

# El Tintero



March 2007

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.

## *The Art of Kindergarten Identity*

Doug Guinn, Rector 71

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As I was thinking and praying about what to share with the North Texas Lutheran Via de Cristo community before the upcoming weekend #71, many topics came to mind. Then I read the following story in a Heartlight e-devotional I subscribe to that touched me and I would like to share it with you.

*The Art of Kindergarten Identity, by Amy Grant*

*One of the best things about kindergarten is the artwork.*

*I love our daughter's teacher this year. Every Monday she gives the students a blank sheet of paper to write what they did over the weekend and draw a picture. I treasure these and have kept each one.*

*Last week, my daughter brought home one of these sheets with the header, "I am special because ..." The kids each wrote why they are special and then drew a picture. I imagine her friend Lola just might have written something about her beauty queen trophies. Many probably wrote words about playing baseball, being a good singer, dancer or whatever else might pop into a 5-year-old's mind.*

*My daughter's paper says, "I am special because ... I AM MYSelf" (Caps hers). There is a picture of a sweet little girl with pink hair, pink lips, a pink triangle for a dress, and of course, pink pumps. I am very thankful that she knows she is special just being herself!*

*I wonder what happens along the way that causes us to lose the carefree security of childhood. How many of us as adults would answer that we are valued "just because I'm me"? As parents, we treasure our children for the simple fact that they were born and placed into our lives through love. There is nothing they can do to make us care for them any more or any less -- we just love them because they're them!*

*But in the "real world" of adults, things are different. We are a performance-based society. You're either in or you're out. You may be here today and gone tomorrow if your company stock prices drop, your team loses one too many games, or Simon Cowell just doesn't like the way your hair looks today.*

*We tend to value who we are based on what we do -- and by how successful we are or we are not. Most of the time when we meet new people, one of the first things we ask each other is, "What do you do?" It is natural to ask these questions. Conversing about our careers can offer opportunities to find common ground.*

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*It is important, however, to distinguish what we do -- and how successfully we do it -- from who we are. We are God's children with whom He desires to have an intimate relationship. God loves us just because we are His. Actually, God is crazy about us! He would have to be to give up His beloved Son Jesus to literally go through hell just so we can be together with Him in glory.*

*We begin to simply rest in who God is.*

*Taking this a step further, I wonder what we tend to value about God. Do we love God because of what He does for us or do we love God just because of who He is? The difference is subtle, but also huge.*

*God does so much for us. Salvation through Jesus Christ is an unfathomable gift. And the list goes on of the blessings God pours over us. It is easy to love God the way we might have loved Santa Claus as a kid -- to see Him as a larger-than-life, but rather distant figure that we can almost reach out and touch, but never really grasp. After all, there is something inside each of us that tells us we must do something to pay for all these lavish gifts. And deep down, we know we have nothing to offer that can even come close.*

*Can it really be true that all God asks of us is our hearts?*

*Does God really just want us to love Him because He's God?*

*As we grow into deeper relationship with God and let Him steal our hearts, we begin to simply rest in who God is. And that is where we find our true identity. We abide in God as God abides in us. And we come to realize that "I am special because ... I'm with God!"*

*Not even a sparrow, worth only half a penny, can fall to the ground without your Father knowing it. And the very hairs on your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are more valuable to him than a whole flock of sparrows (Matthew 10:29-31 NLT).*

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We will have participants from various backgrounds and vocations on weekend #71, but what is important is that they are all beloved children of God. Pray that on this weekend and in our Fourth Day we can reclaim our 'Kindergarten Identity' as we abide in God and God abides in us.

Ultreya!

Doug Guinn  
Rector, North Texas Lutheran Via de Cristo #71

**Via de Cristo #71 - Weekend Calendar**

**March**

21	Wed 6:30 pm	Setup for Weekend at Lake Sharon; Food and Palanca Drop Off
22	Thu 6:45 pm	Via de Cristo #70 Begins
24	Sat 1:30 pm	Love Team Visitation
25	Sun 6:00 am	Arrive For Wakeup
25	Sun 6:30 am	Wakeup Begins
25	Sun 2:30 pm	Clausura Setup
25	Sun 3:30 pm	Clausura Begins
25	Sun 5:30 pm	Takedown & Cleanup
25	Sun Evening	Homecoming, Various Locations

# Via de Cristo #71

Thursday, March 22 to Sunday, March 25  
 Lake Sharon Christian Center, Corinth, Texas

**Participants:**

Doris Baker  
 Esther Binkley  
 Lee Binkley (M)  
 Jim Cronkhite  
 Nita Dietzman  
 Donald Eisenberg, Jr.  
 John Hartsell  
 Patrick Hunt  
 Elsie Kroussakis  
 Luke Lammert  
 Suzanne Lammert  
 Tara Lynn  
 Amber Meyer  
 Craig Moehnke  
 Marcie Moehnke  
 Nancy Rouze  
 Felicia Shepherd  
 Bee Smith  
 Jean Strickland  
 Denise Wilson  
 Jill Winkler  
 Jane Wolf

