

# EL TINTERO



APRIL 2008

NORTH TEXAS LUTHERAN SECRETARIAT

*"El Tintero"* is Spanish for "the inkwell." Legend has it that Martin Luther threw an inkwell at Satan who tempted Luther while he was writing.

## *Look to God! Look to the Cross!*

Carolyn Knudsen, Rector

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*So we look at not what is seen, but what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. II Cor. 4:18*

I sometimes wonder if rectors are drawn to weekend themes out of their own deepest needs. When I started praying about what felt like God's "word" for Weekend 74, several options seemed logical but just didn't click, until I saw the word "Look." Look to God. Look to the Cross. Look at myself through His eyes.

When I forget to look at the God of the Scriptures, I find myself shadowed by the specter of the Stern Bookkeeper, scrupulously evaluating my every move, Who can't wait to banish me to Time Out. But look to the God of the Bible and I see instead the picture of the kindly Father longing to have his child back again, pacing the floor, straining to catch a glimpse of that wayward son straggling home. That's a God I can look to!

When I forget to look to the Cross, I become smug, complacent, proud. I get carried away with the "God and Me" syndrome, the "God's my golfing buddy" mindset. But let me slow down enough to really look to the Cross - let me take in the details of the torturous death Christ willingly suffered, let me be reminded of the anguish of betrayal, the needle-sharp thorns, the splinters digging into already mauled flesh, the horrible cramping in every muscle of His body - and my complacency is shattered. I am at once both humbled and awed. Was it St. Teresa of Avila whose profound gratitude for Christ's sacrifice produced in her a state of continual weeping?

When I forget to look at myself the way God does, I often feel my life is a grave disappointment to Him. I try to dull this pain by gaining acceptance and love from other people or demanding proof of God's love through answered prayer - that is, prayer answered *my* way. (I give the devil great satisfaction when I demand one sign after another of God's love for me. God won't be bound that way!) Jesus wants passionately for us to have the same compassion toward ourselves that He has for us. We simply do not know the Christ of the Gospels until we "take sides with Him against our own self-evaluation." "Paul might well have become pathological had he dwelled on his pre-Christian past." (quotes from Brennan Manning) Instead, Paul determined to "forget the past and . . . strain ahead for what is still to come" (*Phil. 3:12-14*). Why is this so important? Because the measure of compassion we have for *ourselves* will exactly determine the measure of compassion we have for *others*. It is only in loving ourselves that we become *free to love*.

May Weekend 74 be a time to look, to really look - to look to God, to look to the Cross, to look at myself through God's compassionate eyes.

## *Via de Cristo #74 - Weekend Calendar*

### *April*

2	Wed 6:30 pm	Setup for Weekend at Lake Sharon; Food and Palanca Drop Off
3	Thu 6:45 pm	Via de Cristo #72 Begins
5	Sat 1:30 pm	Love Team Visitation
6	Sun 6:00 am	Arrive For Wakeup
6	Sun 6:30 am	Wakeup Begins
6	Sun 2:45 pm	Clausura Setup
6	Sun 3:30 pm	Clausura Begins
6	Sun 5:30 pm	Takedown & Cleanup
6	Sun Evening	Homecoming. Various Locations

## *Notes From the Lay Director*

Do you remember the Clausura the weekend you were a participant? I remember mine! I remember going back into that room in which I had so many emotions, learned so much, shared laughter and tears and which had been my home base for 3 days. Now suddenly it was packed wall to wall with people. And MUSIC! Oh my music. The sound of the triumphant entry into what had now become a sanctuary full of joyful, singing, praise-filled people.

As I walked up that center aisle holding hands with those who, only 3 days before, I had never seen before but who now had become brothers and sisters in Christ, I was awestruck. As I looked around I was seeing in amazement people I knew! People smiling from ear to ear with joy to see me because they too had experienced what I had just experienced and we were now connected in yet another way. I did not want that worship service to ever end.

Now, no matter how many times I attend Clausura, whether as a member of a team or a member of the 4<sup>th</sup> Day, I feel it all over again. I am one of those who are smiling from ear to ear, looking for those participants I have been praying for, and looking forward to getting to know them as my new sisters and brothers in the 4<sup>th</sup> Day community.

No matter how incredible a weekend is, and they all are because where God is present it can only be so, I always love Clausura best because the 4<sup>th</sup> Day comes out to welcome home the new members of our family. We come to share the love Christ has given each of us for the other. We come to be HIS hands in action and to celebrate HIS love for each of us.

Remember your Clausura. Come share that memory with the new 4<sup>th</sup> day members of weekend #74 and with me on Sunday, April 6. I want to see your smile again as we celebrate together, brothers and sisters.

