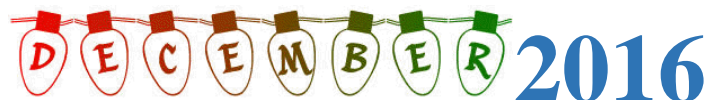


# South Dakota Lutheran Secretariat

## Via de Cristo Newsletter



### In this edition:

- Help Wanted!
- SDLVDC Lay Director Message
- 2017 Men's Rector Message
- 2017 Women's Rector Message
- 2017 Information: Guest & Team Lists and Applications

Get your applications in now for the 2017 weekend!

- Men's Weekend, January 12-15
- Women's Weekend, January 19-22

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**!!!Help Wanted!!!**

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The South Dakota Lutheran Via de Cristo has two items of need that we hope you will prayerfully consider offering your assistance.

1. We are in need of a **place to store the supply trailer** which is filled with the supplies and equipment used at the weekends at Inspiration Hills. If you have a place where it can be kept please consider allowing us to store it there. Preferably, indoor storage would be ideal to keep it out of the weather. A pole barn, extra garage stall, unused corner of a shop would be great.
2. We are in need for an individual who loves to work on computer to be the **Web Master for the Web Site** and to keep the information on it current. The present Web Site (HTML Platform) is up and running and works well for us, but we would also welcome your creativity if you are so inclined.

Both of these opportunities for you to serve our ministry are open immediately and need to be filled as soon as possible. Please contact Skip or Lori Gooch, Lay Directors if you have questions or interested in filling the positions.

goski@midco.net

605-261-0095 (Skip)

218-252-4355 (Lori)

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## *Lay Director's Message* by Skip & Lori Gooch

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Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In July we had the honor and pleasure of representing South Dakota at the 2016 National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Gathering held in Ohio. Our journey, all 1,755 miles and 6 days, was entirely worthwhile for the experience and information we gathered during this event! The gathering theme was *Reaching the Far Away*, based on Ephesians 2:13. The four day event had some of the flavor of our weekend experience, with a growing progression of involvement, and a mix of meetings, powerful speakers that challenged us to action, small group discussions that formed a strong sense of community, multiple daily worship together, and lots of singing, good food, palanca, and of course – no shortage of snacks!

The host committee (team) was Good News Via de Cristo of SE Michigan and NW Ohio and Via de Cristo of Ohio. They did an amazing job of coordinating the event, including shuttle rides across the Lourdes University campus, graciously welcoming us (even with our middle of the night arrival) and all the “extras” that made the weekend fun! They chose the song “Thrive” for the weekend, with each day having a theme. Thursday was JOY Unspeakable, Friday FAITH Unsinkable, Saturday LOVE Unstoppable, and Sunday was Anything is POSSIBLE.

We attended a variety of business related workshops, learning a few new things to help us understand our role as your lay directors better, and hopefully some information that can help us continue to stay strong as a Secretariat. Without questions one big message we came home with was something we already knew – God will provide for all we need to continue to spread the Good News, and in VDC he does this with the many hands and talents of our 4<sup>th</sup> Day Community! And by following the methods provided in the VDC program, we can continue to see this lay led ministry strengthen the faith walks of all for generations to come.

One highlight was meeting Pastor Ed & Sandy Simonsen, who were honored guests of the host committee. They were recognized for their lifetime dedication to helping start VDC programs throughout the country. Ed has helped as a Spiritual Director with the very first weekend of nearly 25 Secretariats, including service as the head SD for the first SD weekend held in Irene, SD in 1985. Two other local connections included welcoming North Dakota as the newest Secretariat to charter with VDC, and seeing Minnesota VDC Pastor Mark Marxhausen elected as the National Spiritual Director.

Our Secretariat has been busy preparing the ground work for the 2017 weekends, and finding ways to improve and build on the strengths of our 4<sup>th</sup> Day Community. Applications for Guests and Team alike are beginning to arrive daily, providing an encouraging assurance of the Spirit led weekends we have ahead! We ask you to pray for sponsors for Guests, and consider who in your life could you sponsor - this is a big part of our ministry. Christ is counting on us!

Remember - make a friend, be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ. Consider sponsoring a Guest to experience all the joy of a VDC weekend! We also encourage all 4<sup>th</sup> Day members to prayerful consider sharing your time and talents to work on team for the upcoming weekends. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us or any member of the Secretariat board. Applications can be found on our website, or give us a call and we will email or mail these to you as well.

God loves you and so do we,

Skip & Lori Gooch, Lay Directors

*P.S. We hope you will prayerfully consider attending the 2017 National Gathering to be held at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, NC, July 27-30, 2017.*

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## 2017 Men's Rector *by Ken Van Essen*

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### Fourth Day Community

The 2017 VDC Week End is fast approaching. We have just completed the 2nd practice week end. What a great time that was. I stand in awe as I watch how God has pulled this team together, how he has orchestrated the bond and the unity between each team member already. We heard some awesome talks and I am looking forward to the weekend.

All team members are required to fill out a team application and send it to Skip and Lori Gooch.

We have lots of room for more guests. It is not too early to get them signed up. Wouldn't it be an awesome week end if we had a room with 40 guests? That is ONLY one guest per team member. ONLY ONE. That is a very attainable goal. Don't under estimate the power of one.

To the Fourth Day Community. If you have been absent from taking part in a VDC week end for some time please know that you are very welcome and encouraged to come back this year. Please contact one of our Palanca Rectors Doug Auch @ 605-660-5732 or Darla Van Rosendale 605-351-0089

The verse I have Chosen for this week end is Ps 46:10. "Be still and know that I am God". I have found this verse as well as the entire chapter very comforting when I find myself trying to understand all the stuff going on in the world today. It is reassuring to hear God say "Be still and know that I am God".

Blessing to you

Men's Rector

Ken Van Essen



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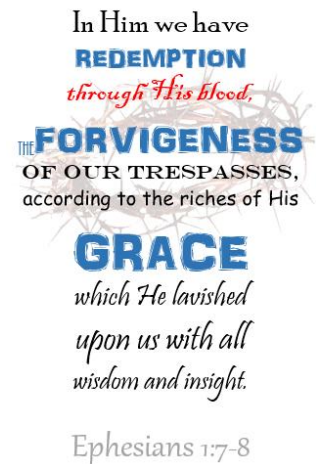
## *2017 Women's Rector* by Julie Luebke

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What a wonderful blessing the practice weekends were. The teams are really coming into place. Even after all of the TEC and VDC weekends I have worked, I continue to be amazed with the way that the 14 individuals can put together talks independently, yet in the end, they all come together seamlessly to tell one story. I can't wait to see what God reveals on the weekend, and to see what seeds are planted during the weekend, to be harvested at a later time.

As we move into the busy Christmas Season, I pray that we continue to encourage both guests and 4<sup>th</sup> day friends to join the VDC weekend in January. Applications for both are available on the website.

De Colores! ~Julie Luebke



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### *Team and Guest Lists*

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Please see the website, <http://sdlvdc.org> for the latest Team and Guest lists.

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*Fill out your 2017 applications now!*

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Check out the **applications** at: <http://sdlvdc.org/documents.html>