



Don't Miss This Call



If you were told that God was going to call you sometime today, would you be excited or scared? Would you let the call go through to voicemail, or would you answer right away? Now, it's not the same as a phone call—except that it *is* a message directly to you from God and it is personal, one-to-one.

The call of God is your life mission - the one He gave you when He created you. Please don't confuse your calling with your career. Maybe you're called to be a teacher, but that doesn't necessarily mean you'll be in a classroom. Or you may be called to be a writer, but that doesn't mean you'll work in journalism or even write novels.

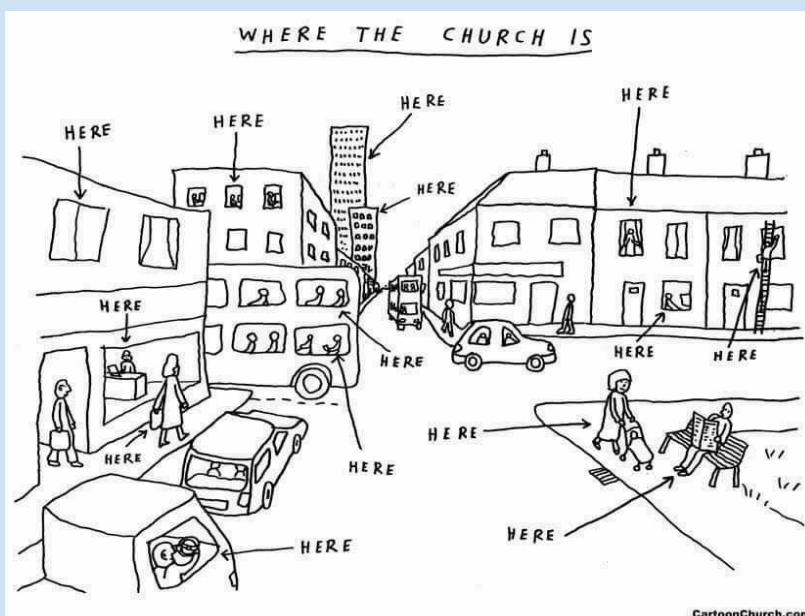
Your calling is far more significant than any job. It is an all-encompassing mission that rests at the center of your life and should influence everything you do. That sounds a bit like the *Ideal Rollo* to me.

Throughout the Bible, God calls people to fulfill that special mission—such people as Noah and Abraham and Moses and David and Esther and Mary and Peter and Paul. They each had a unique role that supported God's plan to redeem humanity.

The greatest of your glorious blessings is your intimate relationship with God. Focus on Him and He'll talk to you about **your** calling.

Wendy Showalter - NLS President

As we begin 2020...



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*Be still
and
know that
I am God*

Psalms 46:10a

Find the National Lutheran
Secretariat online at:

www.viadecristo.org



@viadecristonls

Save the Date:

July 30 – August 2, 2020
Come to Minnesota!
Join us for the 2020
NLS Annual Gathering,
then spend time exploring
the great adventures
available in Minnesota and
the upper Midwest.

PALANCA

True Palanca = Prayers, Prayers, Prayers

Another year is completed. We look forward to what God has planned for us in the coming year of 2020 the blessings, the start of new projects, the completion of others and the revelation of His purposes for our lives. Words to remember as we begin a new year are those of Paul to the Thessalonians regarding prayer – “Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 (NLT)

Since we are at the beginning of the year, a review of what tools are available for Palanca Coordinators might be in order. In the National Lutheran Secretariat Essentials Manual, the following items are found describing the Palanca Position on a local Secretariat:

1. Coordinates / communicates with the NLS and other movements on matters relating to Palanca
2. Receives and sends Palanca gifts and letters
3. Assists weekend Palanca Coordinator
4. Prepares newsletter articles re: Palanca

We suggest that each Palanca Coordinator not only send a Palanca Letter from their Secretariat to others but at the same time request one in return.

For updates to the NLS Weekend Calendar and Palanca Coordinator’s email Address Page, there is a “Click Here” option on the main Palanca Page of the NLS Website. It is next to a phrase “To Request the Addition of a Weekend”. Another option is to send an email to (PaulSS@calledtoaction.com) I will then update the Website. There is an additional site that is **NOT** affiliated with the National Lutheran Secretariat which has been used for prayer requests - www.3dayol.org. We urge each Secretariat not to use this option.

If any of the Coordinators would like to discuss Palanca, please contact me.

Only by His grace, He uses us as His tools to perform His work. My prayers are of thanks and praise to our Lord for blessing our Via de Cristo communities and all other three day movements.

