

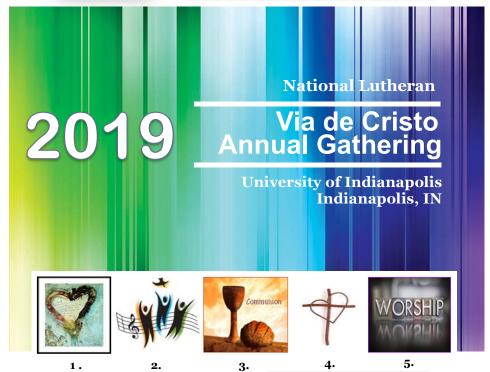


April 2019 Volume 37 Issue 2



Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body, you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Theme Verse: Colossians 3:15





25
JULY
28

EOI Sessions (a.k.a. Exchange of Ideas)

Lay Directors Round Table; Hosting an Annual Gathering; Back to the Mountain Renewal Weekend; SD's Pastor Growth Strategy; Networking Ministries and so much more!

PLENTY TO DO: Prayer Chapel, Worship, Christian Fellowship, Orientation, Business Meeting, Agape Dinner, Poster Signing, Evening Vespers, Hospitality, with off-site entertainment!! All that plus something special for guests not able to attend the business meetings!!!

EVENT SPEAKERS

- **1. BISHOP BILL GAFKJEN** KEYNOTE SPEAKER
- 2. RICHARD BRENNEMAN "PEACE OF CHRIST"
- 3. SEAN RICE
 "JOINED IN ONE BODY"
- **4. JASOSEAN N COLE** "JOYFULLY THANKFUL"



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Questions? Please visit www.viadecristo.org or nlsannualgathering@gmail.com

YOU & THRIVENT MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN COMMUNITY

For many years our Via de Cristo's National their ideas to Thrivent. Thrivent Action Lutheran Secretariat has maintained a valued partnership with Thrivent Financial. Dating back to the early 2000's, many Annual Gathering Host Committees have received "grants" from Thrivent. This generosity is a treasured tool for Host Committees to help meet fund-raising goals needed to host our Annual Gatherings. Since 2013, Thrivent has revised their benevolence to widen and broaden the impact by opening its membership and services to people of all Christian faiths.

Thrivent's giving model focuses on two compatible platforms: Thrivent Choice Dollars® and Thrivent Action Teams. Through the first option, Choice Dollars®, Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funding by directing Choice Dollars® to organizations recommended by Thrivent members. Donations are based on insurance premiums, contract values and Thrivent volunteer leadership and then get disbursed directly to organizations recommended by Thrivent members for causes they care about. More than 40,000 churches and nonprofits are enrolled in the program and it keeps growing. For additional information consult Thrivent's website at the following web address: https://www.thrivent.com/ making-a-difference/living-generously/ thrivent-choice/

The second and a more locally directed option to Thrivent members involves Thrivent Action Teams. This process starts with an individual asking a simple question: "Who can I help and how?". Once a need in the community is identified, volunteers brainstorms ideas to address it and present

Teams can be provided with seed money to jump-start a fundraiser, an educational event or even service project. A volunteer team provides the people power and Thrivent provides the capital to bring it to

Here are a couple examples of Thrivent Action Teams among Via de Cristo. One VdC community used its "seed" money to buy food for an Ultreya so those attending could give generously to their VdC Scholarship Fund. Another Action Team bought stamps for a mass mailing inviting 450 current and inactive 4th Day members to an upcoming Ultreya and if someone was no longer in the area asking them to donate to their Scholarship Fund. A side benefit to this mailing was to give the community the ability to clean-up their mailing list. And a final example is when an Annual Gathering's Transportation Team applied for an Action Team Grant to help pay for golf cart rentals to assist attendees to navigate the college campus.

Once your project is approved, you'll receive a Thrivent Action Kit that includes:

- A promotional pennant banner
- Thank you cards, name tags, and stickers
- Thrivent Action Team T-shirts
- \$250 Community Impact Card for seed money to get your project off the ground

Each full member of Thrivent can lead an Action Team twice a year. At the end of your project(s), a short report needs to be written consisting of the project's goal, the number of people who participated and the projects outcome.

