

History of Via de Cristo

Via de Cristo began as "Cursillo®" in the late 1940s, in Spain, by members of a small Catholic Church. It was brought to the United States in the late 1950s. Lutheran lay people and clergy attended a Catholic Cursillo in Iowa and Florida in 1971. The first Lutheran weekends were held in 1972 in those states. Now, Via de Cristo weekends have been held in over 35 states and some foreign countries. Via de Cristo is the Lutheran version of the Cursillo method and has been adapted by other denominations - Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Reformed churches.

In 1986, the National Lutheran Secretariat, representing all Lutheran Cursillo communities, elected 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 ministry dedicated to spiritual renewal and empowerment. 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 weekend. Many who attended wondered if this was the right thing for them. Now they want to share this wonderful gift from God. Their experience was unique. You need to experience a weekend yourself to get its full and life-enriching value.

MNVIADECRISTO.ORG



Lutheran Via de Christo

Experience the Way of Christ

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. The weekends are paired, with men attending the first weekend and women attending the second. There are also Co-Ed weekends offered. Both married couples and single men and women are welcome.

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 Ministry centers on supporting the local church. The goal is to inspire, challenge, and equip church members for Christian action in their homes, congregations and communities.



What happens on Via de Cristo Weekend?

A Via de Cristo weekend lasts three days - starting Thursday evening and ending Sunday afternoon. 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 talks are titled:

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



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 4th-Dayer (meaning the rest of your life), and you are encouraged to:

- Expand your spiritual life through study and church participation.
- Become a more active witness 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 Via de Cristo Community for encouragement and fellowship.