

Via de Cristo

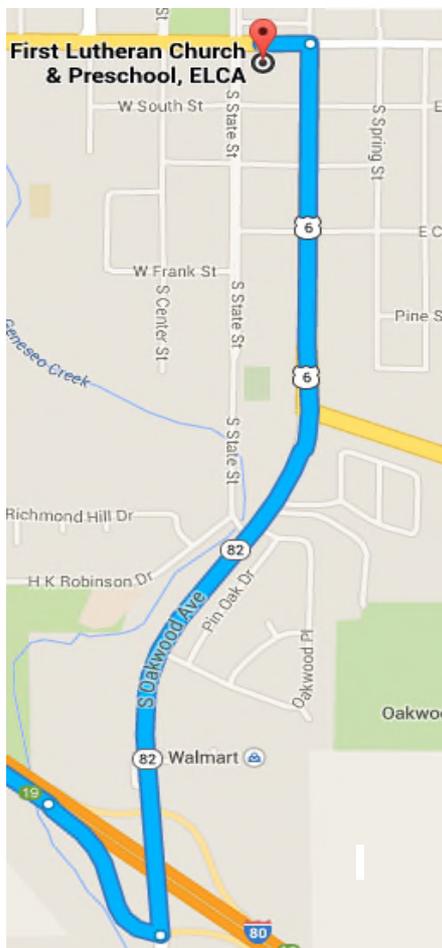
Come to the
Living Water



Issue 179

March - April 2015

Ultreya!



Sunday, April 19, 2015

This Ultreya will be a fundraiser for the 2015 National Secretariat Gathering we are hosting at Augustana College. The Secretariat will be providing the meal and ask that you bring donations and friends to enjoy the meal and worship.

Spaghetti Fundraiser: 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m.
Worship: Following the meal

First Lutheran Church

114 E. Main Street
Geneseo, IL 61254
309-944-3196

Directions:

From I-80, take exit 19 to S Oakwood Ave in Geneseo. Follow S Oakwood Ave to E Main St. Turn left onto E Main St. Church is on the left.



From the Lay Director

From the Lay Director --
Greetings!

There is a once-in-a-lifetime event coming up on April 25-26. The Augustana Founder Day Reunion will be held April 25-26, 2015, at the Jenny Lind Chapel and Augustana Lutheran Church in Andover. The event will celebrate the 155th anniversary of the Augustana Lutheran Church in America and the 165th anniversary of Augustana Church in Andover. The schedule and registration form are at the jenny lindchapel.org website. On Saturday, April 25, there will be interest groups pertaining to the Augustana Synod and stories about Swedish immigrants. The featured speaker at the noon lunch will be Orion Samuelson from WGN radio in Chicago. A smorgasbord dinner will be served in the evening, followed by a hymn sing and vespers. On Sunday, April 26, Northern Illinois Synod Bishop Gary Wollersheim will preach at the morning service. Following a noon lunch, there will be tours of area historic sites and a concert by the Augustana College Choir from Rock Island. The festive afternoon service will include a message by ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. The weekend will close with a dinner.

As previously reported, Living Water VDC conducted a Rediscover and Recommit VDC workshop back in August 2013. The workshop material from the National Secretariat has been updated, so it is appropriate to offer this workshop again. The workshop is for anyone from the community. This workshop will be held on May 2, 2015 at St Matthew's Lutheran Church in Princeton, IL. More information will be coming in a separate email. Save the date!

The plans for hosting the 2015 National Secretariat are progressing nicely. Information about this event will continue to be communicated by Pam and Gary Gross. Several volunteers will be needed during July 23-26, 2015. Please plan to attend or help out at this event.

Please keep the team and the candidates of Weekend #51 in your prayers as the Weekend dates are fast approaching. Now is the time to be asking your candidates to attend. Remember, cost should not be a barrier to attending the Weekend. I encourage everyone to sign up for the prayer scroll, and to attend the sendoffs, serenades, and Clausuras to help support Weekend 51.

Also starting this month of March, our nominating committee will be looking for servants to 'take a turn' on the Secretariat board. It can be a rewarding experience helping guide Living Water as we pray that God is also guiding us. If you have any interest or questions, please contact me or any current secretariat member.

Thanks.
GLYASDI

Greg Johnson
Lay Director, LWVDC

From Spiritual Director

A WORD FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

“The more you know about Via de Cristo, and the longer you are involved in it, the less you want to change things”. There is a reason why we do things the way we do them. I was reminded of this by the rector of Men’s Team #51, Jim Hansen, as we were discussing the foot washing for the 3rd Team Meeting-- because we had decided to have the rector/rectora and the head chas do the foot washing in our non-overnight, for the sake of time--a change from the script. Jim had a good point. There is a reason why it says to wash each other’s feet. Yet I do believe there is merit, maybe more merit, in the leaders doing the foot washing rather than to wash each other’s feet. Jesus washed the feet of the apostles as an example of servanthood to them rather than having them wash each other’s feet (John Chapter 13). Yes, I know, Jesus did tell them to “wash one another’s feet” in verse 14, but I am not sure he meant that literally. I am of the belief that this was an example of a larger teaching--to serve others. Understand that the slaves who washed the feet of the guest who entered a home were the lowest slave in seniority. And that is what we do as a team, serve our master, Jesus Christ, through serving others, especially the candidates. Become less so Christ can become more in us. Make sense? That is why I feel it is not only ok, it is appropriate for the leaders to wash the feet of all the team members. It would be perfectly alright to do it the other way, to wash each other’s feet, but it sets a good example to have our feet washed by the leaders.