**Congregation:**

Calvary, Richland Hills  
 Immanuel, Killeen  
 Immanuel, Killeen  
 Peace, Hurst  
 Zion, McGregor  
 King of Glory, Ft. Worth  
 King of Glory, Ft. Worth  
 Our Redeemer, Grand Prairie  
 Good Shepherd, Irving  
 Zion, McGregor  
 Zion, McGregor  
 Calvary, Richland Hills  
 Christ the Servant, Denton  
 Zion, McGregor  
 Zion, McGregor  
 Calvary, Richland Hills  
 St. Paul, Farmer's Branch  
 Metropolitan Community, Wichita Falls  
 Calvary, Richland Hills  
 Faith, Wichita Falls  
 St. Paul's, The Grove  
 Faith, Wichita Falls

**Sponsor:**

Melissa Herring  
 Blanche Carol Berridge  
 Blanche Carol Berridge  
 Jane Johanning  
 Gary & Stephanie Hannemann  
 Keith Batdorf  
 Victor Jackson  
 Linda Losekamp  
 Susie Fox  
 Gary Hannemann  
 Stephanie Hannemann  
 Ellen Slezak  
 Lilly Gholston  
 David Lillard  
 Tammy Lillard  
 Linda & Jerry Ewen  
 Kathy Rogers  
 Falls Di Piatt  
 Leslie Herd  
 Peggy Paxson  
 Tammy Lillard  
 Di Piatt

**Staff**

Rector	Doug Guinn
Observing Rector	Laura Huddleston
Spiritual Director	Pr. Olin Knudsen
Spiritual Director	Pr. Ryan Mills
Spiritual Director	Pr. Janet Constantine
Rector's Cha	Barb Guinn
Food Cha	Gail Kviz
Food Cha	Jamie Barr
Music Cha	Judy Smith
Palanca Cha	Leslie Herd
Palanca Cha	Marilyn Larsen
Table Leader	Di Piatt
Love Team Rector	Carolyn Knudsen

**Rollos**

Ideal	Steve Ollek
Laity	Paul Bartells
Piety	Barney Boeder
Study	Terry Hefner
Apostolic Action	Sybil Shuck
Leaders	Miles Holder
Evangelism	Becky Clark
CCIA	Ed Kviz
Total Security	Robin Christian

**STAFF TRAINING SCHOOL**

As previously announced, to be eligible to serve on staff in 2008 and thereafter, it will be required that we all attend a two day Staff Training School (STS).

As of Feb 24, nineteen people have completed the two-day Staff Training School and are thereby eligible to serve on weekends after Jan 2008. There was a good cross -section of the community-- of the 19, 7 have not yet been called to serve on an NTLS weekend; 6 have served on fewer than 5 weekends (this includes one person who will be for the first time on #71); 6 have served an average of 10 weekends and have also been NTLS rectors.

**The next staff school will be Sat Jul 14 and Sat Jul 28 at Calvary Lutheran Church, 7620 Baker Blvd in Richland Hills, 76118.** Watch for further information! If you have questions you may contact Vickie Clark, Training Director at 817-446-1221 or clark2100@sbcglobal.net.

**SAVE THE DATE - GRAND ULTREYA APRIL 21st at 5:30!**

The next Grand Ultreya will be held on April 21st at Calvary Lutheran Church in Richland Hills. What a great opportunity to meet our newest 4th Day, fellowship, sing, worship and share a meal together! So, grab those other folks in your Ultreya, Reunion Group or fellow 4th Day and carpool to Grand Ultreya! We have a lot of new members to the 4th Day so come out and get to know each other a little better. But don't forget to bring that favorite potluck dish of yours! Remember, much like the weekend there are no calories in the food at a Grand Ultreya. Families are welcome.

Where: **Calvary Lutheran Church**  
 Address: 7620 Baker Blvd, Richland Hills, TX 76118  
 Phone: (817) 284-8724  
 When: 5:30 – 8:30

Questions??? Call Cid Smith at 214-676-0680

**PALANCA NOTES! - From Lilly Gholston**

It's time to get your palanca ready. You know, the daily prayers for the participants, by name, especially on their weekend. Also hand written love notes to them. Remember the notes and letters speaking of God's love and blessings? These letters don't have to be long, but every one is special.

Gracemats are another form of palanca. Gracemats can speak of God and His love; they can reinforce the rollos to those who may need another reminder. Send them to the retreat by Thursday, March 22.

Another good form of palanca would be greeting them at the Sunday morning wake-up with singing and smiles. Or welcoming them into the fourth day with great rejoicing at the Clausura.

