



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF LUTHERAN CURSILLO® OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
SUMMER 2008
DEBRA KEENEY, EDITOR – E-MAIL: NEWSLETTER@LCSOCAL.ORG

LCSC MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California is to develop a lay ministry to the Lutheran Community in the State of California by encouraging a spiritual renewal of the Lutheran Church, and by supporting its members as they grow in their faith and as they actively support the life and mission of their local home church congregations.

MARK YOUR CALENDERS →

Weekend Dates

- LC116 - Men's - July 10 - 13, 2008
- LC117 - Women's - July 17 - 20, 2008

- LC118 - Men's - October 2 - 5, 2008
- LC119 - Women's - October 9 - 12, 2008

LCSC Prayer Chain
Prayers are answered!
If you have a person or situation you would like lifted up in prayer, please e-mail Cammy Mahoney at mahoney5@sbcglobal.net

One of the greatest gifts you can give someone is to lift them up in intercessory prayer.

2008 Ultreya Schedule

- July 27 (Grand)
- August 17 (annual mtg)
- September 21
- October 19 (Grand)
- November 16 (Open)

(see the website for updates on locations)

Annual Elections
Three Secretariat positions are up for election in July. We have 5 candidates running. Check out the candidates and ballot sheet in the back of the newsletter. Voting will be closed at the start of LC117 Closura. You may return your ballot to either LC116 or LC117 Closura or mail it to: PO BOX 5203, Cerritos, CA 90730-5203, attn: Elections.

Annual Meeting
LCSC Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, August 17th, during the Ultreya at Trinity, Anaheim Hills. See you there!

Newsletter Mailing

If you would like a paper copy of the newsletter mailed to you, please send your name and mailing address along with a donation of five dollars per year to cover postage.

To: LCSC, Attention: Newsletter, P.O. Box 5203, Cerritos, CA 90703-5203

THOUGHTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

How time goes by when you are serving the Lord. It seems like we were having our last set of weekends and now here we are preparing for the July weekends. This last year has been another blessing to the Cursillo community from our Lord. We were blessed with wonderful Rectors/Rectoras to serve as God's leaders over the past weekends. As we prepare for the upcoming set of weekends, again we are truly blessed with two gifts of God to serve as Rector and Rectora for LC116 and LC117. And then there are the wonderful team members that always step up and serve where the Lord requires them to serve. I give thanks for all the pilgrims the Lord has called to attend His weekends. I know when I listen to the joy in their voices, that God is alive in them. With God alive in our hearts, I know our home congregations are becoming alive also. That's what Cursillo is all about: to bring up leaders in the Lutheran church, to lift up ones in our home churches and work side by side with others to share the good news of Jesus Christ and expand his mission here on earth.

I know that there is not a member that serves on the Secretariat or serves on a weekend team that is qualified to handle the task before them. It is only by the grace of God that we can accomplish the task put before us. When we start to think we are needed to make things happen, we are wrong. It is only the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that are needed to make things happen. We are just blessed for Him to use us as he wishes to show His agape love to others. There is no one person in the community that is more important than another. We are all just lucky to be children of God. We are all leaders in the community. Boy, doesn't that sound like a disaster waiting to happen! Everyone a leader in charge. But we know that there is only one true leader which is Jesus Christ. We serve and try to follow in the example of Christ, but we fail. Again, only by the grace of God all things work out. Each one of us, in all areas that we serve, give glory to God. It doesn't matter if we are taking out the trash or giving a Rollo. Give all glory to God.

I wish to thank each and everyone of you that have supported me as I have served God and the community this last year as President of Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California. I cherish the conversations we have had, the opportunities to agree and even disagree at times. It's ok that we don't need to agree on all points all the time. It is important to keep focused on Christ and know He is Lord and Savior, and by His grace we are saved.

I look forward to continue to work side by side with each and every one of you, to spread the Good news by sharing the gospel and God's grace with everyone.

Gordon K. Gertner

President of Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California 2007/2008

FROM THE TRAINER ~ WHAT WOULD HONOR JESUS? (PART 2)

First of all, since this will be my last newsletter as a member of the Secretariat, I want to thank all of you for allowing me to serve you for the last six years. It has been an honor and a joy to have served on the Secretariat. Thank you for all of your prayers over the years for the Secretariat. Please continue to remember them daily in your prayers as they serve our Lord and Cursillo.