Blessings,
In His Service,

Paul Sabatier-Smith <)))><

2020 Weekends

DATE	TYPE #	SECRETARIAT	CHAIR	ADDRESS
02/20	M 79	W North Carolina Lutheran VdC	Elizabeth Rollins	erollins79@gmail.com
02/27	M 122	Sonshine VdC of S Florida	Lee Fisher	PO Box 660211 Miami Springs, FL 33266
03/12	W 80	W North Carolina Lutheran VdC	Elizabeth Rollins	erollins79@gmail.com
03/26	MX 50	W North Carolina Lutheran VdC	Elizabeth Rollins	erollins79@gmail.com
04/24	C	Heart of Illinois VdC	Linda Ruby	1283 Sunset Drive E. Peoria, IL 61611
04/23	M	Good News VdC	Sandra Johnson	palancachair@gnvdc.org
04/30	W	Good News VdC	Sandra Johnson	palancachair@gnvdc.org
9/24	M 80	W North Carolina Lutheran VdC	Elizabeth Rollins	erollins79@gmail.com
10/8	W 81	W North Carolina Lutheran VdC	Elizabeth Rollins	erollins79@gmail.com
10/15	MX 51	W North Carolina Lutheran VdC	Elizabeth Rollins	erollins79@gmail.com

Region 1 Annual Report

Happy New Year from Region 1! I had the pleasure to visit several of our communities over this year and continue to be grateful for the relationships formed and growing.

Region 1 continues to have Lay Director conference calls where we continue to learn and grow with one another. We support one another on our weekends through prayer and have invited our communities to join one another should the opportunity arise. We share best practices with one another.

A Year in Review: Southern Arizona Lutheran VdC – VdC of Southern California and the Central Valley – Colorado VdC – Oregon VdC – Light in the Desert VdC – Utah VdC – VdC of Western Washington. These communities have held weekends in the spring and the fall. We have some communities that hold one weekend a year and others that hold 2.

Light in the Desert- Vegas held a renewal weekend “Return to the Mountain” in July and had an excellent response. The weekend was filled with excellent talks, great food, amazing music that was outside to a mountainside listening to an amazing band as the sun descended behind the mountain and the stars began to appear! It was spectacular! I was blessed to join them and as always continue to be in awe of our Lord and the way he weaves us all together.

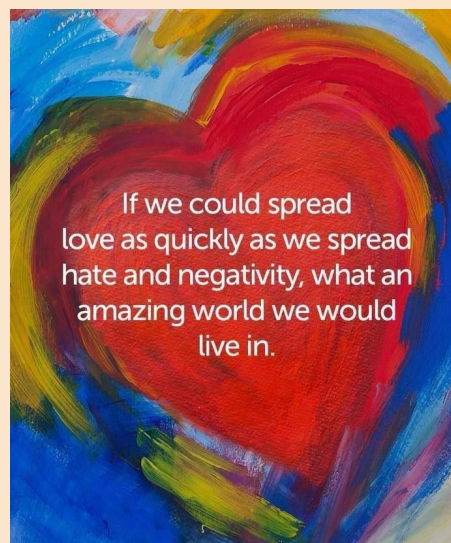
Colorado held a renewal weekend in August and enjoyed the time moving and shaking with a strong board and the community hosted a Return to the Mountaintop in July. We were blessed to have a recent Cursillista share her testimony from her book, “Little Girl, Big War” and finished our evenings around a campfire sharing stories of faith.

Last year, I traveled to California to join them for a Board meeting. I traveled to Oregon and joined their community for an Ultreya and continued education and learning. I was invited to join Western Washington for their fall weekend. What an amazing time to see how another community hosts their weekends. I encourage each of you to consider looking beyond your own community. Perhaps sponsor someone who may live elsewhere. We are so much stronger together.

This year, I hope to travel to California, Utah and Arizona. It has been a joy learning from each of the wonderful communities in Region 1. We continue to share ideas and look for ways to grow together in this technical age. We have looked at ways to stay connected and all the different media channels that there are. It is an ongoing task to grow people into reunion groups and stay connected. We recently had a conference call where we learned some of the ways our communities are fundraising to offset weekend costs.

Region 1 is not just a group Via de Cristos, they are my friends.

Kim Brownlow, Region 1 Coordinator



The **CONEXIONES** is an official publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat (NLS), which is a national organization of affiliated Via de Cristo (VdC) secretariats across the United States. VdC, or Way of Christ, is the Lutheran expression of the Cursillo® renewal movement developed within the Roman Catholic Church in the late 1940's. The Lutheran VdC ministry began in Florida and Iowa in 1972.

The **CONEXIONES** is a quarterly publication to inform affiliated secretariats and their members, Lutheran Bishops, along with District Presidents about VdC / NLS events and activities.

