

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.



November 2015

Welcome to Grace!

Briarwood Lutheran Retreat Center Hosts Weekend #95

Jerry Gray

Rector, Weekend #95

Weekend #95 of the Lutheran Via de Cristo of North Texas is fast approaching. I am humbled and honored that God called me to be the rector on this weekend. God assembled a great staff for me, including wonderful Spiritual Directors in Pastor Janet Kraatz and Pastor Phil Heinze, four prior rectors, and six people on the Secretariat. Others are on staff for the first or second time. So we have a great variety of staff.

We are preparing hard to provide a grace-filled weekend for Jackie, Bill, Jon, Sandie, and Dale. I pray each participant has a weekend that will kindle a new fire for Christ. I also pray for each of the 4th day community that will be supporting the weekend. And I thank each of you in advance for all you will be doing. May God bless our entire Via de Cristo community and this weekend.

Greetings from the Director

Doug Guinn

Lay Director, Lutheran Via de Cristo of North Texas

I came across this article this week in Relevant Magazine, an online publication that I follow on Twitter, and felt moved to share it to highlight the variety of ways we can spend time with God. Enjoy!

GOD / PRACTICAL FAITH

Time With God Shouldn't Be a Chore

6 ways to meet with God in unexpected avenues.

by ANN SWINDELL - AUGUST 20, 2015

Quiet time, devotional time, prayer time, personal time—whatever you want to call it, most of us are referring to something similar: a regular time when we seek to meet with the Lord, read his Word and worship Him, love Him and know Him better.

It's a wonderful value and a beautiful aspect of our relationship with Christ—that we can, actually, have a personal and meaningful relationship with the King of the Universe. When you think about it, it's fairly unfathomable that the biggest power in the world has time for each of us, especially if, like me, you're not a foreign dignitary, a millionaire or a superstar. It's pretty incredible that God wants to have an intentional relationship with each of us.

And as with anyone we want to get to know, we need to actually spend time with that person in order to grow in friendship. Thus the idea of regular time with God. Often, this time is spent reading the Bible, praying, perhaps journaling or singing. But do our quiet times actually need to be, ahem, quiet? I don't think so. Here are a few ways, other than Scripture reading, we can get to know God in unexpected avenues.

The Arts

If you're a creative at heart, consider adding in an artistic element to your devotional time. Paint your prayers, doodle your thoughts, pen a poem to God. As you participate in the creative process, consider God's creativity in the world, and ask Him how you can partner with His creativity at work.

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PLEASE PRAY FOR VIA DE CRISTO #95 PARTICIPANTS & STAFF

PARTICIPANTS		
Participant	Church	Sponsor
JACKIE CAMPBELL	King of Glory Lutheran, Dallas	RoxAnne Knauss
BILL HARRIS	King of Glory Lutheran, Dallas	John Harris
JON INBODY	Emmanuel Lutheran, Granbury	Bob Thomas Doug Guinn
SANDIE INBODY	Emmanuel Lutheran, Granbury	Debbie Thomas Barb Guinn
DALE LUNDBERG	Grace Lutheran, Carrollton	Gary Cavagnaro

STAFF

Jerry Gray – Rector
 Lawanda Wilson – Observing Rector
 Ginger Metcalf - Rector's Cha
 Pastor Janet Kraatz – Spiritual Director
 Pastor Phil Heinze – Spiritual Director
 Carey Newton – Music Cha
 Kim Silva - Palanca Cha
 Rose Johnson – Palanca Cha
 Mark Wilson – Food Cha
 Elizabeth Holdschuh – Food Cha
 Cindy Maxwell – Ideal Rollista
 Marilyn Hoppe – Environments Rollista
 Greg Hefner – Laity Rollista
 Terry Hefner – Piety Rollista
 Kathleen Bower-Gray – Study Rollista
 David van Buskirk– Action Rollista
 Linda Neal – Christian Community Rollista
 Bob Johnson – Leaders Rollista
 Carol Otterstad – Total Security/4th Day Rollista
 Doug Guinn – Table Leader

The Lever of the Spirit~Palanca!

Shelly Brennan

Palanca Coordinator, Lutheran Via de Cristo of North Texas

The #95 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 link on the VdC website where you can sign up to provide food palanca. That way you know what is needed and if it has been supplied.

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

Let the excitement continue!

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Thrivent Choice, the Thrivent Financial charitable giving program, allows eligible benefit members to participate in choosing where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funds. Eligibility for Choice Dollars is based on a benefit member's involvement in Thrivent Financial, their level of product ownership (life insurance, health insurance, and annuities), and volunteer leadership.

