed to secretariats at least sixty days prior to the 2013 NLSAM.

Nancy Peterson was selected for the position of Executive Director since September 2011 and was next to give a presentation. Nancy stated that the last ten months had been a whirlwind finding balance within the board. She feels called by God in her new position and was excited to report that she is continuing to build relationships with the secretariats. She was able to verbally connect with about 89% of the lay directors. Nancy collected all of the survey information, a job that used to be done by the NLS Secretary. Nancy expressed that she looks forward to another year of connecting with all the secretariats and is seeking ways to be of assistance to you through this position.



Vice President of Outreach, Steve Gilda, gave an exciting presentation on the importance of rediscovering and recommitting. Regional Outreach Coordinators dressed as soldiers were marched to the front of the auditorium to stress the importance of a "Dynamic Secretariat" and "Irresistible Sponsorship." Some of the questions Steve posed focused on an effective outreach plan for VdC, needs of the 4th Day Community, and the fulfillment of the responsibility of sponsorship. As the *On the Front Lines in the 4th Day soldiers* marched out of the auditorium they chanted, "Rediscover and recommit, all for God I'll do my bit!" See future board minutes for more details.



Diane Purcell, NLS Financial Advisor, reported on the updates

of the federal and state filing requirements and the importance of transparency. She explained that the IRS requires two changes incorporated whenever a secretariat amends its constitution and bylaws. All of this information will be in her hand-out, provided at the third



BEING GOOD STEWARDS OF THE EARTH

Early in their planning for this event, our Host Committee set a goal to be conscious of caring for our earth in our use of supplies and in our efforts to recycle. Towards that goal, we are trying to use paper that is made from at least 30% recycled products. Ro Fesser, Diaconal Minister and Head of Palanca, has discovered that Regis University allows groups and individuals to contribute towards the purchase of new trees for this beautiful campus. In order to help replenish the trees sacrificed to make possible all the paper used this weekend, Ro and the Palanca Team are going to make a contribution towards the purchase of a tree for the campus. If you would like to join in this donation, please see Ro, or e-mail her at mtnroro@yahoo.com.



Pastor Joe
Nilsen's
NEW
Picture
From Ed

Is Your Secretariat Enrolled in the Choice Dollars® program with Thrivent Financial?

Roberta Wentworth, a CO host team member shared some valuable information for all secretariat members. We learned that organizations, like Via de Cristo, can benefit from Thrivent Choice grant funds when those funds are directed by Thrivent members.



For more information and to answer your questions, visit the Thrivent display in the vendor area next to the dining room. If you are a Thrivent member discuss "Choice Dollars" with your agent or call [1-800-847-4836](tel:1-800-847-4836) and ask for Fraternal.

Friday Morning Worship

The 2012 NLS Worship Team woke attendees Friday morning with “De Colores” and then led into more meditative worship songs. Presiding Pastor Clyde Awtry, of Mountain View Lutheran Church in Thornton, led the Dialogue, Confession and Prayer. We were reminded that, as the gospel reading from Luke 18 points out, if an unjust judge would finally justly give the pestering widow her due, how much more will our just God give us what we ask.



Pastor Nita Matthews, Hospice Chaplain for Legacy Hospital in Colorado Springs, started her sermon by reviewing the promises and instructions of God: He **promises** to answer our prayers, be with us, never abandon us, and keep his promises; He **instructs** us to live and obey, to be fully committed, not to be afraid to be labeled as a child of His, to pray for others (including those in authority), to let go of hatred/mistrust/fear, and to learn to love each other. What would it be like if we all followed all of these instructions?

Pastor Nita shared that letting go of hatred and fear had been a tremendous challenge for her, when she left an abusive husband in her mid-twenties; those negative feelings stayed with her and haunted her until she began praying for him. It took years, but finally worked, and she was able to let go of hate/mistrust/fear for and of him, and learned to love him as Jesus would have us love each other. So what IS the “prayer” referred to?

