



El Tintéro



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

Weekend #96

March 2016

Pathways to God!

*Briarwood Lutheran Retreat Center Hosts
Via de Cristo Weekend #96*

Lawanda Wilson

Rector, Weekend #96

Greetings 4th Day!

What an honor it is to be called to be Rector of Weekend #96. God has called an amazing staff. We have had our first staff meeting and it always amazes me how fast the staff bonds together.

For years I have been thankful for the path God has put me on. Attending a VDC weekend changed my life. On one of the weekends that I staffed, the whole staff was given a gift of index cards that included quotes, scriptures, words of encouragement, etc. My favorite card said "Everything that happens in our lives has a pathway to God in it."

continued on page 2

Greetings from the Director

Doug Guinn

Lay Director, Lutheran Via de Cristo of North Texas

Here's an article I came across on the topic of Lent written by Ann Swindell of Relevant Magazine that resonated with me, and that I would like to share with you.

Why All Christians Should Observe Lent

4 REASONS IT MATTERS

by ANN SWINDELL FEBRUARY 10, 2016 at RELEVANT MAGAZINE

Historically, Lent is the season preceding Easter in the church calendar, and it is often observed as a time of reflection and repentance. It is a season of preparation, a time of waiting and remembering.

But is Lent important? Is it worth observing—or at least acknowledging—especially if, like me, you're not currently part of a liturgical church tradition?

I think so. Here are four reasons Lent matters—and how it can point us to the truth of the Gospel in practical, important ways:

LENT IS A REMINDER OF OUR NEED TO REPENT

Repentance is not a sexy word; repentance is a call to turn around and away from our sinful ways. It means first acknowledging that we are sinners, and then saying no to our sin. But repentance is at the very heart of Christianity: we cannot, in fact, follow Jesus without repenting of our way and choosing His way instead (Acts 2:38).

Lent is a season of acknowledging our consistent, daily need to repent—and therefore, of our consistent need for a savior. It's important to remember how desperately we need to be saved from our sin, and that

continued on page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** Pathways to God! - Rector Lawanda Wilson
- 1** Greetings from the Lay Director
- 2** Weekend #96 Participants & Staff
- 3** Weekend #96 Schedule
- 4** Let's Get Connected!
- 4** You Are Vital to Via de Cristo!
- 4** The Lever of the Spirit -- Palanca!

God always puts amazing people on our paths. He has done just that with this amazing staff. All of us cannot wait to share our love with the participants that God will send to join us on the path of VDC # 96.

I did not choose a Saint for the weekend, so we will celebrate all Saints.

Our Scripture for the weekend is:

“You show me the path of life. In your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.
-- Psalm 16:11, NRSV

Aren't Grace Weekends Great?!

You know they are! Please consider making a donation. You can now make your donation online. Just click on the “Donate Now” button on our website <http://www.vdcnorthtexas.org>, or on the “Donate” tab, <http://www.vdcnorthtexas.org/#!donate/emvn9>, which will take you to our secure JustGive.org webpage. For example, your gift of \$160.00 will sponsor a participant.

LVDCNT WEEKEND 96 PARTICIPANTS

Name	Church	Sponsor
Marah Fanning	Faith, Wichita Falls	Ginger Metcalf
Paul Fanning	Faith, Wichita Falls	Di Piatt
Harriet Powell	Christ the Servant, Denton	Lee/Yvonne Lacy
Carleen Wheeler	Calvary, Richland Hills	Debbie Thomas
Charlie Fears	One Life Community Church, Wichita Falls	Lawanda Wilson
Angel Sheets	Faith Baptist, Iowa Park	Bee Smith
Sheila Cronkhite	Calvary, Richland Hills	Jim Cronkhite Sharon Dobbs
Anna Ernst	Calvary, Richland Hills	Barb Guinn
Pat Erdman	Lord of Life, Glenn Heights	Vicki Taylor
Marlow Erdman	Lord of Life, Glenn Heights	Dailey Taylor
Linda Malone	King of Glory, Dallas	Molli Harris
Joy Reemtsma	Walnut Hill, Dallas	Janet Adams
Louise Weston-Ferrill	First Baptist, Denton	Laurie Stokes-Bell/Don Bell

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Please make your choice Lutheran Via De Cristo of North Texas! To assign your Choice Dollars, go online and visit www.Thrivent.com or call 1-800-847-4836 and say ‘Thrivent Choice.’

As your Choice Dollars recipient. This will help us continue our mission of providing Grace Weekends!

LVDCNT WEEKEND 96 STAFF

Lawanda Wilson – Rector
Wayne Shuck – Observing Rector
Di Piatt - Rector’s Cha
Pastor Ernie Barr – Spiritual Director
Pastor Vicki Taylor – Spiritual Director
Carol Van Buskirk – Music Cha
Laurie Stokes-Bell - Palanca Cha
Cynthia Murphy – Palanca Cha
Mark Wilson – Food Cha
Bee Smith – Food Cha
Aaron Murphy – Tech Cha
Jon Inbody – Table Leader
Chris Gebhardt – Ideal Rollista
Berta McLemore – Laity Rollista
Kimbal Markwardt – Piety Rollista
Janet Adams – Study Rollista
David van Buskirk– Action Rollista
Tim Twohig – Leaders Rollista
John Harris – Environments Rollista
Daily Taylor – Christian Community Rollista
Debbie Thomas – Total Security/4th Day Rollista