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!

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 \$155.00 will sponsor a participant.



Via de Cristo #95 November 5-8, 2015 Weekend Schedule

Wed, November 4th, 6:30 pm
VdC 95 Setup- Leadership Ctr, Quail Run Lodge

Thu, November 5th, 6:45 pm
VdC 95 Begins- Food/Palanca Drop Off, Oak Grove
4th Day Room

Sat, November 7th, 12:40 pm
Arrive for Serenade, Shalom Center Fireside Room

Sat, November 7th, 1:10 pm
Serenade Begins

Sun, November 8th, 6:30 am
Wakeup, Shalom Center Dining Room

Sun, November 8th, 2:45 pm
Clausura Setup, Leadership Center

Sun, November 8th, 3:30 pm
Clausura Begins

Sun, November 8th, 6:00 pm
Homecomings at Various Locations



Music

If you're musical, consider writing songs that focus on what you love about God. Put Scripture to song, or sing to Jesus about whatever bubbles up out of your heart. God, who sings over us (Zephaniah 3:17), welcomes our songs of praise and thanksgiving back to Him.

Nature

If being outside makes your soul come alive, set aside intentional time to connect with God in the great outdoors. The One who called the earth into existence is the same God who died on the crossbars of a tree to save us. The whole earth is full of God's glory (Isaiah 6:3)—so go and encounter Him there. Sit by a river and meditate on Scripture. Go on a hike and let the beauty of the earth remind you of God's beauty.

Friends

There is a long and biblical history of God's people gathering together to worship Him—and weekly church is a wonderful thing. But what about spending "quiet time" together with a friend or two? You can pray for and with one another; you can read Scripture to and with one another. You can eat together and share your hearts over a shared meal. The early church was meeting together daily (Acts 2:42-47); we can too.

Dance or Exercise

If you love working out and feel alive when you're running, or swimming or playing basketball—do those things and praise God for the opportunity to move a functioning body. If you are a dancer and you feel great pleasure in dancing, dance as a form of worship to God. He is the one who has formed us (Psalm 139) and given us life; let our whole being praise him!

Cooking and Eating

If you love flavors and colors and the process of turning food into meals, then seek God in that place. Contemplate the beauty and taste of every different type of food you are cooking and let it point you to God's abundance in creation. The Old Testament is full of various feasts that the Israelites had to commemorate God's goodness, provision and presence in their midst. What might it look like to host a feast celebrating God's goodness with your friends?

Consider mixing up your quiet times and seeing how God might surprise you with His goodness and presence in new ways.



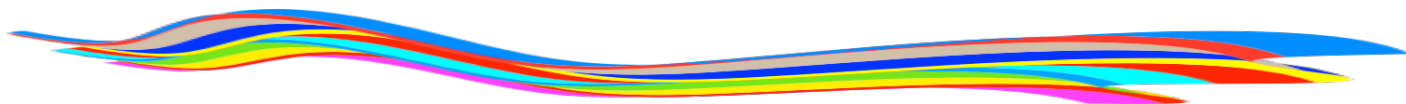
Let's Get Connected!

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, to me at carol.otterstad@gmail.com. You can also text me at (469) 671-8077. I am trying to find ways to better connect our community.

Grace and Peace to you,



Bloom Where You're Planted...And Grow!

Helen Mayo,

Secretary, Lutheran Via de Cristo Secretariat

It's November, and Fall has finally arrived in north Texas with golden yellow leaves swirling all over our back yard. Let's pause and take some time to revel in the Thanksgiving holiday --- as it says in 2 Corinthians 9:15, "Thanks be to God for his Inexpressible gift!"

We can express our thankfulness for God's many blessings by being of service to others. Let us give thanks for the upcoming weekend – thanks to the staff for answering the call to serve and thanks to those who are sponsoring participants.

Let us lift up the palanca of prayer for the upcoming weekend. Many of us have been blessed by the prayers of others – I know I have. My reunion group helped pray me through a fear of public speaking and now I actually enjoy serving as a liturgist at a monthly service at a senior center.

You can also write notes to the participants and staff, and gift the staff and participants with your presence in the many weekends to come. You can help create that feeling of wonder and joy in others. As we march together towards Thanksgiving, and the ensuing Advent season, let us continue to be thankful for God's many blessings and to support and encourage each other.

Ultreya!

