



Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC

Spring Forward

Volume 36, Issue 2



NLS / VdC ANNUAL GATHERING HAS A BREAK FROM TRADITION...

Registration opens at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, July 26th

Orientation will begin at 1:00 p.m. with
Opening Worship to follow.

The Host Committee & NLS Board sincerely hope
this scheduling change affords more people the
opportunity to attend by arriving Thursday, July 26th
rather than Wednesday, July 25th. We eagerly
await your presence as we celebrate
our Lord's ministry through...

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

UPLIFTING WORSHIP

MUSIC JAM

INSPIRING SPEAKERS

ART & SERVICE PROJECTS

DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

~ JULY 26-29, 2018 ~

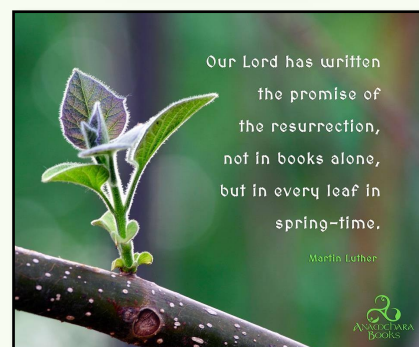
**PALM BEACH ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA**



PEOPLE ARE
SENT INTO OUR
LIVES TO TEACH
US THINGS THAT
WE NEED TO
LEARN ABOUT
OURSELVES.

—MANDY HALE—

WWW.LIVESIMPLY.COM



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2018 National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Gathering Registration Form

Thursday, July 26 through Sunday, July 29, 2018
Palm Beach Atlantic University, West Palm Beach, FL
Hosted by Region 7 Via de Cristo Secretariats - Indian River,
Lighthouse, Sonbeam, Sonshine South, Sonshine North & Gold Coast

ONE FORM PER PERSON ATTENDING *PLEASE PRINT*** PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY FORM**

Name: <i>first</i> _____ <i>last</i> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Name for Name tag: _____
Address: _____	City, State, Zip _____	
Home phone: _____	Cell Phone: _____	
E-mail address: _____		
Palm Beach Atlantic University maintains a smoke-free and alcohol-free campus. Please respect this policy! Thank you.		
Home Secretariat: _____	Position on Governing Board, if applicable: _____	
Attending as: <input type="checkbox"/> NLS Board Member <input type="checkbox"/> Speaker <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Delegate <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Visitor <input type="checkbox"/> Clergy Delegate (Please circle all that apply.) <input type="checkbox"/> Visiting Clergy <input type="checkbox"/> Host Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Vendor <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____		
First time attending NLS Annual Gathering? Yes / No If no, please indicate last year attended _____ Position attended as _____		
I require <u>special accommodations</u> for the following (please circle all that apply): Medical Dietary Physical Other Please explain: _____		
Travel to Annual Gathering will be by (please circle): Auto Air Day Arriving: _____ What day will you be leaving? _____ Transportation is provided to our Annual Gathering from Palm Beach Int. (PBI) Preferred or Fort Lauderdale Int. (FLL). If you require this service, please complete the Travel Form . Do you need campus mobility/transportation assistance? Yes / No Map and Driving Instructions - http://www.pba.edu/maps-and-directions If your travel arrangements should change, please notify Janet Vigilante or Rita Tritt. See contact info below.		
Registration for <u>Thursday 11 AM through Sunday 11 AM</u>: (includes meals, housing, materials, seminars/meeting). <i>All dorm housing is based on double rooms with shared bathroom, elevators and laundry facility. Free Wifi campus-wide</i> _____ \$210.00 for 1 st Time Attendees _____ \$210.00 Early Bird Discount postmarked by May 1 st . _____ \$225.00 postmarked before July 1 st . _____ \$250.00, postmarked after July 1 st . _____ Name of roommate requested _____ _____ \$35.00 single bedroom - additional fee. _____ Extra night on Wednesday July 25: \$25 double and \$35 for single. _____ Extra Meals: (Mark each extra meal) Wednesday's Lunch = \$10 & Dinner = \$10; Thursday's Breakfast = \$7 _____ \$12.00 2018 Annual Gathering T-shirt Quantity/size for MEN: <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2X <input type="checkbox"/> 3X Quantity/size for WOMEN: <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL <input type="checkbox"/> 2X <input type="checkbox"/> 3X TOTAL *** MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Gold Coast Via de Cristo NLSAM 2018 Registration cancelled by July 1st - refund will be less a \$25.00 cancellation fee.		
Mail Completed Registration Form, Travel Form & Check to: NLSAG Registration c/o Janet Vigilante 6742 Forest Hill Blvd. #274 West Palm Beach, FL 33413		Questions ? Contact Janet or Rita at: Janetplanet2@bellsouth.net Cell: 954-326-5869 Fax: 561-223-3853 Rita Tritt: RLT1641@gmail.com Cell: 954-415-9778
Registration Use Only	Date Rec'd	Transportation
Payment Rec'd	Check #	Confirmation Sent
		Reg #

