

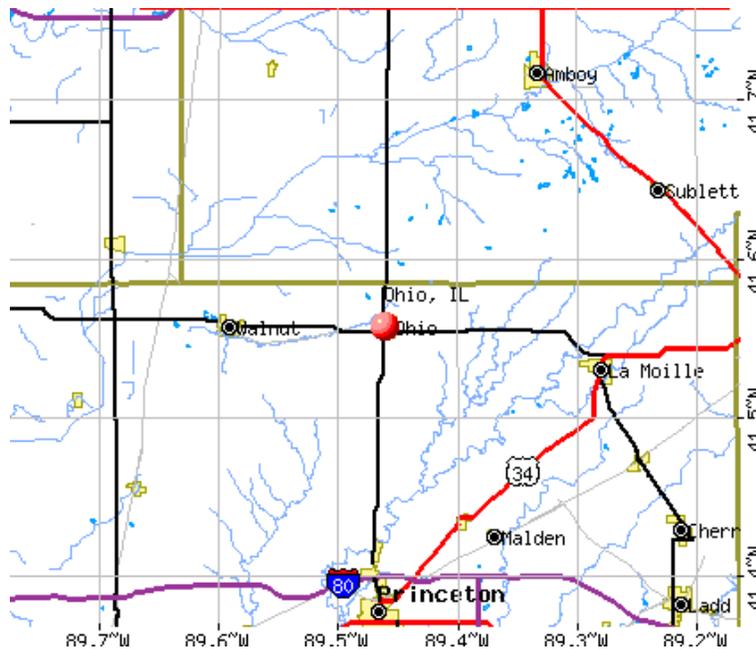
Living Water Via De Cristo News January/February 2011 Issue 154

ULTREYA

**Saturday, February 5, 2011
First Lutheran Church Ohio Illinois
201 S Main St, Ohio, IL 61349**

(815) 376-7431

**Potluck supper begins at 5:30 PM
Couples bring one dish to pass, families please bring two. Coffee
and water and ice are provided by the host church, but any other
drinks will need to be brought by the community. Babysitting
will be available for children up to 5.**



DIRECTIONS

From I-88 Take exit #56/DIXON/PRINCETON onto IL-26 toward DIXON - go 11.2 mi

Arrive at 201 S MAIN ST, OHIO, on the Right

LAY DIRECTOR(S) ...

As we start out the New Year, let us take a moment to thank God for all the blessings he has given Living Water this past year. We were brought together for many Ultreyas and held 3 weekends. We were blessed to have a group of dedicated people serving on the secretariat that met monthly as well as people behind the scenes helping with the web site, newsletter and the coordinators that said yes to hosting events at their churches. Financially we are doing O.K. Living Water is doing well. But as always, we can do better. None of our weekends were “full”, so we challenge you to ask someone to attend a weekend this year. We know that God will send the ones He wants to a weekend, but He does need our help in being the instrument to do the asking. It is not too early to ask! By asking now, we can give God more time to have the Holy Spirit work in their lives to get that positive answer. Ask a person to attend and share what Via de Cristo has done for your life and your walk with Christ. People want to know how the weekend has helped you. We also need people to attend the send offs, serenades, and clausuras. Mark it on your calendars now. Get a group of people to carpool with you. Plan now so you don't let other little things get in the way. I know that things come up, but with over 1000 people who have gone through a weekend, we should always have a good group to support the weekends. Remember what those things meant to you on your weekend and help give that feeling to the candidates on their weekend. The dates for the spring weekends are: Men's weekend is March 31 – April 3 & Women's weekend is April 7 - 10.

Let's all work towards making 2011 a great year for Living Water by supporting the weekends and the Ultreyas.

In God's service,
Pam and Gary Gross
Lay Directors

LEADERS CHAIR(S)...

Continuing Education Class offered January 15, 2011

Ever wonder about the rest of the LWVdC story? Want to serve on a LWVdC Team? Attending the next Continuing Education Class will help answer both of these questions. Mark your calendars now for the January 15th, 2011 Continuing Education Class in Princeton, IL. We will meet at the Evangelical Covenant Church, 24 North Main in Princeton, IL. From 10 am.-12 noon. Please RSVP to alfaff@frontier.com or call 815-872-1178 so we will have enough materials for all who wish to attend. Please note that one time attendance is required before serving on team. Feel free to email with questions or concerns. All are welcome. See you there!