Now here's a question for you, how creative are you and your reunion brothers and sisters in identifying an unmet need in your community? Once pin pointing a need, then apply to lead your Thrivent Action Team to make it easy to live generously on your Wise With Money Journey. It starts with a visit to Thrivent's web site - once there, click on the following link: https:// www.thrivent.com/making-a-difference/ living-generously/thrivent-action-teams/

Thrivent Financial is a Fortune 500 not-forprofit financial services organization headquartered in Minneapolis, MN. Originally founded by Lutherans, Thrivent is a member-owned fraternal benefit society, serving nearly 2.3 million members. They have been serving in God's vineyard alongside fellow Christians through both prayer and

> James Rvan. **NLS Treasurer** Dave Lampert. **NLS Database Coordinator**

GLYASDI.



GIVE OF YOURSELF On your Wise With Money Journey, giving back to the causes and people you care most about can start with one simple question: "Who can I help?"



Hey! Did you read the above article? If so, are you are thinking how Thrivent Financial offers its members

a charitable giving opportunity that sounds an awful lot like Palanca?

Since Via de Cristo talks a lot about Palance, let's take a moment to explore this term. When we made our very first weekend, we learn that Palanca is a Spanish word that basically represents the prayers and sacrifices we make for someone or something. In short, however, the Spanish translation for Palanca is "lever."

Are you thinking that that's quite a stretch from lever to prayer? Well, a lever (Palanca) is a fixed body

(typically a metal bar) pivoted on a fixed fulcrum used to move or lift an object. In the same way a lever enables a person to lift something beyond his or her strength, our "Palanca" prayers and sacrifices allow someone to overcome more than he or she could do on their own. Your prayer Palanca help to make someone else's life arise in abundance

Spiritual Palanca can come in many forms. In the Catholic faith, Palanca letters are written by family members or friends of a person who is retreating or withdrawing from ordinary activities for a period of time. Such letters give support and guidance in the form of a prayer, sacrifice and honest communication and to spend time in reflection and prayer to God.

Bear in mind that letters in and of themselves are not Palanca!

Palanca means a prayer, letter, or sacrifice done to exert spiritual force for Christ's sake. Palanca practice is embraced by the Cursillo Movement (CM) of the Catholic church which, per www.cursillos.ca/en/faq/f01but.htm the goal of which is to "share with the community the essence of Christianity and Christian values and in this way gradually transform the community from within."



Palanca Power!!!

DATE	TYPE / #	ST	SECRETARIAT	CONTACT	ADDRESS	CITY / STATE
04/25	M #91	MI	Lutheran VdC of Central MI	Sue Browning	31 Congress Court B	Saginaw, MI 48602
04/25	MX #38	TN	Tennessee Lutheran VdC	Jon Efteland	200 Sugarwood Drive	Knoxville, TN 37934
04/25	#56	CA	VdC Southern California		palanca@californiavdc.org	
04/25	#43	СО	Oregon VdC	Connie Cook	seesea426@yahoo.com	
04/25	W #	FL	Indian River VdC (Space Coast)	Bob Uber	3595 Fodder Dr	Rockledge, FL 32955
04/25	Coed #35	GA	Atlanta Lutheran Via de Cristo			
04/25	M 69#	MD/VA	Living Stones MD/VA/DC		palanca@livingstones-vdc.org	
05/02	M #64	MI/OH	Good News! VdC	Patti Blashill	palancachair@gnvdc.org	
05/02	M #31	MD	Vineyard VdC	David McFalls	palanca@vineyardviadecristo.org	
05/02	W #91	MI	Lutheran VdC of Central MI	Sue Browing	31 Congress Court B	Saginaw MI 48602
05/02	Coed #670	MN	VdC of Minnesota (North)	Danielle Eaton	937 36th Ave S	Moorhead, MN 56560
05/02	M #64	MI/OH	Good News! VdC	Patti Blashill	22419 Ardmore Park Drive	St. Clair Shores MI 4808
05/02	W #74	MD/VA	Living Stones MD/VA/DC		palanca@livingstones-vdc.org	
05/02	Coed #2	FL	Sonbeam VdC (Tampa Bay)	Kim Stauder	kstauder@sonbeamvdc.org	
05/02	W #74	MD/VA	Living Stones MD/VA/DC		palanca@livingstones-vdc.org	
05/16	W #64	MI/OH	Good News VdC	Patti Blashill	palancachair@gnvdc.org	
05/23	Mixed #100	NC	Eastern North Carolina VdC	Valerie Lepko	2530 New Garden Rd East	Greensboro, NC 27455
05/31	M #31	MD	Vineyard VdC	David McFalls	palanca@vineyardviadecristo.org	
06/20	Coed #674	MN	VdC of Minnesota (South)	Deb Willert		
06/20	Coed #675	MN	VdC of Minnesota (Metro)			
07/11	W #24	IL	Prairie Sonshine VdC Central IL			
08/08	#104	TX	VdC of Northern Texas	Debbie Klatt	13811 Little Leaf	San Antonio, TX 78247
09/11	#99	TX	Texas Lutheran VDC	Tracy Baker	1165 Oak Crest rive	New Ulm TX 78950
09/12	M #80	IN/KY	Indiana Kentucky VdC			
09/12	Mixed #103	NC	Eastern North Carolina VdC	Valerie Lepko	2530 New Garden Rd East	Greensboro, NC 27455
09/19	Mixed #49	NC	Western North Carolina VdC	Elizabeth Rollins	erollins79@gmail.com	
09/19	C #31	NV	Light in the Desert VdC	Mary Jamison	290 East Delmar Drive	Henderson, NV 89015
09/19	W #81	IN/KY	Indiana/Kentucky VdC		palanca@inkyVdC.org	
09/26	M#99	FL	Gold Coast VdC (Southern)	Tammy Hudik	mof2coolkds@yahoo.com	
10/02	#15	OR	Oregon VdC	Connie Cook	seesea426@yahoo.com	
10/03	M #78	NC	Western North Carolina VdC	Elizabeth Rollins	erollins79@gmail.com	
10/10	M #676	MN	VdC of Minnesota (North)	Danielle Eaton	937 36th Ave S	Moorhead, MN 56560
10/10	M #678	MN	VdC of Minnesota (Metro)			
10/17	W #79	NC	Western North Carolina VdC	Elizabeth Rollins	erollins79@gmail.com	
10/17	W #31	MD	Vineyard VdC	David McFalls	palanca@vineyardviadecristo.org	
10/17	Coed #14	PA	Journey of Faith			
10/31	Coed #28	IN/KY	Indiana Kentucky VdC		palanca@inkyVdC.org	



