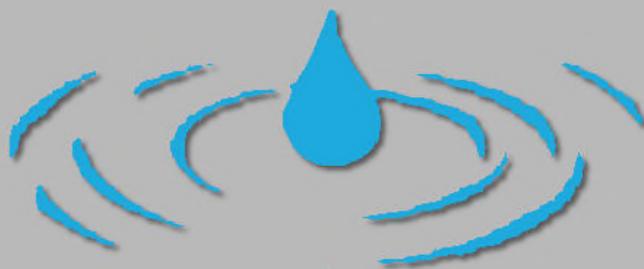


Via de Cristo

Come to the
Living Water



Issue 182

September – October 2015



Saturday, October 3, 2015- 5:00 p.m.

Hampshire Colony
Congregational Church
604 S. Church
Princeton, IL 61356
815-875-2329

We encourage those who will have participated in the team training to stick around as our Living Water Community joins for fellowship and worship. 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 five.

Directions:

Take exit 56 for IL-26 toward Dixon/Princeton. Turn south onto IL-26 N Main Street. Turn left onto E Peru Street at the stoplight. Take the 1st right onto S Church Street. Hampshire Colony Congregational Church is two blocks down and on your right.



From the Lay Director

From the new kid on the block....

The 2015 National Lutheran Secretariat Gathering, hosted by Living Water and held at Augustana College July 23-26, was a smashing success. Why?

For these two reasons: (1) The leadership folks at the national level of Via de Cristo are experienced, truly caring, loving, dedicated and very good at what they do; and (2) the leadership and other volunteer folks within the host committee were not experienced, but are truly caring, loving, dedicated and were very very good at what they did. Sound redundant? Intentional.

That said, on behalf of the entire Living Water community, we tip our VdC caps and say THANK YOU to the 60-some volunteers, led by Pam & Gary Gross, who all said, 'here I am Lord, send me.' And faithfully were His hands, feet, voice, smile and laughter serving the 150 delegates from across the country over the four day event. You all did a wonderful job and made us (Living Water) look great!

I was there as a volunteer and was able to sit in on several sessions and interact with many folks at the gathering. Here are some points (and trivia) that I noted:

- * Secretariats across the country all experience ups and downs.
- * Some Secretariats encompass an entire state—at least one covers two states.
- * Some folks must drive 5 or 6 hours to attend an Ultreya, held there just twice a year.
- * The Minnesota Secretariat conducts 18 weekends a year.
- * There are 44 Secretariats in 30 states.
- * Some 109,000 lay and 3036 clergy have attended VdC weekends over the last 43 years.
- * The 2015 Gathering was the 38th such event.
- * Never add to or subtract from the weekend script and activities, do things 'by the book.'
- * The more you know about VdC the less you want to change it.
- * The VdC emphasis should be on FRIENDS and FRIENDSHIP.
- * The “biz” of VdC is not conducting weekends, it's establishing reunion groups and holding Ultreuas

The 2016 Gathering will be held over the 4th weekend in July near Toledo, Ohio. In addition to the two voting delegates LW will send, I suggest that anyone with interest mark your calendar and attend next year, it's a meaningful, rewarding and educational experience.

Bob Broene, Lay Director

From Spiritual Director

Spiritual Director Report

Recently I spent part of a weekend as the LW clergy delegate to the National Secretariat Gathering in Rock Island. We, Living Waters VdC, were the hosts to over 150 delegates from various VdC's throughout the country. What a blessing it was to be part of such a wonderful event. Each day we began with worship and Holy Communion followed by business meetings, training and break-out sessions to discuss various ways Cursillos are held in different areas. We meet people who were part of the first VdC brought over from Spain that was held in Waco, Texas. Talk about a rich history.

One of my favorites was break-out session for Spiritual Directors. There were about 20 pastors from VdC's in Oregon, Idaho, Texas, Florida, the Carolina's, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio Minnesota and of course, Illinois-and more. We shared our joys and frustrations as SD's. Some Secretariats had all kinds of pastors to draw Spiritual Directors from and use 3 or even 4 pastors as SD on a weekend. On the other extreme I talked to one pastor who had served as SD alone 5 weekends in a row. The most unusual was a VdC group from Florida whose pastors were Baptists-no Lutherans! We asked how that worked? They told the group that they almost always had a local Lutheran pastor to do the "Sacraments Rollo" and when they couldn't get a Lutheran pastor in, they would give the rollo themselves "respecting the Lutheran tradition on the Sacraments". I can't remember, but I think they said they would also have a Lutheran pastor for the worship and communion service. They were truly an ecumenical VdC.

I think Living Waters falls in the middle of these extremes. We don't have an excess of SD's available (please talk to your pastor and encourage them to find out for themselves what you experienced through VdC) but we do have a good list of pastors of which nearly one quarter are non-Lutheran. We welcome all pastors but make it plain that the grace rollos will follow Lutheran doctrine. And all pastors share in worship services and meditations but only ordained Lutheran and those denominations in full communion partnership preside at the Lord's Table.

I am reading a book "Bonhoeffer-Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy" by Eric Metaxs for a pastor study I belong to. Bonhoffer was a pastor in Germany during the era leading up to WWII. Lutheranism was the "state" religion in many provinces in Germany, mostly in the north. It was a forgone conclusion that you "became" Lutheran, or even more so, you were born Lutheran just as you were born German. On a trip to Rome, Bonhoeffer attended a mass that had priests from all over the world, Mexico, China, Africa, leading worship. It was then that Bonhoeffer truly understood the universality of the church and that the body of Christ extends outside of Germany and outside of Lutheranism. I thank God for my sisters and brothers in Living Waters VdC, both lay and clergy, from all the various church backgrounds.

