

***Holy Play***  
***A South Carolina Lutheran Via de Cristo Publication***

***“Simon Sez!”***

*You know the game routine. Simon Sez, “Clap your hands.” And what do you do? Of course you clap your hands. The leader continues. Simon Sez, “Stomp your feet.” And you do. The statements keep coming and by now you have the hang of it and are laughing out loud at all the movement around you others are making. And just when you think you will win the game, the leader says, “Lift both hands to heaven.” And you do!*

*These games are more often played on that long car trip to Disney World. The kids are restless, so you play the “Simon Sez” game. During the game, the kid who did it wrong will say, “No I didn’t. It was my brother who did it.” Or the child will say that my sister distracted me and made me do it. After a while, the game becomes boring or to keep the peace the game ends. So the kids ask that famous question, “Are we there yet?”*

*Before I suggest you consider what the next step should be for the S.C. Lutheran Via de Cristo movement, let’s look at the game “Simon Sez” from a little different perspective. I wonder could it be that we have played the “Simon Sez” game with historic Via de Cristo frustrations. We listen then react. Sometimes we react without listening. We believe we know what is right. After all, we can’t be wrong! They are! However, when we do react are we being guided by the Holy Spirit or the Trickster? It’s time to put history to bed and look forward with an open forgiving heart.*

*Consider the statement, “Are we there yet?” Is the S.C. Lutheran Via de Cristo movement there yet? After all we had a full weekend with a waiting list. If your answer is either yes or no, then you have answered the question too quickly, and could possibly be out of the game...again.*

*Tom Ramsey, Rectora for Coed # 13 sent a message this week to the community...to each of you. He said,*

*“In the Sunday meditation on Coed #12 Pastor Steve Jackson made mention of Chapter 15 verse 5 from the Gospel of John and it reads: I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit. This will be the Bible verse for Coed #13.”*

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*The Holy Spirit leads us to the next step, never showing us the entire trip. This is His present tense instruction. So often we as His children are focused on the destination and do not consider the ride we are experiencing. We miss being in the moment and all the answers clearly surrounding us.*

*Jesus is the destination, not a stepping stone along our self-created path. And the path is accurately guided only by The Holy Spirit. The community both individually and as a whole made course corrections, by praying first, last, and always seeking guidance from The Holy Spirit. Then and only then the next step was taken. Look at the results. Look how He honored the community's sincere prayers.*

*The Prayer of Jabez speaks to the challenge to expand ones territory.*

1 Chronicles 4: 9-10. "Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil."

*When you said, "Here I am Lord, send me," did you really mean it as a call to action? Are you following that still voice taking a risk when your heart says yes and your head says no?*

*Let me suggest the answer to the question, Are we there yet should be, "never! I'm praying for direction for the next step." Jesus is the vine and we are the branches. If we have faith; if we pray, listen, and trust Him, then He will feed us all the nourishment we need for each step of our journey...Peace...Gus Martschink*