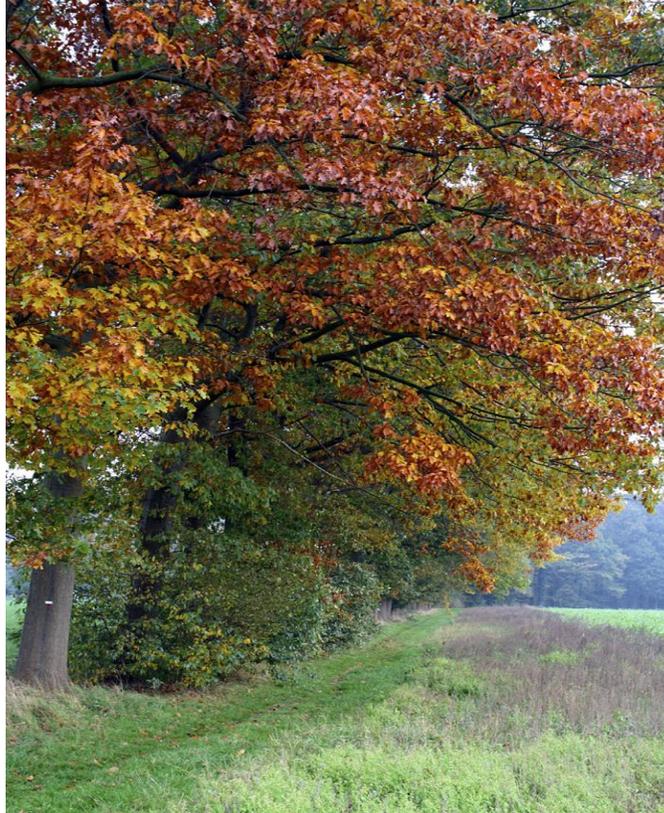

LIVING WATER VIA DE CRISTO

Issue 165

Newsletter 2012

November/December



Fall Mixed Weekend # 46

November 8th – 11th 2012

Camp Menno Haven, Tiskilwa IL

Send Off 7 p.m. Thursday November 8 @ the Camp

**Serenade 6 p.m. Saturday November 10 with
Staging at Camp @ 6 p.m. or carpool @ 5:30 from**

**First Lutheran
116 North Pleasant Street
Princeton, IL
815-875-1685**

Clausura Sunday November 11

**First Lutheran
116 North Pleasant Street
Princeton IL**

**It's not too late to ask a candidate!
Pilgrim application attached.**



**~The December Ultreya~
On December 1st**

**Hosted by:
First Lutheran Church
201 S Main Street
Ohio IL
(815) 376-7431**

Directions:
Take IL 26 North off of Interstate 80 to Ohio.

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.

Sponsors and Community please remember this will be the first Ultreya for the Fall weekend candidates. Make sure to mark your calendars to ensure a good turn out, and remember to get your candidates there.



FROM THE LAY DIRECTORS...

You're probably familiar with the acronym: F.R.O.G. It's an easy way to remember that we should "Fully Rely on God." Frog bracelets leapt onto the scene many years ago, becoming a popular accessory among Christians. But while it's very easy to slap on some jewelry that serves as an outward sign of our faith, living out our lives in "FROG" fashion can be anything but!

I've had my mind on frogs lately because for months my husband and I have been the victims of an "amphibious assault." We live in a new housing addition where the indigenous population includes a surprising variety of frogs and toads. I know this because, sadly, many end up as "toadkill" on our streets. And because we are constantly finding them in our egress window wells (which are as yet uncovered). We aren't sure how they get there: maybe by accident, maybe by parachute, maybe by a dash of bravado. Whatever the case, opening the curtains to find yourself face-to-face with a frog plastered to the glass can be, well, a little unnerving.

Out of pity for the stranded creatures, my husband has crawled down into our window wells on several occasions to free the ill-fated jumpers from their corrugated steel prison. Let me share a "ribbiting" tale of the last rescue, involving a considerable load of toad. Rag in hand, Joe grabbed the frogs one-by-one and was sort of lobbing them onto the grass above. First, some ugly toads that looked rather like cow paddies. Then several slender frogs jauntily dressed in tan leotards with black dots. And finally, there was the most striking of all – a neon green frog. Nearing the completion of his rescue mission, Joe (a.k.a. "The Toad Wrangler") was feeling a certain amount of satisfaction for his kind gesture. But just as he gave that last amphibian a gentle heave-ho, the frightened frog catapulted himself out of hubby's hand. This bit of added momentum caused the creature to collide headfirst with the steps leading down from our deck. Mr. Frog dropped like a painted rock. Alas, Joe had literally "deckerd" him.

I came outside just in time to see the hapless hopper lying motionless on its back at the base of the stairs. Fairly certain he had croaked, we watched with curiosity as another of the rescue-ees appeared to rush to the side of his fallen comrade. This was, apparently, an EMT (Emergency Medical Toad) rendering aid, because within moments the very stunned frog rolled over and they both leapt off into the sunset. No frog legs for dinner after all!

