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# The Taste

August 2005

Newsletter for  
*Taste of Grace Via de Cristo*

## Prayer Requests

- ✂ Lord, please with the Peters and Deardorff family at this time of sorrow. Comfort them and help them to find peaceful acceptance of Mike's passing.
- ✂ Dear Lord, please continue lifting Annmarie up, strengthening, calming, and comforting her as she continues searching for remedies to help ease her seizures. Continue to guide and grant wisdom to her physicians. Please fill her coworkers and supervisors with compassion and understanding.
- ✂ Thank you father for Karen's successful surgery.
- ✂ Dear Lord, please keep your loving arms wrapped around Jerry Rothlisbergber, lifting him up and giving him strength.
- ✂ Please Lord, also be with Kristin, protect and nourish her with your love and presence at this time of upheaval and uncertainty, guide those in charge of her care, giving them wisdom and grace to act in her best interests. Also please Lord help Gary to seek and accept the help and love that is offered to him from and thru you.
- ✂ Heavenly Father, please continue to guide Wayne Eich's doctors, lifting him and his family up, strengthening and comforting them. THANK YOU Father God for Wayne's continued healing and the awesome opportunity to share you with others.
- ✂ Dear Lord please let Lana feel your presence in the love of your arms, lift her up and give her strength and courage as she continues medical care and struggles with the red tape of insurance. Guide her in her dealings with insurance and let the policy of insurance see their way to continue payment of her ongoing treatment.
- ✂ Lord, please be with your children whom you are calling to attend the upcoming fall weekends. Be also with the teams that are forming, that they are able to be Christ's hands, heart and ears to the pilgrims attending.
- ✂ Ultimate Healer, please be with all those fighting cancer. Be with the patient for healing, with the medical profession for wisdom and with loved ones for comfort.
- ✂ Father God, thank you for those you place in our lives, for our marriage partners, our reunion brothers & sisters and all others that help shape us into who you would like for us to become
- ✂ Our prayers continue to be with all Cursillistas in their 4th day journey. May they remember the mountaintop as they work in the hills and valley.
- ✂ Pray for our troops--that God will guard and guide them whether they serve at home, overseas or in the volatile fields of Afghanistan and Iraq. Pray for their protection and for peace of mind for their friends, family and loved ones.
- ✂ Dear Lord, please be with those of us who are depressed. Help us to overcome this dark void of sadness and despair. Wrap your loving arms around us and lift us up and give us the strength to overcome
- ✂ Thank you Lord, for your never ending love, grace, and forgiveness in our lives.

## **PRAY FIRST, PRAY LAST, PRAY ALWAYS**

- 1. Make a friend**
- 2. Be a friend**
- 3. Bring a friend to Christ**



- 2. Be a friend**
- 3. Bring a friend to Christ**



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*From the Spiritual Director*

One of my favorite authors is Max Lucado. To that extent, my children go out of their way to keep me supplied with all his new books as birthday and Christmas gifts. I love it! In his daily devotional, *"Grace for the Moment,"* Lucado uses excerpts from his books as the message for each day's devotion.

For July 24, Lucado's entry is entitled, **"Lifting heart and hands,"** and quotes this scripture, "To the King that rules forever, who will never die, who cannot be seen, the only God, be honor and glory, forever and ever." – 1 Timothy 1:17

Then he writes, "The whole purpose in coming before the King is to praise God, to live in recognition of His splendor. Praise – lifting up our heart and hands, exulting with our voices, singing God's praises – is the occupation of those who dwell in the kingdom.

Praise is the highest occupation of any being. What happens when we praise God? We reestablish the proper chain of command: we recognize that the King is on the throne, and that God has saved us."

(Max Lucado, from *"Walking With the Savior"*)

What a joy and privilege I have every week in worship, when I do what Jesus commissioned the disciples to do in John 20:23. Jesus said, "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." I say, in the midst of the gathered congregation, "As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by Christ's authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins." That spoken Word of God delivers exactly what it promises.

As Christians, and after hearing God's Word of forgiveness, it is no wonder that we would want to lift our hands and hearts as we sing, and live, God's praises. And I am excited that the Via de Cristo movement encourages us to do that – through music, worship, and the simple reminder that 'all thanks goes to God'. That keeps the chain of command in right order.

