

El Tintero

August 2013

A note from our Rector for weekend #88

Weekend #88 is almost upon us. The staff has been called and are preparing for God to once again demonstrate His power and love. The sponsors have been preparing to ask those that God has called to be participants. The participants are being called and with nervous apprehension preparing to step out in faith that God will be there for them. The 4th Day is preparing so that when those lines are read about being surprised at how many hours and effort have gone into preparing for the participants they won't be disappointed. I cannot help but feel humbled at the work that all are doing to prepare the Way of Christ.

While preparing to be rector has been a humbling experience, I am not sure I have the words to adequately describe the excitement and the joy at being able to serve God who will ultimately provide to each participant exactly what they need. As the weekend arrives, I ask that you keep the participants and staff in your continued prayers for God to open our hearts and minds to His will and calling.

I would like to encourage the 4th day to fully celebrate Weekend 88 by attending Serenade, Wakeup, and Clausura as each of these opportunities provides a way for you to further encourage, empower, and equip our newest members to use the lessons from the Weekend. I remember the power that those moments had in truly opening my heart to God. I would also encourage all to attend a homecoming for the participants as this develops the Christian relationships that we are all called to form with others. Can't make Serenade or Wakeup? Your help with setup on Wednesday evening or take down on Sunday would be greatly appreciated! Many hands make the work easy.

Sponsors, watch for reflective Via de Cristo signs marking the entrance to Camp Briarwood from Copper Canyon Rd. and directing you to Quail Run. Given the summer daylight, it should still be fully light when you are dropping off, so we will NOT have staffers posted to help direct you due to concerns from the heat. Please be sure to watch for the reflective signs. Finally, while road work along Copper Canyon Rd has been completed to and from the entrance to Briarwood, road work along FM 407 continues, so please allow adequate time to arrive at Briarwood between 6 and 7pm.

For Saturday's Serenade, new parking has been created on the main road that runs past the Love Chapel. If you have concern that a participant may recognize your car, please park in front of the Shalom Center (Dining Hall) and walk to Love Chapel. Finally, plan your arrival so that you are in the Love Chapel no later than 1pm.

For Sunday morning Wake Up the reflective sign will again be at the entrance to the camp as well as at the fork in the road directing you back to the Shalom Center (Dining Hall) by the swimming pool. 4th Day will enter from the parking lot side, staff and Participants will be coming in the back through our Chapel area opposite the 4th Day entrance.

Clausura, same as Wake-up, but it will be daylight!

Thank You for ALL for preparing the Way of Christ!

In Christ's Love,

De Colores! and Ultreya!

Tim

Updates from our Treasurer

“By the grace of God.....”

What a blessing is God's grace to us, and what a joy it is on our Via de Cristo Weekends to actually feel the weight of guilt and despair lifted from our hearts as we recognize that God has granted us that grace!

Our North Texas Via de Cristo community once charged a fee to Weekend registrants, but for some years now, we have waived the fee for participants so this blessing is not restricted to those with ready funds. We all believe strongly in making this opportunity a “Grace Weekend.”

But did you know each Weekend costs us about \$8,000 in facility and food costs alone, of which only a little over half is covered by Staff and Love Team members' fees? Sometimes a Sponsor will donate the costs related to a participant, but often that \$155 payment is fully absorbed by our treasury. Maybe you aren't sponsoring someone for Weekend #88, but you can make a contribution (fully tax deductible) to Lutheran Via de Cristo of North Texas to aid us in our mission to personally deliver the experience of God's grace.

Every check for \$155 which is contributed is counted as a full sponsorship. Checks payable to “LVDCNT,” or “Lutheran Via de Cristo of North Texas,” or even “NTLS,” can be placed in the offering at the #88 *Clausura*, or mailed to John Harris, Treasurer, 9519 Hillview Drive, Dallas, Texas 75231.

Make LVDCNT Your Thrivent Choice!

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!

