
LIVING WATER VIA DE CRISTO

Issue 163

July/August

~Ultreya News~

August 4th

Hosted by:

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

2000 LUTHER DRIVE

PERU, IL (815) 223-1144

DIRECTIONS:

1. From I-80 take exit 73 for Plank Rd.
2. Keep Right at the fork, follow signs for Peru
3. Turn right at Plank Rd.
4. Turn left at Peoria St/Peoria Lane
5. Turn right at Luther Dr
6. Turn right to stay on Luther Dr – church will be on the right.

Potluck supper begins at 5:30 PM

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 up to 5.



Fall Mixed Weekend # 46
November 8th – 11th 2012
Camp Menno Haven, Tiskilwa IL

Team training dates are listed below:

Saturday, August 25~8 a.m. Prince of Peace Lutheran Davenport

Saturday, September 15~8 a.m. St. Matthew's Lutheran Princeton

**Overnight training - Friday, September 28~7 p.m. *through* Saturday, September 29~3 p.m. Calvary Lutheran
Moline Men sleep at Salem Lutheran Moline**

Saturday, October 20~8 a.m. First Lutheran Ohio

**Please be in prayer for the team and team trainings as they prepare to do God's work.
Listen to that voice inside calling you to invite a candidate to share in a weekend growing in the
word, love and peace of our Lord and being bathed in God's Grace.
Is God calling you to ask that special someone?**

Please find the Pilgrim application attached.

Fall Mixed Weekend # 46 also needs help from the Community

**Please plan on being in prayers of Palanca for the weekend, also plan on signing up on the 72 hour Prayer
Scroll and being at the Send off, Serenade and Clausura.**

Remember how important these things were for you on your weekend.

God Bless You



LAY DIRECTOR(S) ...

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith –and this is not from yourself; it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works

Ephesians 2:8-10

De Colores!

Well, it’s summer, one of the few times we hard-working Midwesterners give ourselves license to laze around – to kick off our shoes, set our “to-do list” aside for a bit and just have a little fun. Maybe you’ve already hit the road for a vacation in some new and exciting place, or you’re anticipating an upcoming adventure. Perhaps you’ve sunned yourself poolside, or packed up the kids for the zoo (an outing, that is, not a permanent relocation). Summers are perfectly suited for “sliding by.” And work – well, it just seems to get in the way of it all.

Unfortunately, there are no lazy days of summer for America’s many workaholics. They remain in endless pursuit of the means to a “better life” – a snazzier car, a house in The Hamptons, the summer cottage they never make time to visit. They get so focused on work, their “doing” becomes their “being.”

I think we, as Christians, can risk becoming “workaholics,” of sorts. Raised in a culture that prizes individual initiative and the Self-Made Man, we insist on hanging our salvation on a wall of good works. We wrongly believe that if only we did more deeds for God, if only we could prove what good people we are, if only we could chalk up enough brownie points, surely that would get us through the gates of heaven—as if we were somehow racking up frequent flyer miles of the faithful. In believing it’s up to us to “work our way in,” we lose sight of God’s promise of salvation found in the above passage in Ephesians. And we cheapen Christ’s sacrifice, as well.

In my understanding of the Bible, there is nothing we can do to earn our place in heaven. If there were, it would be called “self-ation.” Instead, God has done it all *for us* in the sacrifice of his son, Jesus Christ. And this out of love—perfect, unconditional, unearned love of the Father. It is He who graces us with eternal life at His pleasure—not ours. How freeing it is to know that it isn’t up to me, that the weight of death never has been, and never will be, on my shoulders. Whew!

Yes, sometimes the idea of “work” seems to get in the way of it all. For instance, I consider myself a pretty fair worker in the Kingdom. I do a lot of things in Christian service. I like to think I’m a “good person.” But if salvation relied on me, there would always be that nagging doubt: What, exactly, is “good enough” to make the cut? And if there were such a measuring of heaven-worthiness, how would I know when I’ve reached the mark? Would I say to myself, “Yesterday, I wasn’t good enough for heaven, but *today* I am?” When would I “arrive”? And what if, having actually attained “good enough” status, I then slipped up and had points deducted? Would I lose heaven? With God’s perfect plan, there is no question, no uncertainty, no wondering and wishing. If I believe in God’s saving grace, I can know where I will go. That is God’s promise starting this moment, and for all eternity.

That isn’t to say that works aren’t important. The scriptures tell us that faith without works is dead. But works are our faithful response to God’s love, not the way into his good graces. We love (in word and deed) because God first loved us. We give because He gave. We live for Him because He died for us. We have been “created in Christ Jesus to do good works.” This is the message of *Via de Cristo*: “We are saved to serve.”

Yes, there is work to be done. There is the team formation. There are the invitations to be made to potential candidates. There are letters to be written and palanca to be prepared. We will work behind the scenes to help ensure that the candidates of Living Water have the opportunity to experience God’s gift of grace in a marvelous new way. The rest ... we’ll leave that to the Lord.

Your Servants in Christ,
Barb & Joe Geerts, Lay Directors



From the desk of the Spiritual Director...

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

About a month or so ago, I was on the expressway, on my way to Rockford. And as you all know about expressways, there are miles and miles of what I will call 'concrete desert'.....concrete barricades atop concrete shoulders bordering concrete roadways - not to mention the concrete walls holding the earth together and the sound away from the people who live behind them. And as is often the case, my eyes wander...

