



Christ is counting on you...

www.mnviadecristo.org

Reminder: Please return your newsletter post cards to the office or complete them on the website at: www.mnviadecristo.org/forms/newsletter.php

Upcoming Weekends . . .

Clausura begins at 3 pm with 4TH Day Serenade on Sundays.

Please Come!

#562 and #563

May 12-15 & May 19-22
Immanuel Lutheran
16515 Luther Way
Eden Prairie, MN
Rectors: Gene Sparrow
Marlys Meier

#564 and #565

July 14-17 & July 21-24
Grace Lutheran
110 Third Ave East
Ada, MN
Rectors: Tod Tonsager
Kathy Miller

#566 and #567

Oct 13-16 and Oct 20-23
Cross of Glory Lutheran
5929 Brooklyn Blvd
Brooklyn Center, MN
Rectors:

#568 and #569

Oct 13-16 and Oct 20-23
Gethsemane Lutheran
901 4th St S
Virginia, MN
Rectors:

“These are the statutes and the judgments which you shall carefully observe in the land, ... as long as you live on the earth.” Deut. 12:1

Help support MN Via de Cristo through Thrivent ChoiceSM.



Thrivent Financial for LutheransSM

Let's thrive!

Learn how

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans offers Thrivent Choice, a giving program where you, as a Thrivent member, decide where Thrivent sends their charitable dollars. The funds are already set aside. No out of pocket donation or expense on your part is required. Simply instruct Thrivent where to send your funds.

If you are a *Thrivent Financial for Lutherans* member, you have a choice in where your portion of those dollars goes.

We are pleased to inform you that *Lutheran Via de Cristo of Minnesota* is a participant in [Thrivent Choice](#).

All you need to do is go to [Thrivent Choice](#) and log in if you have an account (or call 800- 847-4836) and state “Thrivent Choice.” If you do not have an account there yet, you can easily set up one in a few minutes. When you have the account set up, choose Lutheran Via de Cristo of Minnesota as the recipient of your choice.

2010 dollars are available for designation until March 30, 2011. Most benefit members will direct between \$25 - \$100. Thrivent will send the donation directly to Lutheran Via de Cristo of Minnesota – no additional paperwork necessary!

Thank you for your involvement in Thrivent Choice!

Weekend Palanca Requests

Metro - #563 – May 19-22, 2011

Immanuel Lutheran, 16515 Luther Way, Eden Prairie

“He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.” Micah 6:8 NASB

Contact: **Lisa Chilton 612-270-5065**

LisaChilton@comcast.net

For up to 120: Chicken, Lasagna, and Cheesecake

Episcopal Cursillo Disbands!

Regretfully, Minnesota Episcopal Cursillo no longer exists. In response, MN Via de Cristo and Unidos en Cristo have invited the Episcopal members to participate in either organization. This has been done through a joint letter from both of the organizations to the Episcopal Cursillo database of over 1200 active members. So, if you come across a member of Episcopal Cursillo on a Via de Cristo team or at a Clausura, please welcome them with open hearts and a big abrazo.

A Prayer at Lent

The Lenten season has begun. It is a time to be with the Lord, in a special way, a time to pray, to fast, and thus to follow Him on the way to Jerusalem, to Golgotha, and to the final victory over death.

I am still so divided. I truly want to follow Him, but I also want to follow my own desires and lend an ear to the voices that speak about prestige, success, pleasure, power, and influence. Help me to become deaf to these voices and more attentive to His voice, which calls me to choose the narrow road to life.

I know that Lent will be a difficult time for me. The choice for the Lord's way has to be made every moment of my life. I must choose the thoughts that are His thoughts, the words that are His words, and the actions that are His actions. In all times and in all places and in all choices I know how deeply I resist choosing Him.

Please, Lord, be with me at every moment and in every place. Give me the strength and the courage to live this season faithfully, so that, when Easter comes, I will be able to taste with joy the new life that you have prepared for me.

Amen

The Builder

An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer-contractor of his plans to leave the house building business and live a more leisurely life with his wife and spend time enjoying his extended family.

The contractor was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he would build just one more house as a personal favor. The carpenter said yes, but it was easy to see that in time his heart was not in his work. He resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior material. It was an unfortunate way to end a dedicated career.

When the carpenter finished the house, his employer came to inspect the house. He handed the front door key to the carpenter. "This is your house," he said "my gift to you."

The carpenter was shocked! What a shame! If he had only known he was building his own home, he would have done it all so differently.

So it is with us. We build our lives a day at a time, often putting less than the best into what we build. Then with a shock we realize we have to live in the "house" we have built. If we could do it over, we'd do it differently. But we cannot go back.

You are the carpenter. Each day you hammer a nail, place a board or erect a wall. Your attitudes and the choices you make today, build the "house" you live in tomorrow.

The good news is Christ has already built a house of grandeur for us, one nail at a time. The nails that pierced His hands and feet are meant to be the cornerstone of your house.

Is your "house" reflecting Christ's love or is it made with things to fill the void? It's never too late to change the focus of what you build. Build wisely.