Meet Our New Spiritual Director

Greetings to you all in the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord. My name is Sue Beall. I

am a retired Lutheran Pastor, having served with the ELCA TX-LA. Gulf Coast Synod for 25 years since my ordination in 1994. I am honored to be able to serve as Spiritual Director for the National Lutheran Via de Cristo Secretariat to fill out the remainder of the term vacated by Pastor Bob Allmann who resigned due to health reasons.

I take God's promises seriously. As I begin serving with you and for you, the words from Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." as well as the words from Isaiah 41:10 "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

The work you have entrusted to me to praying regularly for the leaders of NLS and its affiliated Secretariats, to serve as the official link between the NLS and clergy communities, to encourage and promote communication between Spiritual Directors throughout the NLS secretariats and to help coordinate Outreach for Via de Cristo through meetings, workshops, emails and other forms of communication will probably stretch my skills and abilities.

I hope you will bear with me as I learn the ropes; and yet, it is a work that I believe God has called me to do through this opportunity to serve on the NLS Secretariat Board of Directors. I ask for your prayers as I begin this work and I will be praying for each of you as we work together to bring the love of God to others through Via de Cristo. The following is a little more information about me so you can get to know me a bit more.

Personal: I reside in Bryan, TX.

with my dog Ramona; was married to Gordon Beall for 41 years until his death in 2002; have two married sons, Monte and Mason Beall who have blessed me six grandsons.

Education: Spiritual Formation Academy; Upper Room Ministries, Nashville, TN; M.Div. Seminary Program in the Southwest, Wartburg Seminary, 1994; Ph.D. (Health Education/Communication) Texas Woman's University, Denton, TX (1976); M.A. (Kinesiology/Recreation), Texas Woman's University, Denton, Texas, 1964; B.A. (Health & Kinesiology); Mary Hardin Baylor College, Belton, TX 1960.

Via de Cristo:

- I have served two terms as Spiritual Director on the Texas Lutheran Via de Cristo Secretariat
- I currently serve as Spiritual Director on the new Texas Gulf Coast Via de Cristo Secretariat.
- I have served as Spiritual Director for Via De Cristo Weekends since 1995.

Professionally I...

