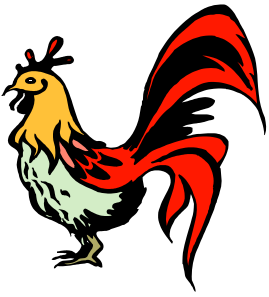


Spring, 2008



de Colores

Texas Lutheran Via De Cristo

Upcoming Weekend Dates

July 31-August 3, 2008

Co-Ed Weekend #73
Cathedral Oaks, Weimar
Charlie Lunday
512-303-0497

September 7, 2008

Ultreya for Cathedral
Oaks Co-Ed Weekend

October 9-12, 2008

Southeast TX Co-Ed #74
J Bar J Ranch, Sealy, TX
John Stokes
713-667-6287
713-525-9546

October 16-19, 2008

Hill Country Co-Ed
Cathedral Oaks, Kerrville
Sharon Tschirhart
830-368-4011

No Fall Men's/ Women's weekends

Weekend Fee: \$120.00

**Team applications and participant
applications may be downloaded
from the website:**

www.txluviadecristo.org

NOTES FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you. Psalm 55:22

Our lives are so busy it is no wonder we forget things without reminders. One of the reasons we need schedules is to give us a direction as well as keep us on task.

The purpose of Via de Cristo is to "provide a **simple** method through a grace filled life that may be believed and shared with others in a loving manner". As Via de Cristo weekends come and go, many "little extras" have been added and we have strayed from the basics. As a result, some of the weekend days have become very long, and exhausting both for the team and the C's.

The Secretariat saw a need to get back to the basics of Via de Cristo. Main concern was to include all the essentials and have more night rest. We had much input over the past couple years via evaluation forms. Consequently, we worked for almost a year praying, planning, adjusting, and finalizing a schedule that would work for ALL weekends.

The schedule is workable; it has been tested and re adjusted. We pray that each of you will accept the new schedule and give it a try. When we are asked to serve; we should also be willing to accept the guidelines set by the Secretariat.

Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.
Hebrew 12:1

Your Sister in Christ
Ann Lunday
Lay Director

Address Changes

Please notify Susan Carmichael, 4th Day Coordinator, of **all changes of address** (mailing address and e-mail), **phone numbers**, and **home churches**.

Susan Carmichael
413 Slayden
Yoakum, TX 77995
361-293-9294
susancar@stx.rr.com

You can help cut our expenses....

You can read the Via de Cristo Newsletter on our website. If you are receiving the newsletter by mail now, just e-mail Susan Carmichael at susancar@stx.rr.com She will take you off the snail mail list.

Web Sites of Interest

Our Central Texas web site:

www.txluviadecristo.org

National Via de Cristo web site:

www.viadecristo.org

Treasurer's Statement

Treasurer's report as of
March 31, 2008:

Checking Account Balance \$9,868.90
Savings Account Balance 9,167.50

Here are the bank balances as of March. Most of the expenses for the weekends will be paid in May, so the balance will go down after the spring weekends.

Submitted by Heidi Franzen
Financial Administrator

Southeast Texas Via de Cristo Coed Weekend October 9 - 12, 2008

Fall 2008 will see a Coed Weekend at a new location in Southeast Texas. J Bar J Ranch, a rustic camp between Brookshire and Sealy (it is just west of Houston), will be the site of a Coed Weekend October 9 - 12, 2008. The camp is familiar with cursillo weekends as it has hosted numerous Walk to Emmaus weekends, and it focuses almost entirely on church groups and retreats. It is very similar to Lutherhill in that it is rustic, but you will not be getting the same aerobic conditioning since the entire facility is on the same geographic level. The glory of God will easily shine through for new C's as well as for us old C's. New C's will be welcomed from anywhere. If this time period fits a new C's schedule, then they are welcome. It is hoped that this location will be enticing for folks in the Houston area, all of East and Southeast Texas and Louisiana, if Fall 2008 is when God's call is heard. Remember, a coed weekend is for BOTH individuals and couples.

Although the weekend will be patterned after the other coed weekends, we hope to hear a lot of: "We've never done it that way before." and "We tried that once." Mary Jane McBride (mjmcb@att.net) and John Stokes (johnstokes@sbcglobal.net) will serve as Palanca Rector and Rector for the weekend.

Please PRAY for the weekend, for those who will serve and, above all, for the new C's who will attend. Please invite new C's starting RIGHT NOW! Please contact Mary Jane (mjmcb@att.net) and/or John (johnstokes@sbcglobal.net) to serve. Christ is counting on you!