Simply said, thanks and praise to God alone!

+ Pr. Craig





## *A note from our Rectora for weekend #6*

I listen to Pastor Greg Laurie in the mornings on my way to work (7:00 on 1160 AM). I also receive his daily devotionals emailed to where I work. Although he doesn't mention any connect between the two, this morning I found a connection that I'd like to share with you.

I'll start with his message which was just one part of a series. He was preaching on Ecclesiastes where King Solomon's words of wisdom can be found. He was pointing out how Solomon drifted away from God and decided to search for the meaning of life in all the wrong places. Solomon tried booze, women, possessions and personal achievement in the form of building structures. Eventually Solomon comes to the conclusion that life under the sun is meaningless unless you have God in your life.

The devotional was about God sending Philip into the desert and Philip going without asking any questions. Philip just simply obeyed. Pr. Greg used the analogy of being in a public place and being within ear shot of a crying infant. The mother may be able to tune out the cries of her child but those

around her can't. Pr. Greg goes on to say that many of us tune God out, but Philip didn't. He pointed out how Philip didn't argue and tell God not to send him because he had work to do within an already active ministry. Philip just went. He went because he heard God sending him. God called him to go because God uniquely prepared Philip to minister to the Ethiopian man.

Okay, so what's the connection? Well, if we're busy looking for meaning to life in all the wrong places, then we're permitting ourselves to be distracted. We're like Solomon separating ourselves from God or like the mother tuning out the cries of her child. I tend to do this all too often. I tell God, "I can't" because I'm already too busy with other responsibilities, whatever they may be, including His ministries. It is only rarely that I respond like Philip and just go and do as I'm told. I need to stop trying to find meaning in life by those things I find worthy and instead find meaning in life through an active relationship with God that enables me to just go where he sends me. Don't get me wrong often doing the ministry work that we do, we are where He has

sent us. But the meaning in life is not in the ministry work it's in the submitting to God's sending, it's in the hearing the baby's cries and going into the desert.

When I think of the Women's Taste of Grace weekend #6 team, I feel so very blessed to be apart of it! Thirty women said yes to God's call without any idea of what role they would play or what position they would fill. They just said yes. I stumbled across very few negative responses and those that I did were due to family and job responsibilities. I didn't even call everyone within the community and still had *thirty* women just say yes. If this is representative of our community – WOW! Imagine what God can accomplish through 200+ Philips, each equipped with their own unique skills to be Christ's hands and feet exactly where God calls them and needs them to be.

Once again I am humbled to be in your presence, I am encouraged by witnessing your faithfulness and I am continually in awe of God's abilities.

In the palm of His Hand,  
Michele Koniewicz



## From the Pastor's Heart—Speeding into grace

I was taking a lunch break and heading over to Lemont to do some shopping at Target. I looked to my right just in time to see a white patrol car in a secluded driveway and my foot went right to the brake. I looked in my rearview mirror. The patrol car was moving out of the driveway, but didn't seem to be in a hurry. I checked the speedometer. I was going a dutiful 35 miles per hour. The car was tailing me. It followed me about a half a mile and then the lights went on.

I pulled over. When the officer came to my window and asked to see my license, I began giving him what for about following me and stopping me for no reason. I was only doing 35 miles per hour, I protested self righteously. He told me it was a 30 mile an hour zone. I replied, 'and you're going to give me a ticket for going 5 miles over the limit??' 'No ma'm,' he replied. I'm going to ticket you for doing 47 in a 30 mile an hour zone. That's how fast I clocked you at when you passed me in the driveway.

"Can I see your license?" he asked. I fumbled around in my wallet. I was having a

difficult time finding my license. I must have misplaced it. 'Just a minute,' I offered. He responded, "Can I see some current proof of insurance?" I fumbled around some more, checking my visor, my glove compartment—all I could come up with were a few were expired ones. I offered him a copy that expired in June 2004. "But" I assured him with desperation, 'I have a valid up to date copy . . . somewhere.'

He disappeared with the expired insurance card and went back to his car. He was gone quite a while. When he came back, I took one look at him and knew I was going to get ticketed. I was feeling great guilt over my initial arrogance when he stopped me. I looked him straight in the eye and confessed rather sheepishly. "I need to plead the blood of Jesus Christ here office. I'm a pastor. I confess. I'm guilty as charged.