CONEXIONES subscriptions are free to affiliated secretariats. If you know of an affiliated secretariat not receiving this publication, please contact a member of the Executive Committee found on page 4. Subscriptions to the public are \$6.00 annually and can be purchased by contacting NLS Treasurer, Jim Ryan at treasurer@viadecristo.org.

To submit content for the **CONEXIONES** (news, photos, articles, or inspirational bits) email the **CONEXIONES** Editor at newsletter@viadecristo.org.

Newsletter Deadlines:
Winter Edition: January 10th
Spring Edition: April 10th
Summer Edition: July 30th
Fall Edition: October 10th

NLS Board

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Region 3 Annual Report

Hello Via de Cristo Community,

Region 3 has been very busy getting ready for the first Clergy Experience. We have met for two staff trainings and both have been very exciting and spirit filled. We are merging together what three secretariats do differently into one retreat. This is truly the work of God. We recognize and celebrate that each weekend we hold in our own secretariats are led by God. But when you bring three secretariats together to create one retreat with many different people, with many different ideas of how it should be done, you know it really is God in control and everything just falls into place. I drive seven hours one way to each one of these training just sit and watch the power of God working amongst His people. From the worship service, the music, the breakout sessions and listening to the rollos, you can't help but know God is in and through each activity.

At this time we only have three clergy registered for the retreat. We invite you to pray with us for more clergy to accept God's call to come. The retreat is February 10th through February 13th at Cedarbrake Catholic Retreat Center in Temple, Texas. It is open for all clergy and their spouses.

Region 3 will get busy with hosting plans for the Annual Gathering in 2021 after we finish the Clergy Experience. I am very excited to see God's plan for this event. With the awesome leaders we have among us in the Texas, Oklahoma-Arkansas secretariats, it is sure to be a worthwhile event.

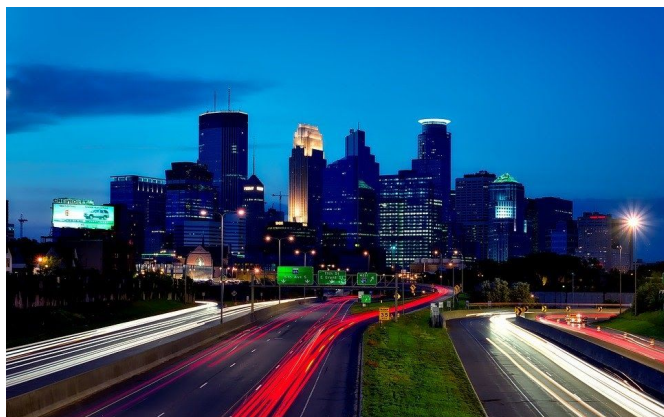
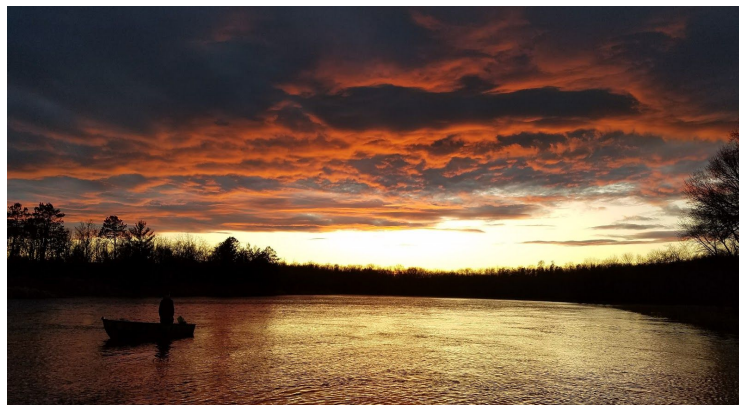
I just want to take time out to say when I was asked to be the Regional Coordinator for Region 3, I really didn't want to say yes. But I did say I would pray about it. God lead me to step outside of my comfort zone (OK more like a running, jumping leap outside) and I am truly blessed and happy I said yes. I was reminded that God doesn't call the equipped He equips the called. That is exactly what God did in my case. God has equipped me with great leaders, friends and more people I can call family in this journey He has sent me on. My prayer is for everyone in the Via de Cristo community to feel that same excitement and blessing as we serve God together.

See everyone this summer at the Annual Gathering in Minnesota!

