

What is VIA de CRISTO?

VIA de CRISTO is a Spanish word meaning “Way of Christ.” It is the Lutheran expression of Cursillo (pronounced Kur-SEE-Yo). Cursillo de Cristiandad is Spanish for “short course in Christianity.” It is designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people and, through them, their families, congregations and the environment in which they live, work and play. It is not to be confused with the “Charismatic Movement”, nor does it actively promote a specific “conversion experience.” **VIA de CRISTO** is a Lutheran lay movement involving laity and clergy in the renewal of the church. During the three days of the weekend one not only hears inspiring talks on what it means to be a Christian, but actually experiences the joy of building and being part of a genuine Christian community.

History of VIA de CRISTO

It all started when a group of priests and lay-people in Majorca, Spain examined the condition of the church. From 1943 to 1947 they formulated a “method” to help renew the church. **Cursillo** moved to America in the late 50’s. Originally a Roman Catholic movement, the first Lutheran-sponsored **Cursillos** were held in Miami, Florida in 1971 and in the Iowa District ALC in 1972. The **Cursillo** movement is ecumenical and has expression in the United Methodist, Lutheran, Reformed, Episcopal, Catholic, Presbyterian and other Christian churches.

The Purpose of VIA de CRISTO

VIA de CRISTO is an instrument of renewal of our spiritual life in the church. Its aim is to concentrate on the Person and fundamental teachings of Jesus Christ as lived with other Christians. The focus of **VIA de CRISTO** is not on itself, but on the local church. The objective of **VIA de CRISTO** is to inspire, challenge, and equip local church members for Christian action in their homes, churches, places of work, and community.



What happens at VIA de CRISTO?

VIA de CRISTO begins on Thursday evening and ends Sunday evening. Thirty to forty participants live, study, sing, worship, commune and pray together daily. Fifteen talks (10 given by laypersons and 5 given by pastors) center around the grace of God, its reality for one’s life, and how one lives and shares in the life of grace. Each talk is followed by a small group discussion period and a time to graphically illustrate the message. The atmosphere of the three days is one of joy and grace, which includes time for food, fun and fellowship.

What Are The Benefits of VIA de CRISTO

Christians who experience a **VIA de CRISTO** renewal often serve in their home congregations through:

- Increased worship attendance
- More Bible study participation
- Joyous congregational involvement
- Increased stewardship
- Renewed sacramental life
- Sharing the love of Christ

Former Cursillistas (attendees) say **VIA de CRISTO** was:

“an experience of personal spiritual growth.”
“learning to share our faith and love in our everyday life.”

“a time that affirmed and illuminated my faith.”

“a redefinition of our roles as members of our Christian community and our environment.”

“the most uplifting spiritual experience I’ve ever had.”

What Happens After VIA de CRISTO?

You go back into your home congregation better equipped for ministry and continued spiritual growth. A method is outlined to provide support for this life of faith. After the three day retreat you are prepared to enter the Fourth Day — the rest of your life. Renewal is an informal weekly gathering of two or more who meet weekly to study, pray, share and help one another in their quest for spiritual development. Ultreya (pronounced ul-TRAY-ah) is a larger gathering than the renewal. It is the gathering of all Cursillistas in our community, scheduled on an ongoing basis by individual churches or groups of churches participating in **VIA de CRISTO**.

Who Should Attend *VIA de CRISTO*?

YOU—if you're a baptized member of Salem and already know Jesus Christ as your Lord and Redeemer and if you seek to be renewed and strengthened in your relationship with Christ and the people around you! *VIA de CRISTO* weekends are usually paired weekends with the men attending the first weekend, and the women attending the second. *VIA de CRISTO* is open to married couples, and single men and women. It is necessary for the pastor to attend a *VIA de CRISTO* weekend before the lay people of that church can attend.

Keep an open mind and heart in making your decision to attend *VIA de CRISTO*. Many of those who have attended also wondered whether they should go. Now that they have attended, they want to share this wonderful gift from God. Please understand that their experience attending *VIA de CRISTO* was unique, and all the conversations in the world will not become a substitute for your weekend. You need to experience it for yourself to obtain its full and life-enriching value. *Join us!*

For further information contact your pastor or:

Lutheran Via de Cristo of Minnesota
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Phone: 952-892-5520

Fax: 952-892-5521

E-mail: coordinator@mnyiadecristo.org

Salem Lutheran Church

VIA de CRISTO

Roster of participants:

Craig and Barb Anderson	Buzz & Marilyn Lilyquist
Cheryl Britton	Ron & Belva Lund
Cheryl Crosby	Del & Ginger Minske
Jan Dare	Alice Moe
Darold & Louise Daudt	John and Thea Monson
Mike Daudt	Rod & Harriet Mouw
Terry & Lori Daudt	John & Char Olson
Garold & Joyce Digre	Allan & Evelyn Pflugshaupt
Pamela Edwards	Jan Pursch
Steve Ekholm	Steve Reiter & Margie Ryan
Rita Fedalen	Arlan & Irene Schires
Gary & Judy Ginder	Lynn & Mary Schmid
Bob Helling	Jenny Seifert
Gary & Bonnie Hockett	Steve and Lisa Seifert
Marian Holt	Wayne & Jackie Sletten
Paul & Loretta Jenson	Bob & Sharon Smitten
Dennis & Tena Johnson	Alice Soderberg
Bob & Joan Kickhafer	Jim Stewart
Sandra Kutz	Sandre Strausser
Mark & Patty Lange	John and Mary Underwood
Marilyn Lentz	Don Waldera
Rosalie Letson	Jean & Jerry Westermann
	Julee Young



An Affiliate of the National
Lutheran VIA de CRISTO Secretariat

Via de Cristo

The
Lutheran
Expression
of
Cursillo

