

Living Water Via De Cristo News

March/April 2012 Issue 161

Upcoming dates:

Spring Weekend's #45

Men's March 15-18, 2012 & Women's March 22-25, 2012

Camp Menno Haven in Tiskilwa IL

Get off interstate 80 at the Princeton exit. Coming from the west turn right and from the east turn left. Stay on that road all the way through Princeton and head south out of town. It is about 7 miles from Princeton to Tiskilwa.

Cross the railroad tracks and turn right at the second street which is Brewster. Heading out of town, you will come to a Y in the road and bear to the left. You will cross over a small bridge and you will see the lake on the right. The entrance is just past that on the right hand side.

Send Off 7:00 p.m. Thursday's March 15 for Men

March 22 for Women

At the Camp

Serenade 6 p.m. Saturday's March 17 for Men

March 24 for Women

Staging at Camp @ 6 p.m. or carpool @ 5:30 from

First Lutheran

116 North Pleasant Street

Princeton, IL.

815-875-1685

From N. Main turn Right on West Putnam. First Lutheran is on the corner of West Putnam and South Pleasant

Clausuras Sunday's 5 p.m. March 18 Men

March 25 Women

St. Matthew's in Princeton

416 E. Dovers Rd.

Princeton, IL 61356

815-879-6491

From N. Main Street turn left onto Washington Street

Then turn slight right onto East Dover Road. 416 will be on left.

~Ultreya~

The April Ultreya will be on Saturday the 14th at:

**Evangelical Covenant Church
24 N. Main Street
Princeton IL 61356
815- 875-2124**

**On North Main Street in Princeton
Between Putnam Street and Central Avenue**

**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.**

LAY DIRECTOR(S) ...

Each one of us should use whatever gift we have received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.... If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 4:10-11

Servant. In our culture, that's not what someone usually aspires to be. In fact, the very notion that we should be treated as such can even cause us to get perturbed. "I'm not your *servant*," we might say when we feel put-upon by another.

But that is exactly what God calls us to be.

We have been "gifted" by God with unique talents and skills that are needed in the building of His Kingdom here on earth. To build a home requires a select crew of craftspeople who are experts in their field. One pours the foundation, another knows where the boards go, another wires for electricity, another plumbs the place, another lays flooring, another handles the trim work. Each skilled crewmember is integral to the success of the building project. If one falls down on the job, well, that dream house will be just that – a dream. It takes *everyone* working together to make that home a reality.

Living Water Via de Cristo weekends help remind us that we are all part of God's construction crew, working on the most important project of all time: the building of His Kingdom. As a member of that crew, have you thought about what *you* have been called to do? How can you best serve? That might be a question we all struggle with from time to time. But be assured, you have been equipped for whatever God has in store for you. If you aren't quite certain where your talents lie, then why not pick *something* and give it a try? God will bless your efforts and keep nudging you in the direction you need to go. The important thing is the *service*, not the *success*. That's God's department.

There are many opportunities to serve within our Via de Cristo community. We are currently looking for people to serve on the Secretariat, Living Water's governing body. Those on the Secretariat meet monthly on the first Monday at First Lutheran Church in Geneseo, and are charged with overseeing the various tasks of putting on these Christian retreat weekends. And it does require some effort! If you would be interested in finding out more about these servant opportunities, please call us at (563) 940-4933.

We also encourage you to apply to serve on upcoming weekends. Most team members report that they got even more out of the experience of serving the candidates than they did on their "own" weekends. In VdC, blessings abound! If you're a new pilgrim, or even an "old timer" who has not been "connected" for awhile, please consider how you can use your gifts to "administer God's (amazing) grace" on a VdC retreat.

Finally, you can use your talents of persuasion in asking and then sponsoring a new pilgrim (or two or three) for the fall weekend. This often requires some perseverance (now *that's* a word you've heard somewhere before), but the results can be heavenly!

Remember, there is no insignificant way to do God's work, for He takes what little we have to offer and multiplies it a hundred-fold. We give ourselves in humble service, not because our Lord requires it, but because He *desires* it, and we respond as His beloved children. We answer the call because Christ gave His all – for us.

