

The



November 2014, Volume 42, Issue 1

Rooster Crows

From the Lay Director

As I prepared to write my last Rooster Crows article as President of the Secretariat, many things came to mind that I could write about, such as what Via de Cristo has done for and meant to Brad and me; the many things I love about Via de Cristo and look forward to each January, but what really struck me was thinking about how God has blessed Via de Cristo in Okobojo. While many other Via de Cristo movements are having trouble continuing to find enough speakers, palanca workers, and pilgrims, we had to have discussions about saying no to pilgrims and palanca workers sleeping in every nook and cranny of Christopher House, and Pastors having to brave the elements and sleep in a cabin up the hill. I do not say this as a source of pride or to puff ourselves up, but out of gratitude to God for the great work he is doing in and through Via de Cristo at Okobojo.

I thank him for lives that have been transformed by Him, relationships that have been restored by Him; friendships that have been started by Him; eyes that have been opened by Him; and the list goes on and on. I pray in the weeks leading up to Via de Cristo you take time to stop and thank God for the ways he has touched your life through Via de Cristo. I pray, as you ask someone to come to a weekend, you share with them what God has done in you through your Via de Cristo experience, and then leave the answer in His hands. He knows the year someone is supposed to be there or even if the Via de Cristo experience is for this person! God's call to us is to ask, maybe more than once or twice, but He is the one who will lead the person to say yes. Remember, while we love Via de Cristo, it is just one vehicle or tool God uses to draw people to Himself. Hope to see you all in January!

De Colores,

—Laurie Simington



A Word from the Women's Rector

I stumbled across the book last winter as I was cleaning out a long-neglected bookcase in my basement. A faded pink, it was old, tattered, and had lots of hand-written notes in the margins. I couldn't remember ever seeing it before. The title, *Laugh Again...Experience Outrageous Joy*, by Charles R. Swindoll, caught my attention immediately and I had to smile. We (God & I) had been pondering a 2015 Via de Cristo theme since January 20th, the day after the women's closing. The book was an ode to joy, based in solid biblical principles drawn especially from Philippians. And so it was. After reading it, I was sure of the message I was to share during the women's weekend: The joy of knowing Jesus gives us strength to go through this life. When God created us He gave us the unique ability to experience joy. No other creature can, just us humans! How many times is joy mentioned in the bible? Lots! We can be certain that God intended this wonderful gift for each of us.

Jesus gave us His truth so that His joy might be in us. And when that happens, our joy is full (*John 15:11*).

In today's world, there are so many joy-stealers: we are overworked, over-committed, over-extended financially, etc., But we can choose to be joyful in spite of our circumstances! God is in control!

In 1998, when I returned from attending the women's weekend, the wonderful music and laughter of Via de Cristo ran through my head for weeks. We have an incredible opportunity this January (and every January) to share these gifts with others who are seeking God...but don't know it yet.

I pray that during the up-coming weekend we will all be able to unite with love and laughter, raising a joyful noise to the Lord. Choose Joy! De Colores,

—Cheryl Todd

Make a friend, be a friend, and ask that friend to sign up for a life-changing weekend at the Okobojo Lutheran Bible Camp in January,

Men's Rector Notes

It is hard to believe that Via de Cristo is right around the corner. Doesn't seem that long ago we were finishing up last year's weekend. With the start of school and kids activities this time of year can be busy, but we need to be thinking about asking pilgrims to attend this year. Before you ask, we need to start with prayer. We need to ask God to place the names on our hearts and, when the opportunity arises, to ask. Remember to pray before we ask.

When I look back to the weekends I have attended — yes, the weekend as a pilgrim — I left with a high, but it's the weekends that I served on palanca that I remember the most. Some of the men I served with at the weekend I only see once a year. Yet you develop strong friendships with these men by serving. If you haven't come back to work palanca, or it has been a few years since you have been back, I encourage you to pray about serving this year. Come back and get your batteries recharged by being with fellow Christians.

The team is finalized and they are getting ready for the weekend. I ask that you keep the team members in your prayers as they prepare as well as everyone else who will be serving and attending.

—Kurt Weeks



Bring a Friend

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House for God

I have been running into this reoccurring theme lately; "House For God." So, what does your house look like? Not the one where you park your car and lay your head, but the house in which God lives. Is it well decorated? Is it a comfortable space? Are you home a lot or is the house abandoned? How often do you check in on your guest? How often do you visit? Do you visit with God on holidays? On Sunday? Before meals? Do you ask him to join you at events or help you with everyday tasks (like those loathe-some piles of laundry)?