Local Attractions & Airport Information



The Palm Beach Zoo & Conservation Society is a non-profit zoological organization located at Dreher Park in West Palm Beach. The zoo houses more than 550 animals, many of them endangered, within 23-acres of lush tropical habitat.

YOU REALLY SHOULD HANG OUT AT THESE LOCAL BEACHES

Gentle breezes, lapping waves and the smell of salty sea air. Our South Florida beaches transport you to a tropical paradise of fun in the sun! With our sunny climate and year-round sunshine, you can enjoy sun and surf every day (Information is courtesy of the Palm Beach County Convention & Visitors Bureau.)

Midtown Beach: 400 S. Ocean Blvd., Palm Beach. Located in beautiful Palm Beach; Open to the public.

Phipps Ocean Park: 2145 S. Ocean Blvd., Palm Beach. Phipps is another public recreation area, with lifeguards and a playground for the kids. Pack a picnic lunch and spend the day!

Lake Worth Municipal Beach: 10 Ocean Blvd., Lake Worth. South of Palm Beach, Lake Worth Municipal Beach hosts a large pier for you fishermen, as well as a public pool and playground. There are several restaurants located nearby.

John D. MacArthur Beach State Park: 10900 Rte. A1A, West Palm Beach. MacArthur Park is a haven for local nature lovers. As a state park, it's Florida the way it used to be! Enjoy the exhibits and nature trails, or just come to swim or fish.

Jonathan Dickinson State Park: 16450 SE Federal Hwy., Hobe Sound. With more than 11,000 acres of land, there is something for everyone at Jonathan Dickinson! Enjoy a leisurely canoe trip on the Loxahatchee River and/or explore the nature trails.

Delray Municipal Beach: Ocean Blvd and Atlantic Ave., Delray Beach, FL 33483. South of West Palm Beach, the Delray Municipal Beach offers sun-drenched beaches, volleyball and delicious food at nearby restaurants.

Palm Beach International Airport (PBI) was voted third best airport in the United States and sixth best in the world by the readers of the prestigious Conde Nast Traveler magazine. Serving more than six million passengers each year, this 560,000 square-foot state of the art terminal building is located 2.5 miles west of PBA and downtown West Palm Beach.

THESE AIRLINES WILL GET YOU THERE:

Air Canada - (800) 247-2262

Allegiant Air

American Airlines - (800) 433-7300

BahamasAir - (800) 222-4262

Delta Air Lines - (800) 221-1212

JetBlue Airways - (800) JETBLUE

Silver Airways - (800) 881-4999

Southwest Airlines - (800) 435-9792

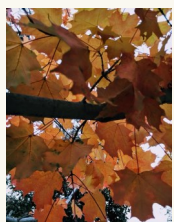
Spirit Airlines - (800) 772-7117

United Airlines - (800) 241-6522

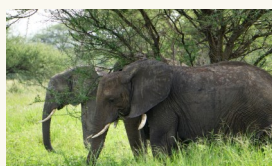
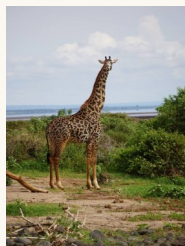
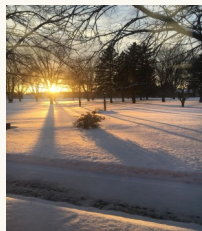
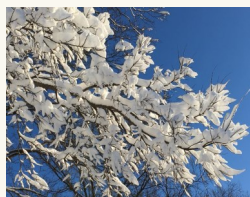
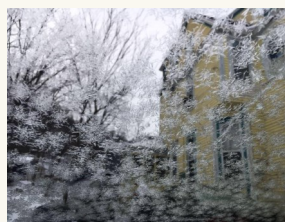
US Airways & US Airways Express - (800) 428-4322

PBIA web site: www.pbia.org
General Information - (561) 471-7420
Parking Information - (561) 471-7459

This Is My Father's World...