Yes, *we are servants*, gifted and lifted to faithfully share God's grace in this place, so that He may be praised. I don't know about you, but I'd rather be a servant in God's kingdom, than royalty anywhere else.

GLYASDW!

Lay Directors Barb and Joe Geerts #16

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR...

A Fitting Tribute

It has been a long standing tradition of Living Water to give each rector or rectora something to remember their weekend. For many years, it has been a crucifix made out of corn husk. The corn husk is been a symbol of the frailty of the human soul, and represents the human nature of our Lord Jesus Christ. The crucifix also tells of the price and great love that God has for us, that God gave his only begotten Son to die for us so that with our faith in Him we may have eternal life. It has been a fitting tribute to those who lead a weekend.

These corn husk crucifixes have been provided for these many years by an anonymous donor. To that person, we give our heartfelt thanks. To carry this tribute for so many years is a testament to our Via de Cristo movement. But while this tradition has been held from the early years until now, we have come to a crossroads. These corn husk figures are no longer being made, so the secretariat has had to decide on another way to thank the rector/a.

So instead of the corn husk crucifix, the secretariat decided to give the rector(a) the palm cross from the weekend. This is the cross that is held by each Rollistas during team training and on the weekend. It is used by some of the tables when they make an altar visit for prayer on Saturday. Finally, it is used by the 4th Day Speakers at the Clausura on Sunday. By the end of the weekend, the palm cross has been bathed in prayer.

So at future Clausuras, the rector or rectora will be given the palm cross along with the prayer scroll for the weekend. This palm cross is also a fitting tribute. It signifies the role and power of prayer before and throughout the weekend. Without prayer, Living Water would be nothing but a nice weekend get-away. With prayer, we become an instrument of the Holy Spirit to help God's grace reach deeper into the life of the participants. And since the palm cross is a cross, it remains that great symbol of God's work on our behalf. A reminder that God will stop at nothing to bring us to salvation and eternal life. And that is a tribute that benefits us all!

- Pastor Randy

Many Thanks to the "Cornhusk Cross Person"

This note is in appreciation of the "Cornhusk Cross Person" who graciously provided us with many beautiful, hand-made crucifixes that were presented to the rector/rectora after each VdC weekend. On each wooden cross was a figure representing Jesus, made entirely of cornhusks. The crucifixes served as a reminder of the fragile nature of mankind, and Christ's sacrifice that conquered death. These unique gifts have simply "appeared" at the camp each weekend for many years. But now, the Cornhusk Cross Person is "retiring"; age has made it difficult for this person to continue with such a project, according to sources. The Via de Cristo community is grateful to this humble servant, who, indeed, gave God all the glory for this special talent. Thank you! God has seen what you "did in secret." May He richly bless you for your kindness and thoughtfulness?

GLYASDW!

The Living Water Secretariat

DEAR COMMUNITY...

Please plan on attending and or helping in any or all areas as possible.

Men's weekend, March 15 - March 18th

Event	Date/Time	Location
Set up	3/15 1pm	Camp Menno Haven Tiskilwa IL
Sendoff	3/15 7pm	Camp Menno Haven Tiskilwa IL
Serenade	3/17 6pm	Staging at Camp or carpool from First Lutheran in Princeton @ 5:30 directions at beginning of Newsletter
Clausura	3/18th 5pm	St. Matthews in Princeton Directions at beginning of Newsletter

Women's weekend, March 22nd – 25th

Event	Date/Time	Location
Sendoff	3/22 nd 7pm	Camp Menno Haven Tiskilwa IL
Serenade	3/24 th 6pm	Staging at Camp or carpool from First Lutheran in Princeton @ 5:30 directions at beginning of Newsletter
Teardown/	3/25 th 2pm	Camp Menno Haven Tiskilwa IL
Clausura	4/10 5pm	St. Matthews in Princeton Directions at beginning of Newsletter

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

RECTORA...

