

Who can I contact about attending a weekend?

Michele Koniewicz, 815-725-4928 is the Lay Director of Taste of Grace Via de Cristo. You may also contact the Secretariat Pastor for more information about the weekends: Pastor Anne Strickert 414-350-2143.

When are the retreat weekends scheduled?

Retreats are scheduled in the spring and fall for both men and women, and begin on a Thursday evening and end on a Sunday afternoon. The spring weekend's are held late mid March - early May with the men's weekend being a week or two before the women's weekend. The fall weekend is a co-ed weekend and is held late Oct/early November. The retreat location is Camp Dickson, in Newark, Illinois. WEBSITE: www.dvcrc.com for more camp location information. The total cost for the weekend is currently \$130.00.

If you do not know of anyone who has previously attended a Via de Cristo weekend, we would be happy to put you in contact with such a person in your area who can answer your questions and serve as your sponsor.

**Michele Koniewicz, Lay Director
2423 Lakeridge Drive
Lockport IL 60441
815-725-4928**

A special note to Pastors:

Via de Cristo is a powerful, experiential discipleship tool that can be helpful in equipping your people to serve the church of Jesus Christ with renewed passion, creativity and a rekindled sense of mission.

***Taste of Grace Via De Cristo
Serving the greater
Chicagoland Area***

***For more information, please
contact***

**Pre-Weekend Coordinator
Denise Jones
17013 Geneva
Lockport IL 60441
(815) 838-0388
jones4848@att.net**

Taste of Grace

**Via de Cristo
(Way of Christ)**

**A Lutheran Renewal
Movement
based in the Chicagoland Area**



**Taste and see that the Lord
is good. Psalm 34:8**

Member of the National Lutheran
Via de Cristo Secretariat

<http://tasteofgrace.org>

togprayers@comcast.net

What is Via de Cristo?

Via de Cristo comes from a Spanish expression meaning “way of Christ,” Via de Cristo is the Lutheran expression of “©Cursillo de Christianidad.” A trademark © by the Catholic Cursillo Community.

Via de Cristo considers itself a movement within the Church of Jesus Christ. We can in no way ever function independently of the Church. We encourage each individual Christian to remain loyal to a home congregation and to serve that congregation as an exemplary servant of Jesus Christ. Lay persons are encouraged to strengthen their partnership with their pastor and to use their personal calling to extend the work of the church.

How did Via de Cristo get started?

The movement originated as “Cursillo” in the late 1940’s in the Spanish Catholic Church and moved to America in the late 1950’s. The first Lutheran Cursillos were held in 1972, both in Iowa and in Florida. The name “Via de Cristo” was adopted by the Lutheran Community in February 1986. Today, although different groups use different names (Via de Cristo, Tres Dias, Walk to Emmaus, etc.) the content of all “Cursillo” weekends is basically the same. More than 2 million Christians in over 50 nations have attended one of these weekends.

What happens on a weekend?

The Via de Cristo weekend is a three-day experience in living in a Christian community in a retreat setting. It begins with a Sendoff early Thursday evening and ends with a Closing late Sunday afternoon. During the three day weekend, tools are shared that will encourage the participants to maintain a Christian walk. They will learn many ways that the Spirit inspires people to good works and will be encouraged to choose those that are effective for them.

The major focus of the weekend is a series of 14 talks, five given by Lutheran pastors and nine by lay persons. These talks center on the grace of God, its reality in your life and how you can live the life of grace, imparting grace to others. Each of these talks is followed by small group discussions.

The weekend also includes morning and evening worship services daily, communion, music, laughter, prayer and good food. While you are attending you have three busy but very enjoyable days and will begin to understand the real presence of Christ in His Body of believers.

Through Via de Cristo we have found that a person will:

- Experience more joy, happiness and satisfaction from their Christian faith.
- Experience a closer walk with Jesus Christ.
- Develop a more joyous fellowship with brothers and sisters in faith.
- Find sharing their faith with others easier and more enjoyable.
- Become more active in their home congregation.

How can I attend a weekend?

Via de Cristo is not designed to convert anyone to Christianity or bring them to the church. It is meant for those who are already faithful and committed to Christ and their church. While we are predominantly Lutheran in denomination, we welcome participation of any active Christian. Our movement includes Baptists, Methodists, Episcopalians, and members of other Christian denominations.

