

South Dakota Lutheran Secretariat

Via de Cristo Newsletter

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

December 2019 Edition

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NEW: Deadline for registration forms

NEW: Deadline for registration forms!

Due to changes required of us for use of the Inspiration Hills venue, we will need to provide a firm number of team workers and guests one full week ahead of each weekend in 2020. That means WE NEED YOUR PAPERWORK in on time. We have a small amount of wiggle room to add 1 or 2 GUESTS late, but not so for team.

REGISTRATION DEADLINES: (Questions call or text Lori at 218-252-4355)

- MEN: Wednesday, January 8, 2020 in hand to Lori Gooch by 5 p.m.
- WOMEN: Wednesday, January 15, 2020 in hand to Lori Gooch by 5 p.m.

Forms may be sent by email to goski@midco.net, or mailed to 601 N Sandberg Dr., Sioux Falls, SD 57110. Allow 5-7 days for USPS mail to arrive, so if you are near the deadline, give a call or email the forms please.

Increased Fees

Fees this year were increased to \$175 in response to substantial increases in our direct costs to use Inspiration Hills. For many years we have had a bargain rate, but like everything in our society – costs increase, and the bill has to be paid, even for a church camp! We have a higher per person rate for the weekends, and new this year is an additional flat rate for kitchen services. Based on our past weekend numbers, our actual costs will run in the ballpark of \$200 per person. Because some of the cost is flat fee, the more people we bring to the weekend, the lower our per person cost becomes. So, get busy and send an invite – let's max this weekend out!

Our Secretariat board chose to go with the lower \$175 suggested registration amount as we realize this is still an increase that will be difficult for some of our membership. Our hope is that those who can provide more will do so as an additional love gift when making their registration contribution. In God's infinite wisdom, our weekends always manage to pay-it-forward to ensure the future weekend has funds, just as past years have done to ensure 2020 can happen! As always, scholarships will be available when the need arises. Contact Lori Gooch for this need. And if you want to provide a scholarship for a specific team member or guest, let Lori know so she can send assurances to that individual that a love gift was given just for them!

Message from the 2020 Rectors

Brothers and sisters of the 4th day. Know you are invited to the 2020 Via de Cristo Men's weekend January 16th-19th, 2020 and Women's weekend January 23rd-26th. You may find team registration and guest registration forms and additional information related to the weekend can be found on the South Dakota Via de Cristo website: <https://www.sdlvdc.org/>. Please get your application in as soon as possible by mail to the address on the form.

Registration forms must be completed by January 8th for both the team and guests to allow the retreat center to plan for meals. We encourage all of you to pray for the Spirit to lead you to sponsor guests this year who will join us for the weekend and become future members of our 4th Day community. Also, please pray for the leaders of the weekend both in the conference room and the Palanca. All of us are very busy people... pray that God will give us the time and patience to plan well, prepare well, and connect well with the 2020 guests.

If you are unable to attend the weekend, please consider coming to either of the closings. 4th day communion service is at 3:30 at Inspiration Hills and closing begins at 5:00 pm on Sunday.

Charlotte Charles, Women's 2020 Rector
605-480-5025

Karl Seggerman, Men's 2020 Rector
712-441-4290

I am blessed to have been able to start seminary training in 2018 after a 30-year engineering career. God willing this is one of the last times I could actually be the Rector assuming I graduate and become a pastor. As I pass through my seminary training, I have found that the Via de Cristo movement has been doing for many years, what many are trying to do across the world through a movement called the Missional Church. The main difference is that the Missional Church movement takes what we call the 4th day group and makes it the building block for starting and multiplying churches in neighborhoods and wherever people might group due to common interests. The Missional Church movement uses concepts similar to piety, study and apostolic action and pays attention to environment and Christian community though there is no central organization and no formal talks or training related to these things. Most Missional Churches are small and do not meet in a church building but in homes or wherever they share a common interest. The main idea is to gather a group of Christian friends who will weekly encourage one another in piety, study and action and intentionally work together to invite non-Christians to join them in their small community and build friendships with them through non-threatening activities. Eventually through those friendships and demonstration of authentic Christian living, unbelievers are brought to faith in Jesus. The core group of friends seek to know their own gifts and how to best leverage those gifts as they work together to do evangelism. They build one another up as they grow in Christ and share the journey. They make new friends and bring them to Christ, together as a Christian community.

I share all of this to remind everyone of the calling Christ has placed on each of us to live an authentic Christian life that will attract people into friendship with us and through that friendship into a relationship with Jesus. In addition, I write to encourage everyone to take that extra step in your groups to become intentional about knowing your gifts and using them collectively to develop friendships with unbelievers so together you can cooperate with Holy Spirit to draw them to Christ. One of the secrets is to invite people who are people of peace (Luke 10:5-6). People of peace are already showing signs of the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives. You get to join in. I came to know and deeply appreciate the Body of Christ through the Via de Cristo. The body of Christ is Christian community in action, action that both nurtures our growth toward Christ and empowers us in fulfilling our calling in Christ to make disciples.

My verses for the weekend are John 12:23-26:

²³ Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

I am drawn to these verses because they summarize the authentic Christian life. In dying to ourselves and following Jesus we bear much fruit for the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus is with us and we are with him, especially when we come together to serve him. The Father honors those who serve Jesus. All glory and praise be to Christ Jesus.

