

El Tintero



NOVEMBER, 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.

"HERE AM I. SEND ME."

A month or so before being called to serve as Rector, I had been wondering if I might some day be called to serve, as such, and was thinking "Listen for God" might be a good theme for that weekend.

[Isaiah 6:7-9](#) Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

If you can't hear what the Lord is asking, how can you hope to know what He wants of you. When will you be able to say "Here am I. Send me!". There are so many ways to listen for God's voice. Through Prayer, worship, meditation, study, and through small groups and fellowship among fellow Christians, [Matthew 18:19-21](#) "For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

When Alice called and asked if I felt called to be Rector on Weekend 79, she told me the song Listen For His Whisper had been rumbling through her mind for a couple of days, and how much she enjoyed it. Well how could I refuse? It was as if I was hearing, through Alice, God asking me to serve and what the weekend theme should be. My only possible reply "Here am I. Send me". It is interesting the word on my 1st Word Grace mat was "Send" and [Isaiah 6:7-9](#) was the verse.

This is, of course, this Response, is what He wants of us, one taken by everyone on staff for Weekend 79. All saints doing God's work. This brings me to the Saint we will dedicate the weekend. I have chosen The Good Samaritan. He symbolizes, that all people who do God's work here on earth are His Saints.

It has been a pleasure calling my staff, almost everyone asked has agreed to serve. I believe they all have heard God's call and answered, "Here am I. Send me". The staff, for the Via de Cristo Weekend 79, are all exceptional people called to serve the Lord.

It's my hope that those not on staff will also hear God's call to your heart and help make Weekend 79 a glorious spirit filled weekend. Your help is needed in Prayer for the participants. In prayer for the staff. In praying for guidance in asking fellow Christians to come be a participant on the weekend. In helping with set up, bringing food, serving on the Love Team, and coming to Wakeup and Clausura on November 15.

May God bless each of you and may His Peace always shine on you,
Carey Newton, Rector #79

Via de Cristo #79 - Weekend Calendar

November

- 11 Wed 6:30 pm Setup for Weekend at Lake Sharon; Food and Palanca Drop Off
- 12 Thu 6:45 pm Via de Cristo #76 Begins
- 14 Sat 1:30 pm Love Team Visitation
- 15 Sun 6:00 am Arrive For Wakeup
- 15 Sun 6:30 am Wakeup Begins
- 15 Sun 2:45 pm Clausura Setup
- 15 Sun 3:30 pm Clausura Begins
- 15 Sun 5:30 pm Takedown & Cleanup
- 15 Sun Evening Homecoming, Various Locations

Participant:

Laird Duran
 Shirley Givens
 Jerry Gray
 Dorothy (Dot) Hamblet
 Bruce Haskin
 Mary Haskin
 Carlos Hernandez
 Rose Johnson
 Joe Kraatz
 Margaret Potter
 Sharon Richardson
 Laura Talafuse
 Tim Talafuse
 Bob Vidmar

Congregation:

Trinity Lutheran, Clifton
 Faith Lutheran, Wichita Falls
 Faith Lutheran, Flower Mound
 Gateway Church, Southlake
 Faith Lutheran, Wichita Falls
 Faith Lutheran, Wichita Falls
 Nor'kirk, Carrollton
 Faith Lutheran, Flower Mound
 Faith Lutheran, Ft. Worth
 Presbyterian, Grapevine
 King of Glory, Dallas
 Faith Lutheran, Flower Mound
 Faith Lutheran, Flower Mound
 Faith Lutheran, Flower Mound

Sponsor:

H. Edgar Bell
 Bryan Givens & Sandy Thurmer
 Jeff Voight
 Debbie Dickey
 Lawanda Wilson
 Lawanda Wilson
 Bette Morris
 Bob Johnson
 Janet Kraatz
 Kathy Hunt
 Kim Widlund
 Carolyn Knudsen
 Kathleen Talafuse
 Pastor Olin Knudsen

Staff

Rector Carey Newton
 O/R Sybil Shuck
 S/D Pastor Ernie Barr
 S/D Pastor Janet Kraatz
 Rectors Cha Cid Smith
 Music Cha Mike Mayo
 Food Cha Susan Johnston
 Food Cha Tom Wiese
 Palanca Cha Wes Berry
 Palanca Cha Dailey Taylor
 Table Leader Amber Meyer

Rollos:

Ideal Patrick Hunt
 Laity Jennifer Isernheagan
 Piety Miles Holder
 Study Carolyn Knudsen
 Action Keith Hauptmann
 Leaders Steve Hogan
 Environments Kathy Hunt
 Christian Comm. Greg Hefner
 Fourth Day Laura Huddleston

Love Team Rector Bruce Hanson

LET'S GET CONNECTED!