In last month's newsletter, I spoke of making sure our focus is on the Lord as we serve in Cursillo. Everything we do or say should honor HIM. The question we continually need to ask ourselves is: What Would Honor Jesus? I would like to carry that a step further this month. Not only should we ask what would honor Jesus but what would honor our neighbor.

Jesus tells us over and over again: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind (strength). This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it *love your neighbor as yourself.*" (Matthew 22: 37-39; Mark 12:30-31; Luke 10: 27) In John 15: 12 He commands us: "Love each other as I have loved you." I think that sometimes we get the first commandment, but we lack in some ways in the second commandment. We forget to love each other as we love ourselves.

In Cursillo, we are taught to "make a friend, be a friend, and bring that friend to Christ." Maybe we should carry that saying a step further: "Love that friend enough to honor them." How many times do we honor the men and women with whom we work a weekend? How many times do we honor the pilgrims who attend a weekend? How many times do we put our own needs in second place to meet someone else's needs? How many times do we think about the needs of our teammates instead of our own needs?

I wish I could say that I always do those things but I know I don't. Often I am thinking about my own needs instead of the other person's needs. Are you ever guilty of that? Before you answer, think deeply and pray about it. Allow the Lord to speak to you and if you need it to convict you. I hate to say it, but I am afraid that during the years I have worked in Cursillo I have seen way too much of Cursillistas caring more for their own needs than the needs of others. Oh, we are pretty good about caring for the pilgrims, but we tend to forget that we need to care for the men and women with whom we work.

St. Paul reminds us, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: 'love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Galatians 5: 1,13b-14) We need to carefully look at our actions; is what I am about to do offensive to someone, even though it might not be to me? Is what I am about to do or say self-serving or potentially hurtful? We need to filter everything we do or say through the filter of the Holy Spirit and love. If we do and say everything in love what a difference it will make.

I want to challenge each one of us (myself included) to put ourselves aside and concentrate on others. We are not working the weekends to please ourselves or build ourselves up, or at least we should not be working for those reasons. Hopefully, we are working because God called us to work a weekend. If we are called to work a weekend, then we should go in with the idea that it is not our weekend, it is God's weekend, which means we need to be acting *for* God and not for ourselves.

Patti Brunold
Trainer

Being called to be the Rector or Rectora of a Cursillo weekend is a huge blessing. First of all, there are tons of people praying for you. Everyone whom you meet tells you that they are praying for you and you can feel those prayers. Second of all, there are tons of people who will help you. There are a lot of things to do, but it is not a burden because they are so many people who help.

Because I tend to be unimaginative, when I was called to be Rector for LC 116, I had no preconceived ideas about a verse or logo for the weekend. I was raised in a very Catholic household. My father was a monk for ten years before he left the monastery and then met and married my mother. My two older sisters were nuns and I went to seminary to study to be a priest for two years after high school. I was used to religion being the center of my life, but in seminary I became disillusioned and eventually fell away from the faith.

I stayed away from the faith for twenty-five years until God used my wife Crystal to bring me back to him. In that sense, I think of Crystal as my “little Sacrament”, since a sacrament is the means of God’s grace. In choosing the verse for this weekend, Crystal reminded me that the thing I love most about the Lutheran Church is that salvation is based on God’s grace – not on your own merits. Since I was raised in a church that was at the time very much based on works, the idea that you did not have to earn heaven – in fact, that you couldn’t, that Christ had paid your debt already – was very attractive to me. So I knew that the verse for the weekend should be one speaking about God’s grace.

When thinking of God’s grace, the verse that comes to mind immediately is Ephesians 2:8. “For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God”. I had pretty much decided that this would be the verse for the weekend when Gordon Gertner sent copies of some of the previous Rectors reports that they prepare at the end of the weekend and when I opened his report, there in the very beginning he said “The verse for my weekend was Ephesians 2:8”. Even though, there is no prohibition of using the same verse as a previous weekend, I took this as a direct sign from God that he wanted me to choose another verse since Gordon’s weekend had been not too long ago.

So I looked in the concordance in my Bible under “Grace” to find other verses and the one that eventually came to the forefront was Titus 3:7. “So that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life”. The verse has three parts. First and foremost, is His grace. We have been justified by His grace. We were broken, in a wrong relationship with God, and we’ve been made right again through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Halleluiah!!!

The second part of the verse is “So that, we might become heirs”. Jesus died for us so that we might become children of God. We are adopted children of God with all of the rights and privileges and responsibilities of an heir. Heaven is our birthright!! It is where we are meant to be.