Another example of doing things the way the VdC manual teaches us involves our tradition of how we introduce ourselves each time before we talk, with name, church, (city), weekend number and table, which I encouraged the team to follow at the 2nd meeting. Each of these has a purpose. Certainly our name is important. God says to us in the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, “...I have called you by name; you are mine” (Isa 43:1). We get to know each other better as we associate who that person is, their relationship to us and to the team, by their name. Some of us have short memories, so it is good to say your name each time you contribute verbally.

The church we attend is the most frequently left out part (maybe next to the table name). Yet I feel it is an integral part of who we are on that particular team and in the world. Although this is a Lutheran lay movement, we open our arms to many denominations who would wish to have a 3-day walk to grow closer to Christ and return to their home church with a servant’s heart. By saying the name of your church and denomination, it is a reminder to us that the Body of Christ is ALL believers who gather together in the name of Jesus Christ. We are larger than just one team, one church at a particular location, one denomination. We all are the Church (that’s a write down). Also, by saying the town where our particular church is located, we can marvel at how the Holy Spirit has called us together from all points in Northern/Western Illinois and Eastern Iowa. Again, this is a reminder of the larger picture of the community of Christ.

And of course, our weekend number and table name, a reminder for us of the time we made a weekend. This also serves to help each other to see the relationship between those who made the same weekend, or even who sat at a table together (as does hearing of other’s who are members of the same church and the same denomination). We see people who made weekends years ago, some who have made recent weekends and those in between. Yes we all walk the same pathway laid out for us before time began.

So next time you hear of someone wanting to change the way we do things at LW VdC, pray about it, and discern carefully. There may be a very good reason for doing something different on a particular weekend or even making a permanent change. But first, think about it and discuss with others “what was the original intent of doing it this way”? And “does changing it make this better or worse?”

God loves you and so do I.

Pastor Gene Vincent
First Lutheran Church, Ohio, IL
LW VdC # 18, table of Paul

From the Rector

Ephesians 1:11 In Him we were chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of Him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of His will.

As I write this we are preparing to have our third team meeting. God has picked an amazing team, now we need to ask people to the weekend. Remember how you heard on your weekend “make a friend, be a friend, bring that friend to Christ”? Maybe now is the time to invite that friend to a Via de Cristo weekend. I remember a friend asking my wife and I to attend a weekend over and over – we finally said “yes” just to get him to stop asking! Maybe you have a friend that needs that kind of persistence to finally say yes to experiencing a weekend. It reminds me of the song “Pass it On” – *once you’ve experienced it, you want to pass it on*. Look at your friends, co-workers, family, people in your church – who can you invite to weekend 51 to experience what you know to be an amazing journey?

I also ask you to help make this weekend a success by praying for the teams and participants. It would be wonderful to add your name to the prayer scroll – go to our website: <http://livingwaterviade Cristo.org/> and click on “LINKS” to go to the online prayer scroll (look for Living Water – 19-22 March for the men’s weekend, 26-29 March for the women’s).

Last but certainly not least, please remember the impact it has on candidates to see the community encourage them through the weekend. Please take the time to go to the send-off, the serenade, and the closure for both weekends.

God has planned for many of us to “work” this weekend – what has God planned for you?

God loves you and so do I,

Jim Hansen – Rector weekend 51

Continuing Education

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 spring weekend teams. 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 3:00 to 5:00 PM immediately before the April 19 Ultreya at First Lutheran Church in Geneseo. Follow the directions for the Ultreya, and join us.

No reservations, only a servant’s heart required.

From Rectora

Wow! I am truly humbled to watching the Lord put this team and weekend #51 together! It is amazing how the Lord can use us to be His hands and feet. We have two team meetings left, with the weekend a little more than a month away!

I was able to go out to the camp this last week and the remodel of the first cabin is almost complete. It will be complete this weekend. It is beautiful and be a wonderful addition to the weekend especially for the team. I'm excited for the weekend. The upper level has individual heat and air conditioners in each room, with higher ceilings and lighting in the hallway. It will make the experience even more wonderful for the candidates.

Remember how important your weekend was, and how awesome it was to see God's Amazing Grace at work in your life and in the team? Now is the time to share that mountain top experience with others. Let's fill this weekend with participants! Like we say on the weekends; **Make a friend, be a friend, bring that friend to Christ!**

1 Peter 2:9-10 " But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

We are chosen to be the Hands and Feet of Christ to the world. Let us open our minds and hearts to help others who need to know the Love and Grace God has for them.

