



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF LUTHERAN CURSILLO® OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
SEPTEMBER 2007  
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**

**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](mailto:mahoney5@sbcglobal.net)

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

**2007/8 Ultreya Schedule**

- October 21 (**Grand**)
- November 18
- January 20 (**Open**)
- February 10
- March 9 (**Grand**)

(see the website for updates on locations)

- LC112 - Men's - October 4 - 7, 2007
- LC113 - Women's - October 11 - 14, 2007
  
- LC 114 - Men's - February 21 - 24, 2008
- LC 115 - Women's - February 28 - March 2, 2008
  
- LC116 - Men's - July 10 - 13, 2008
- LC117 - Women's - July 17 - 20, 2008
  
- LC118 - Men's - October 9 - 12, 2008
- LC119 - Women's - October 16 - 19, 2008

**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

Grace and Peace to each of you. Our fall weekends are here already. This year just keeps moving forward. First off let me give thanks to God for giving me the opportunity to serve each of you in the position of President of the Secretariat of Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California. I value the opportunity to work and serve the Cursillo community.

Take a moment and look at how God has blessed this community. We continue to grow and provide the opportunities for the Holy Spirit to change lives of many of our Brothers and Sisters in our home congregations. Our goal is to build up leaders in all our home churches. It is a gift from God to allow us to serve as one of the team on a weekend. As our past President Lenny La Vache has said if we are not committing as many hours to our home congregations as we are Cursillo we have missed the point. We are doing it for our own wishes not Gods wishes. Remember it's not about us, it's about Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I ask you all to pray about a few things over the next year. Pray daily, pray often.

1. Lord who are you calling me to become a friend with, too lift up and support and encourage, too sponsor as a pilgrim for a weekend.
2. Lord is there another Lutheran Church that does not have a Cursillo community that you are calling me to help provide the Gift of Cursillo with. Lord use me, here I am.
3. Lord here I am, Please use me as you wish. Let me know if it's your will to serve on a team on an up coming weekend. Please guide me in the path that you have chosen for me.
4. Lord please show me the opportunities for me to serve and support the weekend if it is not my time to serve on the team.
5. Lord Please guide me as I support my home Pastor and Congregation. Lead me so I may serve you as you wish, in a position of servant hood or as servant Leader. Here I am Lord Send Me!

In closing please remember, we the members of the Secretariat of LCSC are here to serve the community. That means each and every one of you. Please let us know your thoughts and concerns. We are all here to serve by the Grace of God. See you at the Ultreya!

Gordon K. Gertner  
*President of Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California*

## FROM THE TRAINER

As the trainer, my job is to keep us all informed about some of the guidelines that have been established for Cursillo. Many of those guidelines have been around since Cursillo started. These guidelines help us to remember who we are and what we stand for.

Some of the guidelines have changed over time because of the growing number of Cursillistas. Over 3000 people have gone through Cursillo. Many of the guidelines remain the same. As most of you know, the Secretariat is the governing board of Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California. This group of Cursillistas has been chosen by you, the community, to oversee the activities of LCSC. I know many of you know a great deal about the Secretariat, but many of you newer members don't know as much. I wanted to share with you a little bit about the Secretariat and some of their duties. There are 8 lay members voted into office by the community and 1 pastor, usually chosen by the president.

The president who is chosen by the members of the Secretariat chairs the meetings, Clausuras, and Ultreyas. The Vice-President fills in for the President. The Secretary keeps the minutes of the meetings, sends correspondence and keeps track some of the data from the weekends. The treasurer handles the money. Palanca handles sending and receiving Palanca from other communities around the world and provides them for the weekends. The Ultreya person schedules Ultreyas and makes sure they are listed on the website. The Registrar handles registration for all the weekends. The Trainer provides training for the Rector and Rectora and the community. The Newsletter editor provides newsletters for us 3 times a year. The Spiritual Director guides in spiritual areas. We also have several ad hoc members who do help out in other ways: Web Master, Music Liaison, Music Equipment Liaison, Historian, and Communications Liaison.

The Secretariat meets once a month and handles the business of LCSC. Our most important job is to support the Rector and Rectora as they serve. The Secretariat members are ordinary, lay people who feel a call to serve the Lord in serving the Cursillo community. We constantly seek the Lord, but since we are human, we may make mistakes. Members of Cursillo are encouraged to bring concerns and questions to any Secretariat member.

