



The

Rooster Crows

December 2008, Volume 36, Issue 1

"The holy one to be born
will be called the
Son of God."

Luke 1:35, NIV



Happy Holidays, Sisters!

I'm still thinking, "Where did the summer go?" (hee, hee) My prayer for all of us is that we have a safe and blessed holiday (stress is not allowed). Focusing on the birth of our Lord and Savior always brings me back to the reason for the season: in awe of His Majesty, and sharing this holiday season with family and friends and, because we are sisters in Christ, I know God is guiding us to help the less fortunate: dropping off a bag of groceries, filling up someone's gas tank, spending some time with a church member who's in the rest home, inviting someone over for supper, adopting a family, donating to your favorite Christian radio station. I know this is going to be a tight year for most (we've already had the 'tighten the bootstraps' talk with our girls).

The same goes for Via de Cristo, we have to be mindful and prayerful about who you can ask. Who can we encourage to prayerfully consider coming to the weekend and then follow up with, "how can I help?" You could make arrangements to make sure pilgrims have rides, as you're making holiday goodies make an extra batch and throw it in the freezer for the men's or women's weekends, come help the men set up the Sunday before the men's weekend, write palanca, pray for the teams, the pilgrims, the weather, our health, the palanca. We strongly need many hands and feet to pull off this amazing weekend. I encourage everyone who hasn't helped for awhile, for whatever reason, please pray about coming back again.

Proverbs 3:5-6—*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.*

God's Blessing to all, your sister in Christ,
—Theone Quattlebaum



ILS Lay Director

Well, folks, the time is near, and time to spring into action. Keep the prayers coming. As both the Men's Rector and Lay Director it is my hope this year's Via de Cristo is well attended for several reasons. One: it's awesome to share God's grace with those who haven't experienced it in the relaxing environment of a weekend we work so hard to create (we plant the seed, God makes it grow). Two: it's a nice time to rekindle the relationships we have formed and maintained over the years. Three: in order for this movement to continue we always need new pilgrims who bring their hearts and minds, these people are the future.

It's very neat to know the more we give away the more we receive. What we need between now and January 8th is lots of prayer! We need lots of people asking for people to come and attend. We will need workers in palanca. Those who are giving talks need to be sure they are ready to go with their presentations. We will need people to help set up on January 3rd at 1:00pm (or as soon as you can make it) we should be done by 3:30.

On Sunday, January 18th, we will need to take a little time to put things away. Last year we were able to get much of it done while the ladies were finishing up. So have the vision and the motivation, take what you've learned and continue to pray for God to bless the weekends. We will see you soon.

—Steve Quattlebaum

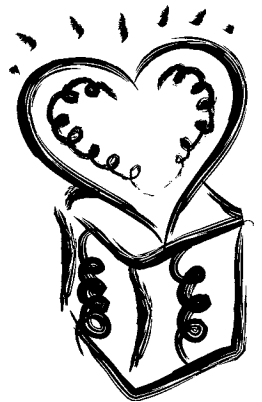
The 'Gift' of January

Some of you may have read the title and thought, "The 'Gift' of January, what does that mean? Haven't we had enough gift giving and getting?" Others of you may be thinking, "What? January a gift? It's snowy, cold, dark, long and for some just downright depressing!"

I used to feel the same way about January until I attended my first Via de Cristo weekend. Now I see it as a 'gift' to myself and my walk with Christ. It is a gift to get away from the schedule of home, a gift of renewing friendships, a gift of serving Christ, of deepening and refocusing on my relationship with HIM! A 'gift' from HIM!

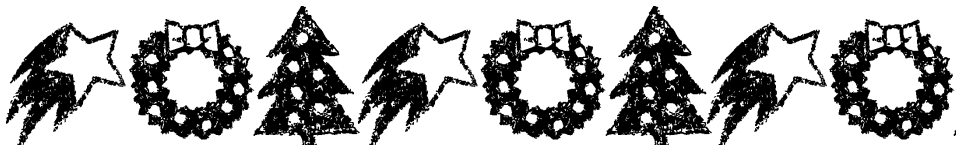
I pray each of you will see the need in your own life of the 'gift' of a Via de Cristo weekend. There are plenty of ways to serve and be filled throughout the weekend. I pray each of you will see the need of the 'gift' of a Via de Cristo weekend in the lives of someone you may know. Get asking *now* — tell them what a 'gift' this weekend will be to them if they would give it a try! We all know a 'gift' is given to be opened, so please prayerfully consider receiving the gift of the Via de Cristo weekend for yourself and for another. See you in January!