What I would like to see happening in the next year for Via de Cristo in North Texas is a reconnecting of the community. Not just a reconnecting by being part of weekends, certainly that, but more as well.. I would like to see the community reconnect as a community.

And to facilitate a start here are some things for you to think about. Who was your sponsor? Who was the Rector on "your weekend"? Who were your table leaders? Was there someone you connected with on that weekend that you did not know before the weekend? Was there someone who made you feel "special" during the weekend, it may have been a staff person or another participant? OK, have you answered those questions?

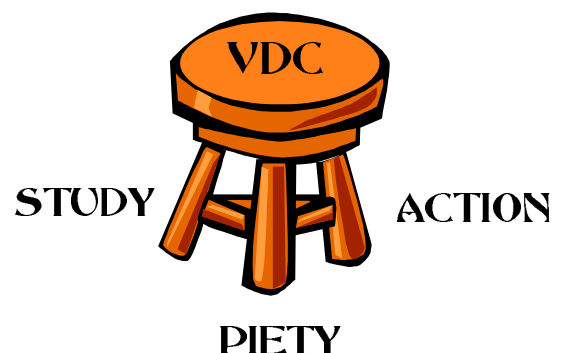
Next question, have you stayed in touch with any or all of those people you just thought about? If not, will you contact at least one of them this week? It can be a phone call, an email message, try to run into them at church if they attend your congregation or write them a personal note (palanca does not have to be just for weekends you know). If you do not have contact information for them request a directory from the communications team. You should have received an email message recently letting you know that the directory is available, but you have to respond indicating you would like to receive it.

There are and will be many other ways to reconnect in 2010. Wow can that be are we almost into a whole new decade? Do not put it off anymore! Get in touch with someone from the community who has touched your life. Attend an event together; you know what they are.... a monthly Ultreya in your area (*see the website for locations*), set up, Wake Up, Clausura (*the next weekend is November 12 -15*), come to staff school in January, (if you have not been) with your friend(s). If you are connected stay connected; if you are not connected get connected! God has given us one another to build each other up. God does not intend for us to walk these paths alone – we are called to walk together to build up the body of Christ! Let's build it TOGETHER!! You and me and all of us TOGETHER.

Peace, Blessings and Joy, Alice Allison

How To Connect ? Remember the Tripod ?

Dust off your piety, study, and action skills and just watch God increase your personal growth with Him and the joy that service to Him brings.



PIETY

I just returned from a long drive to Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. I decided to drive instead of taking a flight because – well, I had some extra vacation days to use, but the main about taking a Sabbath rest as I enjoyed the Autumn colors of the Midwest, listened to the radio and books on tape, and had an extended period of time to think my thoughts without distraction. I had hoped to write this article before I began my journey, but amidst the preparations for six days away from church and home that didn't happen. And in a way, for me personally, having to carry a work undone with me, helped to focus my quiet time along the way. You see, I was asked to write an article on PIETY.

Piety; respect, veneration, awe. Piety; godliness, devotion, devoutness, sanctity, holiness. Yikes! How does one begin to speak of a life of piety? How does one live a life turned fully to God? One of the many reasons I am so grateful for the Via de Cristo lay movement is that it has given us tools to begin to explore these questions.

“With what spiritual aids have you nourished your vital union with Christ this week?” If you want the list of suggestions they are found on page 36 of your Pilgrims Guide – a very good place to start. And then the intriguing question we ask each other in our small groups: “What was the moment you felt closest to Christ?” I hope you have trouble coming up with just one!

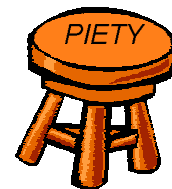
These two questions help us to focus. And when we lift up these two questions consistently and intentionally they soon help us to develop eyes of faith that see more clearly, in each moment along our way, that God is moving in the world and in our lives.

