
LIVING WATER VIA DE CRISTO

Issue 168

Newsletter 2013

May/June

~May Ultreya w/Leadership Training ~

The May 4th Ultreya will be hosted by;
First Lutheran
203 S. Main Street
Ohio IL
815-976-7431
From Princeton;
Head toward S. Main St. (IL-26) E. Peru IL. 259 ft.
Turn right onto S. Main St. (IL 26) 12.0 miles
First Lutheran will be on your right.

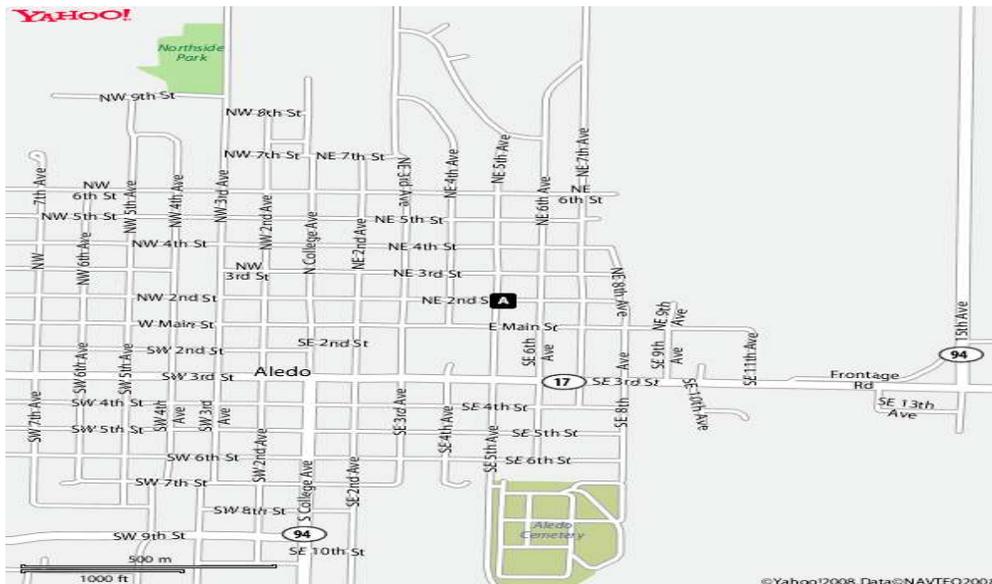


Leadership training begins at 2:30 – 5:00 p.m. Potluck follows at 5:30 with services to follow. Couples bring one dish to share; families please bring two and your own table service. Coffee, water and ice are provided by the host church, but any other drinks will need to be brought by the community. Babysitting will be available for children ages up to 5.

~June Ultreya/Annual Meeting~

The June 1st Ultreya will be hosted by;
Messiah Lutheran
509 NE 2nd Street
Aledo IL 61231
309-582-5261

From Interstate I-280 take the Milan exit
Take Route 67 South to Route 17
Turn Right onto 3rd Street
Turn Right onto 5th Avenue
Turn Right onto 2nd Avenue



Potluck begins at 5:30 with services to follow. Couples bring one dish to share; families please bring two and your own table service. 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.

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 2:30 to 5:00 PM immediately before the May 4 Ultreya at First Lutheran Church in Ohio. Follow the directions for the Ultreya, and join us. No reservations, only a servant's heart required.

Clark Stojan
Leaders Chair

If you build it

Perhaps no gift is more treasured than one made with loving hands. And Living Water is a recent recipient of such a gift. The new lectern that debuted on Weekend #47 was designed and built by Dennis Von Holten (Living Water #43). It was presented by Dennis and his wife, Donna, to our VdC Community as "palanca"—handcrafted from wood to "bless and bring peace" to all who speak from it, according to the couple. In the past, we have used podiums borrowed from the various camps or other VdC movements. Dennis had the idea for building the podium for some time, said Donna, and he made it with our community in mind: It has a shelf below for a cup of water and the ever-present box of Kleenex! On the base is inscribed this verse from 1 Peter, Chapter 4: "*Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God.*" The lectern is signed by the Von Holtens, with the familiar "God Loves You and So Do We!" A big "thank you" to Dennis for using his God-given talents to help VdC leaders continue to share His message of grace.

We would also like to thank our Weekend Chair, Jim Whitten, and his faithful reunion group for donating new banner stands. We all know how our banners both beautify and inspire when they are used at our retreat weekends. We appreciate your spirit of generosity.

For all those who have seen a VdC need and filled it—often preferring to do so anonymously and without fanfare—we thank God for you and your faithful service. Living Water has been very blessed with giving, caring people who shine brightly for Christ. May you be richly blessed in return.

The Living Water Secretariat

Babe Chicks for Birdies...