He went back to his patrol car again. I waited with baited breath. I could imagine the cost of the ticket. No license, no insurance card. Almost 20 mph over the limit.

When he came back, he handed me my invalid insurance card. He got out his ticket book. I got a look at his name badge. His name was Rankin. He looked at me very seriously, and continued writing out the ticket. "As long as you're confessing, pastor, do you want to tell me if you were wearing a seat belt when I pulled you over?" uh-oh, another violation. Moment of decision. Do I tell the truth and up the ante on the ticket or duck the charge. "No," I answered. No I wasn't.

The officer leaned over the car window and began speaking "Five things, pastor." Number one---it is never wise to argue with the officer who pulls you over for speeding." Number two---always carry a valid insurance card. Number three---don't misplace your license. Number four---wear your seatbelt at all times. Number five---please pray for my father, Ray He has been diagnosed with stage IV Hodgkin's disease. With that he handed me the ticket. It was a warning, not a traffic citation. And he gave me all copies, original and carbon.



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I looked at that ticket, and saw all the violations checked off. I looked at him and told him that I had just experienced a life-application gift of grace.

You know, God's grace is exactly like what Deputy Rankin showed to me—forgiving us all our violations and leaving no record of our wrongdoing in the account books. That day I experienced grace, and I also saw the human being behind the uniform. I

learned the deputy was married and had two small children. He lies in Crest Hill. I thought of his safety as he discharged the duties of his job. Pulling people over for speed violations seemed kind of risky—particularly if he came face to face with a disgruntled driver who carried a weapon. I asked him if I could pray for him. He said he would be very appreciative. I thanked him for having the calling to be in law enforcement. He

thanked me for having the calling to be in grace enforcement. I observe the speed limits a lot better these days, and I am getting in the habit of buckling up when I drive. My current insurance card is in the visor and I have my driver's license in a safe place. And God's grace has a much more experiential ring for me these days

Shalom,  
Pr. Kathy

### *A note from our Rector for weekend #6*

Dear Brothers and Sisters-in-Christ,

One of our team members has shared the following verse with me and I'd like to share it with you. "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?" Esther 4:14.

At this time, I'm reflecting on what this verse means and how to apply it to my life. In terms of what this verse means this commentary on verse 14 helped, "Though God's plans depend on human efforts, they are not limited by

those efforts. Human decisions do not determine God's plan; they are only the means by which one becomes a part of those plans."

A second commentary reads, "When it is within our reach to save others, we must do so. In a life-threatening situation, don't withdraw, behave selfishly, wallow in despair, or wait for God to fix everything. Instead, ask God for his direction, and act! God may have placed you where you are 'for such a time as this'."

God's Peace,  
Scott Hoecker



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	<b>Men's Team</b>	<b>Women's Team</b>
Spiritual Director's	Rev. Craig Sagebiel	Rev. Kathy Flores Rev. Mary Graves
Asst. Spiritual Director	Linda Draeving-Hammack	
Prayer Warrior's	Joe Claar Joe Tietjens	Carolyn Doughty Erika Gordon Nancy Johnson Cheryl Lovell Melinda Mattas Sue Scruggs
Rector/Rectora	Scott Hoecker	Michele Koniewicz
Head Cha	Lenny Koniewicz	Traci Little
Music                      Head >	Reno Caneva	Janeen Tietjens Karen Peterson
Inside                      Head >	Bob Deverick Dave Little	Lisa Bickus Theresa Conklin Linda Henize
Ideal	Ken Franz	Carolyn Clark
Laity	Jim Forbes	Amy Prior
Piety	Fred Henize	Denise Jones
Study	Frank Marshall	Tammy Gonigam
Action	Mike Bryant	Debbie Claar
Leaders	Chuck Conklin	Karen Deverick
Environment	Gene Vincent	Pat Dever
CCIA	Simon Prior	Pam Sagebiel
Silent	Al Ashby	Kelly Scruggs
Head Outside	Ed Walter	Dawn Constantino
Chapel                      Head >	Dave VanZant Colin Kirchner	Lenae Kirchner Maxine Brandt Connie Dubenec
4 <sup>th</sup> Day                      Head >	Andrew Kjos Craig Christensen	Carol Marshall Kathy Bryant Susan Lacy
Kitchen		Ruth VanZant
Utility                      Head >	Gary Constantino Dave Helfert Keith Reed	Jacey Hoecker Peggy Ashby Linda Park