If you live out of the DDFWW area (that's Dallas, Denton, Fort Worth, Waco area) and need to mail your palanca, it should be sent in time to get to me postmarked by Friday, March 16. Send it to Lilly Gholston, 401 Campbell, Denton TX, 76209

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP**

Donations to support our Grace weekends may be sent to:

**Jim Bingaman, Treasurer NTLS, 1401 Lakeview Blvd., Denton, TX 76208**  
 (Make checks payable to NTLS)

**LOGISTICS - PLEASE VOLUNTEER TO HELP ON VIA DE CRISTO #71**

Via de Cristo weekends remind us of many things: God's amazing grace and love for all of us, how we are to share that love in our daily environments and serve as His apostles, just as we are strengthened and supported by our 4th Day Community. We each answer God's call in many ways.

Thank You to those of you who answered the call to serve on the setup and take down teams in November. Both weekend setup and Clausura takedown went wonderfully well. It was a blessing for me to be able to leave Lake Sharon by 6:45 instead of the usual 9:00.

**Once again it is our turn to participate on a Via de Cristo weekend!**

**Wednesday Setup:** A team will meet the Rector and the CHAs to set up on Wednesday evening, March 21st at 6:30. You are needed! We will turn an empty building into a warm and inviting Rollo Room and Chapel. Spiritual Director bedrooms will also be created in the main building, and a spirit-filled Love Team chapel is created in one of the dormitories. There is much to be done on Wednesday, but many hands make the work lighter and fun.

**Sunday Setup:** On Sunday afternoon the Rollo Room is converted into a worship sanctuary where the new Cursillistas can be greeted with the triumphant sounds of music, cheering voices and the joyful faces of the 4th Day community. The staff and participants leave the building at 2:30. At that time your help is needed for the transformation. Rows and rows (and rows) of chairs are needed for participants and lots of 4th day attendees. While some are setting up the chairs, the altar and the area for the musicians, others can be taking down the chapel, putting away the LBW's, taking down beds in the SD rooms and storing away those things which will not be used during Clausura.

**Sunday Takedown:** After the worship ends, the service begins. After worship EVERYTHING must be returned to its PROPER storage location. The dorm rooms are checked for any forgotten items (by either participants or staff), the trash cans are emptied, and we don't leave until an "All Clear" is given by the retreat center director.

Our work is not over when the chairs are put away. If the boxes with seat cushions, hymnals, table cloths, artwork supplies and all the items it takes to make the weekend happen have not been stowed away someone has to stay to do these things. Again, many hands make lighter work and again, it is more fun!

Many hands doing individual tasks is the best way to accomplish these goals. When only 5 or 6 people are working on all these projects it can be a monumental task. Everyone working together, knowing what they are responsible for and getting it done, makes the whole process much easier, much faster and much, much more fun

Weekend logistics begins well before Wednesday evening set up. Someone needs to make sure everything that is needed for the weekend will be provided. While the retreat center provides the meals, everything else from water, soft drinks, coffee, tea, baked goods, fruit and vegetables, etc. must be provided by the 4th day community or the logistics team. And that only addresses food! There's also the comfort table supplies and the art supplies – each comprising their own long list.

**YOU ARE NEEDED** also to serve on **REGULAR LOGISTICS TEAMS** which are now being formed to facilitate future weekends. We are looking for people to be part of the following teams: Food, Altar Guild, Art Supplies, Comfort Supplies, Wednesday Setup, Clausura Setup, Sunday Takedown. We are also looking for someone to assume responsibility for assembling the participant crosses, and also for someone to help with repairing the banners. More information on these new teams will be available at the Clausura. Please pray about serving in this way. It can be so rewarding to be part of the Via de Cristo method of life transformation. **Remember: The worship ends and then the service begins.**

**Alice Allison, Weekend Rep / Logistics Coordinator**

email to [alice.fa@earthlink.net](mailto:alice.fa@earthlink.net) or by phone: 817-999-8549

**MESSAGE FROM THE 4TH DAY/POST WEEKEND REPRESENTATIVE**



*Apostolic Action - Apostolic action is motivated by the desire to share Christ with the person in order that s/he desires a relationship with Jesus Christ. It reflects Christ living in us.*

Apostolic Action can take many forms. Via de Cristo Weekend activities are a great way to carry out Apostolic Action. So warm up those singing voices for Serenade, set that alarm clock for Wake Up, grab that cup of coffee, grab your friends and come out to awaken the participants and welcome them to the 4th Day! After wakeup, you can go to breakfast together with your fellow 4th Day and share in additional fellowship. Just finish eating in time to come back at 2:30 to help set up and attend Clausura.

In order to keep Via de Cristo a vibrant movement, it takes involvement in the various activities we hold throughout the year. Additionally as sponsors, it is our responsibility to make sure our participants are involved in these various activities -

**Activities through out the year:**

- Reunion Groups
- Ultreyas
- Staff School
- Grand Ultreyas
- Wake Up
- Clausura

**Weekend Activities**

- Love Team
- Weekend Set-up and Take Down
- Snacks/munchies for the Weekend
- Saturday Serenade

**El Tintero**

North Texas Lutheran Secretariat  
 7633 Castillo Road  
 Fort Worth, TX 76112

**To:**