Now, truth be "toad," sometimes we Christians can be a lot like those frogs. We fail to look before we leap. Too often we jump headlong into where we have no business being, and end up trapped by our own poor choices. But just when it seems there's no way out, God reaches down and lifts us from the deep hole we've put ourselves in. Not just once or twice – but as many times as His people are in need of His saving grace. Why? Because He loves us, warts and all.

When we "FROG it" – when we rely completely on God and surrender ourselves to Him – He will direct our paths. Of course, there will be times when we're called on to make a leap of faith. Maybe your Via de Cristo weekend was one such leap. You might have had your trepidations: "What if I have trouble making friends? What if they make me do stuff I don't want to do? What if it's boring?" But God called and you left your pad and jumped into that pool of Living Water – well, maybe it was more like a little hop. But you made it to that camp. And something amazing happened there. Now you want your friend to experience the joy of that grace-filled weekend. But he's hesitant, and you feel like you're hitting a wall. Keep asking. Then let the Holy Spirit do His work. It might be awhile before that person takes that leap of faith. Keep asking. In this, as in all things, don't forget to FROG it.

GLYASDW!

Barb & Joe Geerts #16



FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR...

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Today (the day I'm writing this), is October 15, the feast day of Teresa of Avila within the Christian Church. Some of you may know of her and her writings. Her focus was on prayer and spirituality. And it just so happens, that one of the umpty-nine e-mails that I get is Sister Joan Chittister's e-newsletter, 'Vision & Viewpoint.' She quotes Teresa of Avila: *"Prayer is not just spending time with God.... If it ends there, it is fruitless. No, prayer is dynamic. Authentic prayer changes us—unmasks us."*

Many of us have been changed by the intense prayer (among other things - like the Holy Spirit!) that takes place at a Via de Cristo weekend - both our own and that of others. And I know that many of us, me included, came home on that Sunday night full of joy and wonder at what had taken place over the prior 3 days. We would be selfish indeed, if we did not share the opportunity for this experience with others.

Weekend #46 is fast approaching - but it is not too late to invite. Please continue your prayers - but don't let it end there. The prospective pilgrim can't hear your invitation if it is just a silent prayer to God - it must be heard. Then the Holy Spirit can get to work and 'get ur done!!'

Blessings to you all as you walk the Way of Christ....

GLYASDI
Pastor Vicki
Spiritual Director



From the Fall Weekend # 46 Rector and Rectora...

"Everything that is done in this world is done by hope."~Martin Luther

In March, when we were asked to serve on Weekend #46, November seemed so far away. Spring, summer, and part of fall would have to pass before God's weekend would take place. And, now Team #46 has prayed, trained, prepared, and sacrificed to be ready for what God has in store for the candidates and for the team.

Prayer and hope have been the two things that have guided us through all the celebrations and trials on this journey. This team and the prayer warriors on team have been exceptional. Their faithfulness cannot be measured by human standards. When an obstacle confronted a team member or the entire team, prayer and hope were a refuge to draw us closer to God. God has a way of answering prayer and providing hope in all circumstances.

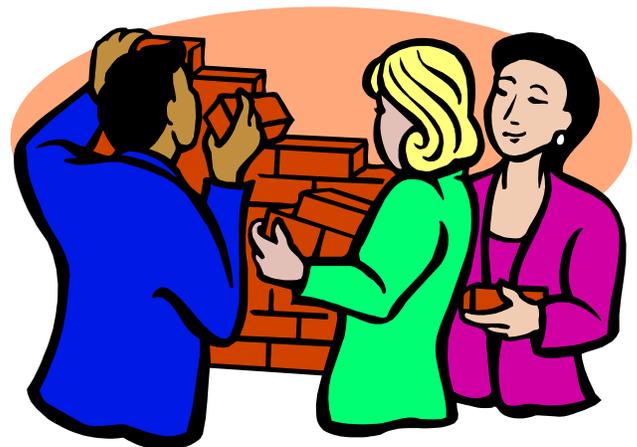
As the weekend starts, we look to the entire community for prayer and hope. Here is a list of hopes we have for the weekend:

1. We hope the candidates will feel and see God's grace on the weekend.
2. We hope the community will be faithful in prayer throughout the weekend.
3. We hope the community will come to the send-off, serenade, and Clausura.
4. We hope the team will be blessed as they serve.
5. We hope our Lord and Savior will be honored in all we do.
6. We hope the candidates will walk spiritually renewed and joyfully into their fourth day.

Thank you for the prayers and encouragement on this journey to Weekend #46. It's been a very humbling experience.

God loves you and so do we!

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



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 gcharts@sbcglobal.net

Or call: 309-792-9030

Check out our website: www.livingwaterviadecristo.org

In His service,
Cindy Hart
Communications Chair



From your Palanca Chair...

Now is your chance to get the prayer vigil slot of your choice. The prayer vigil for Living Water Via de Cristo Mixed Weekend #46 is posted. Please consider signing up as it means so much to all the participants.

<http://www.3dayol.org/Vigil/GetVigil.phtml?pvid=7263&commid=575>

Jim and Patty Turner
Palanca Chairs



**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
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