I would like to encourage any of you who feel called to consider running for the Secretariat. The qualification for serving on the Secretariat is to have gone through a Cursillo weekend and worked a weekend, which means all of you qualify. One person from a church can serve on the Secretariat at a time. Please pray about serving on this governing board. It is a challenge to serve, since we have multiple synods and multiple ways of doing things, but it is a joy to be used of the Lord in this way. Please continue to pray for the Secretariat as they serve the community.

Patti Brunold

## “OPEN” ULTREYAS...

I've been talking with a number of folks lately about Open Ultreyas and from my various conversations it appears there isn't a whole lot of information out there so "once a trainer, always a trainer"...

Open Ultreyas can be valuable for several reasons. The first is that it can be a great introduction to Cursillo for someone you feel would benefit from such leadership training, remembering that Cursillo's purpose is to build up leaders for service in their local churches. Likewise, it can be an awesome opportunity for someone who's already expressed an interest in attending a weekend to get "a foretaste of the feast to come."

Open Ultreyas can also be an effective tool in ministry to our local communities. For churches new to Cursillo or looking to strengthen their communities, hosting an open gathering allows new folks to "come and see" as well as brings existing members together. For those congregations with larger communities, it's a great way to offer encouragement to others of the potential Cursillo has for renewal in their congregation. Remember a coal by itself burns out quickly and so can our communities if we don't fan the flame through things like monthly groupings!

Well, if Open Ultreyas have so many benefits, why don't we host more you ask?! Well that's exactly what we recently looked at as a Secretariat and so we're going to pilot a new Ultreya schedule for the upcoming year...looking to host three open gatherings per calendar year (the ideal time being the month immediately following a Grand Ultreya).

Remember the excitement you felt right after your weekend and how you wanted to share that excitement?! It's the perfect time to host an Open Ultreya while the light of Christ is still shining brightly on everyone's faces! Plus, if we have three open gatherings, that's more dates for all of us to choose from than the "one shot deal" we've had in the past.

But there's a catch to this whole thing and that's how to host one and that's probably the biggest area where information is lacking. First off, leave your nametags at home and no "secret handshakes" (aka DeColores) and best to leave the tie-die at home too! Secondly, witness talks are focused on why you went to Cursillo and how it changed you without a lot of weekend details (think Thursday evening of Cursillo). Music can be a wonderful tool for introducing them to Cursillo when it's done well with a mix of standards and the newest praise music too. Food is another great way to "entertain our guests" – think nicely prepared items that make them feel like we were expecting them! For those who knew Annelore Stolzenburg she was an expert at such hospitality and that was her service to the community since her health didn't permit her serving on the weekends themselves. Finally, be sure you've got well-trained babysitters as mommies judge ministries by the quality of their childcare. So here's to a new program and hopefully ever-increasing numbers of Cursillistas too...

In His Precious Name,  
Linda Woodbury / The Ultreya Gal!

"In the world you have tribulation; but take courage, I have overcome the world". John 16:33b

While praying over the possible verses to use on my weekend, this one kept coming back to me. Originally I was going to use trouble instead of tribulation. The NIV version uses trouble, the NASB uses tribulation. The Holy Spirit kept nudging me towards tribulation.

To me, trouble is a flat tire, problems balancing the checkbook, running out of dog food, or a nasty hang nail with no file to clip it. Tribulation, on the other hand, is major battle, major spiritual battle to be precise. My life has certainly not been an easy one; throughout it has been peppered with all types of tribulation. However, through it all, even when I did not know or choose to acknowledge it, GOD WAS THERE! He had chosen me, and was watching over me.

Fellow Cursillistas warned me when I became the Rector for LC112 that Satan was going to torment me. As we know, he does not like these spirit filled weekends and the Rector serves as the "lightning rod" for his fury. I was expecting trouble, however what was visited upon my family was a dose of evil tribulation. The recent events involving our daughter really tested our faith; but rather than shrink back or deny Jesus; we chose to cling even more tightly to him. Today as I write this, I am closer to forgiveness than I am to blind rage.

My dear friend and brother in Christ Mike Gaczkowski (Mr. Cursillo) kept telling me that the Lord, and to a lesser degree the Secretariat knows when you are ready to be a Rector. The way my family and myself have handled this recent tragedy assures me that the time is right. Another group of chosen Pilgrims will be lead even closer to our Lord Jesus Christ. Praise be to God.

Humbly,

Roy Robbins  
Rector LC112



My name is Carol La Vache, and God does have a sense of humor. He has called me to be the Rectora for LC#113. I am looking forward to serving this October and seeing the Lord work His love thru the grace of God.