Jesus said, “come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). As I drove through Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, and Texas last week I experienced rest. I ceased from all striving (well, that may be a bit of an exaggeration) and breathed in the Spirit of the living God. When we “come to” Jesus with the whole of our lives, when we breathe in the Holy Spirit, our hearts are indeed rekindled with the fire of God's love.

Piety! Charles Wesley says it so well; “Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place, til we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise!” (from ELW hymn #631).

As we continue along the way, may we be lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Grace and peace, Pastor Vicki Taylor



A Request From Our Happeners:

The Happeners are having a fundraiser through phoneraiser.com. They are collecting used cell phones and inkjet cartridges for recycling and Phoneraiser pays for them. If you have cell phones to donate please go to phoneraiser.com to see if your brand and model number is on the acceptance list. Some of the Happeners will be at Clausura, November 15th to receive them. They plan to add these funds to their scholarship funds so that more of their friends can attend Happening.

A BIG HAPPENING THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR HELP!!

Where Can I Go to Connect?

There's an Ultreya near you where you can experience the love, friendship, and support that an Ultreya family offers you as you grow in personal piety, study, and action. The Ultreya is the life line for our VDC of North Texas growth and survival.

They offer small groups for more intimate sharing and study as we walk our path in this life. The Ultreya meetings offer a time of fun, meal sharing and corporate worship to strengthen us along the way. We know our VDC family is always there for us.

Ultreyas, assisted by the Weekend Rep and the Logistics Rep, should carry the lions share of the preparation for a Weekend --writing palanca, cooking goodies for the food table, set ups, take downs, and on and on. All this activity done with your 4th Day family offers fun and friendship.

There are jobs assisting the Secretariat, the Pre Weekend Rep to find new candidates and sponsors as well as projects with your name on them at the home church level and in your own environments, Your 4th Day family is your support to getting your own personal projects done.

At present there are 5 active Ultreyas in the metroplex and we are growing! If there's not one for you then gather a few 4th Dayers from your area and start another new one - the more the stronger we become. Check the website (vdcnorthtexas.org) for times and activities of our Ultreyas.

Calvary Lutheran, 7620 Baker Blvd, Richland Hills -

Crosstimbers.-.Faith, Flower Mound; Lamb of God; Christ the Servant- Denton

King of Glory Lutheran, 6411 LBJ Freeway, Dallas

King of Glory Lutheran, 1650 Sandy Lane, Ft. Worth

St. Pauls Lutheran, 13605 Webb Chapel, Farmers Branch



Staff Training School

Saturday -- January 16, 2010

Register by January 9th

8 must be enrolled by Jan. 9th for class to be held

Register online at website forms page

vdcnorthtexas.org

Now Here Is A Connection For You!!

Taking A Little Bit Of VDC To The Men At Coffield State Prison

Submitted by Kathy Hunt

On the weekend of Oct 16th - a group of people from many different Denominations embarked upon Coffield State Prison in Palestine Texas for Kairos Weekend #28. Kairos is a 4th day Cursillio movement designed to meet the special needs of men and women who are incarcerated. Amongst the team of over 50 Kairos team staff members - were five "4th Dayers" from our own VDC movement; Leslie Herd, Ed Kviz, Gail Kviz, Kathy Hunt and Patrick Hunt. The men worked on the inside team and went directly into the prison. The women worked on the outside team and cooked, prepared and made all kinds of Agape. (Agape =Palanca).

There were 42 participants that weekend. Kathy and Leslie were working on the Agape team and had to make a poster with a personal message to all 42 men in less than a couple hours. While brainstorming - Leslie remembered "the word" gracemats used in VDC. They thought up a simplified version of the concept and decided to use it for the poster.. They each took the list of the men's names, a Bible and little square pre-cut pieces of paper and went off and prayed for each man. When they were done - each participant had a slip with the word in Capital letters at the top, followed by the scripture verse and the man's name on the bottom of the slip. Then they glued all the words on one poster with the title - God's Word for you.

When the men returned from the prison that day, they were full of stories of how the inmates had been so surprised by the words and scriptures chosen for them that day and were amazed. The staff members were amazed too! With the exception of Ed and Patrick - none of the men had witnessed how the Holy Spirit works through scripture and words chosen especially for participants. One particular inmate had just chosen to give his life to Jesus for the first time that day - and his word was FORGIVEN.

Isn't it amazing how the Holy Spirit works when we can share a little part of our VDC experience with others?