Weekender Applications

Please check with your church liaison or the Via de Cristo website for the latest up-to-date form, www.mnviadecristo.org. Included on the form are a weekend application, a sponsor & a pastor approval section, and a medical release form. Complete the form and **return to your liaison for submission to the allocations person**. For best results, send in forms early—eight weeks is preferred.

Allocations

Metro Applications To:

North Applications To:

Todd Johnson
P O Box 294
604 S Douglas Ave
Hallock MN 56278-0294
twj@ruralaccess.net

South Applications To:

Paul Vomhof
21096 State Highway 80
Fountain MN 55935-5200

Words

Words, words, words. Our society is full of words: on billboards, on television screens, in newspapers and books. Words whispered, shouted, and sung. Words that move, dance, and change in size and color. Words that say, "Taste me, smell me, eat me, drink me, sleep with me," but most of all, "buy me." With so many words around us, we quickly say: "Well, they're just words." Thus, words have lost much of their power.

Still, the word has the power to create. When God speaks, God creates. When God says, "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3), light is. God speaks light. For God, speaking and creating are the same. It is this creative power of the word we need to reclaim. What we say is very important. When we say, "I love you," and say it from the heart, we can give another person new life, new hope, new courage. When we say, "I hate you," we can destroy another person. Let's watch our words.

from Henri J. M. Nouwen's "Bread for the Journey"

Questions?

For answers to your questions contact the Via de Cristo office at: 9330 Cortland Road, Woodbury MN 55125-9154 or phone 651-493-7350 or you can email: coordinator@mnviadecristo.org.

"You have ordained Your precepts, that we should keep them diligently. Oh that my ways may be established to keep Your statutes! I shall keep Your statutes: do not forsake me utterly!" Psalm 119:4-5.8

Team Rosters

Team Rosters are no longer included in the newsletters. You can find and even print one by going to <http://www.mnviadecristo.org> and clicking on "Weekends". If rosters are missing, they were never sent to the office.

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." John 14:6 NKJV

Outdoor sign on I35 south of Owatonna

Our Sister Communities

CHARIS of Minnesota

www.charismn.com

Charis ministers to our brothers and sisters in prison. Charis weekends are founded on the Cursillo® method and are held throughout the year in federal and state facilities.

Upcoming Weekends

MCF Shakopee, April 28-May 1, 2011

FCI Waseca, October 7-10, 2011

Many 4th Dayers continue to be involved in this ministry. If you would like more information about Charis check their website.



(United Cursillo) is a Christian community of various churches (Baptist, Congregational, Covenant, Evangelical Free, Presbyterian, and United Methodist, to name a few) that follow the Cursillo® method on their weekends.

www.unidosencristo.com

Upcoming Weekends

July 7-10, 2011 – Men #247, Peace Reformed Church, Eagan

July 14-17, 2011 – Women #248, Peace Reformed Church, Eagan

Teens Encounter Christ (TEC)

www.mmltec.org

The mission of TEC is to draw young Christians together on retreats and additional activities to explore their faith, experience God's Love, and develop a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ through a dynamic and meaningful ministry with peers.

Upcoming Weekends

April 8-10, 2011 Discover Church, Brooklyn Park

Prayer Vigil The VdC website contains a signup page to be part of the prayer vigil for each weekend. You can sign up by the hour for any part of the weekend. Look for this on the website www.mnviadecristo.org and consider being part of this meaningful ministry.

*"Without the Way,
there is no going,
Without the Truth,
there is no knowing,
Without the Life,
there is no living."*

Thomas à Kempis

Via de Cristo
Is on
Facebook

Newsletter Submissions

Articles submitted for publication:

- Must be sent by email and are subject to editing
- May be submitted to coordinator@mnviadecristo.org



Remember to VOTE

The ballots will be arriving in a few days. Please return your completed ballot in the mail by **April 15, 2011**.

Thanks for your Generosity

“Thank you” to the 4th Day for your gift to the annual appeal and because of your generosity we are able to continue expanding the Via de Cristo ministry. Recently the 4th Day Community has helped start a Via de Cristo ministry in Oregon. In the past we’ve supported Via de Cristo’s beginnings in New Guinea, Bolivia and Utah.

Metro Ultreya

March 20, 2011 from 4:00 – 7:00 pm
at Redeemer Church, 2135 Northdale Blvd NW, Coon Rapids MN
Musicians are welcome to participate . 🎸 . bring your instruments.

Please bring a dish to pass:

- A – F ...Deserts
- G – M ...Salad
- N – S ...Entrée, hot or cold
- T – Z ...Snacks, includes veggies

*Remember our gluten free friends
and feel free to deviate from your assigned
and bring something marked “Gluten Free”*

Called to the 5th Day

We celebrate the lives of those who have entered into their 5th Day and are now in our Lord’s glorious presence:

Richard Larson, Woodbury MN – Weekend 269

If we have missed anyone, we apologize. Send the information to the office and we will include them next time.

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your sufficient grace. Thank You for empowering me and equipping me no matter what I may be facing. Today, I lift my eyes to You for You are my help. I receive Your grace for everything I need. In Jesus Name. Amen



9330 Cortland Road
Woodbury MN 55125-9154

Return Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL – DO NOT DELAY

Make A Friend
Be A Friend
Bring A Friend
to Christ