Originally, Crystal (my wife) wasn’t crazy about the last part of the verse. She thought that hope sounded weak – like it was a wish and a prayer, but I explained to her that hope is not weak. It is strong! It is a confident expectation of what is to come. We know where we’re going. No matter what happens in this world, we have hope. Thank God for that hope!!!

Having been raised as a Catholic, I was used to Communion often. That is why I am glad that many Lutheran churches have gone to offering communion every week. Communion is God’s method of physically continuing to be with us. It is a physical manifestation of God’s grace. That is why the chalice and host is on the Christ figure on the logo. God is with us, will continue to be with us, until we meet face to face in heaven.

Finally, the song for the weekend is “You Are My King”, which many people think is entitled “Amazing Love”. God’s Love is amazing. Who but God would have thought to satisfy His need for justice and mercy by dying in our place? How can our response be anything less than trying to do everything we can to honor Him?

Please pray for the men and women of LC 116 and 117. Pray that Cursillo continues to bring people to a closer relationship with the Lord and that they share that closer relationship with the rest of the world.

Joe Zimmer
Rector Lutheran Cursillo # 116



Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Wow, it seems like yesterday that I was going through my Cursillo weekend. I am truly humbled and privileged to be called by God to be Rectora of LC 117. As I was praying for His verse for the weekend, I felt as if I were in a flower shop with all these amazing choices, wanting to pick the perfect verse that would please Him and set the tone for His weekend. There were many intimate moments when I just looked to heaven and prayed "*Abba Father, please make it clear in my heart what verse You want...*" (Isn't it funny how so often the answers to our prayers are right in front of our faces?) There were many "God moments" that affirmed the verse for LC 117 is "**Abba Father**" from Romans 8:15.

"**Abba Father**" is actually mentioned three times in the Bible and as most of you know the word "Abba" is meant as a very personal, intimate connection with our God. Mathew 8:15 also says "**For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave to fear but you received the spirit of sonship**". Looking back, there was a time in my life where I did actually "fear" having an intimate relationship with our Heavenly Father. I never really believed with all the "problems of the world" He had the time to know and love me especially when there were many times in my life that I had been so unfaithful. It wasn't until my Cursillo week-end that our **Abba Father** melted that "fear" away and welcomed me into His amazing arms of love.

This is my prayer for all of the men and women that attend LC 116 and 117. I pray even if anyone is a bit uneasy or fearful, by the end of the weekend, they too will be blessed in knowing His arms are opened and their Father in Heaven wants to have an intimate relationship with them.

How great is our God that He has time for each and every one of us. Good times or bad, our **Abba Father**, the King of the Universe, and Creator of all mankind will make time for you and me! All we have to do is ask. I am constantly in awe of how great He is which is why I chose "How Great is Our God" as the theme song for LC 117. Sing it loud brothers and sisters, for it is so true!

Being part of this Christian community has been God's gift to me. Thank you all for your prayers and support as both Joe and I continue to prayerfully plan, train and implement His weekend(s). May you have time today to sit on your **Abba Father's** lap, feel His arms around you as He whispers in your ear "*I love you son*", "*I love you daughter*". He has the time....do you?

May God's peace, spirit and love fill your hearts today and always.

