

EL TINTERO



APRIL, 2009

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.

Via de Cristo #77 *message from the Rector-Gerald Stout*



The feast of Saint Gabriel was included for the first time in the General Roman Calendar in 1921, for celebration on 24 March. It was later moved to November. You should also remember him as Archangel Gabriel and is mentioned many times in the Bible. One of those times was when he appeared to Joseph and Mary announcing the coming of Jesus. As we go through the season of Lent lets remind ourselves of the Sacrifice that was made for us.

Through my life I believe at times when my heart or mind was not listening to God's message he has sent an Angel "in human form, friends like YOU....., " to tap me on my shoulder or whisper in my ear or to just be there for me.

As the Staff of #77 prepares for this weekend we are given the opportunity to be there. Listen to his message first hand and then use that unique gift we all have been blessed with.

Allow God to awaken our hearts and mind to what he has to say.

The 4th day Community as a whole is also given the opportunity to touch the lives of others with their Palanca, snacks, Wake up and Clausura. Help us to show others that God's Grace is absolute and never ending in our lives and environments around us.

God Bless
Gerald

Via de Cristo #77- Weekend Calendar ***April 16 – 19, 2009***

Wed 6:00 pm	Apr.15 th -- Setup for Weekend at Lake Sharon; Food and Palanca Drop Off
Thu 6:45 pm	Apr. 16 th -- Via de Cristo #76 Begins
Sat 1:30 pm	Apr. 18 ^{t-h} Love Team Visitation
Sun 6:00 am	Apr 19 th -- 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:

Nick Billardello
Mercedes Cruz
Rosemary Haywood
Bob Johnson
Lee Lacy
Yvonne Lacy
Linda Neal
Brandon Kent Parsons
Tuesdee Lynn Rundle
Bob Thomas
Kari Voight
Joshua Warmbrodt

Congregation:

Calvary, Richland Hills
King of Glory, Ft. Worth
Calvary, Richland Hills
Faith, Flower Mound
Faith, Flower Mound
Faith, Flower Mound
Faith, Flower Mound
Christ Lutheran, Dallas
Faith Wichita Falls
Calvary, Richland Hills
Faith, Flower Mound
Calvary Christian, The Colony

Sponsor:

Ed Kviz
Carol VanBuskirk, & Sharon Bartells
Carol and Jerry Court
Olin Knudsen
Jim Carr
Judy Carr
Pat Carr
Amber Meyer
Lawanda Wilson
Jerry Court & Debbie Thomas
Kathleen Talafuse
Rolf A. Aurbakken

Check the Website -- NTLS.org-- for more participant additions

Staff:

Rector	Gerald Stout
Observing Rector	Stephanie Mudge
Spiritual Director	Olin Knudsen
Spiritual Director	Ginger Georgulas
Spiritual Director	Suzanne Guinn
Rectors Cha	Alice Allison
Food Cha	Kathy Recabo
Food Cha	Mark Wilson
Music Cha	Carol VanBuskirk
Palanca Cha	Virginia Morton
Palanca Cha	Lawanda Wilson
Table Leader	Debbie Thomas

Rollos:

Ideal	Pam Stout
Laity	Bette Morris
Piety	Paul Bartells
Study	Harry Herd
Action	Lilly Gholston
Leaders	Sharon Bartells
Environment	Doug Guinn
Christian Comm.	Robin Mains
Fourth Day	Carol Welch
Love Team Rector	Mike Eskew

A Message from the Lay Director

As the Secretariat has shared for the last year, there is a continued focus on building up 4th Day community involvement in Via de Cristo events.

We are seeing things happen:

- the rebuilding of church Ultreyas
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- you sharing your small groups with new members of the community; sponsors getting their participants into a small group
-
- people attending Staff School,
-
- people stepping up to serve on a working team (Pre Weekend, Weekend, Post Weekend, Communications)
-
- people serving on staff (you must attend Staff School to serve)
-
- people serving on Love Team

But there remains work to be done. What are you doing? Who do you miss seeing from: your weekend, from a weekend you served on staff; someone you used to visit with at Ultreya, or at Grand Ultreya, someone you used to go to breakfast with after wake up and before heading off for church, or at Clausura????

Call them, tell them it has been too long! Ask them if they have been to staff school (have you been to staff school) if neither of you has been go together! There is a Staff School coming up on May 2 at Calvary Lutheran in Richland Hills.

Call them to say a weekend is coming up and you would like to serve on the Love Team together. Mike Eskew is the Rector, get in touch with him! (mike.eskew@earthlink.net or 817-907-8988)

Or tell your friend that many hands make the work more fun and do set up on Wednesday night before a weekend begins together. (the next weekend set up will be Wednesday, April 15) There is a new Logistics Rep, Curt Thompson, I know he will be happy to see you both! On Sunday you could have lunch together after church then be out to help turn the Rollo room into the Sanctuary then the two of you can stay for Clausura.