"May Christ, through your faith, dwell in your hearts." *Ephesians 3:17*

As Christians, we are asked to make, in our lives, a home for Christ. He is anxious to hear from us, anxious for us to talk with him and be in relationship with him. He wants to be with you and make things brighter and easier.

"For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." *Matthew 11:30*

All he wants from us is *all* of us. He wants our praises and our sorrows. He can't change our feelings or angers unless we discuss them with him. All God wants is us, authentic, real us.

"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." *Proverbs 4:23*

This verse is powerful. Christ dwells in our hearts, and from our hearts everything else flows. Therefore, we protect the home where Christ lives. When we are close to Christ; Christ-like ideas, thoughts and actions flow from us. The more abandoned our Christian home; the more likely we are to think negatively, talk poorly of others and live selfishly.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 says, "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies."

Honor God by getting to know him. I am anxious for the coming VdC weekends! They are always filled with love and joy, excitement and renewal. But I challenge you to clean up Christ's home before the weekend, before the holiday season. Start today, give Him praise; give Him your frustrations. Begin to develop a strong relationship with Christ now, to get you through the season and bless others. Then continue to watch it flourish after the VdC weekend. So start praising the Lord today, and "above all else, guard your heart for it is a temple for the Lord."

De Colores!

—Jody Vulk-Past Rector 2014



Come Holy Spirit

At an Ulteya, Herb Hansen was the 4th Day Speaker. He has given permission to share the following, which he started researching in 1997. Herb was looking for confirmation in the Bible that the words that we pray came from our Lord. He became aware of 'action' words (verbs) in the prayer and found scripture to match. Here are the appropriate verses to go along with the prayer. The question was, "What difference would it make in your life if you concentrated on the meaning of the memorized prayers that you say?" *All scripture is from NIV.*

Come Holy Spirit: *Luke 11:13* "If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him."

Fill the hearts of your faithful: *Ephesians 3:16-19* "I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power though his Spirit in your inner being so that Christ may dwell in your hearts though faith." *Romans 5:5* "And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us."

And kindle in us the fire of your love.

Psalms 18:28 "You, O Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light."

Send forth your spirit, and we shall be created, and you shall renew the face of the earth: *Psalms 104:27-30* – "These all look to you to give them their food at the proper time. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things, when you hide your face, they are terrified, when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust. When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth."

O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, instructs the hearts of the faithful: *Nehemiah 9:19-20* "Because of your great compassion you did not abandon them in the desert. By day the pillar of cloud did not cease to guide them on their path, nor the pillar of fire by night to shine on the way they were to take. You gave your good Spirit to instruct them. You did not withhold your manna from their mouths, and you gave them water for their thirst."

Grant that by the same Holy Spirit, we may be truly wise: *1 John 2:27* "As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit – just as it has taught you, remain in him." *James 1:5* – "If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."

And ever rejoice in His consolations: *Job 15:11* "Are God's consolations not enough for you, words spoken gently to you?" *Philippians 4:4* – "Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again: Rejoice!"

Through Christ our Lord, Amen: *John 4:6* "Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about the sixth hour."

God's Blessings to all of you in His Love and Service, Barb Dewald

Treasurer's Notes

As I am writing this article our area is harvesting bountiful crops in gardens and fields. Everyone has become weary from the weekly task of mowing lawns well into the month of October. Several years ago we all were wondering if and when the rains would return to the Midwest. Now we are wondering or hoping the rains will stop as we have an ample supply of soil moisture. We all live in an ever-changing, evolving society and livelihood. What a joy it is in knowing that our Lord Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. He is always present with His steadfast love and forgiveness not ever-changing like the weather!

The Secretariat is the organization that meets our financial obligations for the Via de Cristo weekends. Through *everyone's* continued contributions the weekends will flourish. Also, palanca has the opportunity to join the fun by participating in the various activities. Be sure to come for your yearly spiritual adventure, it will sustain your soul!

As everyone knows, computers are a wonderful tool to use with many different functions. But if we use the computer just as a typewriter we are not taking advantage of its full potential. The 4th Day Community can evolve into its full potential of sharing God's love by registering an applicant to attend Via de Cristo January 2015. Are you a typewriter or the computer? De Colores!

—Bonnie Sleezer



Want to Donate?

