

EL TINTERO



JULY 2009

LUTHERAN VIA DE CRISTO OF NORTH TEXAS

"*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.



I chose you . . .



"You did not choose me but I chose you.

And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last..." John 15:16

*As I was preparing for weekend #78, someone asked, "Do you have a 'theme' for the weekend?". Upon initial reflection I thought of my favorite Bible verse, Psalm 118:24, "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it." That would work well as a theme because there is already a song in our VdC songbook! I moved forward with that in mind until Sunday, May 17, 2009. Pastor Ernie's sermon that morning provided a new take on the Gospel lesson, John 15:9 - 17. His sermon really spoke to me and I "knew" that "I chose you" was what the staff and participants of weekend #78 were to be lovingly told!

*I am humbled and honored to have been asked to serve as Rector for weekend #78. I am "blessed" to be serving with talented, caring, grace-filled staff members. The staff of weekend #78 are excited to have been chosen to share the grace and love of God with those participants that God has chosen and is choosing to experience His love in a unique way on this, their Via de Cristo weekend.

*God chose us and made us His own in our baptism and we are marked with the cross of Christ forever. Please pause and reflect on your Via de Cristo (Cursillo) weekend when "God chose you" to experience His grace anew. Have you considered lately how much God loves you? At our first staff meeting Pastor Geoff asked what Grace (free gift) in your life is reason enough to "Pay It Forward"? You have an opportunity to "Pay It Forward" by sponsoring someone God has chosen to be a participant on weekend #78. You can "Pay It Forward" by sharing of your time and talents with prayers for the staff and participants, by writing notes of encouragement to the participants on the weekend, and by your presence at Wake Up at Lake Sharon at 6:30 am Sunday August 2 and then again at Clausura at 3:30pm.

*Come, Holy Spirit, kindle (or rekindle) in us the fire of your love!

A chosen one,
Stephanie Mudge, Rector, weekend #78

Via de Cristo #78- Weekend Calendar July 30 – August 2, 2009

Wed 6:00 pm	July 29 th -- Setup for Weekend at Lake Sharon; Food and Palanca Drop Off
Thu 6:45 pm	July 30 th -- Via de Cristo #76 Begins
Sat 1:30 pm	Aug. 1 st -- Love Team Visitation
Sun 6:00 am	Aug. 2 nd -- Arrive For Wakeup
Sun 6:30 am	Wakeup Begins
Sun 2:45 pm	Clausura Setup
Sun 3:30 pm	Clausura Begins
Sun Evening	Homecoming, Various Locations

Participant:

Berry, Wes
Cox, Virginia
Eversoll, Kathy
Foong, Janice
Givens, Bryan
Gohlke, Sarah
Gutierrez, Mundi
Janiak, Stephanie
Langford, Greg
Langford, Sean
Marcuse, Steve
Metcalf, Ginger
Parsons, Brandon
Shugarman, Kathy
Symank, Joyce
Westerfeld, Connie

Congregation:

Faith Lutheran, Wichita Falls
St. John Lutheran, Coryell City
Immanuel Lutheran, Killeen
Rejoice Lutheran, Frisco
Faith Lutheran, Wichita Falls
St. John Lutheran, Coryell City
Calvary Lutheran, Richland Hills
Calvary Lutheran, Richland Hills
First Lutheran, Shreveport, LA
First Lutheran, Shreveport, LA
Calvary Lutheran, Richland Hills
Faith Lutheran, Wichita Falls
Christ Lutheran, Dallas
Faith Lutheran, Flower Mound
St. John Lutheran, Coryell City
St. John Lutheran, Coryell City

Sponsor:

P. Ernie Barr
Irene Helm
Cynthia Sparks
Jane Winge
Steve Hogan
Irene Helm
Leslie Herd
Debbie Thomas
Ben & Elaine Hebert
Ben & Elaine Hebert
Harry Herd
Tuesdee Rundle
Amber Meyer
Kari Voight
Lorene Jacobs
Lorene Jacobs

Staff:

Rector	Stephanie Mudge
Observing Rector	Carey Newton
Spiritual Director	Pastor Ken Moerbe
Spiritual Director	Pastor Geoffrey Schmitt
Rectors Cha	Jamie Barr
Food Cha	David van Buskirk
Food Cha	Joshua Warmbrodt
Palanca Cha	Leslie Herd
Palanca Cha	Curt Thompson
Music Cha	Janet Thorp
Table Leader	Tim Fuston

Rollos:

Ideal	Jon Krueger
Laity	Carol Otterstad
Piety	Mike Eskew
Study	Margaret Freeman
Action	Jane Winge
Leaders	Bob Johnson
Environment	Bob Thomas
Christian Comm.	Rich Herbst
Fourth Day	Dori Weir

Love Team Rector Sandy Thurmer

From Our Lay Director



Lutheran Via De Cristo Of North Texas

DEAR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST,

IN REVELATION 2:17 WE ARE TOLD WE WILL HAVE A NEW NAME “*To HIM WHO OVERCOMES I WILL GIVE SOME OF THE HIDDEN MANNA. I WILL ALSO GIVE HIM A WHITE STONE WITH A NEW NAME WRITTEN ON IT, KNOWN ONLY TO HIM WHO RECEIVES IT*”

WELL WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN A NEW NAME TOO. THE SECRETARIAT HAS BEEN WORKING DILIGENTLY NOW FOR MANY MONTHS TO ESTABLISH OUR VIA DE CRISTO AS ITS OWN INCORPORATED ORGANIZATION. WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THAT ALL THE PAPER WORK HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE STATE OF TEXAS AND WE ARE OFFICIALLY “LUTHERAN VIA DE CRISTO OF NORTH TEXAS”, A TEXAS NON PROFIT CORPORATION.

