
LIVING WATER VIA DE CRISTO

Issue 167

Newsletter 2013

March/April

Spring weekend's #47 are just around the corner please mark your calendars!

Men's April 4-7
Women's April 11-14

Retreat Site: Camp Menno Haven and Retreat Center, Tiskilwa IL

Send Off 7 p.m. Men's weekend Thursday April 4th - Women's Thursday April 11th @ the Camp

**Serenade (staging) 6 p.m. @ Camp Saturday Men's April 6th - Women's April 13th
Or carpool @ 5:30 from
First Lutheran
116 North Pleasant Street
Princeton, IL.
815-875-1685**

**Clausura for both Men and Women's weekends will be held at
St. Matthew's
416 E. Dover Rd, Princeton, IL 61356
(815)879-6491**

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

Please find the Pilgrim application attached.

Please plan on being in prayer for the weekend, also sign up on the 72 hour Prayer Scroll at
<http://www.livingwaterviadecristo.org>. By being at the Send off, Serenade and Clausura you will show
Grace to both participants and Team.

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

FROM THE LAY DIRECTORS...

Lent. It can be a time of spiritual cleansing, when we focus on clearing out the internal clutter that threatens to crowd out Christ in our lives—the all-consuming job, the continual quest for more “things,” the persistent tug of empty technology that demands so much of our attention. Before we know it, we’re struggling to climb out from under the heap of unholy hindrances.

Yes, these 40 days of reflection are a perfect time for Christians to “come clean.” I know *my* spiritual life is certainly in need of some sprucing up. You might feel the same way, too. But at the start of Lent, I was finding myself dwelling on the outward kind of “clean,” instead. I’m talking about getting rid of *germs*, those unseen creatures that have been playing havoc with our family and friends. If you haven’t been the victim of this winter’s nasty cold and flu season, you probably know someone who has – maybe even enduring multiple rounds of it. The “bug” has hit both of us twice in the past month or so – to varying degrees (and I even had the vaccine). To combat the flu, I’ve been applying hand sanitizer like it was a miracle anti-wrinkle cream: liberally and often.

So fearful am I of being stricken again, I even chose to forego a decadent dip in the chocolate fountain at a busy buffet restaurant recently (just to be clear, a marshmallow was to be the designated “dippee,” not me). And I rarely say no to chocolate in any form. When Joe pointed to the cascading candy, I mentioned that I had seen several youngsters hovering around the popular fountain, and couldn’t be sure they’d kept their little mitts out of the flow of liquid ambrosia. After all, kids aren’t known for their impeccable hygiene. “I just don’t think I want to risk it. You don’t know *where their hands have been*,” I said, with just a dusting of disdain.

Those words would later come back to “handily” slap me to my senses. You see, our Lenten series at church this year is about the many ways Christ showed us how to serve others by being His eyes, His ears, His heart, His feet, and yes – His *hands* – to those in need of God’s loving presence. It was the hands of Christ that healed with a gentle touch; that brought the dead back to life; that reached out to the sinner sentenced to stoning; that cradled the no-count kids of His day; that brought blessing upon the fearful faithful. Whoever expected that the calloused hands of a simple carpenter would shape not just wood – but the world itself?

We know where those hands ended up: Nailed to the sacrificial tree. Those rough, dirty, bloodied hands of a Savior most pure. And when he breathed His last, it was into God’s hands that Jesus committed His spirit.

Now, when I look at the hands of my neighbor, I still wonder where they’ve been, but it’s not hygiene I’m thinking about. Those hands, might they have lovingly caressed the arm of a patient nearing death? Or maybe they ladled bowls of soup for the hungry and hopeless, or helped build a Habitat house for a family that never had a real place to call home? Did those hands scrub the church floor, or whip up a salad for mourners at a funeral luncheon? Could they have offered the Sacrament of bread and wine to a prisoner, or played the piano for the church choir? Did they open a Bible for a searching soul who never heard the Good News of Christ? What marvelous deeds might those hands have done? What might they do next?

Just think of what can be accomplished for the Kingdom when holiness takes hold of happy, servant hands! For Christians, those 10 little digits of ours aren’t just for counting blessings, but *multiplying* them. When God has a hand in things, good always follows.

Who knows where those hands have been?