Have you sponsored a participant lately? Look around your congregation, your dinner group, your workplace. Who do you know that would grow and be blessed in their relationship with Christ by attending a weekend?

Continued on next page

Message from the Lay Director cont.

Is there an active Ultreya in your church? Have you been lately? It's not there?

Well then Gather some people together one Saturday afternoon, have a potluck at 5, visit and small group after dinner, then have a short praise / worship service; you will be finished by 7. It only takes a few to get the ball rolling. If you are not sure how to get started, contact Carol Court or Leslie Herd from Calvary. (Calvary is having an Ultreya the second Saturday of each month, you could join them) or Cid Smith, the Post Weekend Rep for the Secretariat, they will be glad to give you some great ideas.

We each want to be invited to be part of things; we want to know we are welcome and that we are needed. Be that person who brings someone back into community! Many of you have told me you would like to see the 4th Day Community revitalized. It can be! It only takes us to do it YOU and me!

Peace, Blessings & Joy,
Alice Allison

Greetings from YOUR Logistics Secretariat Rep!

My name is Curt Thompson and this weekend #77 will be my first in the Logistics post on the Secretariat. I will need your help and experience to make the set-up on Wednesday April 15th and the Clausura set up on Sunday April 19th go smoothly.

We will meet at 6:30 PM on Wednesday to move furniture, set up beds and bring in supplies. We will also set up the sound system in the Rollo room and set up the chapel. On Sunday afternoon at 2:30 the staff and participants will leave the Rollo room and we will turn it into the sanctuary for Clausura.. Once Clausura is completed, we will put EVERYTHING back where it was Wednesday afternoon.

This may sound like a lot to do but we seem to do it every weekend. It gets done because loving people show up and work together to get the job done. I know the times I have been there I have always felt the love around me from others who were helping.

This is your chance to help...again or for the first time...and feel the love yourself. If you have any questions or suggestions feel free to let me know

In His Service
Curt Thompson
thomkmc@sbcglobal.net

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, NTLs Treasurer, 1401 Lakeview Blvd., Denton, TX 76208. Please make checks payable to NTLs.

Study, Small Groups, and Party Time!

Pastor Ernie Barr

Bible study can be a lot of fun. Of course, the fun part depends upon who shows up and how far anyone is willing to engage the text. Unfortunately, we do not experience the transformative blessings that Bible study offers us by osmosis. We also do not experience small group fellowship and support by word of mouth. Nope, instead, the blessings of Bible study require that we all show up.

The fun part of Bible study happens when the people of God gather and engage the text and each other. I hope that everyone approaches the biblical witness with expectation and hope. I also hope that everyone expects surprises and challenges as we encounter the story of God and the diverse cultures in which that story is told. Part of the joy in gathering to study God's revelation to us comes through hearing how differently people interpret what they've read based on their own experiences and history. As God's Holy Spirit opens passages, we begin to hear from each other how our discipleship may grow and blossom based on a few little words from an ancient text. Bible study is simply...fun...a spiritual party....a place to be!

Study is one leg on that "tripod" that we hear about on our weekends. Through Bible study, we may all enjoy the fruits of small grouping as well as enjoy fruitful and beneficial growth. My prayer is that everyone in the Fourth Day Community is engaged in Bible study. I hope also that every one of you would feel excited to invite a new "friend" to your Bible study. Who knows? Bible study may be just the place to nurture that new friendship which will ultimately lead that new friend to Jesus...OR, you may gain the inspiration you need to comfort a new friend who is hurting. Either way, blessings abound!

Peace to you all, Pastor Ernie Barr

Staff Training School Saturday, May 2nd

Go to Forms and Links for Registration Form

Registration Closes April 25

Staff Training School (STS) serves the Via de Cristo community by laying a foundation that provides a common framework of reference for Via de Cristo participation.

The school is scheduled after a VdC weekend, usually within a month except for the January school that follows the November weekend. STS consists of several talks about the various aspects of the weekend and the activities of the community. There is also training on writing rollos.

Of course, there is lots of singing, food, and fun! Staff Training School is required in order to staff on a weekend. It is held in varying locations across the Metroplex, usually at King of Glory Dallas, Calvary Lutheran Ft.Worth, and Faith Lutheran Flower Mound. Come join us for a Saturday of fun and fellowship!