THE OUTWARD APPEARANCE OF WHAT WE DO WILL NOT CHANGE. WE ARE STILL ALL ABOUT RENEWING OUR FAITH AND EMPOWERING LEADERS WITHIN OUR CONGREGATIONS, ENVIRONMENTS AND THE COMMUNITY. THE CHANGE IS OUR LEGAL STANDING AS AN ORGANIZATION DULY AUTHORIZED TO CONDUCT OUR BUSINESS.

AS I SAID, THE FOCUS OF WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO REMAINS THE SAME AND TO THAT END SO DOES THE NEED FOR EACH OF US TO BE PART OF EVERY WEEKEND. WE ARE PART OF THE WEEKEND WHEN WE BEGIN BY PRAYING FOR THE RECTOR AS THEY CALL THEIR STAFF AND THEN PRAYING FOR THAT STAFF AS THEY PREPARE FOR THE WEEKEND.

AND THEN WE PRAY FOR THE PARTICIPANTS AS THEIR NAMES ARE SHARED WITH US AND WE BEGIN OUR PALANCA TO THEM. (REMEMBER, PALANCA IS THAT SACRIFICIAL PRAYER WE OFFER FOR EACH OF THEM). AND OF COURSE MANY HANDS ARE NEEDED TO DO SET UP AND TAKE DOWN FOR THE WEEKEND. THE LOVE TEAM IS AN AMAZING WAY TO NOT ONLY SERVE THE WEEKEND, BUT TO ALSO SPEND 72 HOURS WRAPPED IN GOD’S ARMS SURROUNDED BY HIS LOVE AND GRACE.

SO, BE AS ONE TO WHOM JESUS SPEAKS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE REVELATION 2:17 SCRIPTURE “HE WHO HAS AN EAR, LET HIM HEAR WHAT THE SPIRIT SAYS TO THE CHURCHES” ... WHO IS THE CHURCH? ---- WE ARE THE CHURCH. HEAR THE SPIRIT AS YOU ARE CALLED TO BE PART OF THE “LUTHERAN VIA DE CRISTO OF NORTH TEXAS” COMMUNITY.

**PEACE, BLESSINGS AND JOY BE YOURS ALWAYS,
ALICE ALLISON**



***When You Feel You're Being "Burned" By Life
Malachi 3:3 says:
"He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver,"***

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study group and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God.

One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver.

As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot then she thought again about the verse that says:

"He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver,"

She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined.

The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled at her and answered,

"Oh, that's easy -- when I see my image in it"

If today you are feeling the heat of the fire, remember that God has his eye on you and will keep watching you until He sees His image in you. And, whatever you're going through, you'll be a better person in the end.

(A meditation sent in to be shared with the 4th Day)



***So the Jews said,
"See how he loved him!" (John 11:36)
Pastor Ernie Barr***

As a former student of psychology, I have often pondered the motives behind people's actions. Fairly recently, I was reading some "pop" spirituality literature, when I stumbled across the notion that human beings are motivated primarily by either fear or love. Through various random associations, I began to consider Via de Cristo and our motives for "inviting" someone on a weekend.

It seems to me, that the Via de Cristo weekend is a gift to people we love. I would imagine that sometimes we may engage in a generalized invitational, but more often, I hope that we invite folks individually...one soul at a time. Jesus taught and ministered to people in both sorts of ways. He spoke openly to the crowds, and he ministered to individuals. I believe that he loved them all. We are called to follow Jesus and his way of being in the world. We are called to follow his way of loving people.

Each Via de Cristo weekend, people answer the "invitation" to come and see. Sometimes the invitation is answered by many, and sometimes the invitation is answered by only a handful. Either way, people are there because they are loved. They are loved by their sponsor, and they are loved by their Lord. The faithful presence of all those in attendance are the ones that God invites the rest of us to know and to love.

Before the weekends ever begin, the whole Via de Cristo community, or the Fourth Day Community, is called to pray. We pray for the staff members, we pray for the participants, and we pray for the weekend in general. Prayer helps us to send a little piece of ourselves into the weekend. Through prayer, we are joined in God's intentions of loving the whole world and specifically, the ones who are called to share time and space together on a particular weekend. We are called to be one in mission, one in intention, and one in Spirit, God's Spirit.

I love the Via de Cristo movement. I love the motive behind each weekend, and the intentional love that is shared and communicated. I love the Fourth Day Community who rallies behind God's call for us to follow Jesus' way of sharing God's love. I love the prayers that people offer, and I love that I have been humbly called into this amazing movement that is all about sharing who God is...pure and unconditional love.