- ♦ Am a retired ELCA Pastor.
- Served 11 years as Senior Pastor for St. John's Lutheran Church, Prairie Hill, near Brenham, TX,
- Served 8 years as Assoc.
 Pastor at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in College Station, TX
- Am a certified Spiritual Director and teach a course in the FinD School for Spiritual Direction and Formation offered through the Texas Diocese of the Episcopal Church,
- Taught health education at Texas A&M University (1976-1994), at TX Woman's University, (1972-1976), and University of Mary Hardin Baylor (1964-1971).
- Served as president of the ELCA Campus Ministry Board in the Brazos Valley (2007-2013).
- Served the Texas-Louisiana

Gulf Coast Synod of the ELCA through...

- Being rostered with the TX

 LA Gulf Coast Synod
 (ELCA).
- Serving on Synod Council,
- Serving as a board member for Synod Women of the ELCA (Currently & 2009-2011),
- Served as Evangelism/ Outreach Consultant,
- Served on the Synod's Mission Support Table (2010),
- Served as the Synod wide Candidacy Committee Chair (2001-2008),
- Served on the Committee to Mentor and Approve candidates for rostered ministry,
- Served as a member of the Candidacy Committee (1995-2008).
- Served as Leadership Team Chair, 1995-2001 for Synod Council,
- Served 5 years as an interim pastor within the Synod.
- Currently provides supply preaching within the synod as needed.

Via de Cristo has been a vital part of my ministry since 1995, and I know how valuable it is to God's work in the world. I hope to get to know you better as we work together.

God loves you and so do I. De Colores!

If Via de Cristo is...



Spiritual Director will provide...



National Lutheran Secretariat **Board of Directors**

ELECTED POSITIONS



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





VP of Outreach ~ Lyndsay Daugherty outreach@viadecristo.org

Treasurer ~ James Ryan treasurer@viadecristo.org







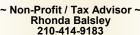
APPOINTED POSITIONS

~ Executive Director ~ (open position)
Executive dir@viadecristo.org

~ Webmaster ~ Rick Hanzlik webmaster@viadecristo.org 801-631-4518



Newsletter Editor ~ Carol J. Reedstrom newsletter@viadecristo.org 507-469-9470





~ Database Coordinator ~ **Dave Lambert** update@viadecristo.org 301-983-5034





distribution@viadecristo.org 801-699-5609











Our Story...

The University of Indianapolis, popularly known as UIndy, was founded in 1902. UIndy has a home campus of more than 5,400 students and partnership sites around the world. Personal attention, small, interactive classes, and flexible programming are the rule rather at this private, comprehensive and diverse institution of higher education.

Located just minutes from downtown Indianapolis. UIndy is distinguished by highly respected undergraduate programs in teacher education, communications and the health sciences, nationally ranked graduate programs, aging studies, and education reform.





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 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 the address newsletter@viadecristo.org.

Newsletter Deadlines:

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



National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Gathering **Registration Form**

Thursday, July 25 through Sunday, July 28, 2019

University of Indianapolis 1400 E. Hanna Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46227

ONE FORM	PER PERSON ATTENDING
Name: first last	Male Name for Name tag
	Female
Address:	City, State, Zip
Cell Phone:	E-mail:
Home Secretariat:	Position on Governing Board
Attending as: (Please check all that apply)	
NLS Board Lay Clergy Cl Member Delegate Guest Delegate G	ergy Host Guest Host Shadow uest Committee Speaker Vender Committee
First time attending an NLS Annual Gathering? Yes / No If no, last	t year attended? Position attended?
I require special accommodations for the following—circle all that a	pply: Medical Dietary Physical
,	ir - Please fill out an Air Travel Form ed to the Gathering to and from Indianapolis International Airport (IND)
Registration is Thursday 11 AM through Sunday 11 AM All dorm housing is based on double tooms with shared bathroom, elevator, I Free WiFi campus-wide	
Name of Roommate Requested:	
Registration Pricing is per Person	Extra Charges per Person
\$250 for 1st Time Attendee	Single Room \$25 per Night (\$75)
\$250 Early Bird Discount by May 1st	Extra Night (Wednesday) Single Rate \$50
\$265 between May 1st & July 1st	Extra Night (Wednesday) Double Rate \$25
\$290 after July 1st	Paperless Discount -\$10
\$100 Local Attendee—Meals and Materials	(Circle Desired Extra Meals Below)
Additional Donation to Offset Gathering Expenses	Wednesday: Lunch \$8, Dinner \$10—Thursday: Breakfast \$7
Total Amount Due	Gathering T-shirts \$12 (circle desired items) Men / Women: Small—Medium– XL—2XL–3XL
Please mail Completed Registration and Travel Forms To	: Questions?
	Email — nlsannualgathering@gmail.com
NLSAG Registration	Put "Registration" in subject line so question(s) get
Marcia Poisel 7703 Home Dr.	routed to correct person
Fishers, IN 46038	Marcia Poisel at 317-289-9156 Or Randy Poisel at 317-414-0814