In His love, Janet Thorp, Training Director



Greetings to all 4th Day! Grand Ultreya – May 2!! Right after Staff Training School

Ah...Spring has sprung and that familiar smell of church potluck is in the air – that must mean that another Grand Ultreya will soon be upon us! Mark your calendars now for Sat. May 2 at 5:00 – 7:30. The location will be at Calvary Lutheran Church, 7620 Baker Blvd, Richland Hills, TX 76118. Spouses and children are welcome. Please let me know if you will need child care. So dust off that recipe box and make one of those good ‘ol casseroles that are potluck perfection...of course desserts are equally as welcome as are salads for those who eat that healthy fare.

Now, onto other matters at hand. Over the last several months we have been bombarded with the news touting fear, uncertainty and doubt. Many in our community have lost jobs and almost all of us have friends and family who are out of work or struggling to make ends meet. THE most certain things we have as a constant are God’s Grace and love. These two things will NEVER diminish in value. So, let us take an opportunity to meet in fellowship with one another, lift one another up in Christ’s love, and renew ourselves with the confidence that in Christ, we have all we need. There are many opportunities for this fellowship – Small Groups, Serving on a Weekend, Ultreyas and Grand Ultreyas.

A new Ultreya has formed for the North Dallas area. If you are without a monthly Ultreya gathering, join us at St. Paul Lutheran church (13605 Webb Chapel, Farmers Branch) the 3rd Sat. of every month starting in June. We will meet from 5:30 – 7:30.

God’s Peace,
Cid Smith, Post Weekend Representative
cidcs@msn.com

Have You Visited Our Website Lately???

We encourage you to use the calendar to communicate the times and dates of activities of your Ultreyas and churches. Just email your information to npthorp@aol.com and they will be placed on the calendar – be sure to include deadlines if they are applicable.

Current dates to remember:

- April 5 - Palanca Party, Calvary, Richland Hills, 3-6 pm
- April 6 – Deadline for registration for Weekend #77
- April 11 - Monthly Ultreya, Calvary, Richland Hills, 5 pm
- Easter Vigil, Calvary, Richland Hills, 8 pm
- April 25 – Deadline for Staff Training School registration –
Note: class will not be held unless 8 people have registered by April 25
- May 2 – Staff Training School at Calvary , Richland Hills, 9am - 4pm
- Spring Grand Ultreya—Calvary, Richland Hills, 5:00 – 7:30

Palanca

I was diagnosed with breast cancer last spring. I had a second surgery a few days before the grand ultreya. As much as I wanted to attend, it would also be the last Sunday with my 3rd grade Sunday school class. I'd have to choose, I didn't have the energy for both.

I did encourage my husband, Doug, to attend. He needed the love and the attention of the community as well as me. So off he went, and I was at home feeling a little bit sorry for myself. Imagine my surprise when he returned home and handed me a card. Tears came to my eyes as I opened it and found it filled with signatures, notes of love, encouragement and assurances of prayers. I was graced with palanca. People would always tell me how well I was doing. How could I not be, with all the prayers that were lifted up in my behalf?

Prayer is the power behind palanca. I encourage you to pray. Pray for Weekend #77, staff and participants, and the community. Get up an hour earlier, stay up an hour later, pray face down, or instead of lunch. Find a prayer labyrinth to walk. Pray with someone else each day. Take time for the sacrifice of prayer. Write a note to the people on the weekend to tell them what you're doing. Then follow through. Yes, the Love Team, does a great job, but prayer is the responsibility of the whole community.

Barb Guinn, Palanca Cha Trainer

News From the Pre-Weekend Team

What, you may ask, is the Pre-Weekend Team and what is its function? Glad you asked! This team is a group people who share an interest in getting the word out about Via de Cristo and in assisting the Fourth Day with other Pre-Weekend functions as needed. Basically, the Pre-Weekend functions are:

Public relations: The Pre-Weekend Team will provide general information about Via de Cristo to any congregation in our area which either requests it or is otherwise receptive to it.

Recruiting: Remember that feeling that came welling up from inside you at the end of your weekend, when you wanted everyone you love to experience what you had experienced? We want to rekindle that enthusiasm and give you the necessary tools and guidance to use that enthusiasm to share the Via de Cristo experience with others!

Sponsor Awareness: Sponsors need to be sure that the participants meet the suggested criteria for attendance at a weekend, and that they themselves (the Sponsors) are committed to support their candidate's Fourth Day experience through small groups and Ultreya activities. A good resource for potential Sponsors to review is page 2 of the application form (available on the web site, NTLs.org, because it outlines the commitment and responsibilities of a sponsor in a concise statement.

We pray that the activities of the Pre-Weekend Team will be of help to our movement in attracting both new participants and dedicated Sponsors. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or Pre-Weekend needs, please contact me or any member of the Team!

Peace, John Harris, Pre Weekend Representative