

El Tintero



November 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.

Simply Clay: Putting Your Life in the Hands of the Potter

Keith Hauptmann - Rector

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand..
Isaiah 64:8

Just prior to this verse, the nation of Israel is bemoaning the fact that they have yet again separated from God's desire by living for the world and find themselves being chastised. They realize how unworthy they are, and yet they still have hope – for they turn to God and acknowledge Him as Father and themselves as His handiwork.

For some time now the words “simply clay” have been impressed on my heart. The wonder of the internet is within minutes you can have more information at your fingertips than you might want. By itself, clay is nothing but an earthen substance that expands and contracts, causes structural damage, is difficult to garden and readily stains. However in the hands of a master, clay is a very multipurpose medium that is used for bricks, ceramics, pottery, playdoh, and china among other things. Depending on what the final product is to be, clay must be put in a fire anywhere from a few hundred degrees to a few thousand degrees.

Each of us are uniquely fingerprinted, and are called by God to serve. Christianity isn't a passive, arm-chair quarterback way of life, but instead is to be active, vibrant and alive. Each of us is hand crafted by the master to serve using the specific gifts and talents that are uniquely ours. Some of us are called to be bricks, and some called to be china, but all are called into active service. Some of us require more time on the potter's wheel, some more time in the fire to become what God would have us be.

I am humbled to be rector for weekend #73 and I am blessed to be serving with these brothers and sisters who are giving of themselves to bring the grace and love of God in a new and refreshing way to those participants who are called to this weekend. While it is impossible for all of you to serve on a given weekend, I ask each of you who have been on a Via de Cristo to rekindle the fire, to look beyond your own needs, and reach out to these your brothers and sisters in Christ. You can do this through prayer, through palanca, and through the giving of your time in a very special way through wakeup at 6:30 AM and clausura at 3:30 PM on Sunday.

God is so good and loving even when we can't see Him due to life's distractions. One participant on weekend #72 said, “I can't believe I held on to that for 20 years”. She may not have known it before her weekend, but God had her on His potter's wheel and He has you as well. Let go, and let Him make you into the object of His desire – you won't regret it!

In His service,
Keith Hauptmann

Dear 4th Day Community,

Each one of us has experienced our own weekend as a participant. Many of us have served as staff on weekends since. All of us know these weekends cannot happen without prayer, staff training, many weeks or months of preparation and then the actual labor to make it happen. It becomes a matter of logistics to make everything flow as it should.

Now it is your turn to participate in weekend #73. There are many needs which require attention. First we will need a team to meet the Rector and the CHAs to set up on Wednesday evening November 7 at 6:30. We need people who will help set up tables, the living room, the chapel, the sound system, the palanca room, bedrooms for the Spiritual Directors and the dining room. There is much to be done on Wednesday, but many hands make lighter work, plus it is more fun.

On Sunday afternoon we need to prepare for Clausura. The staff and participants leave the building at 2:30. At that time the 4th day is needed to get in to take down the rollo room; it becomes the sanctuary. We need rows and rows (and rows) of chairs for participants and lots of 4th day attendees. While some of you are setting up the sanctuary with chairs, the altar and the arca for the musicians, others can be taking down the chapel, putting away the LBW, taking down beds in the SD rooms and storing away those things which will not be used during Clausura.

After the worship ends, the service begins. 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!

For weekend #73 many of the people who normally come out to do set up and take down are serving on staff. This means that they will not be available to help on Sunday afternoon with Clausura setup; **you are much needed**. They will also be very tired from a long, yet incredible, weekend and not have as much energy for take down; **you are much needed**.

We each have many commitments to our time; can you commit to doing one part of what it takes to make the logistics of a weekend happen? Please, please prayerfully consider adding this service to your action plan for your month of November. **YOU ARE NEEDED**. Many hands make lighter, more fun work.

The worship ends and the service begins.

Blessings,
Alice Allison
Logistics Coordinator

Via de Cristo #73 - Weekend Calendar

November

7	Wed 6:30 pm	Setup for Weekend at Lake Sharon; Food and Palanca Drop Off
8	Thu 6:45 pm	Via de Cristo #73 Begins
10	Sat 1:30 pm	Love Team Visitation
11	Sun 6:00 am	Arrive For Wakeup
11	Sun 6:30 am	Wakeup Begins
11	Sun 2:45 pm	Clausura Setup
11	Sun 3:30 pm	Clausura Begins
11	Sun 5:30 pm	Takedown & Cleanup
11	Sun Evening	Homecoming, Various Locations

Via de Cristo #73

Thursday, November 8 to Sunday, November 11
Lake Sharon Christian Center, Corinth, Texas

Participants:

Louise Bower
Margaret Crawford
Gerry Dollinger
Karla Edwards
Betty Finden
Steve Hogan
Jennifer Isernhagen
Susan Johnston
Janet Knox
Tim Krailo
Donna Lehrmann
Holly Phillips
Mark Wilson
Gregg Wright

Congregation:

Ridgeview Presbyterian, Farmer's Branch
Church of the Resurrection, Keller
Lord of Life Lutheran, Glenn Heights
Ridgeview Presbyterian, Farmer's Branch
Christ the Servant Lutheran, Denton
Faith Lutheran, Wichita Falls
Calvary Lutheran, Richland Hills
Faith Lutheran, Wichita Falls
Zion Lutheran, McGregor
Faith Lutheran, Flower Mound
Church on Rush Creek, Arlington
Lord of Life Lutheran, Glenn Heights
Faith Lutheran, Wichita Falls
Prestonwood Baptist

Sponsor:

