
LIVING WATER VIA DE CRISTO

Issue 166

Newsletter 2013

January/February

~Ultreya~
February 2 at 5:30

Hosted by:
St. Paul's Lutheran
1701 16th Avenue
Sterling IL
(815) 625-3069

With Leadership Training prior to the Ultreya
From 2:30 – 5:00@ St.Paul's

(More information on Leadership training is in the newsletter)

Direction's to St. Paul's Lutheran:

Take the State Route 26 exit toward Dixon
Turn right onto IL-26 N/S
Galena Ave/State Route 26 N
Turn left onto W Everett St.
Continue onto IL-2
S/Lincoln Hwy/Palmyra St.
Continue onto IL-2
S/Lincoln Hwy
Turn R onto E Lynn Blvd.
Then turn left onto 16th Ave.

Couples bring one dish to pass, families please bring two. Coffee, 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 ages up to 5.

Weekend #47 Weekend Men's April 4-7 - Women's April 11-14
Retreat Site: *Camp Menno Haven and Retreat Center, Tiskilwa IL*

Team training dates are listed below:

Saturday, January 19 ~8 a.m.

Saturday, February 9~8 a.m.

Overnight trainings –Men’s Friday and Saturday February 22&23~7 p.m. through Saturday 3 p.m.

Women's Friday and Saturday March 1&2 ~7 p.m. through Saturday 3 p.m.

Saturday last meeting March~ 16 8 a.m.

FROM THE LAY DIRECTORS...

Well, it’s a new year, and you’ve probably already broken at least one resolution – if you made any at all. I’ve pretty much given up on making resolutions. When it comes to embarking on a self-improvement project, the only Resolve I seem to have these days comes in a handy spray bottle.

I’m guessing a lot of you have the same problem. That’s why similar resolutions seem to pop up year after year: Lose a few pounds; get off the couch and into a fitness routine; carve out more time together as a family; show more kindness to others Most resolutions are directed at ourselves, but some may involve tackling outside projects we’ve been putting off for years, like organizing that long-neglected closet.

New Year’s Resolutions are rooted in the realization that we can and should do better. There are bad habits from which we’d love to be freed, and some God-given talents we know we should be dusting off and using for a good purpose. Who doesn’t long for a change, an opportunity to start fresh, and “get it right” this time around? The dawn of a new year, with all its promise and possibilities, seems the perfect time to renew and redo: Out with the old and in with the new.

But for Christians, resolving to make positive changes isn’t merely a January 1 tradition. It’s something we need to commit to each new day. We may not always succeed, but it should always be our goal.

Living as “Children of Light” is a lot like clearing out that closet and getting rid of what no longer “fits.” In Ephesians, Chapter 4, Paul tells us to “put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires,” and “put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.”

What are you wearing these days? Have you resolved to “put on the new self,” the regal robe of a Christlike appearance? Or are you still lazing around in the ragged sweatpants of old sin? With help from the Holy Spirit, we can make a daily commitment to putting off that which no longer becomes us as Christians, and becoming the new person God knows we can be, dressed ever so “suitably.”

May your New Year be filled with countless blessings from above, and your families surrounded by God’s perfect love.

GLYASDW!

Barb & Joe Geerts

It was a sweet “tweet.”

In case you haven't heard, Living Water via de Cristo was the recipient of more than \$1,400 in pledge donations through the annual Birdies for Charity program. Held in conjunction with the John Deere Classic golf tournament in Moline, Ill., the program invites participants to sign a pledge to donate a certain amount for each birdie that is made during the Classic. Donors may also choose to provide a set amount in support of their favorite participating charity. Those pledging were eligible for drawings for a variety of prizes offered through the BFC program.

Although we got a rather late start for the 2012 event, we were still blessed with some 30 donors who gave generously to support Living Water. We raised \$1,409.82, and with the John Deere Classic's matching funds of 8 percent this year, that added another \$112.79 for a grand total of \$1,522.61. So your tax-deductible gifts will have an even greater impact. With the success of the program, I'm sure we'll be launching “Babe Chicks for Birdies” next year, as well.

The financial boost has come at a perfect time for Living Water, as we transition to a new camp and also work to update some of our equipment and materials. We are so very grateful that the members of Via de Cristo continue to support this movement in so many ways. We of the Secretariat do our best to be good stewards of our resources and keep costs as low as possible for our weekends. It is our goal that no one should miss an opportunity to attend a retreat due to an inability to pay. Because of folks like you, and all you do, we can continue to share the love and grace of God during three spirit-filled days. And that's something worth “tweeting” about.

GLYASDI!

Barb Geerts, lay director

FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The hustle and bustle of secular Christmas is over...(although we are still in the Christmas season - all 12 days of it) ... the presents have been opened, wrapping paper thrown away (or maybe smoothed out to be reused?) some of the kids toys are probably already broken or discarded...maybe that one sweater that you really wanted didn't look all that good after all...

And now New Year's Eve is right around the corner - the beginning of another year... a time of making resolutions (and then breaking them!)... but a new beginning nevertheless. In fact, the entire Christmas season is a new beginning.

