

GETTING TO KNOW CURSILLO

Cursillo (pronounced KER SEE O) starts with a three-day retreat of learning, sharing, and experiencing life in a Christian Community.

What Happens During Cursillo Weekend?

- The focus is on the three pillars of Cursillo: Piety (Worship/Prayer), Study, and Action.
- The weekend typically runs from Thursday evening through Sunday late afternoon
- It involves a series of talks on Christian living, worship, prayer, and opportunities for small group discussion, reflection and fellowship.
- It is a structured, largely lay-led, three-day retreat designed to create a "community" experience.

How did Cursillo originate? Why are there so many Spanish Words?

- The Cursillo Movement started when a group of priests and laymen in Majorca, Spain examined the condition of the Church and felt that something had to be done.
- From 1943 to 1947 they formulated a “method” to help renew the Church. They called it a “short course” or “short experience” in the basic teachings of Jesus, as lived with other Christians. They also developed an ongoing program for after the three-days, so that the initial enthusiasm would continue, thus the term “movement.”
- Cursillo was deemed as an official Movement of the Roman Catholic Church in the early 1960s and was introduced to the Lutherans by the Episcopal Church in Arizona in 1982.

What does Men’s Weekend, Women’s Weekend, and Blended Weekend mean?

- Since 1982, Lutheran Cursillo Movement of Arizona (LCMA) has hosted separate weekends for men and women.
- Due to rising costs and decreased attendance, 2025 was the first time a weekend was held with both men and women, called a Blended Weekend.
- Men and women slept in separate areas, and the discussion tables are set up as men only and women only. The remainder of the weekend continued with the same structure as before.

What if the dates in September do not work for me?

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- The next Blended Weekend at Franciscan Renewal Center (FRC) is set for March 20 through April 2, 2028.

Will there be food?

- Oh yes, FRC provides a wonderful buffet with three meals each day as well as a chef who will coordinate any dietary needs.
- The discussion rooms will also have snacks and various drinks.

What is the cost?

- If you decide to attend, the application will require a \$100 deposit. It is up to your church as to who is responsible for the deposit. Speak with your sponsor for more information.
- The total we give to FRC for double rooms for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday night; with 3 meals Friday, Saturday, and 2 meals on Sunday; and access to the campus as well as the different meeting rooms and chapel is around \$330 per person.
- LCMA is a non-profit movement. The money collected is given to the site for our weekend. The deposit goes toward that \$330 cost.
- We do not want anyone who feels called to attend to be discouraged by the cost. Please contact the Parish Rep if a financial scholarship is needed.

Who will be there?

- Men and women from various Lutheran Churches throughout the Valley will be there either as a participant (first timers) or serving on team (past Cursillo participants).
- Most will be part of the Laity (all baptized members of a church who are not ordained clergy or in a religious order), but we will have some Lutheran Pastors, Vicars, Deacons or Chaplains on Team.
- We share the FRC campus with other groups, but our group will be together for meeting rooms, sleeping quarters, and in the chapel, as well as seated together in the dining room.
- Any questions about different Lutheran synods (ELCA, LCMC, LCMS, etc) will be directed back to your home church Pastor.
- Anything not pertaining to Cursillo (politics, sports, current events, etc.) will be requested not be discussed during the weekend.

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What is a Sponsor?

- A Cursillista(s) that has accepted the call to bring you to and through your weekend.
- If you have special needs at home with family or pets, they will assist in supporting your absence for the weekend.
- They will take you to the event's campus, assist you in getting checked in, and help you get settled in your room on Thursday evening.
- Your sponsor will be there to bring you home on Sunday evening, bring you to the Ultreya Potluck the weekend following the event and will help you find a group to meet with after your weekend.
- You are not walking alone.

If I say yes, what am I committing to?

- Attend the weekend at FRC checking in by 6pm Thursday, September 17
- Stay on Campus until the event is over around 5pm, Sunday, September 20
- Leave anything that may distract you at home (or in your room) during the weekend such as phones, smart watches, electronics, work, or home distractions.
- Open your heart allowing the Holy Spirit to refresh and lead you.
- Enjoy a weekend of great food, fellowship, and learning without any cleaning or cooking or outside distractions. You will NOT be asked to stand up and give a talk unless you feel comfortable and want to share.
- Attend the Potluck and Worship Service (called an "Ultreya") on Saturday, September 26 at noon at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Fountain Hills.
- After that, pray about how and if you want to share what you experienced on the weekend through your piety, action and study.

I have more questions.

Wonderful, feel free to ask any SOTH Cursillo Community member or you can always contact one of the Parish Reps by call/text/email.

Kathy Patterson and Sonja Almlie, Shepherd of the Hills Parish Representatives
Lutheran Cursillo Movement of Arizona