Arnie and Anne Faber
Leaders Chair

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR...

New Beginnings

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? Isaiah 43:19a

A new year offers us a chance for new beginnings. It's like we have a clean slate and can do with it as we will. For many people this involves making New Year's resolutions. This may mean paying more attention to keeping our body in shape, striving to learn a new trade or hobby, or focusing on a task that we have neglected for far too long. It is a chance to break away from old habits and ways of doing things to improve our life. A new beginning means a new start, and we like that.

Yet we are told that most of our New Year resolutions will be abandoned by the end of January. That chance for a new life gets lost when *we* are the ones in control. How much different is that new beginning when it comes from God. When God breaks into our life with a new understanding of God's grace, it can be an overwhelming feeling of joy and peace. It is a new beginning that causes a radical transformation. We see the world much differently, knowing that God loves us and cares for us.

If you are like me, you had an experience like this when you attended your weekend. The experience of God's grace is so strong that we live differently. It is a new beginning that brings us closer to Christ, and brings an assurance of our faith that can only come from the Holy Spirit. We have all heard others talk about this, in rollos and in 4th Day talks and in reunion groups. This is a new beginning that has eternal effects.

I have wondered as Spiritual Director how to bring a new beginning to Living Water. While the weekends are just as wonderful, and the rollos powerful, there is not the enthusiasm to bring people to the weekends that there was when Living Water was young. While we will continue to offer this chance for spiritual renewal for whoever God leads to us, it would help the church to get as many to attend the weekends as possible. I view this as a matter of stewardship, as seen in the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30). The faithful slaves used the talents they were given to produce more. The faithless slave hid his talent in the ground. We have been given a great treasure here; we bury it in the ground if we do not use it to produce more fruit. This is an extension of what is written on the back of our crosses; *Christ is counting on you!*

So how do we do this? I would like to suggest the following. ***First, pray.*** Pray for Living Water and for those who you see around you in need of a new beginning. ***Second, ask the Holy Spirit to help select three people to invite to this spring weekend.*** Why three? Three is a biblical number of completeness. It gives us a goal that is not out of reach. ***Then third, be bold and ask those people to come and see what God is doing here.*** You may not get anyone to agree to come, but you have planted a seed. If you get them to think about it, they may attend a future weekend. If someone does agree, you will be giving them a chance at a new beginning that they will thank you for later. And the church, which is the body of Christ, will gain a more effective worker for the gospel. We can count on Christ to help us do this.

God loves you and so do I,
Pastor Randy

WEEKEND CHAIR...

Dear Community,

As I write this article for the newsletter it is the last week of advent. What a great time of year it is. It is a time of anticipation as well as a time of patience. We are anticipating the coming of Christmas, the time of year where we celebrate the greatest gift of all. But we also must be patient and not look too far ahead. This season of Advent is about preparing ourselves so that we are able to receive the gift with an open heart. Our community is also in a time of anticipation and patience. We are anticipating our upcoming spring weekends but we must be patient so that God can prepare our hearts and minds to do his work. God is in the process of putting together His teams and we need to keep Hal and Mark and Lisa and Jan in our prayers. We pray for strength and wisdom and discernment as they go through this process of team building. We also know that God is preparing candidates. Pastor Randy has told us that a weekend is a great gift to offer someone. Please seek out those in your life that you can offer this awesome gift to. Pray about these special people and take that step of faith as God calls you to ask them to attend a weekend.

Please keep the spring weekend teams and known and unknown candidates in your prayers. Please also set aside the spring weekend dates on your calendar so that you can participate in one or more of the weekend events. The men's weekend is March 31st thru April 3rd and the women's weekend is April 7th thru April 10th. The part of the weekend that we need a little more help in is the tear down and cleanup of the camp on the Sunday afternoon of the women's weekend. The camp is a little spread out and has about five separate areas that we use. By the time Sunday afternoon arrives there is quite a bit of work that needs to be done to get the trailer loaded and all of the different areas cleaned up. If you are able to make it, your help would be much appreciated by me and the weekend dorm chas.

Your brother in Christ,
Paul Baker
Weekend Chair

POST WEEKEND CHAIRS...

We hope that everyone had a very Merry and blessed Christmas! Let's give honor and glory to our Savior, Jesus Christ this year and pray that He will place the name of a person that may need to attend the upcoming spring weekend - weekend #43. And pray that we will be bold enough to follow His lead to invite that person.

