



Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC

Winding Down Winter Volume 36, Issue 1

NLS VdC Annual Gathering



Christian Fellowship

Uplifting Worship

Music Jam

Inspiring Speakers

Art & Service Projects

Development Workshops

☐ God Loves You and So Do We ☐

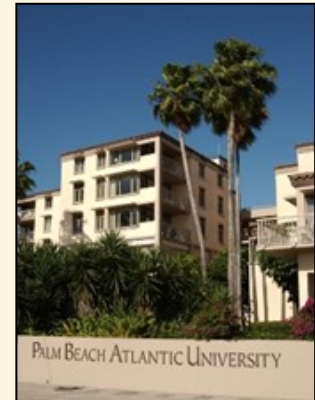
Braced by the Holy Spirit

~ July 26-29, 2018 ~

**Palm Beach Atlantic University
West Palm Beach, Florida**

Registration details coming soon!!!

♥ God Loves You and So Do We ♥



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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 3:18 (TLB)

Reflect the Son

NLS 2018 Annual Gathering

July 26-29, 2018

Hosted by the Region 7 – Florida Secretariats of:

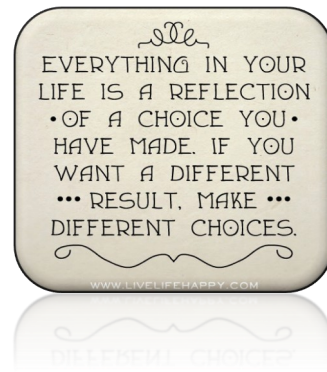
Gold Coast, Indian River, Lighthouse, Sonbeam, Sonshine South, & Sonshine North Via de Cristo

On behalf of the National Lutheran Secretariat and the Host Committee from Region 7 in Florida, you are officially invited to attend National Lutheran Secretariat's 2018 Annual Meeting in West Palm Beach, FL, July 26th through July 29th.

This year's Annual Gathering theme, **Reflect the Son**, is based on 2 Corinthians 2:18, teaching us that through the power of the Holy Spirit, we will be uplifted to reflect the glory of God wherever we may seek to be an influence for Christ. Please join us as we embrace the love of Christ and share in His joyful noise dedicated to refresh, rejuvenate, and strengthen you in our Fourth Day!

Palm Beach Atlantic University (www.pba.edu) will be the site of this year's annual meeting. The campus is located on the beautiful intracoastal waterway in downtown West Palm Beach. And with a ten-minute walk across a beautiful bridge, you can be in the famous city of Palm Beach with its beaches, Worth Avenue, Flagler Museum and Coconut Row.

A committee member will greet you at Palm Beach International Airport (PBI), just a ten minute drive from the campus. While we strongly encourage flying in and out of PBI which will avoid the common traffic delays on I-95 when using the Fort Lauderdale International Airport (FLL), the host committee will provide transportation to and from both airports.



The dorm rooms on the compact Palm Beach Atlantic campus share a bathroom with an adjoining room, available to no more than four people. The facilities are entirely air-conditioned for optimal comfort in south Florida's summer heat and humidity. The short walks between events are palm tree-lined and on level terrain, with elevators available in all multi-level buildings. No smoking and no alcohol are permitted on campus.

Please use the Registration Form and the Travel Form, located on the NLS website, www.viadecristo.org. Please note the special "Early Bird" discount if you register by April 30th, as well as another special discount if this is the first Annual Gathering you have attended! You are expected to pay the full registration fee if registering after May 1st.

We pray that your summer plans will include attending this year's NLS Annual Gathering! All members from every Secretariat, both eligible representatives plus non-voting visitors, go home with a renewed in faith. Experiencing an Annual Gathering is **not** just for elected or appointed members of your Secretariat, but also for your community-at-large. Our community-at-large.

Every year, the gathering has proven to be an exciting, uplifting and wonderful forum of exchanging information, sharing ideas, renewing old friendships, and making new ones. You will be fed, led, encouraged, and lifted with music, worship, the Eucharist, meals, laughter, and prayer as God's love, together with brothers and sisters in Christ from all over the United States, flows throughout our Annual Gathering!

