WHAT ABOUT AFTER THE WEEKEND?

You are now considered a 4th-dayer. During this time, you are expected to apply the apostolic fervor and spirituality that the Via de Cristo has generated within you to bring others to Christ.

The community spirit is continued after the weekend through reunions of small groups of men or women who meet weekly to encourage one another in their quest for spiritual improvement and their ministries.

Periodic area-wide ultreyas give all 4th-dayers a chance to meet and renew the spirit of a Via de Cristo weekend.

SOME WEEKEND COMMENTS

"On Thursday night, I walked into what looked like an ordinary building. When I left on Sunday, I walked out of a palace."

"Going into my weekend, I felt my life consisted of many walls, many barriers. Leaving the camp Sunday evening, I looked back and saw nothing but crumbled walls."

"My friend told me the food was good. He was right. You can't compare soul food with anything else."

"I feel like I have been plugged in to a power source."

What happened to these pilgrims happens to many who attend a Via de Cristo weekend. There is no magic; there is no mystery—other than the divine mystery of Christ's endless love.

HOW DID VIA DE CRISTO BEGIN?

Cursillo® began in Spain in the 1940s, and came to the United States a few years later. In 1972, totally unaware of each other, two Lutheran Cursillos® were held within one month of each other. The first was in Miami, Florida, and the second in Atlantic, Iowa. Once they discovered each other, plans were made to bring them together, along with some others.

In 1986, Lutheran Cursillo® was changed to Via de Cristo as a commitment to ecumenism.

Today, there are about forty secretariats in the United States, plus Costa Rica, Finland, New Guinea, and Bolivia.

EACH VIA DE CRISTO OFFERS:

- A potential for personal growth
- A tool for renewal for the church
- An opportunity for discovering more of the meaning of LIFE
- A sharing in the creative process of becoming and recognizing that we are "fellow strugglers" not "finished products"
- A launching pad to encourage action in the church in the world
- A focus of responsibility and mission beyond Via de Cristo
- An experience of Christian community

CONTACT INFORMATION

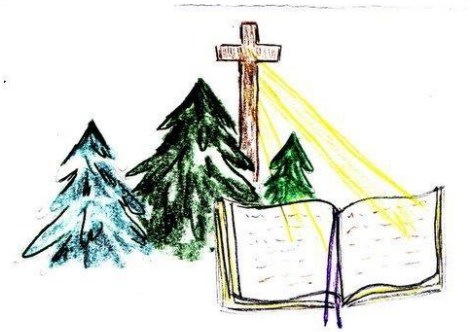
Talk to your pastor and/or

contact us at one of the following:

Email: info@northernlightvdc.com

Website: www.northernlightvdc.com

Northern Light Via de Cristo



By grace, with the Holy Spirit, we challenge leaders to discover and achieve their personal call, assisting them to influence their environments with the gospel

November 5 - 8, 2026

(#75 men & #76 women)

Silver Birch Ranch

White Lake, WI

A VIA DE CRISTO WEEKEND IS THREE DAYS LONG… BUT LASTS A LIFETIME

There is nothing secret about Via de Cristo (Way of Christ). Its aim is to zoom in for an extreme close-up of the teachings of Christ so that we, who are enveloped and entranced by the brilliance of the secular world, can experience His love.

WHAT IS VIA DE CRISTO?

Via de Cristo (pronounced Vee-ya day Kreesto) is the Lutheran expression of Cursillo®, which originated in the 1940s with the Roman Catholics. It is a short course about Jesus and our Christian faith. It begins on a Thursday evening at approximately 7:00 and ends the following Sunday about 4:00 p.m.

During the three days of Via de Cristo, attendees listen to 14 talks given by laypeople and clergy. Following each talk, small group table discussions focus on the main points of the talk. In an overlapping fashion, the talks present various aspects of the Christian life, based on the person and teachings of Jesus Christ as an ideal.

Via de Cristo…

- is a weekend of Christian community living held separately for men and women.
- is a servant ministry (not-for-profit).
- can enhance the ministries of pastors and lay people.

After the weekend experience, attendees are commonly called cursillistas (pronounced Kur-See-E—Stahs) or 4th-dayers.

WHAT A VIA DE CRISTO IS NOT

A Via de Cristo weekend is not…

- a revival meeting
- group therapy
- sensitivity training
- a church school, or
- a retreat.

A Via de Cristo is made only once in a lifetime, but after a Via de Cristo one may work on a team, if desired. The basic atmosphere of a Via de Cristo differs greatly from the individual solitude of a retreat. It is a very structured weekend, where the teachings of Christ are discussed in an atmosphere of joy.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND A VIA DE CRISTO?

Via de Cristo is designed for those Christians, 21 or older, who having been informed of the aim of the Via de Cristo method, believe the Via de Cristo can strengthen their faith and bring them closer to Christ in their lay ministries.

In short, the person who attends a Via de Cristo weekend should recognize that being a Christian involves responsibility for apostolic endeavor, and should therefore have both the human foundation and moral reserve to accept this responsibility.

Single men and women are encouraged to attend. For married couples, it is preferred that the husband and wife attend separate weekends (spring or fall) with the husband attending first. However, the couple may attend the same weekend or the wife may attend first.

WHO WILL BE AT VIA DE CRISTO?

Via de Cristo is **ecumenical**, and any weekend should find a mixture of attendees from various Christian churches. There will be people like you, who are curious, searching, discovering and growing.

There will be a team of lay men and women as well as six pastors who serve as Spiritual Directors. Together they will lead the weekend. They spend weeks working and praying together preparing for the weekend while becoming a community. They will prepare the 14 talks, procure supplies and coordinate all activities for an intensive weekend.

People from all walks of life grow closer to one another during the Via de Cristo weekend. They worship, listen, and sing in a joyful family atmosphere. Men and women will be separated for most activities including learning, discussing, and sleeping at separate locations within the camp.

A spirit of fellowship and a rustic camp atmosphere makes for a special weekend. Good food and snacks are abundant.

WHAT ARE THE TALKS?

The following titles of the 14 talks will help give you an idea of what you will hear:

Ideal	Study
Laity	Action
Piety	Leaders
Means of Grace	Life in Grace
Obstacles of Grace	Environment
Habitual Grace	Actual Grace
Christian Community In Action	Group Reunion and Ultreya