The next Ultreya will be held on Saturday, February 5, 2011. The location will be First Lutheran in Ohio, IL 61349. The address is 201 S. Main, P.O. Box 126, Ohio, IL 61349. Jim and Stacy Whitten (weekend #41) graciously volunteered to be the host church and are so excited about this event. Also, this is our next Rectora (#43), Lisa Vincent's church, as well. Weather permitting, we hope to see as many people as we can at the Ultreya.

God's Peace and Blessings to you all,
Bruce and Valorie Daniel (#24)
Post-Weekend Chairs

RECTOR...

DeColores!

I wish all of you a joyous New year and ask for your prayers for the team selection. Please pray for God's hand in it and by His grace we will finish filling positions for the team for Weekend #43 soon. I ask you to continue to pray for someone to attend the weekend and then ask! We hope to have a full weekend. Thank you to all the men that have said yes to serving.

May God bless you and your family in the New Year

Hal Gustafson

RECTORA...

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Psalm 51:7

The wintertime, which can be dark and gloomy due to the short days and often harsh cold, does have its moments of wonder and majesty. Have you ever noticed how a newly fallen snowfall sparkles as the moonlight dances across the surface? How about frost covered trees as the sun's light shines down through the branches and everything sparkles and glistens like the finest diamonds? Do you find yourself in awe at the beauty of God's works of creation? It's a picture post card moment captured in our mind: calm, peaceful, serene and uninterrupted. Hmm...calm, peaceful, serene, uninterrupted, does that sound similar to what one experiences on a Via de Cristo weekend? Do you remember your weekend when you heard about and experienced God's grace, and maybe for the first time you truly realized what it meant to be washed as white as snow? Just as no two snowflakes are alike, each one experiences their weekend in a different way, but for those who reach that mountain top, the world around them sparkles and glistens with God's love just like the frost covered branches.

Do you know of someone who would like to experience that peacefulness that only God can give? Maybe it's a neighbor, a co-worker or a family member. Just step out in faith. God knows when the timing is right, so pray that God would place names on your heart to ask to attend weekend # 43. Applications are available online at www.livingwaterviadecristo.org or attached to this newsletter. The team is being formed and soon team meetings will begin and we would love to be praying for each candidate by name!

Blessed be **His** Glorious name!

Lisa Vincent, Rectora #43

COMMUNICATIONS...

E-mails for prayer requests, joys and thanksgivings to be shared with the community can be emailed to either: prayers@livingwaterviadecristo.org or gcharts@sbcglobal.net

Or call: 309-792-9030

Check out our website: www.livingwaterviadecristo.org

Living Water via de Cristo

Continuing Education

Saturday, January 15, 2011
10 am -Noon

**Evangelical Covenant Church, 24 North Main Street,
Princeton, Illinois**

Purpose of Continuing Education

- To go over the events of the retreat and place them in the context of the dynamics of the weekend
 - To emphasize the importance of sponsorship and palanca to the success of the weekend
 - To affirm the reality that the retreats are held to provide the Fourth Day, and that group reunion, attending Ultreyas, and spiritual direction are the Cursillo methods means of ensuring perseverance in the faith
- To introduce the role of the Secretariat in providing the retreats and the Fourth Day experience
 - To remind new pilgrims that Via de Cristo is *one* of the tools used to further the mission of the local congregation and the larger Church.

Complete the form below. Make reservations now for your place at the next Continuing Education Meeting using any of the following means:

Mail: Complete the bottom of this form and mail to Anne and Arnold Faber, Leaders Chair
407 Bryant Circle Drive, Princeton, IL 61356

Email: alfaff@verizon.net Please put "VDC Continuing Ed" in the subject and include the information asked for in the form in your email

Call: 815-872-1178 and leave a message with the information asked for in the form below.