Watch the birdie! Well, that's "Birdies" to be exact. After a successful first-year partnership in 2012, Living Water Via de Cristo will again be participating in the Birdies for Charity program. Held in conjunction with the John Deere Classic PGA tour event, Birdies has helped area charitable groups raise more than \$49 million for their organizations—or \$6.7 million last year alone. Donors are asked to pledge an amount per birdie made at the Classic (held July 8-14 at TPC in the Quad-Cities), or simply donate a flat amount. Birdies for Charity helps those pledge dollars grow by donating an additional percentage of the tourney's profits to the participating groups. Although we got a late start last year, we were still able to raise more than \$1,400, which helped us provide scholarships and handle expenses not covered in the weekend fees for our retreats. In addition, donors may choose to participate (or not) in the "Guess the Number of Birdies" Contest, with a chance at winning some great prizes. Every penny of your tax-deductible donation goes directly to Living Water; Birdies for Charity shoulders all the costs for operating the program.

We plan to have pledge cards available to give out at the May 4 ultreya at First Lutheran in Ohio, IL. We are hoping that a representative from each church can pick up some pledge cards to distribute among their congregations. We will also have some at the June ultreya. If no one from your church is able to attend the ultreyas, we would be happy to mail you some pledge cards upon request. Please contact Barb and Joe Geerts at (563) 940-4933.

We appreciate all the ways our "babe chicks" support Living Water. With your help, we can continue to offer weekend spiritual retreats at an affordable cost.

The Living Water Secretariat

Attend the national gathering...

We are looking for delegates to attend the National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Meeting, to be held July 25-28 at Palm Beach Atlantic University in West Palm Beach, FL. Living Water Via de Cristo provides a stipend to cover some of the registration costs, which are \$210. That fee includes all meals, housing and materials—a bargain for a Florida "vacation"! You don't have to be a delegate to attend the 72-hour gathering; guests are welcome, too.

We would especially like to have our Secretariat represented at the national conference because Living Water has agreed to be the primary host for the 2015 gathering of NLS. It would be great to "see how it's done" and pick up some pointers from the "pros." This year's event is being hosted by seven secretariats: Florida, Indian River Lighthouse, Sonbeam, Sonshine South, Sonshine North and Gold Coast Via de Cristo. We hope to collaborate with some of our "sister movements" in Illinois in 2015—just two years away!

There is an early bird discount of \$20 if the registration is mailed by May 1. We know this is rather short notice, but if you think you would be interested in attending, please contact Barb or Joe at (563) 940-4933. You may follow this link to the Via de Cristo National Lutheran Secretariat Web site for a registration form and more detailed information:

<http://www.viadecristo.org/annualmeeting/2013/index.php>

Barb & Joe Geerts
Lay Directors

FROM THE LAY DIRECTORS...

I was doing laundry the other day, and saw that my husband had picked up an economy-sized bottle of detergent during a previous shopping trip. When I lifted the heavy brute of a bottle off the overhead shelf, I was surprised to see a likeness of “Walker, Texas Ranger” staring at me. Yes, right there above the bold letters of this new “Era” was the bearded face of the famous martial arts star from the 1990s. And along with his visage, in the script of an Old West “wanted” poster, was this declaration: “Chuck Norris Approved.”

Well, well. I’m not sure what prompted Chuck to move from TV lawman to laundry man, but there he was. I never asked my husband if his purchase was influenced in any way by the presence of a rough-and-tumble Texan “star” on the package. But apparently the company’s marketing people were betting that consumers would make the connection between Walker’s prowess at fighting TV crime and Era’s power to fight washday *grime*, and would be rushing right out to buy their “pack-a-punch” brand.

My Dad always watched “Walker,” and I can’t think about the show without hearing that simplistic theme song in my head—performed by Mr. Norris himself: “The eyes of a ranger are uponnnn you . . .,” – or that’s how I remember it, anyway.

When the famous ranger on the detergent bottle resurfaced again just a few days later, I took it as a “God thing,” because Chuck and I don’t generally hang out together. It happened like this: I was reading a devotional and the writer was talking about how our actions as Christians impact others around us—in both positive and negative ways. He emphasized that we should be letting Christ show through in all we do, because people are watching us—our family, our friends, even perfect strangers. Then, from out of the blue, that TV theme song from yesteryear started playing in my head again, only with a slight modification: “The eyes of a *stranger* are uponnnn you. . . .” Odd how that non-descript little ditty could help cement an important lesson for me: *Our witness is always being witnessed*. What we do, what we say, should to Jesus point the way.

This is at the heart of every Via de Cristo weekend. As humble chas, we try our best to always reflect Christ’s love and grace for the candidates—and team. Even the smallest act of kindness can have a tremendous impact. This I know, for people have told me so. And I’m always amazed that something that took so little effort on my part—a note of support, a hug for a hurting heart, simply offering my sweater for a candidate who’s cold—can be turned into something so much more by the One who is servant of all. Yes, they will remember what you did in Christ’s name. To anyone who has ever worked a weekend: Don’t ever think you haven’t made a difference. To the future chas of Weekend 48: Remember, the eyes of a stranger are upon you. Ask yourself: “What kind of servant will I choose to be? Who will that stranger see in me?” Choose to be a blessing, for someone *is* paying attention.