Via de Cristo #96 **March 3-6, 2016** **Weekend Schedule**

Wed, March 2nd, 6:30 pm

VdC 96 Setup & Food/Palanca Drop Off -
Leadership Ctr, Quail Run Lodge, Oak Grove 4th
Day Room

Thu, March 3rd, 6:30 pm

VdC 96 Begins- Food/Palanca Drop Off, Oak Grove
4th Day Room

Sat, March 5th, 12:40 pm

Arrive for Serenade, Oak Grove Lodge

Sat, March 5th, 1:10 pm

Serenade Begins

Sun, March 6th, 6:00 am

Arrive for Wakeup, Streng Leadership Center

Sun, March 6th, 2:30 pm

Clausura Setup, Streng Leadership Center

Sun, March 6th, 3:15 pm

Clausura Begins, Streng Leadership Center

Sun, March 6th, 5:00 pm

Weekend Takedown, Streng Leadership Center

Sun, March 6th, 6:00 pm

Homecomings at Various Locations

Jesus is the only hope we have to be saved; that reality grounds us in His kindness and goodness.

DURING LENT, WE PARE DOWN OUR EXCESSES

Traditionally, Christians have understood Lent to be a time when unneeded things are stripped away in order to remind us of our neediness before and for God. Christians still do this today, giving up meat or chocolate, or abstaining from alcohol or watching television.

By taking away things that divert our attention and feed our desires, the season of Lent invites us to attend to what is really happening on the inside of our souls—and to have our needs met by God first and only.

LENT REMINDS US OF OUR HUMANITY

When I was part of a liturgical church in college, I attended my first Ash Wednesday service, where I was marked with ash while hearing the words, “From dust you came, and to dust you will return.”

It felt like someone had knocked the wind out of me; it was a reminder of death. As a college student, I rarely thought about my own finiteness, my own frailty. But that declaration over me—that I started from dust and will return to dust—deeply humbled me, in the best of ways. Lent pointed me back to the truth that all of my value and all of my purpose comes from being a person made in the image of the God who created me and made the way for me to be saved. Apart from Him, I am dust; I am nothing and I have nothing. But because of His great love, my life is worth much more than dust.

LENT SOBERS US—IN ORDER TO PREPARE US FOR CELEBRATION

Lent is a season of reflection—even of mourning—and that attitude flies in the face of the cultural waters most of us swim in. Sobering ourselves by confronting our own brokenness—by pausing our desire to keep things light and easy—is necessary if we want to celebrate the miraculous and life-altering message of Easter. If we aren’t aware of our sinfulness and need, we won’t be able to comprehend the desperation of Good Friday or the world-changing truth of the Resurrection. Sobering our hearts and minds in preparation for Easter enables us to celebrate more deeply and joyfully, perhaps, than we would have without the solemnness of the season. Because knowing our true nature, knowing our need for Jesus—makes Easter the best and most necessary Good News we could ever hear.



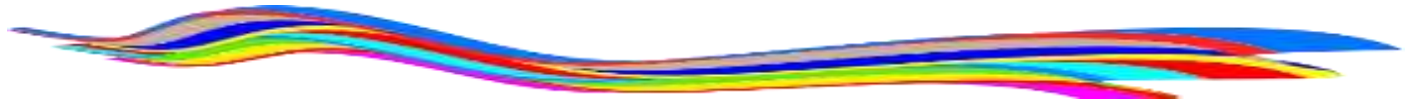
Let's Get Connected!

Carol Otterstad

Post-Weekend Representative, Lutheran Via de Cristo of North Texas Secretariat

If you are willing to be a point-of-contact for your congregation or a group of congregations who meet together for Small Grouping/Ultreyas, please email me with your contact information (name, email address, and phone number), and best times to contact you, at carol.otterstad@gmail.com . You can also call/text me at (469) 671-8077. I am trying to find ways to better connect our community.

Grace and Peace to you!



You Are VITAL to Via de Cristo!

Jerry Gray

Weekend Representative, Lutheran Via de Cristo of North Texas Secretariat

This is Jerry Gray. I am the new recently elected Weekend Representative on the Secretariat. I am still learning my responsibilities. I know I need as much help as I can get from the 4th Day Community.

I appreciate all of the help any of you can provide. Remember how wonderful your weekend was? Let's make this weekend just as wonderful for all the participants. A couple of things I know I need is help with set up for Clausura and take down after Clausura. Many hands make light work. We have very little time Sunday afternoon to get set up. Look for details at our SignUpGenius webpage (<http://bit.ly/1S2sqWg>) on exactly when to be there to help, and to sign up! Take down includes getting all of our belongings back into storage. Many times the storage aspect has fallen on very few people. So few 2 weekends ago that Tim Talafuse and I missed the homecoming he and Laura hosted. We cannot expect the storage aspect of take down to be handled by just 4 or 5 people. Please plan to stay after Clausura and help us until everything is put away.

The Lever of the Spirit -- Palanca!

Shelly Brennan

Palanca Coordinator, Lutheran Via de Cristo of North Texas Secretariat

The #96 Staff is in place, sponsors are getting participants and it's getting exciting! Do you remember how it felt as the bags were delivered to your Decuria and the food table was stocked with all kinds of good things?

As the 4th Day community, you have the ability to reflect God's love and grace and affect people who will have NO earthly idea why strangers are doing this.

There is now a way that you can sign up online to provide food palanca via our SignUpGenius webpage (<http://bit.ly/1S2slSu>). That way you know what is needed and if it has been supplied.

Genius, huh? Then just bring it (or send it out) with any written palanca you may have to the 4th Day Room (Oak Grove Cabin #1).

Let the excitement continue!