Jeannine Caldwell
Janet Thorp
Dailey Taylor
Terry Hefner
Roger & Marilyn Larsen
Ernie Barr
Jerry & Carol Court
Sally Krueger
Olin Knudsen & Stephanie Hannemann
John Knutson
Karen Thompson
Vicki Taylor
Jon Krueger
Dr. Wilfred & Addy Sager

Staff

Rector	Keith Hauptmann
Observing Rector	Carolyn Knudsen
Spiritual Director	Mel Hammer
Spiritual Director	Vickie Taylor
Spiritual Director	Ernie Barr
Rector's Cha Cha	Alice Allison
Food Cha Cha	Christie Gibson
Food Cha Cha	Garolyn Jergins
Music Cha Cha	Carey Newton
Palanca Cha Cha	Helen Mayo
Palanca Cha Cha	Karen Thompson
Ideal:	Kathy Garcia
Laity:	Linda Sims
Piety:	Dailey Taylor
Study:	Hattie Hammer
Action:	Gerald Stout
Leaders:	Jim Bingamen
Environments:	Chris Dow
Christian Community:	Carolyn Knudsen
Fourth Day:	Patrick Hunt
Table Leader:	Nelia Thorp
Table Leader:	John Knutson
Love Team Rector:	Sybil Shuck

STS GOES TO WF

Ten more people completed Staff Training School in Wichita Falls on Saturday Oct. 27.

I want to thank the members of Faith Lutheran for their wonderful hospitality. They treated the visiting metroplex team royally and they provided enough food to feed an entire Via de Cristo staff. Many things about the visit impressed me – the good food, the warm fellowship, and the church facility. But the thing that impressed me the most was not a thing but a person.

Pastor Ernie Barr led his team of 4th day people by example. He attended the entire presentation, and as of this Staff School, he is only the 2nd clergy to do so. Thank you, Pastor Ernie. Thanks also to the two veteran 4th day people (their original name badges have numbers lower than 20) who were willing to attend Staff School after all their experience staffing.

Only people who have attended STS will be considered to staff upcoming weekends. Your next chance to attend a Staff Training School will be in the Waco area in February. The exact time and place TBA.

Vickie Clark
Training Director

HELLO 4th DAY!!!

As this year comes to a close, we stop to give God thanks for bringing so many new 4th Day to our community this year. In order to keep this community strong we need to remember to follow the “recipe for success” we have all heard during the “4th Day” rollo. Do Small groups, Ultreyas or Grand Ultreya ring a bell?

Are you active in a small group? If you have sponsored someone, do you have them in a small group? The small groups help reinforce our Piety, Study and Action. Without this reinforcement, it is easy to fall back into the traps of every day life. Small groups help keep us accountable in our walk with Christ. Small groups can also lift you up when your “walk” becomes a little tougher. Small groups are important to the life of this community. If you are not in a group, but would like to be just call me at 214-676-0680 or email me at cidcs@msn.com.

Another way to remain active in the 4th Day community is to attend the various events over the VdC weekend. Remember, there's Serenade Saturday afternoon at 1:00, Wake Up at 6:15 am Sunday and Clausura at 3:30 Sunday. I encourage you to carpool with your small group or others from your Ultreya. Remember, if you have sponsored someone in the last year to bring them along to these events as well. This community can not survive and thrive without your involvement. So come out and share some fellowship, friendship and worship on the next Via de Cristo Weekend.

God's Peace,
Cid Smith

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Donations to support our weekends may be sent to the NTLS Treasurer.
Please make checks payable to NTLS.

Jim Bingaman, Treasurer NTLS, 1401 Lakeview Blvd., Denton, TX 76208

NEW SECRETARIAT BEGINS SERVING ON JANUARY 1

As a result of the elections held at the Grand Ultreya on October 27, 2007, a new Secretariat will begin serving the North Texas Lutheran Via de Cristo community on January 1, 2008. I have no doubt that, with the continuing prayer support of all of us, the Secretariat will follow the leading of the Holy Spirit and guide this movement to God's glory for the next few years. The Secretariat will be composed of:

Lay Director	Alice Allison	elected member
Secretary	Becky Clark	elected member
Treasurer	Jim Bingaman	elected member
Training Director	Janet Thorp	elected member
Pre-Weekend Rep	John Harris	elected member
Weekend Rep	Gerald Stout	elected member
Post-Weekend Rep	Cid Smith	elected member
Historian	Sandra Gass	elected member
Communications	Nelia Thorp	elected member
Spiritual Director	Olin Knudsen	appointed member
Spiritual Director	Currently Vacant	
Database Manager	Pat Carr	appointed member
Registrar	Kathleen Talafuse	appointed member
Palanca	Barb Guinn	appointed member
El Tintero	Linda Sims	appointed member
Happening Liaison	Mike Eskew	appointed member
Web Servant	Mark Fox	asked to be released from duties after many years service. Thanks.

As I leave the position of Lay Director, I want to thank all of you for your support and encouragement over the last two years. In addition to the Secretariat members who worked with me, I want to thank Vickie Clark who is also finishing her term. Thanks for an excellent job as Training Director.

Blessings to all,
Bruce Hanson

PALANCA NOTES!

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, August 2.

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 Monday, November 5th. Send it to **Barb Guinn**, 2832 Mimosa Park Drive, Richland Hills, 76118. (817-284-8789)

DATABASE UPDATES

If you've moved or plan to move or made a change to your phone number or email address, help us keep you in the loop by sending changes to **Pat Carr**, NTL Database Manager, 7633 Castillo, Fort Worth, TX 76112 or email her at pvcarr@sbcglobal.net.

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North Texas Lutheran Secretariat

7633 Castillo Road

Fort Worth, TX 76112

To: