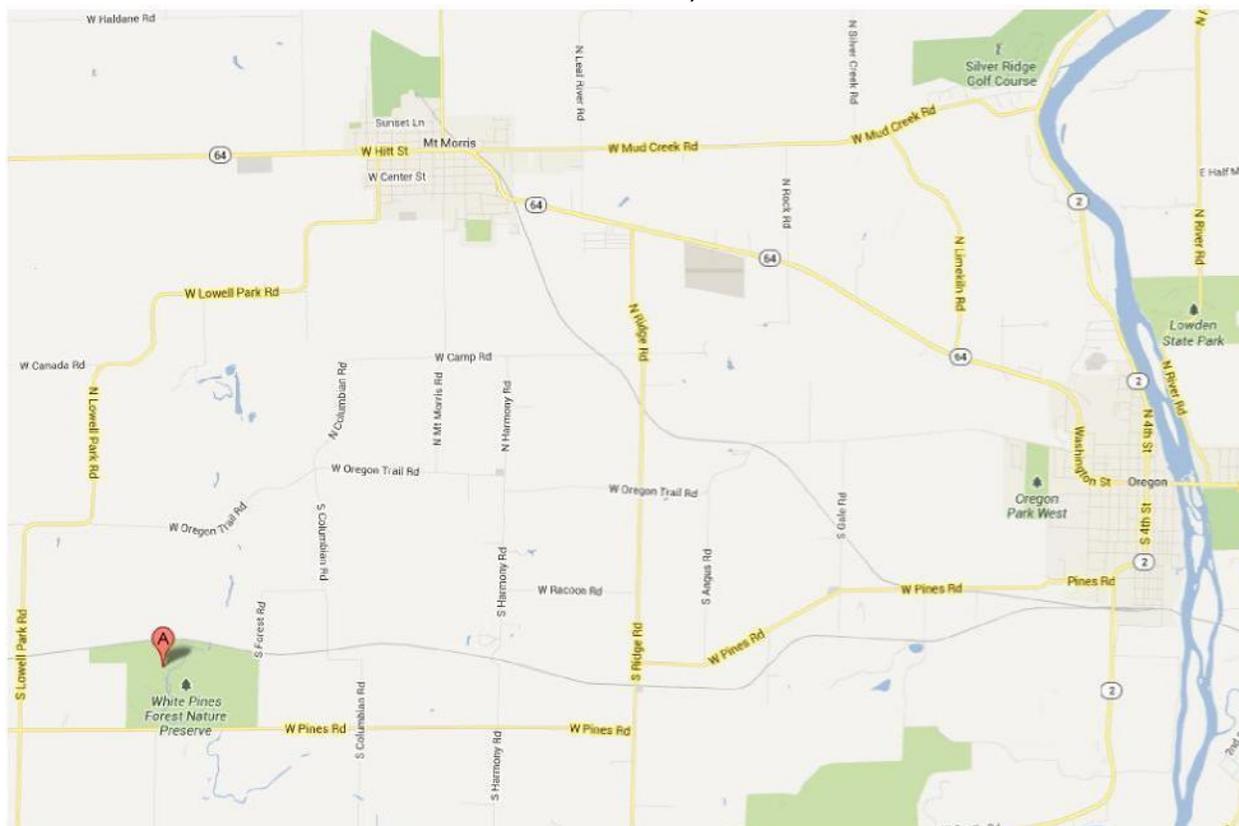

LIVING WATER VIA DE CRISTO

Issue 169

July/ August 2013

Joint Ultreya with Way of Christ VdC

Saturday, July 20
White Pines State Park
6712 West Pines Road
Mt. Morris, IL



The gathering will begin with a potluck dinner at 4:30 p.m., followed by worship. . This will be an opportunity to enjoy some fellowship with our sisters and brothers from Way of Christ, a movement which has its roots in Living Water. Bring your own table service, maybe a tablecloth and some lawn chairs, and, of course, some “good eats.”

Directions to White Pines: *If you're coming from eastern or western Illinois, take toll Road IL RT 88 to the Dixon exit (Route 26). Take Route 26 north through Dixon to Lowell Park Road. Turn right and go about 11 miles to the stop sign which is Pines Road. Turn right on Pines Road and go about one mile to the park entrance.*

August Ultreya

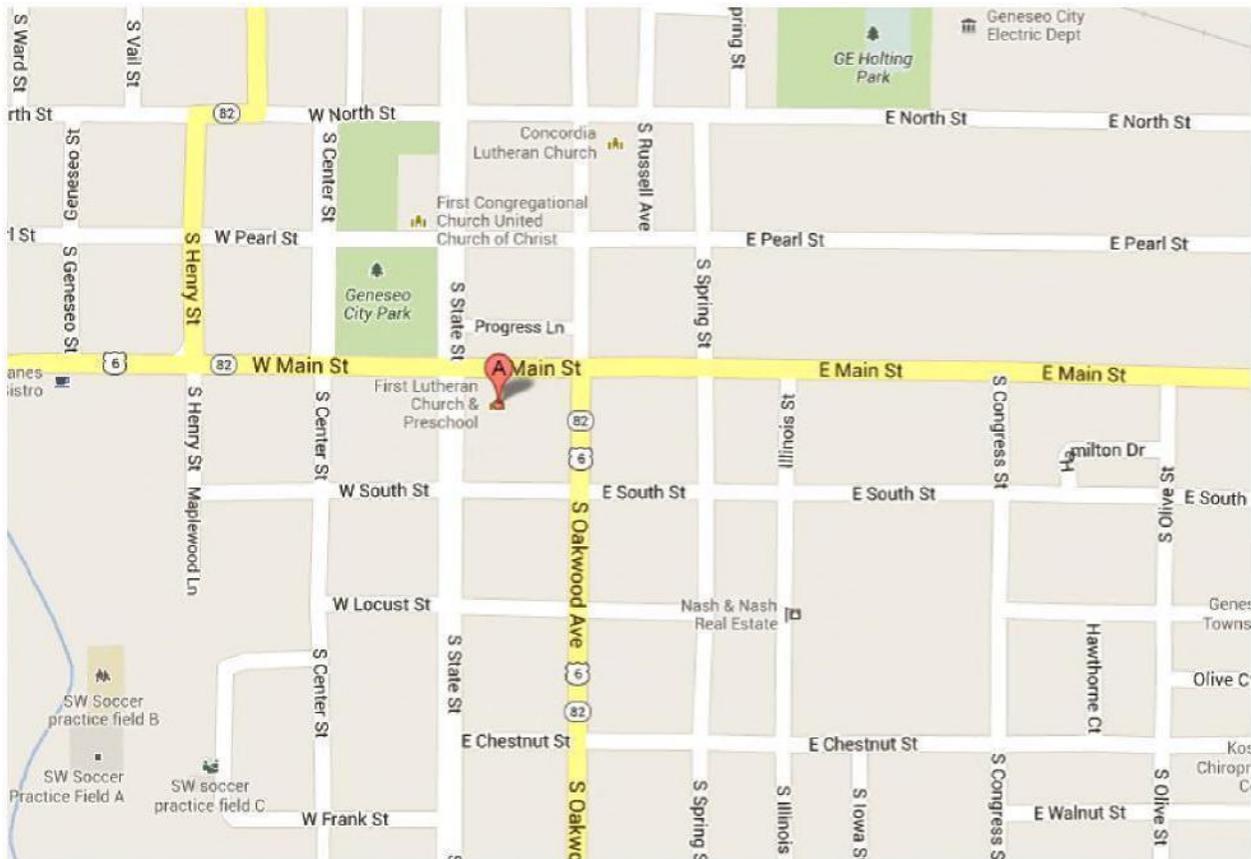
Sunday, August 4th, 2:30-5:00pm

First Lutheran

114 E. Main Street

Geneseo, IL 61254

309-944-3196



Directions from I-80

1. Take exit 19 for IL-82 toward Geneseo/Cambridge
2. Turn North onto IL-82 N/S Oakwood Ave
3. Turn left onto E Main St

The Church will be on the left

Gathering & Worship followed by dessert buffet. Coffee, tea, and ice will be provided. Ice cream will also be provided - toppings, sprinkles, cherries welcomed. Bring a dessert or other beverage to share. Babysitting provided for children up to age 5.

TRIVIA NIGHT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2013

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
114 E MAIN STREET
GENESEO IL 61254**

PROCEEDS WILL AND BENEFIT LIVING WATER VIA DE CRISTO, A THREE DAY SPIRITUAL RENEWAL MOVEMENT



Doors open at 6 p.m. Trivia begins at 7 p.m.