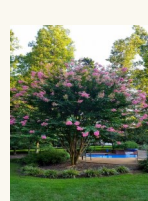
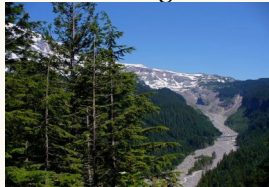
Dawn Campbell



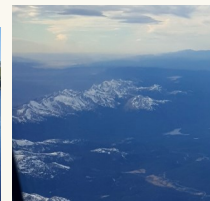
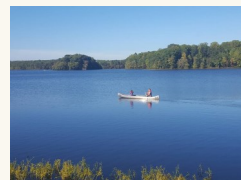
Amy Haigh



Becca Krogstead



Steve Gielda



Have you taken photos displaying God's glorious creations? If so, please submit them to the *Conexiones* for the new "All Things Bright and Beautiful" section. **There are only two stipulations: 1) you must be the photographer and 2) each photo must showcase God's splendor without including family and friends. If a picture happens to have an unidentifiable person, or two, they will be considered for publication.

Please email your photos to:
newsletter@viadecristo.org



WHAT'S THIS? A BREAK FROM TRADITION?

REGISTRATION WILL OPEN AT 11:00 A.M. ON THURSDAY, JULY 26TH
ORIENTATION WILL BE AT 1:00 P.M. FOLLOWED BY OPENING WORSHIP.

"There is meaning
in every journey
that is unknown
to the traveler."
-Dietrich Bonhoeffer

All This & More @ www.viadecristo.org

- ◆ **History:** Rich Background of the Via de Cristo Ministry
- ◆ **Links:** Connecting Secretariats Across the Country
- ◆ **Messages:** from NLS President & Spiritual Director & Others
- ◆ **Newsletters:** Current & Past Issues of the Conexiones
- ◆ **Palanca:** Upcoming Weekend Dates & Secretariat Contacts
- ◆ **Resources:** Current & Historical etc.
- ◆ **Videos:** Past National Gathering Speakers/Forums/Worships
- ◆ **Who's Who:** Within NLS & Affiliated Via de Cristo Secretariats

DATE	TYPE	ST	SECRETARIAT	PALANCA CHAIR	ADDRESS	CITY / STATE
04/31	M 664	MN	Good News VdC	Patti Blashill	22419 Ardmore Park Drive	St. Clair Shores, MI 48081-2012
4/31	M 664	MN	Minnesota VdC - Metro	Marianne Topar	5319 Logan Ave N	Brooklyn Center MN 55430
6/7	W 665	MN	Minnesota VdC - Metro	Marianne Topar	5319 Logan Ave N	Brooklyn Center MN 55430
04/26	W 72	VA/DC/MD	Rainbow VdC	Marya Dennis	maryapalanca@gmail.com	
5/03	C 1	CAN	Calgary VdC	Dean Larsen	114 Lake Erie Pl SE	Calgary, AB T2J2L4 Canada
5/03	C 1	FL	Sonbeam VdC	Sonbeam VdC Palanca	PO Box 2582	Pinellas Park, FL 33780-2582
07/26		FL	National Gathering			
09/27	M 97	FL	Gold Coast VdC	Maureen McNulty	mmcnole@comcast.net	
10/04	M 31	IL	Heart of Illinois VdC	Heart of IL Palanca Coordinator	PO Box 5482	Peoria, IL 61601
10/04	M 666	MN	Minnesota VdC - North	Dani Eaton	937 -36th Ave S	Moorhead MN 56560
10/04	C 2	WI	Wisconsin Sunrise VdC	Nancy Wanless	2525 Coolidge St	Madison, WI 53704
10/11	W 667	MN	Minnesota—North	Danielle Eaton	937 36th Ave S	Moorhead, MN 56560
10/11	C 29	NV	Light in the Desert VdC	Jeanine Johnson	119 Montesol Dr	Henderson, NV 89012
10/11	M 68	VA/DC/MD	Rainbow VdC	Marya Dennis	maryapalanca@gmail.com	
10/18	W 97	FL	Gold Coast VdC	Maureen McNulty	mmcnole@comcast.net	
10/18	W 73	VA/DC/MD	Rainbow VdC	Marya Dennis	Maryaapalanca@gmail.com	
11/01	M 45	WI/MI	Northern Light VdC-WI/Upper MI	Greg Peotter	N9415 County Road J	Iola, WI 54945
11/01	W 46	WI/MI	Northern Light VdC-WI/Upper MI	Greg Peotter	N9415 County Road J	Iola, WI 54945
11/08	C 668	MN	Minnesota—South	Deb Willert	37108 Doe Ave	Waseca MN 56093
11/14	M 63	MI/OH	Good News VdC	Patti Blashill	22419 Ardmore Park Drive	St. Clair Shores, MI 48081-2012
11/18	W 63	MI/OH	Good News VdC	Patti Blashill	22419 Ardmore Park Drive	St. Clair Shores, MI 48081-2012