In His name,

Debbie Graves
Rectora, LC 117



GOD'S CHOSEN TEAM FOR LC 116

Last Name	Lord's Task	Last Name	Lord's Task
Steve Anderson	Head Palanca	Mike Sander	Assistant Head Cook - DR
John Barnes	Mentor	Jack Schlinsog	Veteran Table Leader
Bill Beard	Sacristan	Jerry Sheeter	Cook
Bob Beaver	Assistant Head Cook - RR	Jan Stolzenberg	Cook Team Leader
Lowell Beilman	Head Musician	Brad Taylor	Head Angel
Dave Boyer	Palanca	Ron Teig	Cook
Daniel Brunken	Musician	Dave Teraoka	Assistant Head Cook - I
Ruben Canales	Cook	Manny Valdez	Cook
Geoff Cornish	Shepherd Table Leader	Paul Wenz	Spiritual Director
Eddie Cuen	Assistant Rector	Scott Willard	Shepherd Table Leader
Nelson Cullum	Shepherd Table Leader	Ron Yokoyama	Head Cook
Don Currie	Veteran Table Leader	Joe Zimmer	Rector
Harry Cypher	Veteran Table Leader		
Brian Darnell	Cook Team Leader		
Erik Dickson	Veteran Table Leader		
Don Dunn	Palanca		
Joe Enerson	Musician		
Frankie Ferrini	Cook		
John Galli	Cook		
Doug Ginesi	Musician		
Michael Gordon	Cook		
Michael Greenler	Spiritual Director		
Pat Hauser	Assistant Rector		
Robin Hill	Shepherd Table Leader		
Steve Hoenig	Shepherd Table Leader		
Jerry Holmes	Assistant Rector		
Troy Hopkins	Cook		
Corey James	Veteran Table Leader		
Dave Johnsen	Head Spiritual Director		
Mike Kaspar	Cook		
Joe Kwiatkowski	Palanca		
Kenny Lee	Veteran Table Leader		
Dan Lewis	Shepherd Table Leader		
Ted Lewis	Cook		
Kyle Malais	Cook		
Dan Malone	Cook		
Jim Mancini	Cook		
Carl Nelman	Cook		
Makaa Nua	Cook		
Steve Otte	Cook Team Leader		
Jon Pedersen	Spiritual Director		
Rich Perkins	Cook		
Jeff Ruiz	Cook Team Leader		

GOD'S CHOSEN PILGRIMS

Please see the website for the most up to date list.

Mark Colon
 Jamie Creacy, Jr.
 Mike Dickison
 Dave Fields
 Troy Humphrey
 Fumio Ito
 Dan Luna
 Ray Marquette
 Dennis Nelson
 Lynn Oliver
 Bob Scholz
 Ron Smith
 Grant Westland

GOD'S CHOSEN TEAM FOR LC 117

Name	Lord's Task	Name	Lord's Task
Arlea Anderson	Cook	Tracy Otte	Head Cook
Lee Anderson	Table Leader	Lindi Oster	Mentor
Teresa Beilman	Musician	Linda Ruiz	Cook-Special Meals
Barb Beaver	Table Leader	Melissa Seals	Cook
Mary Louise Blanchard	Cook	Tarrie Sillert	Palanca
Elizabeth Blystone	Palanca	Phyllis Solgere	Palanca
Jeanette Brunken	Cook	Johna Steinstra	Asst Head Cook - DR
Patti Brunold	Table Leader	Debbie Taylor	Assistant Rectora
Margi Clark	Cook Team Lead	Cindy Trunick	Cook
Eileen Cornish	Table Leader	George Villa	Spiritual Director
Denise Cuen	Cook Team Lead	Windy Villejos	Co-Head Angel
Jen Dalton	Assistant Rectora	Karen Wallace	Cook Team Lead
Tina Dubuque	Assistant Head Cook - RR	Heather Wenz	Assistant Rectora
Carita Dickson	Table Leader	Jennifer Woodarck	Cook
Tamara Durica	Head Palanca	Gwen Woloshun	Musician
Karissa Finley	Musician	Linda Woodbury	Table Leader
Paul Finley	Head Spiritual Director	Bonnie Zimmermann	Sacristan
Heather Ferrini	Table Leader		
Cynthia Galli	Cook		
Tina Galvan	Table Leader		
Maria Gleckl	Cook Team Lead		
Pat Gordon	Cook		
Debbie Graves	Rectora		
Terri Gugliotta	Cook		
MiriamGuthary	Co-Head Angel		
Michelle Hauser	Assistant Head Cook-I		
Cindy Higley	Cook		
Kim Hines	Musician		
Tonya Hollenbeck	Cook Team Lead		
Kristi Hubred	Cook		
Danielle Hoenig	Cook		
Rhonda Jenkins	Cook		
Vicki Kane	Head Music		
Carol La Vache	Palanca		
Jetti Lewis	Cook		
Kat Lustig	Table Leader		
Meirs, Kelli	Table Leader		
Garry Mohr	Spiritual Director		
Kathie Moyer	Cook		
Kris Malkin	Table Leader		
Denise Murphy	Table Leader		

GOD'S CHOSEN PILGRIMS

Please see the website for the most up to date list.