—Laurie Simington,
Iowa Lutheran Secretariat Secretary



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Risk Your Heart a Little

Jesus lived in joy. Sometimes we forget this as we think of his self-emptying love, his concern for those who suffer, his own trials. He also lived in joy. He was no grim Puritan, pulling himself up straight and tall and pointing an outraged finger at sinners. Neither was he a bitter social activist, smugly cynical about this corrupt world. He partied; he danced and sang; he held children in his lap and told them stories about abundant feasts; he laughed, he praised God with a grateful heart.

Jesus had a joy for living not because he had it easy; not because everything turned out well for him; not because he was prosperous and lived in a fair society; and certainly not because he was naïve. He had a joy for living because he risked his trust in the goodness of it all. He believed that no matter what, God was with him and with everyone, infusing the whole creation like a precious spice in a good meal.

When we risk our trust that God is everywhere, then everything — even the bad parts — work together for good. In the midst of our difficulties, God is here, as a force for goodness that will not be stopped. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will not overcome it. Jesus burst forth from the tomb, after life had done its worst, and the light shone on.

As followers of this joyful man of Nazareth, we are invited to welcome another celebration of Christmas. In order to enjoy this feast, it doesn't matter whether things are going well or going badly for you. It doesn't matter whether you can predict how things will turn out. It doesn't matter whether you are privileged or disadvantaged, whether you succeed or fail.

What matters is that you risk your heart a little. Open it up. Trust in the goodness of it all; have a little faith. Let yourself be grateful for life itself. Keep a twinkle in your eye and be a little outrageous now and then. Be playfully affectionate with others. Look up at the stars. Feel your breath. Look into the eyes of a stranger and see God. The light is everywhere.

What matters as you greet another Christmas is that you keep your mind's eye trained on the Holy One who goes before you, spreading your life before you like a Sunday table cloth.

The Bethlehem Savior who came to bring life beckons you. Follow him and he will bless you with love, simplicity, and, oh yes, joy!

And you too will be a light to the world.

Love and prayers,

Fr. Richard Graves, Rector, St. Mark's Episc.

Spiritual Director Notes

To everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven. (Ecclesiastes 3:1). The verse is a familiar one and continues to lay out the ordering of life for us — there is a “time” for everything. We see that order in the passing of the seasons in nature and in our lives. We are now at the TIME of the year when we put final plans in place for the January Via de Cristo at Okoboji. (Actually, we should have those plans pretty well set by now.)

In the seasons of our faith lives we also encounter patterns. Our spiritual lives have an ebb and flow about them and we can anticipate some regularity about when these cycles take place. For some people the winter months are the time of year when the struggle with depression is more evident due to the shorter daylight hours and the expectations for the holidays to be a joyous time for EVERYONE. Unfortunately that is not the case. There are many people who struggle to find the JOY in the message of Christmas in the midst of a calendar that is overcrowded with commitments to organizations, family, employers, etc. Here is the message of HOPE — that Christ is present: His Omniscient Presence Everywhere (don't you love acronyms?).

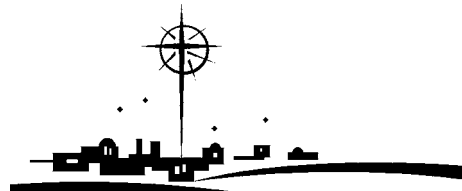
The gift of a Via de Cristo weekend is a time when watches and calendars and worries about schedules are put aside (at least for the Pilgrims). How about the gift of a weekend for yourself — serving on Palanca and getting away from the phone, TV, internet, etc. for a while can be a renewing gift. It's a time when Christ is somehow more visible to us. We see the gift of grace being lived out in the faces of the Pilgrims but did you know that it is also seen in the faces of those who are serving? As you “pay it forward” to help in the unfolding of the weekend you are serving as the conduit of grace as it flows from Christ toward all the participants — whether Pilgrim or Palanca or a member of the family of those who are touched in some way by the weekend. The awesome part of being that conduit is that you can't help but be affected in some way by the experience.

May each of you feel God's presence as you pray for the weekend to unfold — and as you are touched in some way — either through your invitation to another to attend the weekend, participate yourself in some way (Palanca — serving and/or writing to those attending), or remembering the weekend in your prayers.