To Treasurers and Lay Directors

Secretariats, should have received an email from the NLS Treasurer, Brenda Accola, regarding 2018 dues. Here's a big *THANK YOU* to those of you who've already paid. To those who of you who still need to pay; which is about half of our Secretariats, it's important to make payment by April 30th. Please mail your check ASAP to: National Lutheran Secretariat, %Brenda Accola, [2504 Tuscarora Ct, West Melbourne, FL 32904](mailto:2504%20Tuscarora%20Ct%2C%20West%20Melbourne%2C%20FL%2032904). If you have questions, or have not received this email, please contact Brenda at treasurer@viadecristo.org or 321-544-3128

Individuals and Secretariats can also support Via de Cristo's NLS through Amazon and Thrivent where your donations go into NLS's *Outreach* fund designated to assist Secretariats to foster, thrive and grow.

Thrivent Choice Dollars - Search for National Lutheran Secretariat and designate a portion of some or all of your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Via de Cristo.

Smile.Amazon.com - 0.5% of all purchases will be donated if designated. Search for National Lutheran Secretariat then bookmark or favorite the site so you return to it for your next purchases. **Happy Shopping!**

Via de Cristo Weekend Essentials

Palanca -- The heart and lifeblood of the movement -- deep, intentional, selfless, sacrificial prayer

Seventy-two Hours -- Three full days of Christian community, away from *all* the distractions of daily life.

Holy Communion Daily -- Jesus is truly present in Word and Sacrament; both are made available to the participants

5 Meditations -- Five Spiritual Director-guided image meditations - offered to assist participants in examining their relationship with Christ

14/15 Talks -- Actually separated parts of one talk necessary to cover the basics of the Via de Cristo method

Note Taking -- Specific ideas and power phrases that capture the essential points of each of the talks

Discussions -- Small group encounters where Christ can come alive in the community and the fundamentals of Christianity can be reviewed

Posters -- Hand-drawn expressions of the essential meaning of each of the talks

DeCuria Sharing -- A summarizing of the day's talks; a wonderful opportunity for participants to talk before

larger group

Silent Retreat -- A period without talking; offered the first night to prick the conscience of the participants

Celebration of Repentance -- An examination of our life in light of the Gospel; offered the second night to stimulate serious self reflection