On behalf of Florida's six hosting Secretariats, please know that we are lifting you up in prayer during these months of preparation, and that we are so excited to be welcoming you to Florida! Come and join us in **Reflecting the Son!**

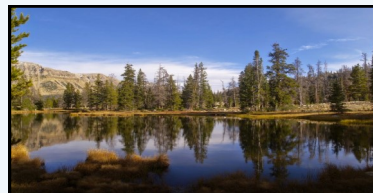
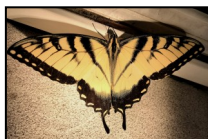
Watson and Magdala Ray, Co-chairs
2018 Annual Gathering Host Committee



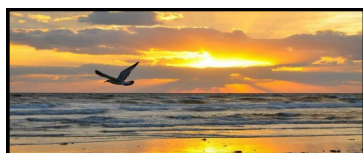
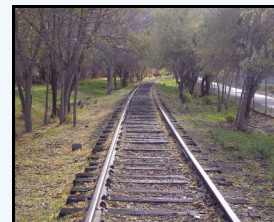
This Is My Father's World...



Pr. Darby Lawrence



By Rick Hanzlik



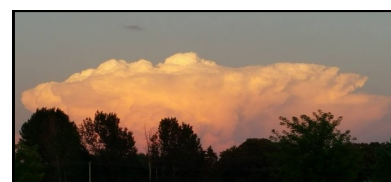
By Pr. Doug Given



By



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.



By Susan Strong

Please email your photos to:
newsletter@viadecristo.org

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

Cantamos



Cantamos Choir, which has sang for at least three National Gatherings, is celebrating their 20th year by releasing their second CD. Hopefully you enjoyed their music during the Friday Evening Vespers at the NLS 2017 Annual Gathering in Winston Salem, NC.

This choir was formed in 1997 to lead worship music for the NLS Annual Meeting held that year in Hickory, NC. Soon after, they formally organized under the name of Cantamos, which is Spanish for "We Sing", began presenting worship style concerts at local churches, and have been sharing the Gospel through music ever since. Since then, they have widened their outreach to include nursing homes, retirement communities, and special events such as "Christmas at the Biltmore for a Candlelight Evening.

If there are people in our Fourth Day community who would like more information, please feel free to contact either Ken Eidenmiller at ken@keneidenmiller.com, or myself at lwitham@carolina.rr.com.

Blessings,
Larry Witham



Hooray for @westpalmch being ranked 2nd healthiest city in the U.S.



Whether you're here for a day, a week or longer, you'll find everything to make your stay delightful. Explore four popular shopping, dining and entertainment districts: Clematis Street, CityPlace, Northwood Village, and Antique Row. World-renowned culture. And exciting land, water and sports fun.

Church Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) — What Is It & Do I Really Need It?

For ages, the power of song has been a powerful ingredient for inspirational worship; And today is no exception, especially when you add in the rich images of film and video. However, are these songs and imagery (works written and produced by someone else) freely available to your secretariat for weekends, events, or to enhance your presentation? Yes, if you have the proper Copyright License - NO, if you don't!

Copyright licensure law is often viewed as complex and expensive, but when you purchase the proper copyright license, a whole new world of resources will become available to you; a new avenue that will save you valuable time when accessing the best Christian products on the market. The main thing to remember is, things could become way more expensive by not purchasing a CCLI License.

If you have questions about licensing, wondering if you need to buy one, or have questions about your existing license, feel free to email Debbie Klatt at dklatt378@gmail.com. Debbie will be able to answer, or find the answer to your questions. She'll also be able to explain how easy it is to display your favorite songs on a VdC weekend... along with a few of those "necessary" requirements.

Spiritual Director's Message from July 25, 2017

Words of Encouragement

When programs become more important than relationships, we have a problem. Let me say that another way: when what we have planned; our routine, our service, is more important than people and personal ministry, things are going in the wrong direction. Let me explain.