Prizes will be awarded for 1st and last place!

Contestants are encouraged to bring their own snacks. Non-alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase.

Lots of raffle prizes and 50/50!!!

Compete against other teams in a ten-round contest. Ten questions per round. Mulligan's and Doublers will be available for purchase.

Don't miss out on this fun night and support a great cause.



NAME _____ PHONE _____

____ YES! I WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND. PLEASE RESERVE:

____ NUMBER OF NEEDED TABLES AT \$80.00 PER TABLE (8 PLAYERS PER TABLE) _____

NO, I AM UNABLE TO ATTEND, BUT WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION OF \$

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: LIVING WATER VIA DE CRISTO

RETURN FORM & CHECK BY SEPTEMBER 16th TO: CINDY HART

3611 FRIENDSHIP FARM RD
EAST MOLINE IL 61244

QUESTIONS??? – CALL 309-792-9030 OR EMAIL gcharts@sbcglobal.net

MUST BE 21 YRS. OF AGE TO PARTICIPATE DUE TO POSSIBLE ALCOHOL RAFFLE BASKETS

Don't Miss the Birdie!

Just a reminder that the "Birdies for Charity" deadline is nearing. Pledges must be received at the John Deere Classic tournament office by July 12, 2013. Please return the forms to: Birdies for Charity, 15623 Coaltown Rd., East Moline, IL 61244. If you are interested in pledging, but didn't have an opportunity to pick up a pledge card, we'd be happy to send you one. Please call Barb Geerts at (563) 940-4933 and one will be mailed to you. (You must use a Birdies form provided by the charity in order to participate in the program.) Remember, you could win great prizes while helping Living Water provide scholarships for its VdC weekends. For more information about Birdies for Charity, visit their Web site at www.birdiesforcharity.com.

The Water and the Way

Mark your calendars for our joint ultreya with Way of Christ. It will be held Saturday, July 20 at White Pines State Park, 6712 West Pines Road, Mt. Morris, IL. The gathering will begin with a potluck dinner at 4:30 p.m., followed by worship. This will be an opportunity to enjoy some fellowship with our sisters and brothers from Way of Christ, a movement which has its roots in Living Water. Bring your own table service, maybe a tablecloth and some lawn chairs, and, of course, some "good eats." If this event is well-received, we might try some additional joint outings with our "sister" groups.

Directions to White Pines: If you're coming from eastern or western Illinois, take toll Road IL RT 88 to the Dixon exit (Route 26). Take Route 26 north through Dixon to Lowell Park Road. Turn right and go about 11 miles to the stop sign which is Pines Road. Turn right on Pines Road and go about one mile to the park entrance.

Trivia Night

Dear Community,

I am spearheading a "Trivia Night" Friday October 4 2013. Doors will open at 6 p.m. with games to start at 7 p.m. at First Lutheran Church in Geneseo. This is open to public as well.

Proceeds will be used to defer costs for weekends and assist in scholarships. As you all may know, our LWVdC finances are low and this is a great way to build our funds in a fun way.

Please "Save the Date" and start planning your tables of 8 players. The cost is \$80.00 per table of 8 and we will be playing 10 rounds of 10 questions. Mulligan's and Doublers will be available for purchase.

Also, players must be 21 yrs. of age do to possible alcohol raffle baskets.

If you are interested in helping for the evening, please call or email me.

Also, I am sending out a challenge to all Reunion Groups to choose a theme for and donate a basket to be raffled Off that night.

Please contact me with your fun basket ideas and a time when I can start gathering them. I would like to have all Raffle Baskets by Sept 15th. Have fun with your brothers and sisters coming up with fun exciting ideas!

Thank you all in advance for helping out and plan on coming out with your thinking caps on to see how smart you really are!

GLYASDI

Cindy Hart # 35

qcharts@sbcglobal.net

309-792-9030

Rediscover and Recommit

Please make the date – August 31 – for this National Via de Cristo-developed program, to be held at Calvary Lutheran Church in Moline, IL from 8:00 to 2:30 p.m.

"Rediscover and Recommit is an interactive workshop to help you Rediscover what you felt immediately after your Weekend. This is a pilot program so feedback is critical. It has been developed to help this community Recommit to the promise of their cross ceremony. It is a dialogue opportunity to identify the blessings and barriers in your community. It is a gathering to share ideas that support both our personal walk with Christ and to then build an Action Plan to help strengthen ourselves and the local communities."