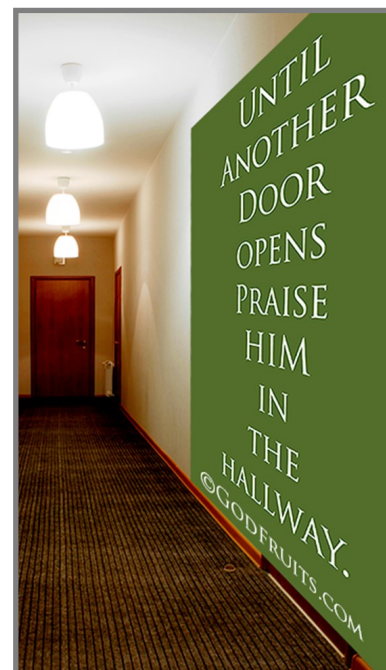
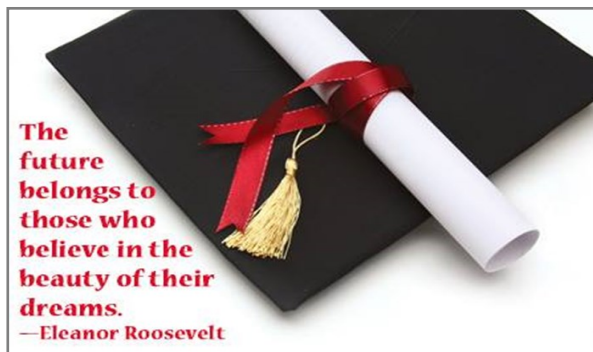
Crosses -- A cross common to the Cursillo movement with a telling inscription "Christ is counting on you!"

Closing -- The welcome of new members into the community as a whole; designed to assure them that there are many brothers and sisters who understand

4th Day -- The term used to describe all days following the three-day weekend. The 4th Day is used to work the Via de Cristo method

Renewal Group -- A regularly scheduled friendship and accountability meeting of 3 to 5 Via de Cristo Cursillistas and other Christian friends who review one another's 4th day work

Ultreya -- A larger gathering of the Via de Cristo community and friends designed to encourage individuals to persevere in their 4th Day



De Colores from the Wide-Open Country of the West!

Via de Cristo can be a powerful tool in helping Christians grow their relationship with Christ; however, we cannot stop there. We must be intentional in seeking others to share our Christian Community. John Maxwell said, "Sometimes the smallest step in the right direction will end up being the biggest step in your life."

Here's a few highlights from Region 1 that reflect the steps being taken to stay connected:

- ♦ In February, Southern Arizona Lutheran Via de Cristo hosted a Silence Retreat "What is the Spirit Doing?"
- ♦ On April 14th, Utah Via de Cristo held a "Lord's Day Ultreya" where they spent the day exploring fundamentals of how to live joyfully and generously.
- ♦ A Light in the Desert, NV has invited me to join them in May for a work-day where we'll review, evaluate and plan for future weekends. SUPER EXCITING!!!
- ♦ **Upcoming weekends:**
 - † Colorado VdC Concurrent Weekend,
 - † Oregon VdC Coed Weekend & Via de Cristo of Western Washington Coed Weekend – April 26-29, 2018.
 - † Via de Cristo of Southern California and the Central Valley: May 3-6, 2018.

I feel SO blessed to be a part of this amazing group we call - Region 1.

~ Blessings from Kim Brownlow



National Lutheran Secretariat Regions



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

The National
Lutheran Secretariat
for Via de Cristo®



Region 1 Coordinator
Kim Brownlow

Region 2 Coordinator
Ginny Buck

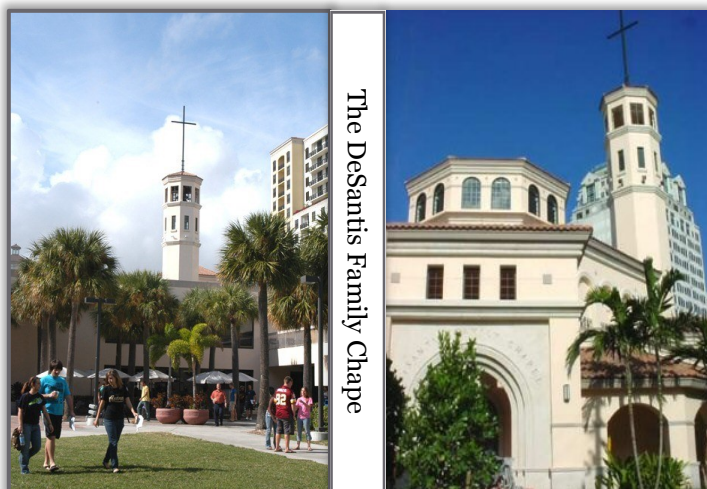
Region 3 Coordinator
Cindy Perkins

Region 4 Coordinator
Pam Gross

Region 5 Coordinator
John Aclin

Region 6 Coordinator
Chris Rasmussen

Region 7 Coordinator
Tom & Cindy Kirk



The DeSantis Family Chapel

Warren Library



Baxter Hall



A Break From Tradition...