One day Jesus was teaching in the synagogue. It was a Sabbath day, so a good many people would have been present, doing their religious expectation. One of the people there was a lady who for 18 years had a debilitating disease that left her totally bent over. For 18 years, instead of walking upright like most of us, she was forced to see life looking at the ground. The only way she could look up would have been to turn her head to one side. For 18 years that was her lot in life, but still you'll notice she was in worship on the Sabbath day. Nothing was going to stop her from worshipping.

This was not just some hereditary disease passed on to her by her parents, for the Bible tells us it was an evil spirit that did this to her. Let me emphasize again – 18 years. She lived this way

for 18 years. Many people saw her come and go. Many people saw her in the meeting place and ignored her. Many people, I'm sure, stared at her and watched with crossed-eyes, but none did anything to help her. Why? Because it wasn't in the program.

But then...
"Jesus saw the lady..."
Luke 13:12 CEV

Jesus noticed her. He noticed her and called her over to Him and spoke into her life. He said...
"You are now well." He placed His hands on her, and right away she stood up straight and praised God."
Luke 13:12-13 CEV

How awesome is that? Can you imagine her response? I'm not sure how you interpret in your mind what it means that she "praised God," but my mind tells me she got a little loud, a lot jubilant, maybe even did a little dance for joy. She was free! She was released! She was happy!

But not everybody was happy. We read...
"The man in charge of the meeting place was angry because Jesus had

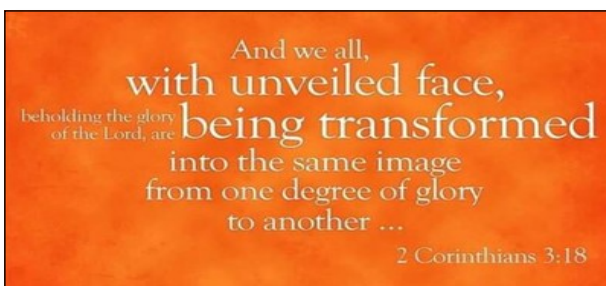
healed someone on the Sabbath."
Luke 13:14 CEV

Isn't that just typical of us. Jesus does something spectacular for someone and we don't like it. It messes up our routine, our program. We had order until Jesus showed up and then He fouled everything up and went against the rules. We had everything planned out according to our customs and traditions, but Jesus threw a wrench into it. Why does He seem to do that all the time?

Here's my word of encouragement for you today: Jesus is always more concerned about relationships than our programs. We should too! Invest in people like Jesus invested in you. And remember, "Relationships always comes before programs."

Father,
Forgive me for the times I feel I need to stick to the program and overlook the needs of people. Jesus, in Your name I ask this, Amen.

Rev. Dr. MM Marxhausen



Faith in God, Country at Core of PBA

Throughout PBA's history, the university has expanded in acreage, facilities and student growth but there has been one constant: the three guiding principles. Palm Beach Atlantic University was founded on the teachings of Christ, the drive to instill a love for the country, American values and the free enterprise economic system, and finally, community service.

Those three guiding principles allowed the PBA community to prosper into what it is today: a community of leaders that follow the path of Christ.



My Via de Cristo Message,

May you allow Jesus to lead you to the edge of your comfort zones, giving you a fresh vision for where He's taking you.

May you put everything on the table and give Him permission to rearrange your life.

May you dare to open your hands, look up and breathe a prayer of thanks right in the midst of this uncertain time — knowing that He's far kinder than you can fathom and far greater than you ever imagined.

Can you sense Jesus' invitation to join Him on this adventure of faith? Will you trust Him?