Emergency Phone Numbers:

LutherHill: 979-966-7032

Cathedral Oaks: 979-263-5935

Chrysalis: 830- 257-6340

TEXAS LUTHERAN VIA de CRISTO SECRETARIAT MEETING

Saturday, January 19, 2008

Faith Lutheran Church, Seguin, Texas

1. The Secretariat Meeting opened with a devotional given by Pastor Jesse.
2. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. At the time of the meeting, the balance was slightly larger because there was not a Fall Men's weekend.
 - b. Some bills have not been paid from past weekends.
 - c. Heidi stated that it is critical for all receipts to be turned in promptly so that the budget reflects true figures.
 - d. If a person is going to donate supplies, please let the Rector know so that it can be reported to the treasurer.
 - e. Income tax forms for non-profit organizations have changed. Jerry Lyn Sump will be asked to do the returns.
3. Change in the weekend schedule: Lay talks will be reduced to 20 minutes; Clergy talks will be reduced to 30 minutes; Recommend cutting poster boards in half.
 - a. Hill Country used this new schedule and found that over all it worked well. The new schedule allowed more time with the family group. It allowed more time to read their mail, take a shower, and visit with table family members.
 - b. The discussion time was not cut.
 - c. It was also recommended that the poster board not be handed out so quickly as to encourage discussion about the talk rather than focusing so quickly on what to draw.
 - d. In the new schedule, the Clausura will be earlier. The discussion focused on sticking to a set time. The earlier time allows everyone to get home earlier.
 - e. The new schedule also puts the Agape meal earlier.
 - f. The motion was made and approved to implement the new schedule for one year and evaluate it next January.
4. Other discussion related to the weekend schedule:
 - a. Phillip Drake will edit the new schedule to make sure that the Music team is included in being at Send Offs and Returns. Music team schedule needs to be in the Rollo Room's schedule to ensure that this happens.
 - b. The motion was made and approved to add the music team to the schedule.
5. Reports on the weekends:
 - a. Women's Weekend: 1) Concern expressed about one Rollista who only came to do her talk and left. The weekend is a process built on relationships. A Rollista is to be there the whole weekend! When someone comes in just to give a talk, it gives the impression that that person is an expert, not a member of the community. 2) The role of the rector is to provide leadership. The idea is that new people working a weekend are there to learn so that they can lead.
 - b. Hill Country: 1) The purpose of the Palanca team is to be servants to the New C's and to each other. All members of the Palanca team are equal! 2) Past Rectors need to remember that they are part of the Palanca team and are there to serve not to be in charge. 3) Spouses of Rollistas are invited to listen to their spouse when he/she is giving a talk. It would also be appropriate for the spouse to be the prayer partner. 4) Focus is always on the experience of the New C's! Do not get over concerned with little things; i.e. forgot white shirt and not allowed to go to Agape meal. 5) Critical for Clergy to be at all team meetings and active in the palanca team to keep the focus on servant hood. 6) The prayer chapel is to have someone in it at all times. Not adiabhorous. 7) Not fair to have one person in prayer chapel for hours. Okay to adjust time to 30 minute blocks to allow everyone to participate in such things as chapel or affirmation of baptism service.
6. Contracts for upcoming weekends in 2008 are set for Lutherhill, Chrysalis and Weimer are set. Dates for 2009 need to be set.
7. Because of the cost of \$175 to use Lutherhill on a Saturday for the 3rd training, the motion was made and passed not to have training at the camp site. This includes the spending the Friday night prior to the last training.
8. A nominating committee was elected to fill the following positions on the Secretariat: Karen Walker - Training; Susan Carmichael - 4th day; Linda Dietz - publicist; Pastor Jesse - Spiritual rector; Phillip Drake - Music rector; Heidi Franzen - treasurer; Barbara Mondel - palanca
9. A nominating committee made up of Mary Lou Walther, Karen Walker, Pam Thomas and Ann Lunday will submit names at the September meeting.
10. There will be a Houston Co-ed weekend with John Stokes as the Rector.
 - a. Name: Southeast Texas Co-ed
 - b. Will be held at J Bar Ranch (July ?) or (June ?) 9th - 12th.
 - c. Mary Jane McBride will be Palanca Rector
 - d. Cost will be \$120.
11. Motion made and passed that a Rector must get approval from the Secretariat Lay Director for team scholarships.
12. Fall Secretariat meeting is set for September 13, 2008 at Grace Lutheran in Lockhart.

Submitted by

Mary Lou Walther, Secretary

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR MESSAGE

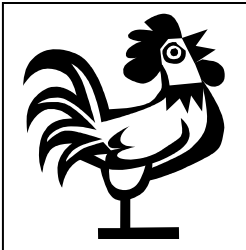
All of us in Via de Cristo have had the mountain-top experience -- spiritual enrichment. Being on a team has been continued growth in servant hood.

Oswald Chambers has put a highlight on our mountain-top experience. He states:

You no more need a day off from spiritual concentration on matters in your life than your heart needs a day off from beating. As you cannot take a day off morally and remain moral, neither can you take a day off spiritually and remain spiritual.

He truly has hit the nail on the head, especially for us in Via de Cristo. It requires us to pay close attention to keep ourselves fit. It requires time and effort.

Pastor Jesse Essinger
Spiritual Director for the Secretariat



De Colores
Texas Lutheran Via De Cristo
% Susan Carmichael
413 Slayden
Yoakum, TX 77995

Address correction requested