

Via de Cristo

The Way of Christ Weekend “short course” retreat for deeper understanding of the Christian faith

Via de Cristo (Spanish for “The Way of Christ”) is a retreat program within the Lutheran Church.

Formerly known as *Cursillo*, it was developed in the Catholic Church in Spain in the 1940’s to help people struggling with the faith. *Cursillo* means “short course.”

The movement came to the U.S. in the 1950’s and was adapted for English-speaking church members. As its effectiveness became realized, other denominations, including Lutherans, establish their own retreats based on the tried-and-true model. Millions of people around the world have now experienced the retreat through their own communities.

The retreat is a step-by-step structured weekend – with 10 talks given by lay persons and 5 talks given by clergy – in a progression that puts things into a clearer perspective than one might otherwise have, even in regular worship and Bible study participation. It has proven to be of great benefit to individuals who attend a weekend, and in congregations where several have participated.

Via de Cristo groups exist all over the United States and the world. Local groups form “secretariats” to organize regional opportunities for retreat weekends and follow-up support. Weekend retreats are prayerfully planned, with reliance on God’s Holy Spirit to make them happen and to make them a blessing to participants and the congregations of which they are members.

Each participant is sponsored by someone who has already been on a weekend. Over 30 team members give their time in preparation and in working a weekend – they want to make possible for others what they have found to be such a blessing!

Talk with your pastor about your desire to do this weekend retreat. If you don’t know anyone who has done a weekend to be able to sponsor you, contact us, and we will work that out for you!

JOURNEY IN FAITH
Via de Cristo
www.journeyinfaithvdc.org

Next Weekend Retreat

SPRING 2011
Coed Weekend
May 12-15

JOURNEY IN FAITH *Via de Cristo*

We are the newest of the 48 Lutheran *Via de Cristo* groups in the United State. Newly constituted, our officers and participants are primarily at this time in Northeastern PA and Lower Susquehanna Synod territories and include both ELCA and LCMS (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod) pastors and church members, people who work together for the good of Christ’s Church!

Many of us have already worked several weekends in other locations, having made our first weekend years ago in other areas of the country. Clearly by God’s doing, we have found ourselves connected in a way that says that God is calling us to bring this renewal movement to this part of PA and Northern Delaware. And we are responding to God’s call to make this experience possible for Lutherans and other church members who want to attend.

JOURNEY IN FAITH brings this weekend retreat opportunity to Eastern PA and Northern DE, beginning in the spring of 2009. We are glad to tell you all about *Via de Cristo* and weekend retreat opportunities. Contact us for a program or more information.

Ultimately, like faith, it is truly something you have to experience, and we believe you will find it to be a great blessing!



**Why do people go on a
Via de Cristo weekend retreat???**

All kinds of reasons!

- To feel closer to Christ
- The enjoyment of a Christian retreat
- For personal growth
- Pastor's invitation
- Friend's experience
- Because their spouse is going
- Curiosity
- Sense of being called to do it
- ...and more

Who attends a weekend?

- People active in their congregations
- Pastors
- Associates in Ministry & Deaconesses
- Congregation Council members
- Sunday School staff
- Committee members
- Church musicians
- Any members looking for something more in their faith life

...and lots of people who have done a weekend and want to make it possible just for you!

And after the weekend???

**Ways to continue to gain from your weekend experience...
and people sharing the same desire to continue the journey in faith!**

JOURNEY IN FAITH

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The Way of Christ



***Weekend "short course" retreat
for members of Christ's Church
for deeper understanding
of the Christian faith and
Church membership***