Remember, “to everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven”. God's timing is perfect — it's amazing what happens when we get out of the way and let Him move among us!

De Colores,

—Rev. Jane B. Johnston, Spiritual Director



**“HE WILL REIGN...
AND OF HIS
KINGDOM
THERE WILL BE
NO END.”**

LUKE 1:33, NRSV

The Rooster Crows

Volume 36 Issue 1

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If you would like to receive this publication via email, just send your name and email address to:

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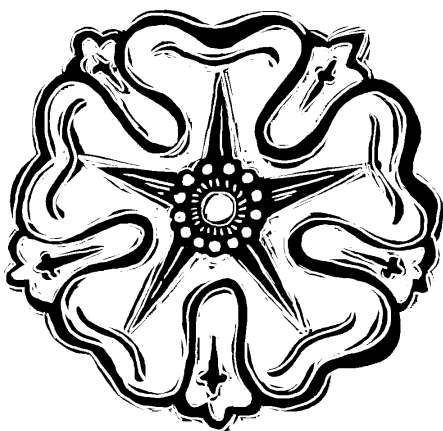
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Also available for download at:

<http://php.teamem.com/ils/newsletter.php>



A Christmas Luther Rose?

ILS Weekends

Brothers in Blue at FDCF Fort Dodge, **Brothers in Blue** at FDCF Fort Dodge, December 4-7, 2008. Send palanca messages to Carroll Lang, 19903 225th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501. CDLNg@aol.com

Iowa Lutheran VdC at Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp, Men's: January 8-11, Women's: January 15-18, 2009. Send Palanca to: Steve & Theone Quattlebaum, 228 8th St SW, Spencer, IA 51301. Steveq@alpha-wireless.com

Brothers in Blue at NCCF Rockwell City, March 5-8, 2009. Send palanca messages to Carroll Lang, 19903 225th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501. CDLNg@aol.com

Brothers in Blue at MPCF Mount Pleasant, March 12-15, 2009. Send palanca messages to Bob Smythe, 1700 Maple Drive NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405. smythebob@msn.com

Brothers in Blue at FDCF Fort Dodge, June 4-7, 2009. Send palanca messages to Carroll Lang, 19903 225th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501. CDLNg@aol.com

Brothers in Blue at MPCF Mount Pleasant, September 10-13, 2009. Send palanca messages to Bob Smythe, 1700 Maple Drive NW, Cedar Rapids, IA 52405. smythebob@msn.com

Brothers in Blue at NCCF Rockwell City, October 8-11, 2009. Send palanca messages to Carroll Lang, 19903 225th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501. CDLNg@aol.com

Brothers in Blue at FDCF Fort Dodge, December 3-6, 2009. Send palanca messages to Carroll Lang, 19903 225th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501. CDLNg@aol.com

Palanca Servers, De Colores!

The next weekends are January 8th – 11th for the men and January 15-18, 2009 for the women. Please plan now to be there! We will renew friendships as we join together to serve God, while He makes the event memorable for the pilgrims. We will worship, have fun and work hard as we serve to uplift the conference room team, the pilgrims and each other.

It is so needed that as many Palanca workers as possible arrive Thursday evening by 7:30 and stay throughout the weekend, but each person is so appreciated for whatever time he or she can serve whether or not he or she can stay at the camp the whole time.

There will be, as usual, a suggested donation to cover the cost of the room and meals for each attendee including team, palanca, and pilgrims. The amount will remain the same as last year (\$90 for the whole weekend, \$25 for each day if you are not staying over). Be reminded that this is a donation. Please pay the amount you can afford – a little less if needed; a little more if possible.

Remember to bring your Bible, your cross, a white shirt/blouse/, black shoes, black pants/skirt (sorry, guys, no skirts, please) for serving the banquet, comfortable shoes and clothes, bedding, towels, personal supplies, a mug for refreshments, and snacks to share in the conference room and palanca room.

Skits will be Friday night for the women. Please present them in plenty of time to me as they must be approved by the Rectors. Remember that there is a costume room at the camp for your use if needed.

There is so much to be excited about as plans are made for the 2009 Via de Cristo! Invite your pilgrims NOW (and your palanca buddies) so they can save the dates, arrange for time off work, child care, etc. And, please begin now and continue to pray for the weekend, the pilgrims and the team.