Please pray for the team and the participants the Lord is calling to attend this weekend. Prayer is the foundation of the weekend. God is counting on us to reach out to others to spread his Love to others.

Don't forget to come to the send offs, the serenades, and the closings. We truly appreciate the support of the community on these weekends.

God loves you and so do I!

Charisse Jesiolowski VDC #8

Rectora Weekend #51

From Post Weekend

Reunion Group Update

The reunion group is a key part of the 4th day experience and it is important to make the active reunion groups accessible to all. To do this the secretariat needs your help to make sure that our reunion group list is up to date. If you are involved in an active reunion group, please email Kate Webster at katewebster56@gmail.com. It would be helpful if you include a name of the group, location, time, and most importantly a name and contact information of an individual active in the group. This will give individuals looking to join a group someone to contact and will help us make sure information is kept up to date. Contact information can be either email and / or phone number. Thank You for your assistance in making the reunion groups more open to all.

GLYASDI,

Kate Webster

Post-Weekend Chair

From Communications

De Colores!

A few changes have happened in the past month or two to the website. We have completed the job descriptions of the various Secretariat positions and have posted them to the site.

Also, we have added a PayPal account and link to make donations to the site as well. You can use a credit card to make donations as well using [this link](#).

GLYASDI

Adam McMillin

Communications

LWVdV #36, Amos

Find a Reunion Group

Sisters In Faith

Meets 2nd, 4th, and 5th Mondays at 5pm contact:

Debbie Case – Group contact and organizer 309-787-4895

Lazarus Reunion Group

Meets every Monday at St. John's Lutheran Church in East Moline at 6:00pm

Duane Little – Group Contact and Organizer 563-349-6814

Calvary Lutheran Church, 2900 Ave of the Cities, Moline on Tuesdays at 6:30pm

Greg Johnson Group Contact 309-236-3394

Perry Memorial Hospital Chapel - Two groups

Womens at 4pm on Mondays contact Dianne

Men's at 7pm Mondays contact Jim

Hyvee Rock Island Cafeteria - Fridays at 7:00 am

Bob Frank, Dennis Miller, Gary Allen, Myron Yoeckel, Dan Tollerud, Doug Hoffman, Pr. Randy Willers

McDonalds - Ave of the Cities Moline on Wednesday at 12:30 Luncheon

Barb Geerts 563-940-4933 Group Contacting

Calvary Lutheran Church - 2900 Ave of the Cities Moline - Ladies Group

Saturdays at 7:00 am

Pam Gross 309-797-5561

Grieff's Auto Tech - Princeton IL - Thursdays at Noon

Greg Grieff, Phil Kaufmann, Tom Nelson

LALIC Group - Meeting fluctuate

Jim and Stacy Whitten 1-815-894-9315

Others to contact for group information

Tim Oloffson - 815-303-1725 - Big Apple Resturant in Princeton on Wednesday at 8:00am

Linda Berry - 815-878-9567 - St. Matthews in Princeton on Mondays at 6:30pm

Kim Bush - 309-714-0085 - Panera Bread in Moline on Wednesdays at 5:00pm

Linda Storm - 309-944-3317 - Barneys in Geneseo on Thursday at noon

Victoria Manor in Geneseo on Tuesday at 8:15 am

Jeff Whalen - 815-674-7722 - St. John's Lutheran in Peru Wednesday at 5:30pm

Mike Goer - 309-231-4221 - Evangelical Covenant in Princeton Tuesday at 6:30pm

John Verworn - 309-441-6585 - Township Hall on Wolf Rd Geneseo, Thursday at 6:30am

Carol Ploch - 815-202-3338 - St. John's Lutheran in Peru Tuesday at 9:00 am

Illowa Lutheran Coalition
 Augustana College
 639 – 38th Street
 Rock Island, IL 61201

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Living Water Via de Cristo Secretariat Members 2013-2014			
Position	Name	Phone	Email
Lay Director	Greg Johnson	309 796-0858	gregjohnson575@gmail.com
Assistant Lay Director	Tim & Carol Ploch	815-202-3338	ploch70@yahoo.com
Co Spiritual Director	Pr. David Schweppe	309-299-2790	dlschweppe@yahoo.com
Co Spiritual Director	Pr. Gene Vincent	309-236-5699	micahsixeight@frontier.com
Treasurer	Jeff Whalen		jeffreywhalen@sbcglobal.net
Secretary	Nyla Krabbenhoft		nylasuek@yahoo.com
Pre Weekend	Barb & Clyde Wray	815-872-1054	barbeesw@hotmail.com
Weekend	Jim Whitten	815-894-9315	whittn5@frontier.com
Kitchen	Mike & Lori Turner	309-764-4554	Docmat1@aol.com
Post Weekend	Kate Webster	815-992-9036	katewebster56@gmail.com
Leaders	Clark Stojan	309-792-3431	cstojan@w-slaw.com
Palanca	Elaine Gauden	815-894-9309	egggauden@hotmail.com
Communications	Adam & Amanda McMillin	309-644-0942	communications@livingwaterviade Cristo.org