My pilgrim weekend was LC61. I find it so funny that my counter part Roy and his wife went thru the same weekend as my husband and I. We really have enjoyed our journey working Cursillos together and this is going to be another wonderful experience working with Roy as a Rector/a team.

I was one of the pilgrims that went kicking and screaming to Cursillo. But my husband insisted. I just wanted to get thru those 4 days and get out of there. Four tissue boxes later, I got it. I did need to be there. And I have been coming back to serve ever since. I have loved working weekends and I try to give back the blessings I have received.

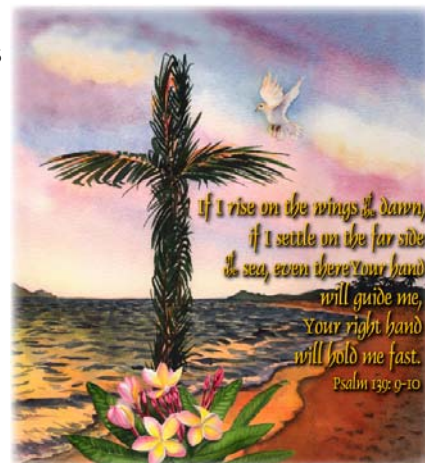
The verse I have chosen is from Psalm 139: 9-10: 'If I rise on the wings of the dawn. If I settle on the far side of the sea. Even there your hand will guide me. Your right hand will hold me fast.' I did not know much about the Lord or prayer when I was growing up. But I see now that God has always been there, guiding my life, until I could get to Him. He has held me fast to Him and protected me from things in my life that could and should have destroyed me. When I started singing in the choir and heard this verse in a song, I knew from that moment this was what God was saying to me, telling me He has protected me and held me close to Him all my life. I have loved this verse ever since, so the verse for the weekend was easy. I feel the theme of the weekend will be God's hand upon us, protecting, and guiding each of us, and loving each of our faces completely. No matter what we do or where we go, we can never be far from God's comforting presence. God has chosen you to be his child and He smiles upon you.

I have chosen the song 'Smile' because the words I find so fitting with the theme. I smile when I think about the way You turned my life around. I smile when I think about the happiness in You I've found. I'm so amazed at what Your love has done. And when I think the best is yet to come, I smile.

I feel truly blessed by God and His smiling face upon me. My prayer is that the pilgrims see God's smiling face, love and presence with them also on the October weekend.

God Bless,

Carol La Vache



## GOD'S CHOSEN TEAM FOR LC 112

Last Name	First Name	Lord's Task	Last Name	First Name	Lord's Task
Ahrens	Mark	Table Leader	Robbins	Roy	Rector
Anderson	Matt	Musician	Ruiz	Jeff	Cook
Badertscher	Lynn	Musician	Sander	Mike	Assistant Rector
Baird	Tom	Cook	Sauter	Gus	Head Palanca
Beaver	Bob	Cook	Schroeder	Mike	Rookie Cook
Beilman	Lowell	Musician	Smart	Don	Mentor
Bise	Roger	Cook	Spruk	Eric	Table Leader
Bowen	Kenny	Spiritual Director	Steinmetz	Eric	Table Leader
Boyer	Dave	Table Leader	Stolzenburg	Jan	Cook Team Lead
Broussard	Brian	Rookie Cook	Wagner	Dave	Rookie Cook
Brunken	Daniel	Cook Team Lead	Walker	Melvin	Cook
Cole	Bill	Assistant Rector	Wenz	Vic	Cook
Cuen	Eddie	AHC- Inside	Whitley	Noel	Rookie Cook
Currie	Don	Cook Team Lead	Willard	Scott	AHC-Special Meals
Cypher	Harry	Head Cook			
Daniels	Jim	Cook			
Darnell	Brian	Cook Team Lead			
Dunn	Don	Table Leader			
Eaton	Tim	Spiritual Director			
Edwards	Ray	Rookie Cook			
Ehrmann	Brian	AHC-Dining Room			
Erickson	Chris	Palanca			
Fulk	Forrest	Cook			
Gackowski	Mike	Palanca			
Gertner	Gordon	Table Leader			
Hauser	Pat	Table Leader			
Henry	Sylvester	Table Leader			
Hess	Shel	Spiritual Director			
Hill	Robin	Cook			
Holmes	Jerry	Musician			
Hopkins	Troy	Palanca			
Irey	Parker	Sacristan			
James	Corey	Musician			
Kakouris	George	Cook			
Kruse	Darrin	Table Leader			
Kwiatkowski	Joe	Musician			
Lee	Kenny	AHC- Rollo Room			
Lewis	Dan	Assistant Rector			
Lindstrom	Chris	Head Spiritual Director			
Malais	Kyle	Cook			
Nellesen	Gary	Table Leader			
Olson	Russ	Rookie Cook			
O'Reilly	Catherine	Special Angel			
Otte	Steve	Head Angel			

