

Connecting National & Local Secretariats

CONEXIONES

Official Publication of the National Lutheran Secretariat, VdC

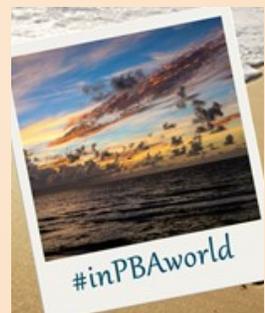
Thursday
July 26, 2018
Volume 36, Issue 3

Welcome Brothers & Sisters in Christ to beautiful Palm Beach Atlantic University (PBA) in West Palm Beach, Florida!

Your Host Committee (those smiling folks walking around in lime green T-shirts) wants you to know they are committed to providing you a rich, faith filled weekend. This dedicated team of servants has been hard at work faithfully praying and laboring tirelessly ever since leaving last year's Annual Gathering at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem North Carolina.

This weekend's theme, Reflect the Son, was inspired by 2 Corinthians 3:18, which focuses on how it's by the power of the Holy Spirit that we are able to reflect God's glory in environments where we seek to be an influence for Christ.

As this weekend progresses, the "green team" especially wants you to know that they feel blessed and honored to serve you. Their prayer for you is that our time together sends you home refreshed and renewed in your Fourth Day!



**"The Curtain Pulled Back"
Keynote by Dr. Carl Billings**

I came to Discover Church in Brooklyn Park Minnesota as Senior Pastor in March of 2010, so I have just celebrated my 8th year at Discover. I was also at Discover Church, then Brooklyn Park Lutheran, at the start of my pastoral ministry. I was a Contextual Ed. Student from 1987 to 1989 and then interim pastor from 1990 to 1991.

My wife, Pamela, is the love of my life and we've been married for 30 years. She teaches piano and is a certified Holy Yoga instructor (Yoga movements with Christian theology.) We have three kids together.

My interests in life are wide. These days it is mainly lifting weights and riding my bicycle. I enjoy photography and can completely lose myself in trying to get that perfect picture. I use the photos for Bible studies and other purposes. Hand and hand with photography

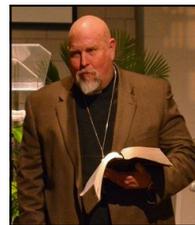
is travel. One of my favorite places in the world is Israel.

I'm also a big fan of football (Vikings) and baseball (Twins, Giants.) I enjoy reading, mostly non-fiction. History and sociology are two of my favorite topics. Rodney Stark is one of my favorite authors.

Some of the most exciting times in our lives are times of discovery. Is it the keys you lost, a new restaurant, or a new way of perceiving the world. Discovering something always seems to give us great joy. Often these discoveries hide in plain sight. Having that new perspective has long been a part of who we are...we just didn't notice it.

May the Lord bless your Discoveries!

Dr. Carl Billings,
Senior Pastor
Discover Church



HOSPITALITY

Welcome to Florida!

Please join us each evening following Vespers for Refreshments and fellowship in the Lassiter Student Center

THURSDAY
FLORIDA BEACH TIME!

Friday
"ORANGE" YOU GLAD
YOU CAME TO FLORIDA!!

SATURDAY

It's a Hot Summer Night!!!

First Via de Cristo (VdC) Weekend in Canada!

Join me in praising our Lord for His presence at the first VdC weekend in Canada this past May! Region 2 Coordinator, Ginny Buck, and I were welcomed as friends and returned home with many new precious friends. We were so blessed to serve on team with 24 sisters and brothers hosting a co-ed weekend.

The 14 pilgrims and 26 team members gathered at beautiful Sylvan Lake Bible Camp for four days of Rollo's, posters, worship, music, laughter and food. The Holy Spirit celebrated and danced among us as we grew in our faith walk.

Last July, Calvary's Spiritual Director and Weekend Rector represented the first secretariat in Canada at NLS Annual Gathering in North Carolina. And... since nothing is too difficult using the power Holy Spirit... they pulled together sponsors, pilgrims/weekenders, and a team less than a year later. But get this, the ambitious governing board is planning another weekend for this coming October!

It was such an honor to have supported the birth of this secretariat as your Vice President of Outreach. However, the icing on the cake for me helping to spread our Lord's ministry through serving on team in Alberta, Canada.