The Lord replied, “My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you during your times of trial and suffering. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.” This has been the theme; of the Women’s weekend #45, as we remember that we constantly walk with Christ by our side, or sometimes, he carries us. Many times during our team meetings, we have been so keenly aware that our Christ is guiding our footsteps and He has our paths laid out for us, not always smooth, though, and then He will carry us. He has also taught us how to carry our Christian brothers and sisters in their hour of need, and I personally thank you for those who have done that for my family. How many times have we all wanted to be carried instead of doing the walking, but we know that we have been asked to walk the walk and talk the talk; as witnesses for Christ. And this weekend is a perfect way we can evangelize and spread the joy of the Lord to others by serving on team. What an amazing team of women (and Pastor Gene) has been joined together to do just that! Our footsteps continue to Camp Menno Haven on March 22, where we eagerly await the opportunity to serve the women, and share the love of the Lord with them. As I write this, it is wonderful to see so many pilgrims signed up, and we pray to see even more before the weekend begins! To our new pilgrims of Weekend #45, welcome to the walk! We look forward to seeing you in our reunion groups, and at the next Ultreya, to be strengthened in your walk with our Lord.

Gayle Little, Rectora, Weekend #45 Lisa Bettner, Head Cha, Weekend #45

RECTOR...

Hello Via De Cristo Friends!

Hard to believe that Spring will soon be here and its such a blessing with its warm days, more light and the anticipation of everything new that will soon be growing.

That same anticipation is over flowing with the Men’s and Women’s weekends that are about to come (maybe past depending on when you’re reading this) and the new growth that will flow from those weekends. New friendships, new faith, new ideals, new appreciation, new beginnings, new growth.

I (we) are so humbled, thankful and grateful for the blessings that God has given us through each one of you that are working on team, offering prayers up for the team and candidates, sponsoring candidates, or doing anything to help make this weekend so special. This has been an amazing journey so far and can’t wait to see what’s ahead on the weekend and beyond! So looking forward to the new friends and new adventures.

God is so awesome and we are so lucky that he ALLOWS us to be a part in his greatness. Speaking of allowing us to be a part. Please pray and then act on being Gods hands and feet at both team’s serenade and clausura. You don’t have to sponsor someone to attend clausura (or send off). If you have never been to these, I urge you to try it. You will be the one that feels blessed when you leave.

God’s grace and peace be with you,
Duane Little (Rector) & Bruce Daniel (Head Cha)

PALANCA CHAIRS...

Our spring weekends are fast approaching. Please don't forget to sign up for the prayer vigils. These vigils are so important to all those who attend the weekend. Just be certain you sign up for the Living Water Via De Cristo vigil. You can sign up for one or more 30 minute slots at the following links.

Weekend #45 is almost here and we have been blessed with many candidates. Please be a blessing to them and the team and sign up for the prayer vigil. It is such an important part of the weekend.

Women's Prayer vigil is located at:

<http://3dayol.org/Vigil/GetVigil.phtml?pvid=6503&commid=575>

Men's Prayer vigil is located at:

<http://3dayol.org/Vigil/GetVigil.phtml?pvid=6502&commid=575>

God loves you and so do we,

Jim and Patty Turner

Palanca Chairs

POST-WEEKEND CHAIR...

Greetings Fellow Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

WOW! I was SO excited to have so many candidates for Weekend #45. It was a pleasure to serve on weekend #45. I'm hoping to see ALL of the team AND new LWVdC members, along with many other Brothers and Sisters at the next Ultreya which will be held on April 14, 2012. The location will be:

Evangelical Covenant Church
24 N. Main Street

Princeton, IL 61356

Spring is just around the corner. It always make me think of new life with the flowers budding, grass turning green again and breezes turning warmer and warmer each day. We have so many new members of LWVdC from the weekend. It will be a blessing to watch them bloom and grow with the Lord.

God Bless All of You!

Diana Wallace, Post-Weekend Chair
LWVdC #42

Illowa Lutheran Coalition
 Augustana College
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 Rock Island, IL 61201

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Return Service Requested

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