A workbook will be provided. More details will be coming in early August. For more information, please contact Greg Johnson (gregjohnson575@gmail.com). God Bless.

FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR...

Sojourning Pilgrims,

I am so honored, so excited to be part of the secretariat of the Living Waters Via de Cristo as a Spiritual Director. This is a special organization that has meant so much to me and to my wife Lisa in our spiritual development and I just want to pay that back to others whom God calls to VdC weekend.

While the weekend is a special event where God's grace is lavished on both candidates and team for three days, the most important part of a Via de Cristo experience is the 4th day, the daily, weekly, yearly growth in our relationship to God and in our following in the footsteps of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ, carrying on the work that he began. It often takes many "asks" to get a person to say "yes" to attend a weekend, and many of us are persistent enough to not give up on our friends and neighbors asking them to attend a weekend. But we need to realize it is just as important, and I feel more important, to be persistent in taking the hand of those whom we sponsor (in fact, any of those we meet at the Closura or at Ultreyas) and walk with them to grow in piety, study and action in the company of other Christians. Discipleship is a group experience; as Jesus walked with the disciples to encourage them and to help them in their spiritual growth, so too it is imperative that we walk with our brothers and sisters who we bring to a weekend, to encourage them and to help them along in their walk of faith. We need to take personal responsibility, as we are strengthened by the Holy Spirit ourselves, for their spiritual growth.

Grace to you and much love to all.

Pastor Gene Vincent
LW VdC Co-Spiritual Director

FROM THE LAY DIRECTORS...

Greetings from your “outgoing” lay directors. Having had the honor of leading your Living Water Secretariat these past two years, we thought we would use our final newsletter item to reflect on this special opportunity for service – and what Via de Cristo has come to mean to us.

When we first “took a dip” into Living Water back in 1998, we had no idea where it would take us. This was just some little retreat weekend my sister kept telling me about. And so we went, one of us somewhat reluctantly, I might add (I won’t mention names – Joe). And when we came back – well, we never really “came back.” At least not as the Joe and Barb we had been. VdC is different for everyone. But our weekends truly sent us on a new path, one that has resulted in blessings we never could have imagined, and wonderful adventures we never would have experienced. Yes, it’s possible: Change (*gasp*) can be a *good* thing, even among a flock of dyed-in-the-wool Lutherans.

You are a part of Living Water because you had a sponsor who cared enough to reach out to you through this gift we call Via de Cristo. Maybe, like us, you were sleepwalking in your faith life, and along came that pesky VdC rooster, with its annoying crowing, and you got that much-needed wake-up call. And you “came to” and rubbed your eyes, and there was the glorious “Son” – the Son of God – shining His amazing grace on you. And maybe you came to realize all of the opportunities – and the blessings – you had missed while you went through the motions of being a “Good Christian” – wearing the uniform but never really getting in the game. And you found there was so much more in store.

We didn’t “find faith” on our weekend. It was never lost. But it had become buried by the “oughtta’s” of living “religiously.” We had been wondering, “Where is the joy of a life in Christ?” and we came upon the answer at Pilgrim Park: It was in the “Water.”

Since that transforming event, we now live and do, not as we “ought,” but as we *desire*, responding as loved and loving servants of the living Lord. Who would have thought we could have such fun working so hard for the Kingdom?

The heart of Living Water has always been the Servant Heart. This movement could not exist without the wonderful support of our pilgrims, our dedicated clergy, the congregations that offer their facilities for meetings and ultreyas, and the committed members of your Secretariat. Thank you all, for all you do. Our Via de Cristo family has been such an incredible blessing to us. We are grateful to Greg Johnson for agreeing to take over the reins as lay director, beginning July 1. We have tremendous confidence in his ability to lead with joy, as he seeks to follow the Holy Spirit’s guidance for Living Water.

