

South Dakota Lutheran Secretariat

Via de Cristo Newsletter

Check out our website -- <http://www.sdlvdc.org/>

June 2023 Edition --- Enean Mattes & Pastor Steve Carmany, Editors

Love Gifts are accepted all year long. You may note specific usage to your amazing gifts. Please mail to the Secretariat Treasurer ...

Allen Abraham, 22841 446th Ave, Ramona SD 57054

4TH DAY COMMUNITY -- Ultreya Picnic
Saturday - June 24, 2023 @ Noon – 4pm
Swan Lake Christian Camp - Chapel
volleyball, playground, games, swimming, etc.
Bring some food to share!!!

Stay Connected!!! As a Christian Community, we share burdens and joys.

If you have any testimonies that you would like to publish,

please submit them to carmanysteve@gmail.com

Greetings to the 4th Day Community from Beth Abraham,

It is my honor to accept the Rectora position for the April 2024 Via de Cristo weekend. The selected verses for the weekend are Colossians 3:12-17. We love a God who sees us in the messiness of our lives as we learn and grow in our faith. And He still loves us!

As you read the verses, remember you are a chosen people called to fulfill God's holy purposes for your life by touching the lives of others. The verses will touch your heart differently as the Holy Spirit speaks to you on your faith journey. For me they are a daily reminder to see others as Christ sees them. Ask God, "Why am I here today? What do you need me to do?" Do they need a word of encouragement? Are they weary? Or just celebrate their joys with them. Each verse highlights how we are to honor God in our daily living. Knowing we are holy and dearly loved, we can share that same love by our actions

"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly... with gratitude in your hearts. ...clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts... do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God. (NIV)

De Colores!!!



Colossians 3:12-17

Spiritual Inspirations

The 4th Day Community

Now that you have experienced a wonderful weekend full of grace in the Via de Cristo movement, we all have entered the 4th day. What is the 4th day you may ask; it is the rest of your life until you meet the risen Christ face to face one day. While most 4th dayers long for the return to the next Via de Cristo weekend, most of our days are lived as Oswald Chambers (My Upmost for His Highest), calls it --the ordinary life -- the days lived in everyday life. While many may think these are unimportant (or even boring), that are of upmost importance. These are the days where our witness can be its strongest because these are the days where those we encounter see us the most. People take notice of our countenance, our attitudes, our actions. Is our lifestyle matching the lifestyle that our Lord Jesus modeled for us in His life? As the saying goes it is easier to talk the talk than walk the walk. So how do we make everyday we live as a daily witness of our faith and love of our Lord?

First of all, this new walk as a 4th dayer is not a new law or command that any of else can follow, let alone fulfill on a daily basis. We are all sinners and will fall short on many, many days. Our old sinful has not fully left us (nor ever will this side of heaven). But this struggle should not discourage us. Daily confession will be an ongoing process as we allow the new creation in Christ to develop within us. Secondly, we are not alone in this new walk. We have all been given the Holy Spirit to strengthen and keep us in the faith. Developing a quiet time to listen for His voice will be a key to our walk. The Holy Spirit is the One whom Jesus promised to teach us all things (read John 14-16, Jesus' final words to His disciples about the coming of the Holy Spirit into their lives). Thirdly, we are to remain attached to the Vine (Jesus) if we are to produce any fruit for the Kingdom of God (especially the kind that is lasting). Listening to Jesus' words are life-giving and will fill your life with joy -- complete and lacking in nothing.

All of this is the working of the Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) as they come and live within us. I have been amazed how this works when I stop trying to make it work and just surrender my life to the Triune God in me. The fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control) are by-products of a life guided by the Holy Spirit. Often, I am not even aware how this fruit is producing within me, but those around me, however, will. And this fruit-producing life is not to be done in isolation; it is done in community and best one is in a spiritual triads or quads (grouping). If you are not in a one yet, seek to develop one. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you some names of people whom you might invite (remember they don't have to people who have gone to a Via de Cristo weekend). Be patient with the process. Look for others who are seeking spiritual answers. Some groups mesh well while others do not. It is not the fault of the group, just not the one the Holy Spirit has in mind yet. Once you have a group, use your green card and practice the 3-legged stool (Piety-Study-Action).

I hope these words are words of encouragement or words of remembering how life is to be lived in the 4th day. Begin now to pray for guests for our next South Dakota Via de Cristo weekend (April 10-13, 2024).

De Colores, Pastor Steve Lund

4th Day Encouragement -- Thoughts from Jen Morkve

When I went through as a guest, I went, not knowing anyone, on my own and with no real expectations.

The love of others, the presence of the Holy Spirit there hovering in the place was amazing. The Stations hit me hard. I was in front and struggling with so many things at the time. To see that Jesus hung there for me, to save me from my sins and chose to let me live eternally in heaven with him -- wow!

The banquet was amazing and words cannot be used. The whole weekend was amazing from the palanca, gifts, food and blessings.

Now, coming back to serve really put things into perspective and to be able to serve and have others be blessed is a growth and blessing to me. I really enjoy the new friendships, love and how holy spirit works through the ups and downs of the weekends to give back to others who are coming to experience some of what I did.

SAVE THE DATE -- APRIL 11-14, 2024

CO-ED WEEKEND @ SWAN LAKE

CHRISTIAN CAMP