Pastor Gene Vincent

From the Rector and Rectora

From your Rector /a and Head Cha for Fall Weekend #52

“Pay attention and listen to the saying of the wise; apply your heart to what I teach.” Psalm 22:17

Have you considered giving palanca during Weekend #52? Are you praying about asking a friend to attend Via de Cristo this fall? Have you given that friend the flyers provided on the website? Have you offered her/him an application? The forms and information you need for your candidate can be found on this website. The flyer can be found at the tab “About us” and can be printed by following instructions at the bottom of the page “click here”; the candidate applications is found at the “applications” tab titled “Pilgrims application”, and can be printed. All the contact information for the weekend is on the application.

By the time this is posted Team #52 will have had our first team meeting. And we have faith that it will have gone wonderfully well because God is gracious, and we do this for His glory, and He will not allow it to be any other way.

We move forward, trusting God to teach us when needed, to give us the words and wisdom and discernments we need to lead this team. He has affirmed this many times, usually through scripture or a devotion, and has done so again this morning, and I share it with you --

“Teach Me What I Need to Know” by Marjorie Holmes

“Everybody should have a friend like Ralph. He can fix a lamp or a lawn mower, refinish furniture, and build bookshelves. All by himself he has transformed his garage into a workshop and completely remodeled his mother’s house.

One day, marveling at these results over coffee, I asked, ‘Ralph, where did you learn to do all this? Who taught you – your father?’

Thoughtfully he sipped his coffee, his blue eyes twinkling. ‘I never knew my father,’ he said. ‘But I did meet a good carpenter a long time ago. And he still helps me. In fact, every time I have a problem, all I have to do is stop and ask him, ‘Teach me what I need to know.’ And he does. This morning, for instance, those boards just wouldn’t work. But after I’d stopped and asked him, ‘What am I doing wrong?’ the answer came: I was cutting them too short.’

Then Ralph gave me the words of his own special prayer: Jesus, stand beside me. Guide and direct my life. Teach me what I need to know. Help me with my work. Let me serve You and others, that I may be worthy of God’s grace.

Ralph’s special prayer has become a part of my own life now. I say it every morning. And all day. Whenever I am anxious or confused about a situation, one phrase of the prayer comes to my rescue: ‘Teach me what I need to know.’ Of all the things Ralph has done to help me, his prayer has helped most of all.”

God is good all the time. All the time God is good. In church every Sunday, Pastor Sarah leads us with this phrase as a response. And we know this, and we trust in it. But do we think about it? After repeating it so often, when something wonderful happens, my mind – or rather our Lord – brings this thought forward. Like each time a team member said “yes” until a group was filled, I thought “God is good all the time. All the time God is good.” And like each time we struggled with the experience sheet and phone numbers that were not valid, and when we heard a “no, I am unable to this time”, those words became my prayer – “God is good all the time. All the time God is good.” We have faith in this promise, and we trust in Him, that He will lead us to whom He wants for each position, even if it is hearing 12 no’s before hearing a resounding “absolutely!” While I write this we have 3 positions left to fill, but we have faith those positions will be filled by the time we begin our team meeting August 29th.

Our Team Meetings’ theme is “creating a home”. Through our meetings and one another God will teach us, giving us the practice and knowledge we need to create an atmosphere as comfortable as home for our candidates on the weekend. We want them to feel so good about being on the weekend that their hearts will be open to the new journey God is starting them on through the weekend, working through our team’s hands and feet and glowing faces.

Continued on next page...

Our first team meeting was named "Hospitality" based upon the words of Peter:
"...make every effort to add to your faith - goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." In God's grace we find the comfort and courage we need to do the tasks He sets before us.

Please pray for the candidates who will be attending LWVdC Fall Mixed Weekend #52. October 29 – November 1.

Please pray for our team, our Rollistas who begin previewing their Rollos on September 19th:
Carol Koresko - Ideal, Pete Bence - Laity, Cindy Hart - Piety, Paul Baker - Study, Kate Webster - Action, Harlan Briggs - Leaders, Linda Storm - Environment, and Jim Whitten – CCIA.

Please pray for our Spiritual Directors as they prepare their rollos, as well as holding all of us in their hearts.

Please pray for all our chas as they train for their individual and group rolls.

Please pray for Charlotte, Clyde, and Barbee as we go in faith to lead this group to a joyful and grace-filled weekend.

God loves you, and we do too.
Clyde and Barbee Wray
Charlotte Gustafson

Meeting 2: Sept 19 @ Calvary Lutheran/EM
Meeting 3: Oct 2-3 @ St. Matthew's/P'ton
Meeting 4: Oct 17 @ Hampshire Colony/P'ton

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

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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Assistant Lay Director	Tim & Carol Ploch	815-202-3338	ploch70@yahoo.com
Spiritual Director	Pr. Gene Vincent	309-236-5699	micahsixeight@comcast.net
Treasurer	Betty Fisher	815-878-5128	bet.fish3@gmail.com
Secretary			
Pre Weekend	Barb & Clyde Wray	630-672-3209	barbeesw@hotmail.com
Weekend	Jim Whitten	815-663-7509	whtt5@frontier.com
Kitchen	Mike & Lori Turner	309-764-4554	Docmat1@aol.com
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