And what of *your* hands? Are they super tools in the service of Christ, or just something you stick in your pockets? Are you looking for ways to reach out, even though you just might get your hands dirty? This movement we call Via de Cristo challenges us to serve others in whatever way we are called by God to do so. Sometimes it’s easy; sometimes you need the heavy-duty work gloves. But whatever we do in His name, from the lowliest chore to the loftiest act, reveals the long reach of our loving God, who wants no one to perish.

Lord, as we reach out to the Pilgrims of the upcoming Living Water weekends, we put ourselves in your grace-full hands, for we know *where they have been*.

GLYASDW!

Your Lay Directors,
Barb and Joe Geerts (#16)

FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Do you always know when you are hungry or thirsty? Have you ever gone to the sink to get a glass of water – not realizing just how thirsty you were til you had almost finished the glass of water? I'm guessing it happens more often than we realize.

If we can be oblivious to our thirst for water, then I'm guessing we can be oblivious for other things as well - like the Word of God – or the body of Christ that is the bread and wine. Remember the woman at the well? She didn't realize just how thirsty she was either – until Jesus reminded her...

By time you read this, we will be about half way thru the season of Lent. Have you taken the time to quench your thirst for the Word of God? Have you taken the time to satisfy your hunger for the bread and wine? Are you, in fact fasting from these things that nourish you without even realizing it?

I'm guessing many of us can say yes to those questions - both those of us within the VdC community - those who are not yet. This Lenten season is a perfect time to extend the invitation to others so that their thirst may be quenched...

The Living Water that is the 'yes' to our thirst is available to any and all who desire it - so let's not keep this precious but never ending gift to ourselves.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Vicki
LWVdC Spiritual Director

From Communications...

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

Or call: 309-792-9030

Check out our website: www.livingwaterviadechristo.org

In His service,
Cindy Hart
Communications Chair

From the Rector...

Via de Cristo Community,

God's grace never fails to deliver in work done for His glory. The men's team of VDC #47 has been truly blessed and is well on the way to being its own unique Christian community in action. Each team is set apart by God in serving His role at this particular time, this particular place and for those particular children that has heard His call to attend. Candidates being called by God to join us on this weekend are totally dependent upon each of us taking the initiative of seeing the vital role we play in the process. I ask again that each member of this community would consider and pray for one person to invite to the weekend. I am also excited to see how each of you step out in service to the Lord in commitment to the prayer vigil or in attendance of the sendoff, serenade and clausura. My prayer is that each and everyone in the community would grab a hold of the cross you were given on your weekend and ponder the back side. He is counting on all of us. Many parts, One Body!

God loves You And So Do I,

Paul Schlindwein, Rector

From the Rectora...

Dear Community,

Wonderful things are happening for weekend #47 and we women are growing and spreading our wings to fly. Our verse to encourage use on the spring journey is Psalm 91:4 " He will cover you with his feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge." Some of us have been in hiding, some healing, and some growing. Our God is the only one that knows our true selves and our deep inner thoughts and never tires of hearing us complain or sing off key or cry, crab or wine. Knowing him truly gives us comfort when the world lets us down. The Group of women God has chosen to serve this team #47 truly are hand picked by Him. Each with there own story, act of service, or gift to feed, clean, sing, or just be loyal to the call God presented them with to grow in this team. Time and sacrifice have made us a true nest full of His Babes ready to Fly and Circle the camp in spring of 2013 in a mighty way. We will with the help of God be ready to do as needed for our new Babe Chicks with the help of our prayer warriors and this wonderful community of Brothers and Sisters in Christ We will be ready. Our Spiritual Direction from Pastors Terri and Brenda will keep us Grounded in Christ teaching to share with the women and the world.

God Loves You & So Do We,

Ronda Little #14

Rectora #47

**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 Vicki Sauter @ 815-973-2819.

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
Pre-Weekend: Amy Peterson	815-872-5703	pete318@comcast.net
Weekend: Jim Whitten	815-894-9315	whtt5@frontier.com
Kitchen: Dennis Hurley	309-798-9000	rooferguy53@yahoo.com
Post-Weekend: Co- Chairs Carol Ann Noble Greg Johnson	309-525-5535 309 796-0858	c1noble@live.com johnsongregb@johndeere.com
Leaders: Clark Stojan	309-792-3431	cstojan@w-slaw.com
Palanca: Jim and Patty Turner	309-945-5538	jpturner@mediacombb.net
Communications: Cindy Hart	309-792-9030	prayers@livingwaterviadecristo.org