If you wish to make a donation to the Iowa Lutheran Secretariat for Via de Cristo, please make checks payable to Iowa Lutheran Secretariat and mail to: Bonnie Sleezer, Treasurer, 110 490th Street, Aurelia, IA 51005.

The Rooster Crows

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Also available for download at:
www.iowavdc.com

Palanca

Write a note to the events below to let the pilgrims know you are praying and sacrificing to “lever” their weekend.

ILS Weekends

Brothers in Blue at NCF Newton, December 4-7, 2015. Send palanca messages to Rick Admiraal, 1002 Main Street, Pella IA 50219. rradmiraal@sbcglobal.net

Iowa Lutheran VdC at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp, Men’s: January 8-11, Women’s: January 15-18, 2015. Send Palanca to: Steve & Theone Quattlebaum, 228 8th St SW, Spencer, IA 51301. Steveq@alpha-wireless.com

Brothers in Blue at NCCF Rockwell City, March 5-8, 2015. Send palanca messages to Carroll Lang, 19903 225th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501. CDLng@aol.com

Brothers in Blue at MPCF Mount Pleasant, March 12-15, 2015. Send palanca messages to Bob Smythe, 1700 Maple Drive NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405. smythebob@msn.com

Brothers in Blue at MPCF Mount Pleasant, Sept. 3-6, 2015. Send palanca messages to Bob Smythe, 1700 Maple Drive NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405. smythebob@msn.com

Brothers in Blue at NCCF Rockwell City, October 1-4, 2015. Send palanca messages to Carroll Lang, 19903 225th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501. CDLng@aol.com

Brothers in Blue at NCF Newton, December 3-6, 2015. Send palanca messages to Rick Admiraal, 1002 Main Street, Pella IA 50219. rradmiraal@sbcglobal.net

Iowa Lutheran VdC at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp, Men’s: January 7-10, Women’s: January 14-17, 2016. Send Palanca to: Steve & Theone Quattlebaum, 228 8th St SW, Spencer, IA 51301. Steveq@alpha-wireless.com

A Message for Palanca

Wheels are turning for the Via de Cristo weekends and we want YOU to come along on this joyride. The womens’ weekend theme Bible verse is from Nehemiah 8:10. **The joy of the LORD is your strength.** Remember your weekend? Perhaps it has been years or maybe just months... whatever the case may be, tap into that passion and invite someone to the upcoming weekend to experience that peace and joy that comes with a fresh dose of God’s Grace in Christian community.

The meaning of the word Palanca is lever, which we all know can be a little thing that makes a big difference! There are many ways YOU can make a big difference for the weekends:

- ~ sign up to serve for all or part of the weekend; register early by completing a Palanca registration form available on the website or upon your arrival that weekend,
- ~ pray for the 2015 Pilgrims, the clergy, rectors and teams,
- ~ remember the Prayer Chapel Vigil and sign up for some sacrificial prayer times in the wee hours during the weekend,
- ~ start your “Palanca” early; you can personalize later by checking the names listed on the website
- ~ choose joy and bring it!

De Colores!

—Kathy Sindt, Women’s Palanca Rector

Did You Know?

Registering Pilgrims is a simple process:

- 1) Print the application off from the NEW website: <http://www.iowavdc.com>
- 2) Fill out both pages of the application with/for the pilgrim
- 3) If you can enclose a deposit of \$10
- 4) Send/fax the application to: Crystal Quanbeck, 2404 Lakeside Ave., Milford, Iowa 51351 or email crissyq@yahoo.com, or Fax: 712/337-3501

Sponsor Responsibilities:

Before the weekend:

- Complete and send application
- Advise your pilgrim on **what to bring** for the weekend: Pillow; bedding (sleeping bag or sheets and a blanket); towels; toiletries; Bible; comfy clothes etc.
- Transport (or arrange transportation) for your pilgrim to the camp on Thursday night at 7:00 pm.

During the weekend:

- Send or take Palanca to your pilgrim to the Palanca Chapel. This should include any mail from women pilgrims’ husbands.
- Pray for your pilgrim and the weekend
- If the Pilgrim’s family needs assistance in their absence, make yourself available
- Attend the closing! We cannot stress how important this is!

Following the weekend:

- Check in with your pilgrim, meet for coffee and encourage them to share what it meant to them and how God revealed himself to them.
- Help the pilgrim find a small group or invite them to one you attend! Helping connect them to a Christian community is KEY!! Please take this seriously.
- Attend the Ultreya in March with your pilgrim.