Name _____ Weekend attended _____

Address _____ Telephone or email _____

**Application for the Lutheran Spiritual Renewal Movement
Affiliated with the Illowa Lutheran Coalition**

I. Applicant Information *(Please print. Return application to sponsor when completed.)*

Full name _____ Age (18 minimum) _____ Male _____
Female _____

Name or nickname you would like on name tag _____ Home phone () _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Occupation _____ Work phone () _____ E-mail _____

Home church _____ Denomination _____

Church address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church phone () _____ Pastor's name _____

Contact person (*other than spouse*): Name _____ Phone () _____

Tell us about your current church involvement - activities, positions held, etc. (*Attach sheet if needed.*)

Please note any special medical or dietary needs, physical limitations, or sleeping arrangements needed:

Marital Status: Single _____ Divorced _____ Widowed _____ Married _____ Spouse's name _____

If married, spouse: has _____, will _____, will not _____, attend(ed) a Via de Cristo or similar weekend
(*Spouses are encouraged to attend consecutive weekends.*)

Weekend you wish to attend _____ Would you be available on short notice if a cancellation occurs? _____

Applicant's signature _____ Date _____

II. Pastor's Signature *(See information on back.)*

As the applicant's pastor, I offer my support and prayers for my parishioner's participation in this opportunity for growth as a Christian leader.

Signed _____

III. Sponsor's Information *(To be filled in by sponsor.)*

Sponsor's name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone () _____ Work () _____ Are you involved in a reunion group? _____

Date & location of your VdC or other weekend _____ Weekend number _____

Note to the applicant's pastor:

This member from your congregation has applied to attend an upcoming Via de Cristo weekend sponsored by the Illowa Lutheran Coalition. These weekends are designed to provide faith renewal for Christians by grounding them more fully in God's grace and in the disciplines of prayer, study and service. It is our hope that participants in the weekend will return to their home parishes renewed and better equipped to serve their church as leaders. Therefore we expect participants in the weekend to be active members of their church. Like Marriage Encounter, which seeks to strengthen healthy marriages rather than heal troubled ones, Via de Cristo is designed to strengthen faith rather than provide spiritual conversion for a struggling Christian. In addition, it is our hope that married persons will be able to attend consecutive weekends so that they can share the experience together. This can be a very positive thing. If one partner is unable to do this, but could at a later date, we encourage the couple to wait. If one partner simply doesn't want to attend a weekend and is unlikely to ever do so in the future, then we wish to know whether or not you as their pastor have any concerns about the impact of the weekend on their marriage.

If you do not have any concerns about your parishioner's involvement in this weekend, we ask for your signature of support. If you have any apprehension, we would appreciate hearing from you in writing. If you wish to talk further to one of our spiritual directors concerning Via de Cristo, please call Pastor Randy Willers at 309-764-5614. Thank you for taking this under consideration.

Sponsor's Checklist:

- _____ The applicant's portion of the application (Part I) is complete.
- _____ The applicant's check is attached.
- _____ The applicant's pastor has signed the application (Part II).
- _____ I believe this applicant will benefit from a Via de Cristo weekend.
- _____ I have read the responsibilities of the sponsor and agree to abide by them.

Sponsor's signature _____ Date _____

Please return the completed application, along with a non-refundable deposit of \$25 (make checks payable to Living Water Via de Cristo), to the Pre-Weekend Chairs:

Jerry and Krista Hanson
1624 S Main St
Princeton, IL 61356-2629
815-875-2359

The deposit will be applied to the suggested contribution of \$110.00. Financial assistance is available when needed. **Applications should be sent at least five weeks prior to the weekend.**

Thank you for helping to expand the reach of the VdC movement.

Illowa Lutheran Coalition
 Augustana College
 639 – 38th Street,
 Rock Island, IL 61201

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID Rock Island, IL 61201 PERMIT NO. 224

Return Service Requested

Living Water Via de Cristo Secretariat Members 2010-2011

Lay Director: Gary and Pam Gross	309-797-5561	ggross@qconline.com
Assistant Lay Directors: Dennis Mellgren	309-582-2419	
Spiritual Director: Pastor Randy Willers	309-764-5614	rwillers@qconline.com
Spiritual Director:		
Treasurers: Lisa Vincent	815-875-9123	Glvin922@verizon.net
Pre-Weekend: Jerry and Krista Hanson	815-875-2359	jandkhanson@msn.com
Weekend: Paul Baker	815-223-2095	ptb1818@gmail.com
Kitchen: Tom and Wanda Nelson	815-875-3185	twdlnel@verizon.net
Post-Weekend: Bruce and Valerie Daniel	309-798-9494	grdma1@hotmail.com
Leaders: Arnie and Anne Faber	815-872-1178	alfaff@verizon.net
Palanca: Jim and Patti Turner	309-945-5538	jpt@theinter.com
Communications: Cindy Hart	309-792-9030	prayers@livingwaterviadecristo.org