

EL TINTERO



OCTOBER, 2008

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 #76

Let water be the sacred sign
That we must die each day
To rise again by his design
As foll'wers of his way.

Thomas E. Herbranson

Rector's Message

When I was called to serve as rector for Weekend #76, the image you see above came to mind. As my Pastor, Ryan Mills, led us in the Thanksgiving for Baptism Liturgy (ELW p. 97), the acolyte poured water over his hand at the Baptismal Font. The image of this water flowing freely reminded me of God's gift of grace, a gift we all receive but often one that is hard to understand and accept.

As those called to serve on the team for the weekend have been preparing, the Spiritual Directors have been focusing on the many "water" stories in the Bible during our worship experiences. The saint for Weekend #76 is *The Samaritan Woman at the Well* (John 4:1-29). We know that she was the center of the village scandal but Jesus engaged her in conversation, learned from her and blessed her. She, a Samaritan woman, became an evangelist. This is a true example of God's amazing gift of grace.

Our prayer for the weekend is that the participants will be blessed by their participation in the various activities so that they can be a blessing to others.

We ask for the 4th Day Community to continue to hold us in prayer during our preparation time and during the weekend. We encourage you to sponsor those who are called to be participants on this weekend. We hope that you will be part of WAKE UP and Clausura on Sunday, November 9th.

Peace always,
Hattie M. Hammer
Rector #76

Via de Cristo #76 - Weekend Calendar

November

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

Participant:

Debbie Dickey
John Frias
Alice Johnson
Marilyn Lautner
Donyce Spires
Evelyn Stone

Congregation:

St. Martin-in-the-Fields Episcopal, Keller
New Sweden Lutheran, Manor, TX
Lord of Life Lutheran, Glen Heights
Faith Lutheran, Wichita Falls
Lord of Life, Glen Heights
Our Redeemer Lutheran, Grand Prairie

Sponsor:

Kathy Hunt
Champagne Frias
Vicki & Dailey Tayllor
Quinta Wilkinson
Vicki and Dailey Taylor
Kathy Hunt

Please check the website (ntls.org) for additional participants added since this newsletter was published

Staff:

Rector	Hattie Hammer
Spiritual Director	Ernie Barr
Spiritual Director	Mel Hammer
Spiritual Director	Vicki Taylor
Observing Rector	Gerald Stout
Rectors Cha	Cid Smith
Food Cha	Susan Johnston
Food Cha	Karen Thompson
Music Cha	Carey Newton
Palanca Cha	Jenni Gebhardt
Palanca Cha	Cynthia Sparks

Rollos:

Ideal	Tom Wiese
Laity	Kathy Hunt
Piety	Steve Hogan
Study	Helen Mayo
Action	Patrick Hunt
Leaders	Keith Hauptmann
Environments	Molli Harris
Christian Comm.	Carol Court
Fourth Day	Dailey Taylor
Table Leader	Kathy Dickson
Love Team Rector	Bob Mock

Notes From the Lay Director

This morning as I sought a meditation to share with you, I went to three of my favorite references and realized that each one of them was leading me the same direction about three different aspects of our spiritual lives. The three spoke to me about Prayer, Praise and Promises Proclaimed.

In "My Utmost for His Highest", Oswald Chambers quotes Matthew 9:38 "Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest." Chambers notes that "*prayer (italics mine)* is not practical, it is absurd; we have to realize that prayer is stupid from the ordinary common-sense point of view" He goes on to say "Our Lord calls to no special work: He calls to Himself. 'Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest' and He will engineer circumstances and thrust you out."

"Grace for the Moment" by Max Lucado reminds us that "the Bible has been banned, burned, scoffed, ridiculed, mocked as foolish, branded as illegal, and yet still thrives as the most popular book in history and the best-selling book in the world for years!" It goes on to say "there is no way on earth to explain it, which perhaps is the only explanation, the answer is not found on earth; it is found in heaven. The purpose of the Bible is to *Proclaim (again italics mine)* God's plan and passion to save His children."

"God Calling", credited only to *Two Listeners*, says "Our Lord, we praise Thee and bless Thy Name for ever. Yes! *Praise. (italics mine)* That moment, in the most difficult place, your sorrow is turned to Joy, your fret to praise, the outward circumstances change from those of disorder to order, of chaos to calm."

The fact that we are called to *Prayer, Praise* and to read the *Promises Proclaimed* does not make sense to a world in disarray, but this is indeed what God calls us to do. We, in this community called Via de Cristo, have heard, seen, touched and tasted those *Promises* as we, through *Prayer* and *Praise*, have heard God's call and look for God's *PLAN* in our lives. It may not make sense, it may seem stupid (Mr. Chambers' word not mine) and we often do not feel that praise is what we want to do in the circumstance before us, but we know that God is Faithful; He hears our *prayers* responds to our *praise* and His *promises proclaimed* are right there before us in the most popular book in history!!!!!!