And I noticed a plant growing in the minute space between a barricade and the concrete it was sitting on. What got my attention was not only the bright green color, but the 'posture' of the plant. Large leaves in perfect horizontal formation, the stem of the plant perfectly straight, stretching upwards to the sky. And as what also often happens when I'm driving, my mind went free wheeling....

This plant obviously was able to gather whatever nutrients it needed from that desolate place - enough to reach for the sun and sky and flourish. (Ok, you knew it was coming - it bloomed where it was planted!)

Well, we too gather whatever nutrients we need from the Son - our Lord Jesus Christ - as well as from our respective faith communities, including VdC. We are feed and nourished and sustained through the sharing of the body and blood of Christ. We too reach out, through prayer, invitation, relationship and service to others and at the same time stretch up, in faith, to reach the Son and the sky.

Our lives as Christians are about growth, about becoming what our creator envisioned for each of us. We have what we need in the way of nutrients and we have what we need in someone to show us The Way.

"In great love, you sent to us Jesus....who, on the cross, opened his arms to all."

Blessings to you all,

Pr. Vicki Sauter
Asst. Spiritual Director
LWVdC #27



Greetings from the Fall Weekend # 46 Rector and Rectora...

“God has wisely kept us in the dark concerning future events and reserved for Himself the knowledge of them that He may train us up in a dependence upon Himself and a continued readiness for every event.”~Matthew Henry

Matthew Henry (1662-1714), a famous theologian, learned an important lesson about being in relationship with our Lord and Savior. As much as we want to be in control, God wants us to come to understand that when we live our lives one day at a time with faithfulness and dependency in Him that the future will unfold and bloom just as He has planned it.

As Living Water Via de Cristo Team #46 is coming close to being fully formed, the details of what needs to be accomplished can sometimes seem daunting. All the worry about tomorrow can be destructive to living this day to its fullest and celebrating the small accomplishments. So, together the three of us have had to count on God’s wisdom in place of our own knowledge. Each day little details are coming together, and eventually, we will all be prepared for what is in store for us as we serve this fall with a dependence on Him.

Gratitude is what we are feeling right now, and here are some prayers of thanks we offer:

1. Thank you Lord for the 15 Prayer Warriors praying daily for Weekend #46
2. Thank you for those in the LWVDC Community that are also praying for Weekend #46.
3. Thank you Lord for the loving servant hearts that have heard the call to team and have answered, “Yes.”
4. Thank you Lord for the names on our hearts that we will ask about going on this fall weekend.
5. Thank you Lord for those candidates that You know will answer, “Yes.”

So, like Matthew Henry, we know there are many things that are kept in the dark from us right now, but that darkness keeps us dependent on God. He already has the vision and knowledge of what will occur on Living Water Via de Cristo Weekend #46, and all we have to do is trust in His wisdom and knowledge, and He will provide the Light.

GLYASDW!

Jim & Debbie Case and Cindy Hart
Rector/Rectora and Head Cha #46



From your Post Weekend Chair...

What color is your 4th Day? Hi! My name is Carol Ann Noble, your new Post-weekend Co-chair. Although I'm somewhat new to VdC, I've been active in the Cursillo movement/method since 1978 -- that's a long time!!!! How we live out our 4th Day in the world is our response to God's grace. Thinking about our theme song, "De Colores", and the symbol of the rainbow, our 4th Day embodies the process of change and growth. . . . So what color is YOUR 4th Day? **RED** You're on fire for the Lord, excited about your action plan, your study, and your growing relationship with Christ. **ORANGE** You're in a special time of dedication. Your calendar is cleared. Your body, mind, spirit are available to be where God's is calling you. **YELLOW** You exude joy, "inside joy", as you experience God's personal touch in your life. **GREEN** You're in a hopeful place. The Word, your reunion group/ultreya, family, friends remind you that God loves you and is working on your behalf. **BLUE** You're enjoying a peaceful time in your life. Circumstances aside, your relationship with God and your life are in a good/safe place. **PURPLE** You're in a place of questioning or grieving -- the loss of a loved one, your home/job/finances/church. Perhaps you're joining through a difficult time, perhaps, the "dark night of the soul." Regardless of the color of your 4th Day, YOU are an important part of this community. Your story, your struggle. is a gift to us -- encouragement, excitement, teaching, an opportunity for service or comfort. We walk together, sharing our stories, as we go "onward" for Christ . . . **ULTREYA!** Come join us Saturday, August 4th, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Peru - we'd love to see you!

Carol Ann Noble
Greg Johnson Post Weekend Co-Chairs



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 Vickie Sauter	815-849-9182	vlsauter151@gmail.com
Treasurer: Diana Wallace	815-875-4391	diana.wallace_3691@yahoo.com
Secretary: Barb Holder	309-582-5277	bjholder@frontiernet.net
Pre-Weekend: Amy Peterson	815-872-5703	pete318@comcast.net
Weekend: Jim Whitten	815-894-9315	whittn5@frontier.com
Kitchen: Dennis Hurley	309-798-9000	rooferguy53@yahoo.com
Post-Weekend: Co- Chairs Carol Ann Noble	309-525-5535	c1noble@live.com
Greg Johnson	309 796-0858	johnsongregb@johndeere.com
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Palanca: Jim and Patty Turner	309-945-5538	jpturner@mediacombb.net
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