Christians talk a lot about prayer and praying, but what is it? It is NOT just reciting our laundry list of wants and needs each day, and then signing off with an “Amen.” It IS like a real conversation, where we talk AND we listen, where we engage in two-way communication. Prayer is also acknowledging the presence of God; being still, being filled with joy – remembering and rejoicing in that kept promise, that He is always with us. Prayer is a way of life, and it is NOT difficult, unless you are putting up barriers, not truly sharing your heart, or not being honest and real with God. Many people prefer a pastor (“the professional”) to do their praying for them. We need to realize that God knows us, He knows our ability with words, but WE need the experience of initiating the conversation, of listening and being still. In closing, Pastor Nita challenged us to embrace the praying and the joy, to sing “Jesus Loves Me” with vigor, especially at the chorus: YES, JESUS LOVES ME.

NLSAM 2012 transportation



Friday Evening Prayer Service

The evening vespers presented a chance for all to reflect and meditate. Last night reminded us of the importance of listening and opening ourselves up to God’s voice. As we sang *In the Secret* by Andy Park, verses spoke to this message; “In the quiet hour I wait, only for you. Cause I want to know you more. I want to hear your voice; I want to know you more.” The Scripture reading came from James 5: 13-16 and addressed the power of prayer. *16 Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.* Again in closing we were reminded to listen for God’s voice in the singing of *When the Night is Falling* by Dennis Jernigan; “When the night is falling and the day is done I can hear you calling ‘Come!’ I will come while you sing over me. When the night will hide my way I will listen until I hear you say ‘How I love you, child how I love you.’”



The St. John’s Bible



REMINDERS.....

- An offering will be received at the Saturday Morning Worship Service. This offering will help off set the cost of the Executive Director’s expenses. Checks can be written out to the NLS.
- Palanca Posters are available to sign on the 2nd floor foyer until dinner tonight!!!
- Bring your flight information to the registration desk today to confirm your transportation plans.
- Check emails & print boarding passes in the communication office, 2nd floor room, #211
- High Altitude Sickness??? Drink lots of water stay hydrated!!!
- VERY IMPORTANT: Dorm access card and room key: There is a **\$35.00** (lost key) and **\$35.00** (lost security pass) replacement charge. Please return your key before leaving Regis.

Got a Question? A JOY to share?
A challenging situation? Need
NLS Information?

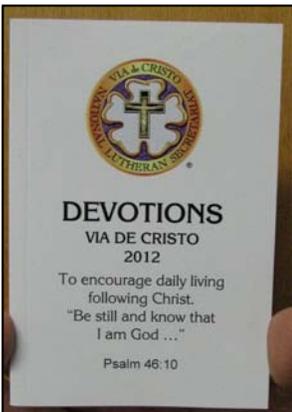
Website: viadecristo.org

OR

Contact NLS Executive Director,
Nancy Peterson:

execdiretor.nls@gmail.com

651-249-7897



Have you purchased
your
Devotional book?



EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

The emergency phone number to give to your family and friends at home is Carol McGill’s cell: **303-772-6434**. Nonemergency campus assistance call: **303-964-5483** and for all **Emergency only** call: **303-458-4122**.



Schedule for Saturday, July 27, 2012

Time	Event	Building	Location
6:30 a.m.	Breakfast	G: Stu Cntr	Dining Hall
8:00 a.m.	Worship	E: Regis	Chapel
9:15 a.m.	Back to Basics Forum	J: Science	Amphitheater
9:55 a.m.	Small Group Sharing	E: Regis	Page 2-2 in notebook
11:00 a.m.	Business Meeting #3	J: Science	Amphitheater
12:30 p.m.	Lunch	G: Stu Cntr	Dining Hall
2:00 p.m.	Seminars repeated	I: Loyola	Page 2-3 in notebook
3:15 p.m.	Regional Meetings #2	I: Loyola	Page 2-3 in notebook
4:15 p.m.	Business Meeting #4	J: Science	Amphitheater
5:30 p.m.	Dinner	G: Stu Cntr	Patio
7:15 p.m.	Evening Vespers	G: Stu Cntr	Patio
7:45 p.m.	Regional Meetings #2 (optional)	I: Loyola	Page 2-3 in notebook
	Fellowship & Hospitality	G: Stu Cntr	West Hall/Patio



Vol. 20.3 Saturday July 28, 2012

CONEXIONES is the official publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, a national association of the Via de Cristo (Way of Christ) movement, representing over 102,070 who have participated in 44 movements across the U.S. The purpose of this publication is to inform the delegates about the activities of the Annual Meeting.