Please RSVP to Brad or Becky to allow us to plan for meals, rooms and the activities for the weekend, especially Thursday evening. Please also contact us if you have questions.

God bless you as you make plans to serve!!

Becky Roe
Palanca Rector 2009
712-338-9400
r_roe1@hotmail.com

Brad Simington
Palanca Rector 2009
712-338-2290
blsimington@milfordcable.net

Assurance from the Treasurer

God's Blessing to the 4th Day Community, DeColores!! We have adequate financial resources to cover the upcoming 2009 weekends. It is no surprise that all costs are increasing. This year's suggested donation is the same as last year — \$90.00 for the entire weekend or \$25 for each day you participate.

We strive to keep this time together affordable for all. Remember these are only *suggested* amounts, so prayerfully consider your donations—a little less if needed; more if possible. I've been Treasurer long enough to conclude that the number of participants in both pilgrims and palanca workers attending is the key to our financial security.

Therefore be sure to mark January 8-11 and January 15-18 on your calendars as "Via de Cristo — Busy for the Lord" and come share in God's grace. It is our service and obligation to enrich others lives, so continue to pray asking the Lord to guide you to that special pilgrim now!

Get your bags packed for yet another inspiring weekend enabling us to start 2009 serving the Lord.

—Bonnie Sleezer, Treasurer



Wise Men and Women Still Seek Him

The Rooster Crows
 19903 225th Street
 Fort Dodge, IA 50501

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

December 2008

Jan. 8 Men's Weekend Team

Rector	Steve Quattlebaum	Spencer, IA
1st Asst Rector	Mike Lindemann	Humbolt, IA
Past Rector	Todd Brockshus	Spencer, IA
Spiritual Director	Pastor Tim Nappe	Milford, IA
Ideal	Jason Vulk	Des Moines, IA
Laity	Ryan Blau	Spencer, IA
Piety		
Study & Music	Dave Bennett	Omaha, NE
Action	Kurt Weeks	Spencer
Leaders	Dean Mechler	Spencer, IA
Environment	Brett Hoffman	Spencer, IA
CCiA	George Kruger	Spencer
Jog Talk	Todd Nicholson	Storm Lake, IA
4th Day	Dave Jenson	Algona
Palanca Rector	Brad Simington	Milford, IA
Kitchen Rector	Jeff Anderson	Webster City, IA
Asst. Kitchen Rector	Butch Sleezer	Aurelia, IA

Jan. 15 Women's Weekend Team

Rector	Theone Quattlebaum	Spencer, IA
Asst. Rect/CCiA	Andy Bean	Albert City, IA
Asst. Rector	Laurie Simington	Milford, IA
Previous Rector	Bonnie Sleezer	Aurelia, IA
Spiritual Director	Pastor Deb Mechler	Spencer, IA
Ideal	Amy Heesch	Dayton, IA
Laity	Joyce Mc Crea	Milford, IA
Piety	Chrissy Matthews	Humboldt, IA
Study	Jan Bowles	Spirit Lake, IA
Action	Kristin Kenyon	Fort Dodge, IA
Leaders	Nikki Sleezer	Aurelia, IA
Environment	Jody Vulk	Des Moines, IA
Music	Cynthia Brandt	Everly, IA
Auxiliary	Lisa Carpenter	Milford, IA
Auxiliary	GA(Georgia Ann) Darnell	Spencer, IA
Auxiliary	Lynnette Hyndman	Cherokee, IA
Auxiliary	Kathy Sindt	Holstein, IA
Auxiliary	Kim Weeks	Spencer, IA
Palanca Rector	Becky Roe	Milford, IA
Palanca Sp. Dir.	Pastor Wendy Van Tassell	Spencer, IA



Secretariat Contact Information

Name	Position	Email
Carroll & Judy Lang	Brothers in Blue/CoDR	CDLng@aol.com
Steve & Theone Quattlebaum	Lay Directors	steveq@smunet.net
Jolene Manzey	Past Lay Director	jmanzey@iw.net
Sheryl Kleppe	Past Secretary	skleppe@storm-lake.k12.ia.us
Laurie Simington	Secretary	blsimington@milfordcable.net
Pastor Jane Johnston	Spiritual Director	revjane@iowatelecom.net
Bonnie Sleezer	Treasurer	bbsleezer@hotmail.com