I am working Palanca: What should I bring?

- Pillow, bedding, towels (extras for those who forget); toiletries; comfy clothes
- White top and black skirt or pants
- Two dozen snacks for the conference room and palanca chapel
- A mug with your name on it
- Bible, pens, journal – we will have bible study time this year
- A willing and joyful heart to serve!

I.O.G Joy of Giving Offering

\$100 for Pilgrim, team members and palanca
\$25 per day if you will not be there all weekend

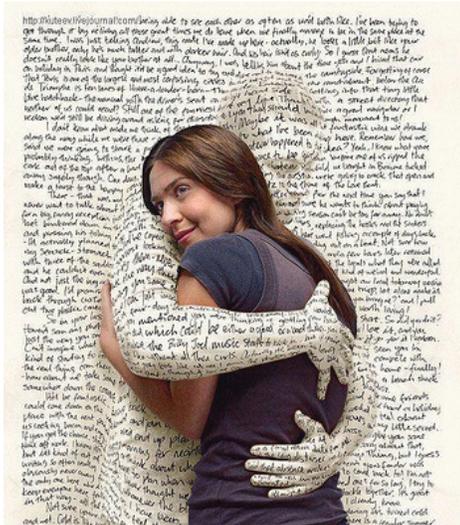
Set UP Crew

We are in need of men and women to help set up the camp on Sunday, January 4, at 1:30. Just come to the camp if you can help.



New Iowa VdC Website

The new Via de Cristo website is up and running! You can find it at www.iowavdc.com. The new site gives the secretariat better access to get things posted and/or changed. The pilgrim application for January 2014 is now available on the site and may be filled out on screen and then printed or saved and then emailed in. The website is a work in progress and information will be added or changed as needed. We do want to keep it current and easy to maintain. If anyone has suggestions, please feel free to contact Laurie Simington at blsimington@q.com or Dean Mechler at mechler@smunet.net.



Palanca Letters

Your letters written to participants on a weekend are a lot like giving them a holy hug. Many are kept and cherished for years after the weekend.

January 8-11, 2015 Men's Team

Rector	Kurt Weeks	5 Piety	Daniel Holste
1st Asst Rector	Todd Nicholson	6 Study	Nate Meyer
2nd Asst Rector	Tom James	7 Means of Grace	?
Past Rector	Brad Simington	8 Apostolic Action	Dan Antione
Palanca Rector	Ryan Blau	9 Obstacles	?
Asst Palanca Rector	Todd Brockshus	10 Leaders	Al Vanderberg
Spiritual Director	?	11 Environment	Mike Lindeman
Asst Sp Dir Palanca	?	12 Life in Grace	?
Conf Rm Tech Assts	Dean Mechler	13 Christian Comm	Ryan Waltner
Conf Rm Tech Assts	Pat Hyndman	JOG Talk	?
		14 Perseverance/4th Day	Kurt Weeks
1 Ideal	Marcus Brock		
2 Grace	?	Aux Table Leader	?
3 Layperson	Bill Nitzel	Aux Table Leader	?
4 Grace in Action	?	Aux Table Leader	?

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November 2014

January 15-18, 2015 Women's Team

Spiritual Director	Pastor Chris Lang	Environment	Susan Christensen
Asst Spiritual Director	Pastor ?	Life in Grace	Pastor ?
Asst Spiritual Director	Pastor ?	Christian Community	Kristin Kenyon
Asst Spiritual Director	Pastor ?	Perseverance/4th Day	Cheryl Todd
Rector	Cheryl Todd		
Asst. Rector	Lisa Carpenter	Palanca Rector	Kathy Sindt
Asst. Rector	Kim Weeks	Asst. Palanca Rector	Cryss Quanbeck
Past Rector	Jody Vulk		

Ideal	Cheryl Hassenius
Grace	Pastor ?
Laity	Jenny Hirschman
Grace in Action	Pastor ?
Piety	Marcia Cheevers
Study	Francel Graham
Means of Grace	Pastor ?
Action	Coletta Weeda
Obstacles to Grace	Pastor ?
Leaders	Andrea Crew



Secretariat Contact Information

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Jody Vulk	Secretary	jodyvulk@me.com
Bonnie Sleezer	Treasurer	bbsleezer@hotmail.com
Pastor Jane Johnston	Spiritual Director	revjane96@gmail.com
Carroll & Judy Lang	Brothers in Blue	CDLNg@aol.com