Laura Allen	Linda Hunter
Cathleene Biggs	Yasuko Ito
Kidma Campuzano	Shirley Larkey
DeAnna Constant	Grace Luna
Missy Creacy	Shirley Marquette
Judy Creasy	Jessica Mazakas
Katrina Dickison	Terry Nelson
Vicki Eastverdt	Judy Persons
Cindi Fields	Harriet Pool
Katie Franklin	Kathy Richter
Lourdes Fulk	Karen Skaff
Maria Gallant	Patti Smith
Kris Grudt	Marita Sotelo
Stacy Hagemyer	Karen Westland
Tamara Hepper	Amy Whitaker

Secretariat Election Ballot

July 2008

Daniel Brunken ()

Gordon Gertner (Incumbent) ()

Gary Guthary ()

Carol LaVache ()

Kyle Malais ()

_____ (Write In Space) ()

Please vote for 3 Candidates.

Ballots and Ballot box will be available at
Clausura of LC116 & LC117
Election will be closed at the
Start of Clausura on LC 117.

Ballots can be mailed to

LCSC

Attention Election

P.O. Box 5203

Cerritos CA. 90703-5203

ALL MAILED BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY
JULY 18 2008 TO BE COUNTED

--

CANDIDATES FOR THE SECRETARIAT

DANIEL BRUNKEN

Decolores! My name is Daniel Brunken and I'm answering the call of God by making myself available for a secretariat position. I went to LC #92 (July 2004) and have been on an adventure (scary at times, but fun) ever since.

It's been an adventure because of all the things God has called me to do in just a short matter of time. I've worked at all but 2 weekends since my pilgrimage. I've also worked 3 Vegas VDC weekends. I gave Rollo's. I've been a mime, an AR, served on my church council as vice president, youth director, play bass in a praise band, volunteer as a hospital chaplain, and the list could continue.

I never pictured myself doing any of these things and in most of them not want to step out there and be that person. I wanted to be the person in the back pew making jokes and enjoying God in my comfort zone. But God had and has a different plan than mine, so I'll follow Him (He'll win anyways).

I love serving God and I believe He has called me to put myself out there. I know I could be a great help and I'm willing to be there for you and the pilgrims. Thank you.

GORDON GERTNER

I thank God for the opportunity to serve on the Secretariat for the last three years. It is not always easy to serve in a leadership role. Over the last years I have held the positions of Newsletter, Three Day, Vice President, President of Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California. It has been a blessing to serve our Lord and each of you. In a community the size of ours, there are so many little things that come up, and a few large ones. It takes a big commitment to serve on Secretariat and I am again ready to make that commitment if it is God's will. There are lots of things that still need to be taken care of. So I ask you to pray about who God is calling to serve on Secretariat. If it is me, Here I am, Send me Lord.

GARY GUTHRAY

After seven and a half years of actively working Cursillos in all kinds of roles from cook to rector to techie webmaster, I'm feeling led to serve this community in a new way – by holding a position on the secretariat. What does God have in store for me there? I don't know yet, but if I've learned something over the years, it's to trust that He has a plan and that it will be good. It always is good. For those of you who don't know me, I'm first and foremost a child of God. I am an LC#70 pilgrim from October 2000, play keyboards in my home church's praise band and serve actively in the music ministry there, always pushing for new and creative ways we can express our faith through music. Professionally, I am a business and systems analyst who has worked for a wide variety of companies over the last 13 years, from teeny tiny mom-n-pop operations to huge multinational conglomerates (OK – only ONE huge multinational conglomerate, but you get the point). I enjoy cheesecake, a nice bike ride on the riverbed with my family, and can play a mean game of cribbage. I look forward to serving you in this role if that's what God wants me to do. I believe I can bring a fresh view to some of the "business" issues of Cursillo and can do so while enjoying the humor that we so often overlook in life.

CAROL LA VACHE

I smile when I think about how Christ has worked in my life. I was called to LC #61 and have been active in Cursillo ever since. Cursillo has reinforced Piety, Study and Action in my life and empowered me to serve our Lord in many ways. I am active in my Home Congregation, am serving on Church Council, and also the chairperson for the worship and music committee. Whenever possible I fill in on our Praise Team. I have been a Preschool Teacher at our church for 10 years. Cursillo has taught me to use my God given Gifts to step out in Faith, and to understand whatever God equips us for. I have been Blessed in my service and my life and would be honored to serve on the Secretariat.

KYLE MALAIS

I first went through LC 94 and since then Cursillo has blessed me greatly. Thus, I would like to give back to the Cursillo community by serving you all on the Secretariat. I am a member of Faith Lutheran Church (LCMS) in Huntington Beach. I believe that my past experiences with congregational leadership as well as my time in the deacon's program makes me a capable candidate.