



History of Via de Cristo

Via de Cristo started as "Cursillo®" in the late 1940s in the Spanish Catholic Church. It came to the United States in the late 1950s. In 1971, lay people and clergy from the Lutheran Church attended a Catholic Cursillo in Iowa and Florida. The first Lutheran weekends were held in 1972 in Iowa and Florida. Now, Via de Cristo weekends have been held in over 25 states and some foreign countries. Via de Cristo is the Lutheran version of this method, used in many denominations like Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Reformed churches.

In 1986, the National Lutheran Secretariat, representing all Lutheran Cursillo communities, decided to become ecumenical and change the name to Via de Cristo, meaning "Way of Christ".

Who We Are

Lutheran Via de Cristo of Minnesota is a faith-centered movement dedicated to spiritual renewal and empowerment. As part of the Fourth Day Movement, it emphasizes grace, fosters personal relationships with Christ, and encourages participants to share the Gospel in their communities. While independent from church bodies, it remains deeply rooted in Christian teachings and unity in faith.

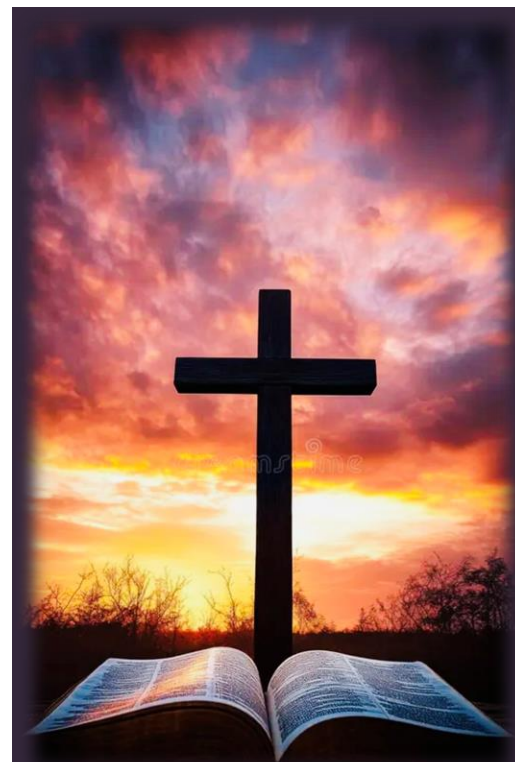
Summary

Keep an open mind and heart when deciding to attend Via de Cristo. Many who have attended also wondered whether they should go. Now that they have attended, they want to share this wonderful gift from God. Their experience was unique, and all the conversations in the world cannot substitute for your weekend. You need to experience a weekend yourself to get its full and life-enriching value.



[HTTPS://WWW.MNVIADECRISTO.ORG/](https://www.mnviadecristo.org/)

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LUTHERAN VIA DE CRISTO

Experience the Way of Christ

*A Journey of Faith, Fellowship,
and Renewal*



Who should attend a Via de Cristo weekend?

Via de Cristo is for lay people from all walks of life, pastors, people who live strong and active lives in Christ, and those who seek to be renewed and strengthened in their relationship with Christ and others. Via de Cristo weekends are usually paired, with men attending the first weekend and women attending the second weekend. It is open to married couples and single men and women.

Purpose of Via de Cristo

Via de Cristo is rooted in the fundamentals of Christianity, emphasizing Jesus Christ's teachings. Rather than focusing on itself, the movement centers on supporting the local church. Its goal is to inspire, challenge, and equip church members for Christian action in their homes, congregations, and communities.

What happens on a Via de Cristo weekend?

A Via de Cristo weekend lasts three days, starting on Thursday evening and ending on Sunday evening. Participants live, study, worship, and commune together daily.

There are fourteen talks, nine by lay people and five by clergy. After each talk, small round table discussions focus on the main points, and a poster is drawn. The talks present the Christian life based on Jesus Christ's teachings. The titles of these talks are:

- Ideal
- Habitual Grace
- Laity
- Actual Grace
- Piety
- Study
- Sacraments
- Action
- Obstacles to Grace
- Leaders
- Environment
- Life in Grace
- Christian Community
- Total Security



Via de Cristo helps attendees understand basic Christian truths. There is music, singing, food, fellowship, laughter, and prayer.



What happens after the weekend?

You can attend Via de Cristo only once in your life, but you are encouraged to build on it for the rest of your life. After attending, you are considered a Fourth Dayer (meaning the rest of your life), and you are encouraged to:

- Expand your spiritual life through study and church participation.
- Become more active witnesses for Christ in your daily life.

Via de Cristo offers two ongoing means of perseverance:

- **RENEWAL GROUPS:** Small groups of men or women who meet regularly to study, pray, share, and help each other in their spiritual development.
- **ULTREYA:** Gatherings of the local church Via de Cristo community for encouragement and fellowship.