

2026 Annual Report of the President of the NLS

De Colores Cristoistas,

The past three years has been a wonderful experience, and I look forward to seeing you again in San Antonio Texas for this year's annual gathering. I feel proud of what we have accomplished and look forward to finishing strong in the next year as I will be concluding my Presidency. I appreciate all the support from our current executive committee and all those who have provided advice to me from time to time.

Two years ago, when we met in Las Vegas, we asked for your permission to start a scholarship program. I am happy to report that this year we will be awarding not only one but two scholarships in San Antonio. We are continuing with the \$500 scholarship, but as donations are coming in, we are now able to provide two \$500 scholarships. Thanks go to Pastor G. Karl, Jerry Gray and Karen Weires for spearheading this year's committee for the second time. Spoiler alert, last year's recipient will be delivering one of our Forums.

We are also continuing the "Circle of Servants". Hopefully all regions have submitted their applicant for this acknowledgment. We know we don't serve for recognition, but it is always nice to give a pat on the back and acknowledge dedicated servanthood.

This year's mid-term meeting was held in Texas; we spent two days together and had two very productive meetings. All positions identified things that could be either upgraded or reworked to make jobs and outcomes more user friendly and overall better. We did acknowledge Dave Leverenz's need for a new way for him to archive our history and now it is available to all through our google docs files, thanks to Karen Weires and Dave for making this happen.

We did a lot this year and each position's report will reflect what they have accomplished. We also came up with, on a spur of a moment, to help serve in the Christmas season and a great deal of you took the thought and followed through. With all your help we supported over 20 families or services for families during the Christmas season, truly a service that was definitely needed but also one that was greatly received

With all the good this NLS secretariat has done this year, we must say goodbye to our SD, Pastor G Karl as he has termed out after serving all of us for four years. We thank him for his endless hours of dedication, his Sunday devotions, time on the scholarship committee and all the hard work that he has put in for us. Blessings to Pastor G Karl and his wife Jeane.

Our appointed chairs and regional coordinators continue to work hard in their respective offices. Without them, none of this works. They are the hands and feet of the movement and our face out in the community. I appreciate each one of you for your support and commitment to the mission of Via de Cristo.

It has been my pleasure to serve this movement over this past three years, and I look forward to what the next year will bring.

God Loves You and So Do I.

In His Service,

Brian Comeno

President of the National Lutheran Secretariat