Peace to you all,

Pastor Ernie



Ways To Follow Jesus' Lead To Love Others This Weekend and in the 4th Day

The Weekend Rep Needs to Know How You Plan To Help for Weekend # 78 !!

Please call or email Curt Thompson at 817-267-7017 or thomkmc@sbcglobal.net to let him know what foods you are planning to send to the retreat center for the palanca food table and/or what setup/clean up help you are planning to do.

NOTE: The logistics plans for the weekend need to be committed to and reported to Curt by the Wednesday before the Weekend begins to insure that the Weekend will go smoothly..

Staff Training School Saturday, August 29th 9 am - 5 pm
Registration Closes August 19th
Mark Your Calendar Now

Location: Faith Lutheran Church, 6000 Morriss Road, Flower Mound, TX 75028 (Go to Forms and Links for a Registration Form). *Note: There must be at least 8 people registered by the 19th or the classes will be cancelled.*

Staff Training School (STS) serves the Via de Cristo community by laying a foundation that provides a common frame of reference for Via de Cristo participation. There is lots of singing, food, and fun along with the training! Staff Training School is required in order to staff on a weekend. It is held in varying locations across the Metroplex.

Have You Visited Our Website Lately???

It's new --- It's fun --- It's a fabulous 21st century update designed by our Webmaster, Patrick Hunt! We encourage you to use the web calendar to communicate the times and dates of activities of your Ultreyas and churches. Just email your information to momtvdc@gmail.com and they will be placed on the calendar – be sure to include deadlines if they are applicable. **For a limited time you can still use our old url, www.ntls.org – or -- begin using our new url, www.vdcnorthtexas.org, to reach the new web site.**

Help Support the "Grace Weekend Gifts" Program

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



Support Your Small Groups and Ultreyas And the Activities of Weekend #78!!



Greetings to the 4th Day !!

Cool summer greetings to all you 4th Day! So, when was the last time you met with your small group??? If you have to think about it, it's been too long. You don't have a small group? Well it's time to change that. Talk to your sponsor and ask them to help you find a small group. Talk to others in your Ultreya and let them know you are looking for a small group.

You don't have an Ultreya? Well, we have a solution there too! We now have two area Ultreya's meeting monthly and are working on forming two more. Right now there is an Ultreya that meets at Calvary Lutheran in Richland Hills on the first Sat. of each month.

A second Ultreya meets at 5:30 in Farmer's Branch at St. Paul Lutheran and meets at 5:30 on the 3rd Sat. of most months (we don't meet in months when there is a Weekend or Grand Ultreya). A third Ultreya meets at King of Glory Lutheran, Ft. Worth at 5 p.m. All three Ultreya's welcome anyone to attend.

We are working on forming other multi-church Ultreyas in the Flower Mound/Lewisville/Denton area and working on one in the southeast part of Dallas. Stay tuned for more details. As always, if you have specific questions please feel free to send me an email at cidcs@msn.com.

PLEASE NOTE – NEXT GRANDE ULTREYA – MAKE PLANS TO BE THERE!!

Our next Grand Ultreya will be held at King of Glory (Dallas) on October 3rd and will begin at 5:30. So dust off that recipe box, make your favorite casserole and come meet us for food, fellowship and fun.

Without your involvement in small groups, Ultreyas, Grand Ultreyas, and Weekend events (setup, serenade, Wake-Up and Clausura) the Via de Cristo experience will just be another weekend and you deserve more than that! Without your involvement, this movement cannot grow and cannot sustain itself. So, when was the last time you met with your small group, Ultreya or your fellow 4th Day at a Weekend activity? If you have to think about it, it's been too long.

God's Peace,
Cid Smith, Post Weekend Representative

Calvary Ultreya News & Notes

Sat., July 11 - Palanca Party, 3-5 pm in the Family Life Center, bring smiles & any crafty stuff, cards, etc. Following that will be...



Sat., July 11 - Monthly Ultreya, Potluck dinner & Fellowship in the Family Life Center 5 pm, followed by worship at 6 pm.

Th.-Sun., July 30—Aug. 2 - Via de Cristo Weekend 78!

Remember to pray for the staff & Participants, and make plans to attend Saturday serenade, and Sunday Wake-up and Clausura.

Calvary Ultreya will have a Homecoming Celebration in the Fellowship Hall following the Taize Service. Taize begins at 6 pm. Those not attending Taize will start gathering around 6:30 p.m.

Small Groups at Calvary - All are Welcome in this Place!

Are you looking for a small group? Calvary has a number of groups of 3-5 that meet on a regular basis to encourage each other as we grow in our relationship with Christ through Piety, Study and Apostolic Action.

If you are interested in joining a small group at Calvary, please contact Carol or Jerry Court: 817- 303-4820 (please leave a message if no answer) or jc.court@gmail.com, use subject "small groups."



Way to go Calvary!!!! Thanks for all these opportunities to be part of the VdC family working, playing and worshipping together. All the rest of you Ultreyas send in your activities so others can join you and/or pray for your success. Your editor, Mom T.