Or Mail to NLSAG 7703 Home Dr. Fishers IN, 46038

National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Gathering Air Travel Information Form

Thursday, July 25 through Sunday, July 28, 2019

University of Indianapolis 1400 E. Hanna Ave. Indianapolis, IN 46227

ONE FORM PER PERSON

		Last Name	
Cell Phone		Email	
	traveling on this flight:		
Names of people tra	aveling together		
	\mathbf{F}	light Itinerary	
Date Arriving	Arrival Time	Arriving Airline	Arriving Flight #
		·	Arriving Flight # Departing Flight #
Date Arriving Date Leaving	Arrival Time Departing Time	Arriving Airline Departing Airline	Departing Flight #
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Date Leaving To	Arrival Time Departing Time ransportation will b Indianapolis	Arriving Airline Departing Airline e provided to our gathe International Airport (A	Departing Flight #

7

Our New Vice President of Outreach

Hello! My name is Lindsay Daugherty and I attended Eastern North Carolina Via de Cristo Mixed #69 in September 2009, where I sat at the table of John!

I attend Kimball Memorial Lutheran Church in Kannapolis, NC where I am so happy to have found my every growing family in Christ! It is through Kimball that I was introduced to Via de Cristo, and through both my home church and the Via de Cristo Ministry, I feel as if I have the piece of my family that I had once been missing! For this I am truly grateful! God is good!

I am a single mom to my two fur babies, Lilly and Lucky, my two very loved pooches! Lilly is 14 years old and Lucky 16!!! Together we have traveled across and up and down the US, hiking too many trails to count! Adventurous to say the least!

I am a yoga teacher and health and fitness coach. I am passionate about whole health and proper nutrition! However, my favorite meal is dessert! It's all about balance, right?!

I have been very active in our local Via de Cristo, serving in various positions as I am called. I currently serve on the board of our local secretariat as Outreach Chair. I am now very honored to be asked to fulfill the roll of VP of Outreach for our National Secretariat, which I graciously accept! Through Christ's strength and guidance, I will do my best!

GLYASDI! Lindsay Daugherty





National Lutheran Secretariat Regions



REGIONS & REGIONAL COODINATORS



Region 1— Kim Brownlow region1@viadecristo.org



1. Colorado VdC; Light in the Desert VdC; Oregon VdC;



Region 3— Cindy Perkins region3@viadecristo.org



Region 4— Pam Gross region4@viadecristo.org



Region 5— Rose Briggs region5@viadecristo.org



Region 6— Chris Rasmussen region6@viadecristo.org



Region 7— Tom & Cindy Kirk region7@viadecristo.org

The 2019 National Gathering is Indy Bound!!!

Blessings & Greetings from the your 2019 Annual Gathering Host Committee. We are excited to report we're on track to provide you with a fabulously spirit filled weekend of faith, fellowship and worship. In a short three months, INKY and the University of Indianapolis will show you an array of exciting activities for this special event.

And just in case you are planning to extend your weekend into a vacation, the INKY VdC team will be more than happy to recommend things to do and places to go in and around the Indianapolis area. Simply ask us at: nlsannual-gatheng@gmail.com.

We look forward to being of service to our Lord through VdC. As we continue to plan and organize, please continue to lift us up in prayer coming as they are undeniably felt and appreciated. And, if you happen to be a member of Thrivent, please consider signing up for *Thrivent Choice* or leading a *Thrivent Action Team* as a way to support this year's Annual Gathering. These funding avenues are described on page 2 of this Conexiones. Thank you for the possibilities!!!.

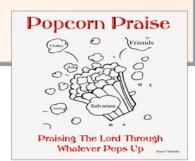
God Loves You And So Do We!



Robin and Brian Schwarz INKY Host Committee Co-Chairs nlsannualgatheng@gmail.com.



We look forward to serving YOU July 25-28 on the campus of the University of Indianapolis for the 2019 Via de Cristo Annual Gathering in Indianapolis Indiana.



Carol J Reedstrom 19396 552 Avenue Mankato MN 56001

Email: newsletter@viadecristo.org

PLEASE PLACE STAMP HERE

Visit the NLS Web Site @ www.viadecristo.org Rick Hanzlik, Webmaster