Let's see what happens next!?!?!?

Wendy Showalter
NLS Board President

A Parting Thought from Pastor Mark Marxhausen

As I prepare to leave the National Lutheran Secretariat's (NLS) position of Spiritual Director, my mind is drawn to some of the Apostle Paul's words. When Paul wrote those words, he was talking about the Lord's Supper. Please allow me some leeway, because I am actually going to pull this verse out of context. So when Paul wrote these words, he was writing to the Corinthians about the Lord's Supper, but I would like to broaden his message to encompass the gift of faith you have been given. I would like to extend those same words to widen the thought process you experienced through the joy of attending a Via de Cristo (VdC) weekend, the joy of sharing in a renewal group, the joy of working a weekend(s), and even the joy of sponsoring someone else to participate in a weekend of their own.

Paul said... "For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you..." 1 Corinthians 11:23

Not a one of us comes to a VdC weekend with anything of great value. But when we leave, after having had a richly faith filled encounter with the living Lord, our lives were transformed by the Holy Spirit's power. We walked away having been lavished by grace so freely given. We left our weekend renewed, restored, and rejuvenated. We stepped into our 4th Day with new Hope... a new Way... a new Truth... a new Life! We were able to do that because of the love of Christ, and His amazing grace, which was lavished upon us by the many unselfish people who worked the weekend and unabashedly gave of themselves for us.

But we can never stop there. We, like the Apostle Paul, must give what we first received. Now, understand, you cannot give what you do not have. But when you do have it, you must freely give it away to fully understand and grasp how deep... how long... how wide... how high the love of Christ is in you and for you. You too, must give unselfishly what you yourself have received. It's not until you do this that you will be able to fully grasp all that He has in store for you.

I pray your walk with the Lord will ever increase as you live in your 4th Day... as you continue to use your gifts to work a weekend... as you are renewed each time you meet with your group... and as you sponsor someone else to receive what you received from the Lord Jesus Himself.

Remember this: God not only loves you... He likes you... and He's proud of you!

Pastor Mark, Spiritual Director
National Lutheran Secretariat (2016-2018)



Time	Event	Map	Location
11:00 a.m.	Registration continues	#30	Lassiter Student Center, Lobby
12:00 noon	Lunch	#30	Lassiter Student Center, 1st Floor
12:30 p.m.	Regional Coordinator's Meeting	#22	Rinker, Room #1310
1:00 p.m.	Orientation: Campus & Weekend Info	#3	DeSantis Family Chapel
1:45 p.m.	Opening Worship & Commissioning	#3	DeSantis Family Chapel
2:30 p.m.	Keynote Address: Rev. Carl Billings	#3	DeSantis Family Chapel
3:45 p.m.	Business Meeting (Seating Delegates)	#24	MacArthur Hall, Rms 1291/1292
5:30 p.m.	Dinner	#30	Lassiter Student Center, 1st Floor
6:45 p.m.	Photos	#7	Warren Library Steps
7:15 p.m.	Evening Vespers	#3	DeSantis Family Chapel
8:00 p.m.	Hospitality & Fellowship	#30	Lassiter Student Center, 1st Floor



Visit the NLS Web Site at:
www.viadechristo.org
Rick Hanzlik,
Webmaster

- All dorm rooms need to be vacated and cleared out Sunday by 9:00 am!
 - Please check all closets and drawers for belongings.
 - Leave the air condition in your room turned ON!
 - The lanyard and swipe card is yours to keep!!
 - The security charge for a lost dormitory key is \$100.00 (per key!!!)
 - City ordinance has quiet hours from 9:00 pm to 9:00 am.
 - Also, please do *NOT* walk alone at night.
-  **Palm Beach Atlantic Campus Safety: (561) 803-2500**
West Palm Beach Police Dept: (561) 822-1900
Host Co-Chairs: Watson Ray: 561-312-3324 & Magdala Ray: 561-602-1639

The **CONEXIONES** is an official publication of National Lutheran Secretariat, (NLS), an organization of the Via de Cristo (Way of Christ) movements throughout the United States. NLS has 45 affiliated VdC secretariats representing 123,246 people. The mission of this publication is to update and inform affiliated secretariats about the various activities and happenings at the 2018 National Gathering.

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