What could be possibly be more appropriate to symbolize new beginnings than a new baby? The Christ child... the Son of God...the Word made flesh. Doing for us what we cannot do on our own... saving us from the effects of our sin ...healing us in ways that we can only begin to imagine... new beginnings indeed.

So maybe making resolutions is not such a bad thing, maybe trying to keep them is not so impossible. Maybe we just need to be more trusting, more open to the work of the Holy Spirit.

So here is my invitation - and challenge - to all of us:

Dare to dream and dream big.....

What do you want to see happen in your life?

***What do you want to see happen in the life of the VdC
community?***

***How can you be Christ for one another and for those who
don't know Him?***

The world has been made new with the birth of the Christ child, but it is up to us, the body of Christ, to work together towards it's completion.

“Nothing has ever been achieved by the person who says, ‘It can’t be done.’
(Eleanor Roosevelt)

May the peace of Christ be with you always,

Pastor Vicki

FROM THE LEADERS CHAIR...

Leader's School (AKA Continuing Education)

So you have reflected on your weekend experience and feel called to serve others as you were served? Would you like to learn more about the history and the dynamics of a Via de Cristo weekend? New Pilgrims, we invite you to consider serving on an upcoming weekend team. Attending Leader's School is required to serve on the fall team.

Old hands, come and refresh your understanding of traditions and practices that are part of the weekend experience. A Leader School will be held from 2:00 to 5:30 immediately before the February 2 Ultreya at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Sterling. Follow the directions for the Ultreya, and join us. No reservations, only a servant's heart required.

Leaders Chair
Clark Stojan

From the Spring Weekend # 47 Rector ...

Having just been blessed to celebrate another Christmas season with family, it brings to mind how we become surrounded with peace and warmth. Each year we call to mind the coming of the Christ child which, in fact, set into motion our adoption into His family. Galatians 4:5 ... to redeem those under the law, that we might receive **adoption** to sonship. How often have you experienced being in the midst of a group of people and felt like you are with family? For this my brothers and sisters is what I experience when we gather together in community. This, however, is way beyond feeling but is in reality, the love of God permeating our very lives. We once more have upon us an opportunity to share that love with other human beings, which quite simply is what we are called to do. By planting that mustard seed deep within the recesses of a heart, we continue God's plan in growing the love of Christ in the world. There is no limit to this impact on others than the limits we place as individuals. I ask that each member of this community would consider and pray for one person to invite to the weekend. It does not have to be Christmas to place that Christ child into the heart of another, thereby expanding within us and around us the Kingdom of God.

God Loves You and So Do I,

Paul Schlindwein
Rector VDC #47

From the Spring Weekend # 47 Rectora...

Dear Community,

Blessings for the New Year. Now that some of the holiday busyness has settled down. We are gearing up, team is almost complete and texts and emails are swift through the air. God is always willing to carry us, and remember

Psalm 91:4

He will cover you with his feathers and under his wings you will find refuge.

He will comfort and heal our wounds until we are ready to fly. This team is gonna fly and soar to new heights, all with the help of God. Pray for the team, and pray First, Last and Always. Then see who God places on your heart, to attend this weekend, and then ask.

Please keep me and Lori in your prayers. We are blessed and honored to be serving our VDC community and the new Babe chicks that will be flying into our coop come spring.

Gods Blessing to all,

Ronda Little (Rectora) and Lori Whalen (Head Cha) for weekend #47

From the Palanca Chair...

Thank you to all who signed up for the Weekend #46 prayer vigil. As always, it was an important part of the fall weekend. May all of you be blessed in the coming new year.

Jim and Patty Turner

Palanca Chairmen

From Communications...

E-mails for prayer requests, joys and thanksgivings to be shared with the community can be emailed to either:

prayers@livingwaterviadecristo.org or qcharts@sbcglobal.net

Or call: 309-792-9030

Check out our website: www.livingwaterviadecristo.org

In His service,

Cindy Hart

Communications Chair

**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 Pastors, Terrie Wilder @ 815 677-3444 or Vickie Sauter @ 815-849-9182.

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 \$35 (make checks payable to Living Water Via de Cristo), to the Pre-Weekend Chairs:

Amy Peterson
318 Elm Place
Princeton IL 61356
815-872-5703

The deposit will be applied to the suggested contribution of \$135.00. 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 2012-2013

Lay Director: Joe and Barb Geerts	563-322-2847	ezwriter@netins.net
Assistant Lay Directors: Dennis Mellgren	309-582-4860	dmellgren@mercerschools.org
Co- Spiritual Director: Pastor Terrie Wilder	815-677-3444	tfwilder@comcast.net
Co - Spiritual Director: Pastor Vicki Sauter	815-973-2819	vlsauter151@gmail.com
Treasurer: Diana Wallace	815-875-4391	diana.wallace_3691@yahoo.com
Secretary: Barb Holder	309-582-5277	bjholder@frontiernet.net
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Weekend: Jim Whitten	815-894-9315	whittn5@frontier.com
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