Registration opens at 11:00 a.m. July 26th
Orientation's at 1:00 p.m. on July 26th
with Opening Worship to follow.

2018 NLS & VdC Annual Gathering's Theme Bible Verse: **¹⁸ But we Christians have no veil over our faces; we can be mirrors that brightly reflect the glory of the Lord. And as the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become more and more like him.**

2 Corinthians 3:17-18 Living Bible (TLB)

P l e a s a n t P a u s e s . . .

- † The things that we love tell us what we are. ~ St. Thomas Aquinas
- † Sometimes our light goes out but is blown into a flame by another human being. Each of us owes deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this light. ~ Albert Schweitzer
- † Where there is great love there are always miracles. ~ Willa Cather
- † Remember we all stumble, every one of us. That's why it's a comfort to go hand in hand. ~ Emily Kimbrough
- † The more one does and sees and feels, the more one is able to do. ~ Amelia Earhart
- † Nobody has ever measured, not even poets, how much the heart can hold. ~ Zelda Fitzgerald
- † Happiness is equilibrium. Shift your weight. ~ Tom Stoppard
- † Happiness often sneaks in through a door you didn't know you left open. ~ John Barrymore
- † Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious. ~ Steven Hawking
- † Gratitude is a twofold love—love coming to visit us and love running out to greet a welcome guest.
~ Henry van Dyke

National Lutheran Secretariat

Elected Positions



President
Wendy Showalter
president@viadecristo.org
763-229-3185



Vice President of Administration
Warren "Butch" Seeley
vpadmin@viadecristo.org
614-332-1357



Vice President of Outreach
Ellick Morey
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479-640-0374
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321-544-3128

Spiritual Director
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952-457-5182

Appointed Positions

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~ Open Position ~

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801-631-4518

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301-983-5034

Non-Profit Tax Advisor
~ Tim Dickie ~

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801-834-8261

Palanca Coordinator
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PaulSS@calletoaction.com
863-603-9044

Historian/Archivist
~ Open Position ~

Host Co-Chairs
Watson & Magdala Ray
raywm248@bellsouth.net



The National
Lutheran Secretariat
for Via de Cristo®



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 call a member of the Executive Committee at the numbers listed to the left on this page. Subscriptions to the public are \$6.00 annually and can be purchased by calling NLS Treasurer, Brenda Accola at 321-544-3128.

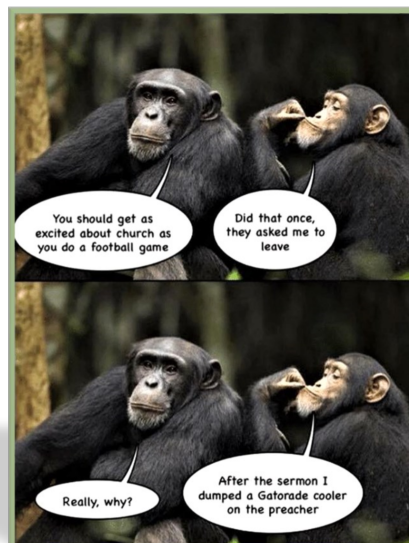
To submit content to the **CONEXIONES** (news, photos, articles, or inspirational bits) email them to the **CONEXIONES** Editor address on the left of this page.

Newsletter Deadlines:

Winter Edition: January 15th — Spring Edition: April 15th
Summer Edition: July 15th — Fall Edition: October 15th

JESUS LOVES* YOU

*Conditions do not apply





Carol J. Reedstrom, Editor
19396 552nd Avenue
Mankato MN 56001



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL, PLEASE EXPEDITE



NLS 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.

facebook



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Visit our Web Site at
www.viadecristo.org
Rick Hanzlik
Webmaster

The National
Lutheran Secretariat
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Save These Dates...

July 26 — 29, 2018

**NLS/VdC Annual Gathering
Palm Beach Atlantic University
West Palm Beach, FL**