Serving God together,
Cindy Perkins, Region 3 Coordinator



**Matthew 22:37 -
Love the Lord
your God with all
your heart and
with all your soul
and with all your
mind.**



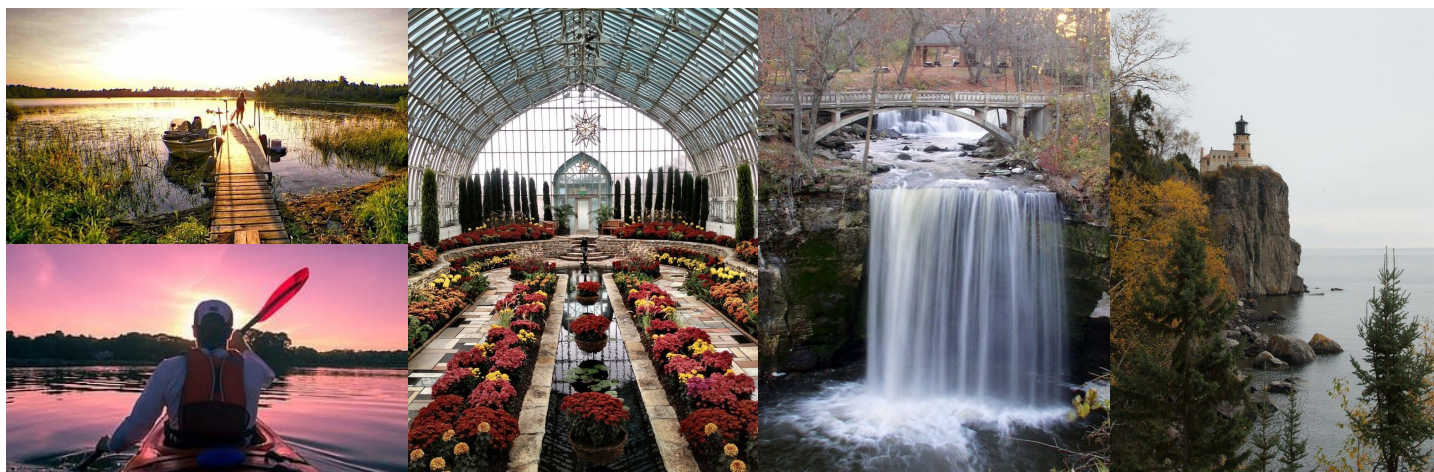
Greetings from your 2020 Annual Gathering Host Committee. Minnesota is excited to host our brothers and sisters in Christ at Hamline University, St. Paul, MN. We have been busy building teams as God puts the call out on our hearts to serve this national VdC event. We hope you will join us July 30 – August 2, 2020 for a blessed weekend of hugs, friends, fellowship, sharing and Christ! God is in control and will bring the work together to make this a wonderful blessing.

We are so thankful for everyone's efforts and contributions to bring us this far. It is wonderful how God always finds a way to provide what we need. As we

continue to plan and organize, please continue to lift us up in prayer as those prayers are undeniably felt and appreciated.

Watch for the official save the date invitation along with more information on the upcoming 2020 VdC Annual Gathering in the months to come! Please plan to attend the Gathering and then maybe spend time exploring all the things Minnesota and the upper Midwest has to offer. The Host Committee would be happy to suggest things to do and places to explore!

God Loves You and So Do We!
Minnesota VdC Host Committee



Thousands of Lakes & Rivers

Como Zoo Conservatory -
St. Paul

Minneopa Falls - Mankato

Split Rock Lighthouse - Lake
Superior North Shore



National Lutheran Secretariat Regions:

1. Colorado VdC, Light in the Desert VdC, Oregon VdC, Southern Arizona Lutheran VdC, Utah VdC, VdC of Southern CA and Central Valley, VdC of Western Washington
2. Great Plains of North Dakota VdC, Ignite VdC, Iowa VdC, Lutheran VdC of Minnesota, Nebraska VdC, Northern Light VdC, South Dakota Lutheran VdC, Wisconsin SonRise VdC
3. A-OK Lutheran Secretariat, Heart of America VdC, Lutheran VdC of North Texas, Texas Gulf Coast, VdC Texas Lutheran VdC
4. Heart of Illinois VdC, INKY VdC, Living Water VdC, Prairie Sunshine VdC, River's Edge VdC
5. Damascus Road VdC of Central New York, Good News VdC, Journey in Faith VdC, Living Stones VdC, Lutheran VdC of Central Michigan, VdC of Ohio, Vineyard VdC
6. Atlanta Lutheran VdC, Eastern North Carolina VdC, Lake Gaston VdC, Note of Grace VdC of Middle Tennessee, South Carolina Lutheran VdC, Tennessee Lutheran VdC. Western North Carolina VdC
7. Gold Coast VdC, Indian River VdC, Lighthouse VdC, Sonbeam VdC, Sonshine North VdC, Sonshine VdC of Southern Florida

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Open Position

Save the Date:

July 30 – August 2, 2020

NLS Annual Gathering
Hamline University - St. Paul, MN



Our Mission Statement: *By grace, with the Holy Spirit, we challenge leaders to discover and achieve their personal calling, assisting them to influence their environments with the Gospel.*



Find the National Lutheran Secretariat online at:

www.viadecristo.org



@viadecristonls

CONEXIONES

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