

What is Cursillo?

Cursillo is a Spanish word meaning "short course". It is a highly structured three-day weekend designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people and bring them to a new awareness of living in God's grace. It is a combined effort of lay-people and clergy toward renewal of the church.

History of Cursillo

Cursillo originated in the late 1940's in the Spanish Catholic church and moved to America in the late 1950s. It began in the Lutheran church when lay-people and clergy attended a Catholic Cursillo in 1971 in Texas. The first Lutheran sponsored weekends were held in 1972 in both Iowa and Florida and have now been held in over 23 states and in some foreign countries. Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California held its first weekend in June 1990. Weekend sets are held three times a year.

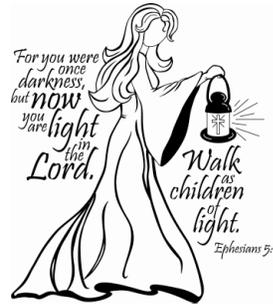


What happens when I go?

A Cursillo weekend is three days in length, beginning on Thursday evening and ending the following Sunday afternoon. Participants worship, study and commune together daily. The content of the weekend centers around 15 talks. Ten are given by lay-people and five are given by clergy. Following each talk, small round table discussions focus on the main points of the talk presented. The titles of the talks indicate their content: *Ideals, Grace, Laity, Faith, Piety, Study, Sacraments, Action, Obstacles to Grace, Leaders, Environment, Christian Life, Christian Community and Group Reunion*. Throughout the weekend there is plenty of music, singing, fellowship, food and time for prayer.

What happens after I attend?

Once you have attended a Cursillo weekend, you are a part of the larger Cursillo community made up of congregations like yours. You are encouraged to continue your spiritual growth through renewal groups, study and church participation. Renewal has two forms, small groups of men and women who meet weekly to pray and share with each other spiritually, and the monthly meeting of the Cursillo community at a host church for fellowship singing, communion and encouragement from the people you became acquainted with on your weekend.



Who can go?

The Cursillo weekend is intended for married couples, single men and women and clergy. To be eligible you must be a member of a Lutheran congregation whose pastor has attended a previous weekend or four members from the same church can start a Cursillo community, provided the Pastor does not object. Pastors attending for the first time are encouraged to have several members of their own congregation attend with them. Men attend the first weekend and women attend the second weekend.

What are the facilities like?

The facility for the weekend is St. Joseph's Renewal Center in Rosemead, CA. You are furnished with a twin bed, hot showers, and three meals a day from our kitchen. A phone number is available so you may be reached in case of an emergency. All we ask is that you arrange your schedule so that you don't receive unnecessary calls.

Special needs

If you require a special diet, handicap facilities or take medication daily, you may still attend. We will be happy to cooperate with your needs.

What does it cost me?

Nothing! It is the policy of the Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California not to turn anyone away because of money. Others like yourself that have attended the weekend have felt the desire to contribute to support the weekends so that you can attend. If you feel you would like to contribute so that others can attend in the future, you will be told how to do so. The Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California is a non-profit organization and receives its funds only from contributions that are tax deductible. The Cursillo team consists of lay-people and clergy volunteers who attended a past Cursillo weekend and wanted to return to serve others.

Why should I go?

Many of those who have attended also wondered whether or not they should go. Now that they have attended they want to share this wonderful gift from our Lord. Your experience will be unique and your spiritual life with the Lord, no matter how strong, will be further strengthened for having had the experience. The goal of the movement is to inspire, challenge and equip local church members for Christian action in their lives, homes, churches and communities.



How do I apply?

For further information or an application, contact your Pastor or church office. Additional information, applications and contact information can also be found at www.lcsocal.org.

The Cursillo Experience.....

"Attending Cursillo was the best thing I ever did. It took everything I knew about Christ and moved it from my head to my heart...it was amazing!"

"Cursillo! A life changing experience! My priorities have changed. I now put God first and everything else just falls into place."

"Cursillo really showed me how much I am actually LOVED by God. I had no idea."

"Cursillo changed my heart and helped me let go of hurts that had affected my walk with Christ."

"Cursillo . . . For me, the weekend was a preview of heaven and the abundant love and joy that our awesome God has prepared for us!"

"Cursillo changed my life. I went there not knowing what to expect, not even really liking it at first but once it took hold it was a true mountain-top experience. I came home so full of God's love."

"Cursillo showed me how real and alive Jesus is today. It also taught me how powerful a community can be when brought together for the purpose of the Love of our Savior."



*You are invited to share in an
unique Christian renewal.*

Lutheran Cursillo of Southern California

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Visit our website at: lcsocal.org

"You did not choose me,
but I chose you,
and appointed you,
that you should go and
bear fruit."

John 15:16