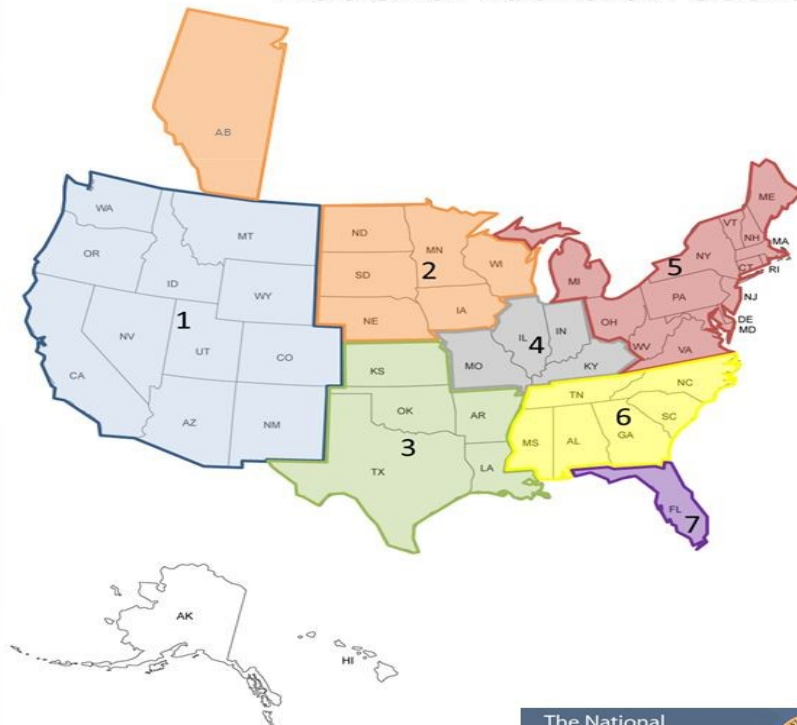
Choose joy this day. God wants to do deep and profound work in and through you! Your security is found in HIM!

With love and joy from Minnesota.

Wendy Showalter
Your Fellow Servant &
NLS Board President



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®



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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

If ²... (500 New Questions for the Game of Life)

By Evelyn McFarlane & James Saywell

- If** you had to describe the moment in your life when you had to have the most courage, what would you say?
- If** you were to describe true generosity by using an example you witnessed, what would you use?
- If** you could be more focused in one area of your life, what would it be?
- If** you could be given the complete film library of the work of a single actor, who would you pick?
- If** you had to name the most incredible thing a friend has ever done for you, what would it be?
- If** you had to name the book from your childhood that had the biggest influence on you, what book would it be?
- If** you could add one required course to the present school system, what would it be?
- If** you had to choose the most necessary thing you do each day, what would you say it was?
- If** you could repair a relationship with one former friend, who would it be with?
- If** you had to identify what made the best teacher you ever had the best, what would you say it was?

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 . . .

- † When we cast our bread upon the waters, we can presume that someone downstream whose face we may never know will benefit from our action. ~ Maya Angelou
- † Religion is as necessary to reason as reason is to religion. The one cannot exist without the other.
~ George Washington
- † I don't know of a single foreign product that enters this country untaxed except the answer to prayer.
~ Mark Twain
- † Kindness has converted more sinners than zeal, eloquence or learning. ~ Frederick William Faber
- † Life is real! Life is earnest! And the grave is not the goal. ~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- † I believe in life. In will. In good. I believe that right wins out. It may sound naïve, but I believe. ~ Maya Angelou
- † All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen. ~ Ralph Waldo Emerson
- † Trusting in Him who can go with me and remain with you, and be everywhere for good, let us confidently hope that all will yet be well. ~ Abraham Lincoln
- † Your success and happiness lie in you. External conditions are the accidents of life. The great enduring realities are love and service. Joy is the holy fire that keeps our purpose warm and our intelligence aglow. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulty. ~ Helen Keller
- † Virtue is a kind of health, beauty and good habit of the soul. ~ Plato
- † There are two kinds of people: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, "All right, then, have it your way." ~ C.S. Lewis

National Lutheran Secretariat

Elected Positions



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NLS Appointed Positions

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~ Open Position ~

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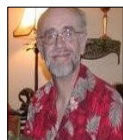
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Historian/Archivist
~ Open Position ~



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Conexiones-

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It is very important that you print clearly in large letters.
Computers need EXACT information and punctuation

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, articles, requests, or inspirational bits) please send them to the **CONEXIONES** Editor at the email 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



Carol J. Reedstrom, Editor
19396 552nd Avenue



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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.



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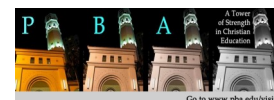


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Save These Dates...

July 26 — 29, 2018
NLS/VdC Annual Gathering
Palm Beach Atlantic University
West Palm Beach, FL