## GOD'S CHOSEN PILGRIMS

Bill	Brummel
Jim	Childress
Jesse	Christopherson
Michael	Davenport
Stuart	Dimock
Jeff	Fleck
Mike	Gordon
Scott	Horton
J.B.	Johnson
Stephen	Margala
Michael	Melcher
Andy	Patterson
Gary	"Poteet, Jr."
Ken	Robson
Robert	Ryvolt
Danny	Santamarinc
Forrest	Skiver
Scott	Stepien
Bill	Stoffregen
Matt	Stuhlmuller
Joe	Totaro
Paul	Wenz
Dennis	Wilson
Bill	Windham

## GOD'S CHOSEN TEAM FOR LC 113

Name	Lord's Task	Name	Lord's Task
Ann Badertscher	Mentor	Denise Murphy	Asst. Rectora
Heidi Badertscher	Musician	Lindi Oster	Musician
Lindsey Balko	Palanca	Ingrid Ostrem-Nosek	Asst. Rectora
Barb Beaver	Table Leader	Carey Piampianos	Rookie Cook
Teresa Beilman	Head Musician	Melanie Phillips	Rookie Cook
Elizabeth Blystone	Rookie Cook	Sandee Rogers	Table Leader
Vicki Braddock	Table Leader	Susan Sauter	Cook Team Lead
Karen Clark	Cook Team Lead	Sue Skelton	Table Leader
Cheryl Cuilhe	Table Leader	Debbie Skoglie	Rookie Cook
Carita Dickson	Cook	Andrea Smart	AHC-Inside
Kira Edenhofer	Rookie Cook	Bradley Stienstra	Spitiual Director
Heather Ferrini	Cook Team Lead	Carol Stienstra	AHC-Rollo Room
Karissa Finley	Rookie Cook	Johna Stienstra	Palanca
Paul Finley	Spitiual Director	Debbie Taylor	Cook Team Lead
Windy Fitzharris	Rookie Cook	Brian Taylor	Head Spiritual Director
Nicole Fleck	Rookie Cook	Susan Wade	Table Leader
Crystal Gertner	Table Leader	Cindi Wenz	Head Cook
Maria Gleckl	Rookie Cook	Heather Wenz	AHC-Dining Room
Judy Gould	Special Meals	Nancy Wilbur	Palanca
Debbie Graves	Asst. Rectora		
Crystal Hauber	Rookie Cook		
Dori Hauptmann	Palanca/Sacristan		
Michelle Hauser	Table Leader		
Joyce Hill	Rookie Cook		
Jeanne Hulse	Rookie Cook		
Jill Inouye	Palanca		
Barb James	Musician		
Dave Johnsen	Spitiual Director		
Debra Keeney	Head Angel		
Tammy Kwiatkowski	Cook Team Lead		
Carol La Vache	Rectora		
Lenny La Vache	Head Angel (behind the scene)		
Marica Lantz	Musician		
Amy Laipenicks	Rookie Cook		
Estelle Lestage	Rookie Cook		
Jettie Lewis	Table Leader		
Venice Lindstrom	Table Leader		
Kat Lustig	Rookie Cook		
Kris Malkin	Head Palanca		
Peggy Mechling	Table Leader		
Kelli Meiers	Table Leader		

## GOD'S CHOSEN PILGRIMS

Bekah	Bay	Willy	Owens
Brittany	Bideaux	Rosa	Patterson
Margaret	Brummel	Sandy	Poteet
Norma	Burkett	Amy	Printup
Judy	Cullum	Dorothy	Rice
Madonna	Davenport	Carol	Samrualruer
Jordan	Deknatel	Mary	Savage
Sunny	Derks	Janet	Skiver
Laurel	Dimock	Alvina	Smokov
Pat	Gordon	Cheryl	Stepien
Robin	Horton	Beth	Stoffregen
Patty	Huddleson	Wendy	Taylor
Rhonda	Jenkins	Gayla	Totaro
Heather	Jensen	Kathy	Vanderhoff
Brigette	Johnson	Linda	Vanderplas
Lauren	LaVache	Eula	Wilke
Michal	Margala	Kathy	Wilson
Josie	Mayne	Martha	Windham
Lyn	McClellan		