Our Staff Weekend #88

Rector	Tim Talafuse
Observing Rector	Carol Welch
Spiritual Director	Olin Knudsen
Spiritual Director	Janet Kraatz
Rector's CHA	Shelly Brennan
Rector's CHA	Karen Thompson
Food CHA	Terry Brennan
Food CHA	Virginia Stern
Music CHA	Janet Thorp
Palanca CHA	Wes Berry
Palanca CHA	Rose Johnson
Table Leader	To Be Determined
Table Leader/Ideal	Bob Cornwall
Table Leader/Laity	Sharon Bartells
Table Leader/Piety	Rick Nyman, Sr.
Table Leader/Study	Jon Krueger
Table Leader/Action	Carolyn Knudsen
Table Leader/Leaders	Paul Bartells
Table Leader/Environment	Dailey Taylor
Table Leader/Christian Community	Lee Lacy
Table Leader/Fourth Day	Jane Winge
Love Team Rector	Lisa Harrington

Our Participants

Participant	Church	Sponsor
Kathy Bean	King of Glory – Dallas	Molli & John Harris
Mary Anne Dority	St. Phillips – Lewisville	Sandy Uszler
Chris Forte	Faith Lutheran – Flower Mound	Lee Lacy & Terry Brennan
Doris Forte	Faith Lutheran – Flower Mound	Yvonne Lacy & Shelly Brennan
Tiffany Halsell	Matthew Road Baptist – Grand Prairie	Renee Swanjord
Jenny Hubler	Faith Lutheran – Ft. Worth	Janet Kraatz
Jeanne Lindsay	Faith Lutheran – Ft. Worth	Janet Kraatz
Marilyn Nelson	Rejoice Lutheran – Frisco	Merrye Dalluge
Joda Parent	Seeking Church – In area 4 mo. from AR Signed by Abiding Grace	Lisa Harrington
Gerry Reid	Faith Lutheran – Flower Mound	Jerry Gray
Pam Reid	Faith Lutheran – Flower Mound	Kathleen Bower Gray
Stephanie Robinson	King of Glory – Dallas	Olin & Carolyn Knudson
Tim Robinson	King of Glory – Dallas	Olin & Carolyn Knudsen
Linda Sawyer	St, Paul's Catholic – Traer, Iowa	Renee Swanjord
LaVell Wagner	Lord of Life Lutheran – Glen Heights	Dailey & Vicki Taylor
Kathryn White	Lord of Life Lutheran – Glen Heights	Dailey & Vicki Taylor

Words from our Lay Director



Lutheran Via de Cristo 4th day community,

Greeting's to our newest Pilgrims. You have by now completed weekend #88, your first day of the rest of your life. You have started a journey that I encourage you to continue each and every day.

For all you Sponsors and seasoned 4th day members, I ask you to also *walk the same path the new pilgrims have just now started*. Remember that commitment on Sunday afternoon I asked you to recite. And even more than that..... to continue to mentor, encourage and help guide long past that Sunday afternoon.

"What Gifts of piety, study and apostolic action will you use frequently to strengthen your skills as a disciple of God?"

What gifts are rusty from lack of use or have been forgotten?

What gifts has God given you that you have never explored?

Paraphrased –subject taken from the "Daily Conexiones" wrote by Ro Fesser at the National Lutheran VDC convention this year in West Palm Beach Florida 2013.

"So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them" (Romans 12:5-6).

Everyone in this world God gives him talents and gifts, but spiritual gifts are different. We do not obtain it in birth for it is not a natural talent but we receive it through the Holy Spirit in Baptism. When God gave us these gifts He did not mean it to be for our own benefits. But in order to use it to build up the body of Christ and to bring others to God's kingdom.

I hope to get to know each and everyone as we journey through our faith together leading by example and sharing our gifts with all throughout the coming years.

God Bless

Gerald Stout

Lay Director- Lutheran Via de Cristo of North Texas