We must admit that our stint as lay directors has not been without its challenges. We, as a Secretariat, have been struggling with the rising costs of putting on these weekends. And we have dealt with some troubling issues resulting from the painful split in the ELCA organization. There are good and faithful people on both sides of this rift, and when disagreements occur, Living Water has, at times, been caught in the middle. But this is a gentle reminder that we are not a church, we are a *movement*. We’re not about a building, we’re about the building up of others in Christian love. We are not perfect, but we are perfectly loved by the same God of mercy. I believe Living Water’s strength comes from the wide variety of “streams” that feed this ecumenical pool: Streams of Presbyterians, Baptists, Methodists, “E. Free-ers,” Mennonites, Pentecostals, Catholics, Congregationalists – and yes, even some stodgy ol’ Lutherans with their synodical differences. We are the Heinz 57 of Christendom. Yet we are *one body* – a little battered and bruised, maybe—but always one body in Christ, glued together by God’s infinite grace. I find that pretty amazing, don’t you?

As we go forward with new leadership, let us continue with the mission of Living Water Via de Cristo: To awaken faith by sharing Christ’s love in a personal and profound way; to provide pilgrims with the tools they need to become effective Christian leaders; and to support each other as we share in this incredible faith journey.

You might find this surprising, but Via de Cristo isn’t here to help you “keep the faith... .” “No, sir. We want you out there “spreading it around,” letting it rain down on others like Christian confetti, and leaving an unmistakable trail of big ol’ “faithprints” wherever you go. No, whatever you do, don’t *keep* the faith, when so many need what you’ve already found. A pastor once told me to remember my baptism by “walking wet” each day. When you “walk wet,” your footprints (faithprints) are easy to follow. Where will they lead others? Let’s get excited about bringing new pilgrims to the Living Water. They may be reluctant; *you* be persistent. With loving-kindness, keep encouraging them to “come on in ...”

... The Water’s divine.

In Christ’s Love,
Barb & Joe Geerts, #16

FROM THE RECTOR/RECTORA...

Attention, everyone (this means YOU!)? Get your team application in for Weekend #48, November 7-10, 2013. We are beginning the process of team selection very soon. Tentative team training dates are: September 7 and 28, October 11-12 (overnight) and October 26. Please keep us in your prayers as we work to set the team - our first team member has graciously accepted. Tim Stone said YES! to be Head Cha for the weekend. As we call on others we ask that you prayerfully consider the call. "Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!' " Isaiah 6:8

God Loves YOU and So Do We!
Jeff & Lori Whalen (# 33)
Rector & Rectora #48

FROM COMMUNICATIONS

Adam and I are happy to be taking over communications I hope we serve everyone as well as the past communication directors. We are happy to be the hands and feet of Jesus and being able to serve God in this way. If anyone needs anything please let us know we are here for you all. We love you all and will do our best to serve the community the best way we know how.

God loves you and so do we
Adam and Amanda McMillin (#36)

**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 (Locations to be announced later):

**September 7
September 28
October 11-12, Overnighter
October 26**

Locations of team trainings will be announced later. 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:

- attend the training sessions in their entirety, except by special arrangement with the Rector/a.
- regularly worship and participate in local church activities.
- 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 #48.

_____ 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 Pastor Randy Willers at 309-764-5614. 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 **\$35.00** (make checks payable to Living Water Via de Cristo), to the Pre-Weekend Chairs:

Clyde and Barb Wray
609 S Church Street
Princeton, IL 61356
815-872-1054

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 2013-2014			
Position	Name	Phone	Email
Lay Director	Greg Johnson	309 796-0858	johnsongregb@johndeere.com
Assistant Lay Director	Dennis Mellgren	309-582-2419	dmellgren@mercerschools.org
Co Spiritual Director	Pr. Vicki Sauter	815-849-9182	vlsauter151@gmail.com
Co Spiritual Director	Pr. Gene Vincent	815-875-9123	gvsales@frontier.com
Treasurer	Diana Wallace	815-875-4391	diana.wallace_3691@yahoo.com
Secretary	Barb Holder	309-582-5277	bjholder@frontiernet.net
Pre Weekend	Barb & Clyde Wray	815-872-1054	uswrays@ivnet.com
Weekend	Jim Whitten	815-894-9315	whtt5@frontier.com
Kitchen	Dennis Hurley	309-798-9000	rooferguy53@yahoo.com
Post Weekend	Carol Ann Noble	309-525-5535	c1noble@live.com
Leaders	Clark Stojan	309-792-3431	cstojan@w-slaw.com
Palanca	Jim & Patty Turner	309-944-6242	jpturner@mediacombb.net
Communications	Adam & Amanda McMillin	309-644-0942	mcmillin.adam@gmail.com