Oh, and since we’ve been talking about detergent, I’m reminded that Christians have something that can get out the most stubborn of stains: That is the cleansing power of Jesus’ blood. It’s free and it never runs out. In Psalm 51 we find these words of redemption from the stain of sin: “*Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin... . Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.*”

Now that’s a deep-down clean. Stamp it “God Approved.”

Your Lay Directors,
Barb & Joe Geerts, #16

FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In two of the texts that I've been studying this week in preparation for this coming Sunday, the 4th Sunday of Easter, hands are mentioned. Peter (Acts 9:41), after restoring Tabitha to life and health, "...gave her his hand and helped her up." And then in the Gospel of John (10:27), Jesus says to those gathered around him, "...No one will snatch them out of my hand...." And so I've been thinking about hands.

What did their hands look like? Peter was a fisherman, Jesus had been a carpenter... so imagine...rough, calloused, sun darkened skin, certainly not well manicured, but certainly capable.

What do yours look like? What kind of work do they do?

Regardless of the answers to those questions - one thing we are all called to do with our hands is to give our hands to another to help them up. 'Help' means different things in different situations and we all do that helping in many different ways.

But just like Peter and Jesus - our hands do their work in the heart of community - not alone in isolation behind closed doors - but together in the community of faith. One hand alone cannot do very much - but 2 - 4 - 6 - 8 - 30 - can work wonders. And just like Peter and Jesus, our hands are capable of doing the work they are called to do. But they never work alone -

Jesus is always right beside us holding our hand - and no one can take that away. No one.

GLYASDI

Pastor Vicki

Spiritual Director

FROM PALANCA CHAIRS...

Thank you to all who signed up for the prayer vigils for Men's and Women's Weekends #47. We heard favorable comments from candidates, as they recognized names on the scrolls and realized how many people were praying for them during their weekends. This is a very moving and important aspect of the Via de Cristo weekend experience, and we thank you all for making it special.

Also, please consider signing up for other prayer vigils at <http://www.3dayol.org/>. We had people sign up for our prayer vigils from California, Kentucky, Wisconsin, Colorado, Texas.

Jim and Patty Turner
Palanca Chairs

Fall Mixed Weekend...

The Fall Mixed Weekend #48 is approaching and Team selection will start soon. Please find the tentative Team Application attached. Get it filled out and sent in soon!

Mixed Weekend #48

With Rector/a's Jeff and Lori Whalen

Will be held at:

Camp Menno Haven and Retreat Center, Tiskilwa IL

November 7 - 10

From Communications...

Dear Community,

It has been my sincere pleasure to serve you all in the capacity of Communications Chair for the past 4 years.

However, it is time for me to hand over the duties to yet again fresh and willing servants. As I leave this position I would just like to express what a huge privilege it has been to secure prayer requests for, and to pray over all the concerns and thanksgivings for everyone during my time of service. This is such a wonderful community we call Living Water and I am so blessed to be apart of the family. God is so awesome!

Thank you all for your patience as I learned my position and for entrusting me for two terms.

Please continue to send your emails for prayer requests, joys and thanksgivings to be shared with the community to prayers@livingwaterviadecristo.org and continue to check us out on our website at www.livingwaterviadecristo.org and "friend" us on Facebook at Living Water Via de Cristo!

See you all at Ultreyas and future team functions

GLYASDI

Cindy Hart

Communications Chair

Living Water Via de Cristo Team Participation

Weekend #48 Mixed Weekend November 7 – 10 2013

Retreat Site: Camp Menno Haven and Retreat Center, Tiskilwa IL
Team training dates and locations TBD

All team members should, regardless of experience, attend all team meetings. **Continuing Education class is required for first time team members. Training sessions are only offered twice a year.

**Continuing Education class will be offered May 4 from 2:30 – 5 p.m. @ First Lutheran Church Ohio IL prior to the Ultreya

I understand that as a team member I will be expected to:

- o attend the training sessions in their entirety, except by special arrangement with the Rector/a:
- o regularly worship and participate in local church activities:
- o be active in a reunion group.

____ I would like to submit my talents, my prayer support, and myself for Living Water VdC Weekend #48

Served on any previous team? () Yes () No

If “yes”, my last team service was on Weekend # _____

My special talents: (music, guitar, kitchen experience, etc)

Reunion Group Participation () Yes () No All team members are requested to be involved with an active reunion

group to serve on team.

My home congregation is: _____ in _____

Because of physical limitations or dietary needs, if I serve on team, I will need the following accommodations:

____ I am trained and certified for CPR. ____ I hold a food service license, issued by

____ I am unable to serve on team, but would be willing to be a prayer warrior for #46.

____ I am willing to help set-up on Thursday afternoon or tear-down on Sunday afternoon of the weekend.

Name: Email Address: (optional)

Address: Telephone # () Cell # ()

Thank you for your willingness to serve the Lord through this renewal weekend. Please return this form to the

following leaders by: 6/9/2013. Application submission does not guarantee placement on team, only willingness to be called.

Rector/ Rectora:

Jeff and Lori Whalen

714 Burgess Dr.

Utica IL 61373

815-674-1822

**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	whittn5@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