Joyfully living in His Love,  
Alice Allison  
Lay Director

***Via de Cristo #74***

Thursday, April 3 to Sunday, April 6, 2008  
Lake Sharon Christian Center, Corinth, Texas

**Participant:**

Shelley Bertzyk  
Nancy Cage  
Maureen Dana  
Megan Elliott  
Maija Ellis  
Ginger Georgulas  
Carl Hannemann  
Roxann Johnston  
Jessie Marshall  
Michael Miller  
Bette Morris  
Susie Morrison  
Martha Moyer  
Larry Rollow  
Christine Slaton  
Becky Stensland  
Lawanda Wilson

**Congregation:**

Immanuel Lutheran, Killeen  
Faith Lutheran, Wichita Falls  
Rejoice Lutheran, Frisco  
Calvary Lutheran, Richland Hills  
Rejoice Lutheran, Frisco  
Rejoice Lutheran, Coppell  
Zion Lutheran, McGregor  
Faith Lutheran, Wichita Falls  
Calvary Lutheran, Richland Hills  
Calvary Lutheran, Richland Hills  
Ridgeview Presbyterian, Farmers Branch  
Emmanuel Lutheran, Granbury  
Zion Lutheran, McGregor  
King of Glory Lutheran, Dallas  
Calvary Lutheran, Richland Hills  
Emmanuel Lutheran, Granbury  
Faith Lutheran, Wichita Falls

**Sponsor:**

Roberta (Robin) Christian  
Di Piatt  
Sandra Gass  
Ellen Slezak  
Katherine Odom-Fillgrove  
Jan Jones  
Gary Hannemann  
Mark Wilson  
Judy Smith  
Ed Kviz  
Sybil Shuck  
Sheryl Cabey  
Stephanie Hannemann  
John Harris & Jan Rollow  
Carol Court  
Darla Hall  
Mark Wilson

**Staff:**

Rector Carolyn Knudsen  
Observing Rector  
Spiritual Dir. Olin Knudsen  
Spiritual Dir. Kerstin Hedlund  
Spiritual Dir. Jane Mar  
Rector's Cha Cha Doug Guinn  
Food Cha Cha Judy Smith  
Food Cha Cha Mark Wilson  
Music Cha Cha Janet Thorp  
Palanca Cha Cha Virginia Morton  
Palanca Cha Cha Janey Fields  
Table Leader John Krueger

**Rollos**

Ideal Jennifer Isernhagen  
Laity John Harris  
Piety Cid Smith  
Study Bruce Hanson  
Action Miles Holder  
Leaders Sandra Gass  
Environments Robert Rodriguez  
Christian Community Sandy Thurmer  
Fourth Day Valerie von Bergen  
Love Team Rector Leslie Herd

*A Wakeup Story -*

As the participants were ushered into the dining hall, they were surrounded by the staff of the weekend. Within minutes the participants had pulled into a tight circle with their arms around one another. As they were serenaded by the 4<sup>th</sup> Day community, they began to sway – then the staff members also began to sway, and as we began singing “Tell the People I Love Them,” everyone in the room was surrounding the participants in one giant, swaying hug. An image came into my mind of a mother lovingly holding and rocking her baby in her arms, and I began to sing my own version of the song, “Tell *these* people I love them, tell *these* people I care ...”

At some time in your past, whether recently or long ago, somebody took the time to tell *you* how much Jesus loves and cares for you. Please prayerfully consider how you can help deliver that same message to those who come after you – through your prayers, through your written palanca, through commitment to your Small Group and Ultreya, and through participation in Wakeup and Clausura.

ULTREYA!  
Linda Sims

*Post Weekend Update*

Have you hugged a fellow 4<sup>th</sup> Day lately??? Well do we have some opportunities for you! Weekend 74 is almost upon us. Remember to come out Saturday afternoon at 1:15 and sing to the Participants, and come back Sunday for Wake-Up at 6:30 AM and, of course, Clausura Sunday afternoon at 3:30.

Remember the impact these events had on you when you were a participant? Now it's your turn to give back – and receive a lot of hugs in the process ☺ Wake up is a great opportunity to fellowship – carpool with other 4<sup>th</sup> Day and then go out to breakfast afterward!

Hear ye! Hear ye! The next Grand Ultreya is going to be held on Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 – 7:30. Location to be named soon, so keep an eye on your inbox for future updates. With the high price of gas lately, think about carpooling with other 4<sup>th</sup> Day – and Sponsors, don't forget to get your past participants involved as well. They will follow your lead! We will have a good group of new 4<sup>th</sup> Day from Weekend 74. So, bring that favorite covered dish and be ready for fellowship and fun.

God's Peace,  
Cid Smith  
Post Weekend Rep

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**Financial Support**

Although our Grace weekends are free to the participants, they are not “free.” We rely on donations from the 4<sup>th</sup> Day to finance these gifts of grace. **Send donations to support our Grace weekends to Jim Bingaman, NTLs Treasurer, 1401 Lakeview Blvd., Denton, TX 76208.** Please make checks payable to NTLs.

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**Coming Attractions**

Watch for times and places

**Staff Training School – April 26, 2008**

**Grand Ultreya – May 17, 2008**

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**Secretariat Meetings**

are held the third Thursday of each month  
beginning promptly at 7:00 p.m.

at

Ridgeview Presbyterian Church

12717 Marsh Ln., Farmers Branch, TX.

It is 1/2 block N of 635 on the NE corner at the first traffic signal

**ALL 4<sup>TH</sup> DAY ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!**

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**Email Address Request!**

If you are receiving the El Tintero by regular mail and also have an email address, please send us your email address to help reduce the cost of paper and postage. We promise not to fill your inbox with endless communiqués from us. You will receive by email a link to the El Tintero online, which will contain the same information you have received in the past by regular mail.

**Send your email address to our Database Administrator,**

**Pat Carr at: [pvcarr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pvcarr@sbcglobal.net)**