Karl Seggerman

Rector 2020 Men's Weekend

Help Wanted: New Secretariat Board Members

HELP WANTED:

Are you feeling the nudge to serve? Your South Dakota Lutheran Via de Cristo Secretariat (board) is seeking new members to help us better serve our entire 4th Day community in South Dakota, Iowa and Nebraska. Several of our long-time community reps have indicated it is time for them to step down, and we do not want to see areas without representation! Service on the board will require attendance at 3-4 board meetings per year, and an intentional desire to connect with 4th Day members and communities in your home region to bring input and ideas back and forth to the Secretariat. **NO SPECIAL SKILLS** required! Remember, VDC is all about raising up Christian Leaders, so here is a chance for you to strengthen your own leadership skills!

If you are interested in serving, or just have a question or want to discuss this further, give me us a call!

Remember what your cross says, Christ is Counting on YOU!

Skip & Lori Gooch, SDLVDC Lay Directors
(605) 261-0095 - Skip
(218) 252-4355 - Lori

Spiritual Director Message

Dear Friends,

We were at Culver's the other night, and my husband (who loves to invite people to Via De Cristo) made a pitch to a couple to attend the weekends. He also invited them to attend worship at Christ the King.

The wife said, "Oh we won't do anything Lutheran." Being a Lutheran Pastor, I have to confess it is a little upsetting to hear that. But I sensed that it was important to hear what she had to say, so I said, "May I ask, what is it about Lutheranism that you are against?" She and her husband looked at each other, and they finally came up with an answer, "Politics." Later, we sent them more information about the VDC weekend, and I promised, it's about following Jesus and serving Him, no politics.

I just want to encourage all of you, if you receive a negative answer in inviting people to Via De Cristo, try asking a few questions, about what is the source of the resistance. Be prepared to listen carefully to what the individual says. It is important that we listen to understand. When all is said and done, we may not agree, but at least the other person has been heard, and there is value in that.

Now, concerning the reason the woman gave, I have visited with pastors and laity in many other denominations. Lutherans, by no means, have the market on politics. I also will note that I know, admire and love Christian brothers and sisters who call themselves Lutheran, Baptist, Roman Catholic, Charismatic, Non-denominational, Methodist and a number of other things. I bet you do too. I love that in our VDC community we meet Christians from a variety of different

traditions, each brings different gifts. Let us not diminish one another by generalizing, stereotyping, and condemning one another. What we agree on is so much more important than what divides us. Speak to that, focus on what we agree on: The Word is truth, God is Merciful, Jesus is Lord. Blessings on your invitations and conversations.

De Colores,
Pastor Dani Jo

Sponsoring A Guest

I would highly encourage you to read through the “So you want to be a Sponsor “guidelines which are posted on our website. There is much pertinent information there. And if you are thinking about waiting until later, please read the following illustration from the book “Tide Rising” by Bruce Theilemen.

It is said that Satan once called to him the emissaries of hell and said he wanted to send one of them to earth to aid women and men in the ruination of their souls. He asked which one would want to go. One creature came forward and said, “I will go.” Satan said, “If I send you, what will you tell the children of men?” He said, “I will tell the children of men that there is no heaven.” Satan said, “They will not believe you, for there is a bit of heaven in every human heart. In the end everyone knows that right and good must have the victory. You may not go.” Then another came forward, darker and fouler than the first. Satan said, “If I send you, what will you tell the children of men?” He said, “I will tell them there is no hell.” Satan looked at him and said, “Oh, no; they will not believe you, for in every human heart there’s a thing called conscience, an inner voice which testifies to the truth that not only will good be triumphant, but that evil will be defeated. You may not go.”

Then one last creature came forward, this one from the darkest place of all. Satan said to him, “And if I send you, what will you say to women and men to aid them in the destruction of their souls?” He said, “I will tell them there is no hurry.” Satan said, “Go!”

So, what are you waiting for? Now is the time and you are the one. Please be prepared to be a sponsor and to follow up and follow through after your guest has attended a weekend. They will be blessed and so will you. We are called to persevere. Heb. 10:19-39

Thanks for taking the time to read this. If you have any questions please feel free to call, text, or email.

605-660-1313

diede@iw.net

In His Service,

Mike Diede

SDLVDC Banner Contest

4th Day Community - We Need You!

Help design a banner for the South Dakota Lutheran Via de Cristo. The banner will be used at the weekends, Ultreyas, and will be displayed by our delegates going to the National Convention. This can be similar to banners hung at church – vertical or horizontal in presentation.

Please submit your design idea by sending a design to the South Dakota Lutheran Secretariat at goski@midco.net . The Secretariat Board will select the design to be used by our local South Dakota Secretariat. Submissions need to be sent to the Secretariat Board within two weeks of receiving this newsletter. The Board is looking forward to seeing some great designs!

There are only three requirements:

1. Visualize the design should fit an enlarged rectangular banner with dimensions of 2.5ft by 6ft. A graphic artist will take your concept/design and enlarge it to the banner size. A full size design is not required to be sent just the design idea.
2. The design must include the National logo shown below.
3. Must include the words "South Dakota Lutheran Via de Cristo".



In June of 1988 the NLS adopted its official logo. In the center is the familiar cross. It is surrounded by the Luther rose from the Luther emblem. Around the outside are the words, "Via de Cristo" and "National Lutheran Secretariat."

Yankton Area Ultreya

Yankton Area Ultreya meets the second Sunday of the month and breaks for July and August. Our Ultreya consists of worship music, a devotion, and prayer time. And of course, there's always food. Speaking of food, on Sunday, Dec. 8 we are having our Christmas potluck at 6:30 at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Yankton. In January, we will meet on Sunday the 12, at 7:00 at Christ the King Lutheran to work on Palanca favors for the weekends. Come join us anytime!