## ***Prayer: Simple Ways to Pray***

*The following simple formulas are easy ways to organize a prayer. Select one and try it for seven days. Return to the formula for prayer as often as you can each day. Be sure to allow time to listen to God as well.*

- ***ACTS***

**A** - Adoration - praise God for who God is

**C** - Confession - own up to our sins

**T** - Thanksgiving - thank God for all God has done

**S** - Supplication - make requests for ourselves and others

- ***Five-Finger Prayer***

**Thumb** - pray for those closest to me

**Pointing finger** - pray for those who guide us: teachers, doctors, clergy, counselors, social workers, mentors

**Middle finger (tallest one)** - pray for those who stand tall: government, civic, and business leaders, police and firefighters

**Ring finger (your weakest finger)** - pray for those who are weak: the poor, sick, infirm, infants, homeless, and the powerless

**Pinkie (the smallest, the least)** - pray for me and my needs

- ***Take a TRIP with God***

Ask the following questions:

**T** - Thanks: For what am I thankful?

**R** - Regret: What do I regret?

**I** - Intercession: Whom do I need to pray for?

**P** - Purpose: What is my purpose or plan? (this day, week, my life)

- ***PARTS of Prayer***

**P** - Praise

**A** - Ask

**R** - Repent

**T** - Thank

**S** - Share





Prayer Times Available for Fall 2005 Weekends

72-Hour Prayer Vigil

Prayer (palanca) is the strength of the Via de Cristo weekends.  
God's grace is granted to prayer and God's grace is essential to bringing the world to Jesus.

Don't delay, sign up today!

Three ways to sign up:

- Visit <http://www.3dayol.org/Vigil/GetComm.phtml>
- Call Amy Prior (4<sup>th</sup> Day Chair) at 815.230.2779
- Email Amy at AmyPrior1@aol.com

Your input is valued. Do you have anything you would like to share with the community via The Taste newsletter? Stories, devotionals, bible passages that touched your heart that you would like to share with all of us? Would you like to share with us what your weekend has meant to you? Do you have a short, clean, funny joke? What about an important event in your life, or one come up? Let me know – send me an email or call me, and I will be happy to include it in the next edition of *The Taste*.

GLYASDI  
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Is your church available for Ultreya's? If so, please contact either Gregg or Lisa Bickus at (815)-588-3209. Taste of Grace Via de Cristo holds their Ultreya's on the second Saturday of every odd month. We are in need of locations, and we bring our own supplies, and clean up when we are done. Please join us in fellowship and worship.





Calendar of Events

**Scheduled Dates for Team Formation Meeting's**

Team Formation Meetings will be from 8:30 am -4:30 pm  
 Saturday, August 20, 2005 at St. Paul Lutheran in Streator  
 Saturday, September 10, 2005 at Our Savior's in Bradley  
 Saturday, September 24, 2005 Yorkville location  
 Saturday, October 15, 2005 Seneca location



**Oct 27-30, 2005 Fall Taste of Grace Men's Weekend #6**

Scott Hoecker will be Rector

- Thursday Oct 27 7:00 pm Sendoff  
 Dedication of the crosses immediately following Send Off
- Saturday Oct 29 7:00 pm Serenade – practice begins at 6:00 pm
- Sunday Oct 30 4:00 pm Clausura



**Nov 03-06, 2005 Living Waters Mixed Weekend at Camp Abe Lincoln**

Jim and Lynn Shaw will be Rector and Rectora

**Nov 10-13, 2005 Fall Taste of Grace Women's Weekend #6**

Michele Koniewicz will be Rectora

- Thursday Nov 10 7:00 pm Sendoff  
 Dedication of the crosses immediately following Send Off
- Saturday Nov 12 7:00 pm Serenade – practice begins at 6:00 pm
- Sunday Nov 13 4:00 pm Clausura

**Ultreya**

Sept 10, 2005

Our Savior Lutheran Church

975 West Brookmont Blvd

Bradley IL 60915

815-932-1848

5:00 pm Pot Luck

Worship immediately following



November 19, 2005

Location to be determined



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**Come share your Master's happiness Matthew 25:21**