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Seminar: Why Weekend Dynamics Work: The Wheel Leading to the Way

Dr. Magdala Ray, Ed.D., professor at Palm Beach State College in Florida, led an interesting and entertaining seminar on different learning styles, as well as how everyone learns best when learning occurs in a cycle. Magdala began the seminar by inviting participants to complete an assessment of their own learning styles. The assessment measured such things as preference for research and analysis versus hands-on doing, impulsiveness versus being methodical and many other areas.

Each type of learner approaches learning differently. We take in the information in different ways and we process information differently. There are four basic types of learners. Magdala discussed the strengths and weaknesses of each type. Each of those types corresponds to the four steps in a learning cycle Magdala uses, called the 4-Mat Method.

The learning process cycle involves experiencing, reflecting, studying/consulting experts, doing and then applying the information/knowledge in a broader pattern. Most of us have a “dominant” learning style, but each of us learn in all four styles. We will be most comfortable learning in ways that correspond with our dominate quadrant. However, in order for true learning to occur, learners must start the cycle in the first quadrant and then proceed through the other three quadrants sequentially (1 to 2, 2 to 3, 3 to 4).

Magdala pointed out that Jesus followed this pattern as he taught. He approached ordinary people and encouraged them to listen to him. He taught in parables that came from an authority (scripture) and that had real life implications for the people. Then, He sent his disciples out to practice being witnesses. Next, He left his disciples with the ultimate real life application: Go and make disciples of all nations.

She added that a VdC weekend follows much the same pattern. At first, pilgrims are instructed to “Know Thyself.” Then, we lead them into knowing “Me and Christ.” Then, we talk about how “We take Christ to our brothers/sisters at VdC.” Lastly, we encourage them to be leaders in their environments as they live in the Fourth Day. Our 4th Day also follows the natural cycle of learning; piety, study and action in a life of grace. Magdala states, “Christian leadership is a mind-full happening in the heart.”



VdC Lingo – Colorado Style

Just so we Colorful Coloradans don't confuse you, here are some terms we use that may be different from how you say it “back home”:

Coloradan: A person who lives in Colorado (we are also sometimes called “Coloradoans”, but that’s not how the natives say it!)

Rollista: The person giving a Rollo.

Zappings: A rollista is zapped before giving a Rollo and then re-zapped after giving the Rollo. The rollista, his/her prayer partner, the Chas, angels and anyone else who can come gather in the prayer chapel (see below) before and after the Rollo to offer prayers over the rollista. The women of Colorado Via de Cristo traditionally finish the zapping (before the Rollo) by singing “Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on (insert name of rollista). They can sometimes talk the guys into doing that, too!

Prayer Chapel: The place where the Chapel Cha’s minister, rollistas are zapped and re-zapped, and prayer requests are prayed after. The pilgrim candles and crosses are also placed in the chapel where they are prayed over. A chapel cha will sleep in the chapel so that the candles may remain lit during the entire weekend.

Palanca Room (or palace, if it’s larger than 5’x5’): This is where team and 4th day bring their items that the pilgrims will take home. The Palanca Chas distribute the items to the pilgrims.



Prayer to the Holy Spirit: At Ultreyas, reunion groups and our secretariat meetings, we generally sing this prayer. We begin weekends by saying it, but at some point, generally late Friday afternoon or on Saturday morning, we switch to singing it. Even the guys will sing it and the pilgrims love making that transition. Singing the prayer becomes another one of their weekend surprises.