Peace, Blessing & Joy to you now and forever,

Alice Allison

Opportunities For Prayer and Praise

Ultreya Meetings at Calvary - 1st Saturday of the month – beginning in December –
pot luck, fellowship, worship - 5:00 pm

Staff Training School: Watch for date and place

VdC Weekend 76: November 6-9, 2008

Spring Grand Ultreya: Watch website for date and place

Question: Has the Name Changed? No!!

We have been asked why we changed the name of the El Tintero? Well, we really haven't changed the name. We have begun using the diminutive form, El Tinterito meaning "little El Tintero", to distinguish the new "between weekends" newsletter from the traditional one, the El Tintero, sent out just before each Weekend

The hope for the El Tinterito is that it will become an avenue for 4th dayers, reunion groups, and ultreyas to share their experiences and activities with all of us so that we can keep and share that close knit feeling we experienced on our own Weekends.

It is important that we stay connected and feel the presence and support of our 4th day community, and see the Lord's guidance at work in our 4th day family. This is a vital part of a strong and growing Via de Cristo community.

May many blessings shower down upon each of you,
Mom Thorp, Communications Director and Newsletter Editor

Ways to Participate -- Weekend #76

-- Have you and God exchanged hugs? -- Have you hugged a fellow 4th Dayer lately? --
-- Well here are some sure fire ways to end your hug deprivation! --

Weekend #76 is almost upon us, so for God's hugs and showers of His blessings get busy writing palanca, making gracemats, cooking up batches of brownies and cookies, and saying prayers for the Weekend. And for 4th Dayers' support hugs remember to come out Saturday afternoon at 1:15 to sing to the Participants, and come back Sunday for Wake-Up at 6:30 AM and, of course, Clausura Sunday afternoon at 3:30.

Remember the love you felt because of the love being given to you through these events when you were a participant? Now it's your turn to give that love back – and receive a lot of love and hugs in the process. You always get back more love than you can ever give away!!!!

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.

God Weaves Us All Together

By Pastor Vicki Taylor

What a wonderful staff God has called for weekend #76! I continue to be surprised -- even after all these years -- that God can so quickly weave together the hearts and minds of a group of us, and give us such joy in serving. Yet, every weekend we see this happen.

When the Rector calls and asks that we prayerfully consider serving on staff, he or she depends on the fact that we will pray about it. There might be obstacles that need to be overcome. But we say "yes" knowing that through the power of the Holy Spirit we will be given the power and the joy in overcoming.

Now, sometimes the answer comes in the form of scheduling conflicts and sometimes it comes because of the life situation we are experiencing. No matter how much we want to serve on the staff, we realize that the time is not right -- we would not be able to give our full attention to this time away and to the participants. If we have prayed about the obstacles and yet do not find the peace that passes understanding and the nudge to say "yes," it is good and right to say "no." And that's okay, because each one of us is still a part of each and every weekend whether you are on staff or not.

God weaves the hearts and minds of all the 4th day community together and gives us such joy in just knowing that, once again, God will shower the weekend participants (and the staff) with amazing grace and sustaining love.

So, I bless you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the One Holy God, as you participate in this upcoming weekend through prayers, palanca, gifts of food, logistics, etc. And most of all, I will look for you at Wake-up and at Clausura.

These are the times when the participants are introduced and welcomed into the larger community and they need to see the gathering of the faithful of which they are now a part. As we sing to them at Wake-up and listen to them at Clausura, may God speak words of hope and love to our hearts as well.

Ultreya!

Pastor Vicki

Keep in touch - Share Your News With Your 4th Day Family!!

The Christmas issue of our 4th Day family newsletter, the El Tinterito, will be published on the website December 15th. Email us, by December 10th, about your group, ultreya or church plans such as caroling parties, special study projects, etc. to celebrate Jesus' birth. And please share your Christmas VdC stories with all of the family.

Email your requests for 4th day family prayers for healing, guidance, or thanksgiving to your editor at youreltinterito@aol.com. We start the list anew with each issue of the El Tinterito in order to keep the prayers current and applicable.

Is Your Information In the NTLs Directory Correct?

A new edition of the NTLs Via de Cristo Directory is available via email from our database manager, Pat Carr. Email her at pvcarr@sbcglobal.net to download your copy. Many of you have moved, changed email addresses, etc. since you went on your Via de Cristo weekend and as a result the new information has not been corrected in our database.

Please help Pat bring our database "up to snuff" by emailing corrections to your entry to her.

AND

Please send your correct email address to Pat if you have been receiving the El Tintero by snail mail. We are now publishing the newsletter by email only to save printing and postage costs.