

# Via de Cristo

Come to the  
Living Water



Issue 183

November – December 2015



Saturday, December 5, 2015 – 5:30 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church  
2000 Luther Dr.  
Peru, IL 61354  
815-223-1144

This will be our first Ultreya following mixed weekend 52. We invite all new pilgrims, sponsors, and community to celebrate our 4<sup>th</sup> day.

Couples bring one dish to pass; families please bring two. Coffee, water and ice are provided by the host church, but any other will need to be brought by the community. Babysitting will be available for children up to five.

## Directions:

From Interstate 80, take exit 73 for Plank Road. Turn south onto Plank Rd. Follow Plank Rd for 2 miles. You will see the church on your left. Turn Left on to Peoria St. and a slight right onto Luther Dr.



## From the Lay Director

To bring you up to date with happenings at the first Monday of each month Board meetings, I'm passing along some information. First, those meetings often called the Secretariat by most of us, aren't actually that, but the Board of Living Water. The Secretariat is all 2500 or so of us LW weekend alums. That learned at the 2015 national Gathering.

Next—a couple of months ago our Palanca Chair, Elana Gauden announced that she and her hubby, George, were relocating to New Mexico—fulfilling a long-time goal and dream of theirs. We wish them the best in their new home area. Elana sought and found a replacement—Missy Selfies, stepped up and said “here I am” and not a beat has been missed with Palanca.

A month or so after, LW secretary Nyla Krabbenhoft, announced that she and hubby, Gene were relocating to Missouri after Nyla had accepted a promotional job offer. Nyla sought and found a replacement in the name of Charisse Jesiolowski, who also said, “here I am.” Again not a beat has been missed. But we now need to have a box of tissues at the ready in case anything emotional comes up at a board meeting! (Just kidding, Charisse.)

Thanks Missy & Charisse for saying--and living, “here I am, Lord.”

The next item is one that I believe many of us have pondered for quite some time—that being sharing some VdC functions with other Secretariats.

We're done that a fair amount in the past: at Ultreyas, serving on “other” teams, sharing “Prayers” Email, at Serenades; and most recently, seeking and accepting help from other Secretariats while hosting the 2015 National Gathering.

After some preliminary discussion, the Board agreed that we would take an initial step of investigating how that is done in other locations, such as Minnesota. Yes, we are talking baby steps in what could lead to some changes in the future; and we all know how Lutherans are slow to change.

We'll keep you posted of any developments along this line—and invite your comments.

Of possible interest...For some time Greg Johnson has been taking care of ordering name badges for new sisters & brothers after their weekend—thanks Greg! Some alum folks have commented that the name badges with pins leave undesirable holes in their clothing. A solution to that is a name badge held in place with a magnet. If you want such a new name badge call or text Greg at (309) 236-3394—cost is about \$6.50.

A reminder to sponsors of weekend candidates—please don't ever take this lightly—it is a sponsor's responsibility to insure a new sister or brother has as smooth entry into his or her 4<sup>th</sup> day as possible after their weekend. That certainly includes introduction into a reunion group and attendance at Ultreyas.

# From Spiritual Director

## SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR'S MUSSINGS

*“Lord, if only I might seek You alone, so that I can open my heart to You and rejoice in You, as my soul desires. Then no one would ever despise me, nor any creature disturb or notice me, so that You alone might speak to me and I to You, as lovers speak to each other, face to face, or like a conversation between friends. It is my prayer and desire to be totally united to You and to remove my heart from all created things and increasing delight in heavenly and eternal things, through Holy Communion and frequent celebration of Mass (or worship services-my addition-). O my Lord and God, when shall I be wholly united to and absorbed in You and unaware of myself? You in me and I in You, may we abide in one forever.*”

This a devotion in the book The Imitation of Christ, by Thomas A Kempis (Penguin Books, London, England, 2013- purported to be written in 1481). This particular devotion is contained in the section on “The devout encouragement to receive Holy Communion”. Daily Worship with Holy Communion is one of the “essentials” of the 3-day Via de Cristo weekend. Essential means that the weekend would be incomplete if we did not have this. To be part of a worship service and to gather at the Lord’s Table is such a wonderful experience; to be bonded as one with Jesus Christ who feeds us with His own Body and Blood and to be bonded with each other is the essence of the oneness that Jesus prayed for in the garden (John 17:21). To be united together with Christ has special meaning for me, as a called and ordained minister of Word and Sacrament, during Worship Services at First Lutheran, Ohio and for all of us at Via de Cristo weekends.

Some of our brothers and sisters have different doctrines or beliefs in Holy Communion and we, to continue to be as one, as Jesus prayed for us to be, want to respect their beliefs. It’s kind of like if we invite people to Thanksgiving Turkey Dinner only to find out that they are a strict vegetarian and it is too late to prepare a lot of vegetarian items. But we would wish to honor their beliefs and not leave them in the living room watching the lowly Lions beat the Bears, again. We would invite them to the table with us, to partake in a manner that is consistent with their beliefs, to share as much as possible in that bonding experience we call Thanksgiving Dinner. During a VdC weekend and at Ultreyas, that is why we invite all who are there to the table. And for those who have differing views, we offer a blessing; we honor their beliefs because we wish to have oneness with them by offering to them a table fellowship experience with all who are gathered that will not trouble their conscience.

To those who have different beliefs than the tradition of “open or close communion” that I and others have, my prayer is that you would feel comfortable in sharing the table offered by the Christ, the Savior of all of us in whatever way you can. I welcome those who come forward for a blessing and consider them as much my brothers and sisters as the ones who partake in the fullness of Holy Communion. To those who do participate in receiving the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, in, with and under the bread and wine, I ask you to please respect and fully welcome others who by conscience, do not receive the elements during Holy Communion. We are one, by Christ alone.

God Loves you and so do I

Pastor Gene Vincent, LWVdC Spiritual Director

## From the Rector and Rectora

*“Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy.” 1 Peter 1:8*

It was by serving on these Via de Cristo weekends that I really learned to *trust in God’s grace* for me, but more importantly for the weekend itself. It doesn’t really matter what is going on in our individual lives, it doesn’t matter what we have planned for our talks or to do in the areas we are serving – we have answered God’s call to serve, the candidates have answered God’s call to attend, and God pulls it all together – the talks, the surprises, and the community involvement with the send-off, serenade, palanca letters, love gifts, and the clausura. It is HIS weekend, and regardless of what is going on - HE will make it work for the weekend HE has planned. Since I have faith in the Holy Spirit, each weekend, from the first team meeting through the last day of the weekend I find myself blessed with “an inexpressible and glorious joy,” which I realize is Jesus working through me.

*“If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from His love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, have the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.” Philippians 2:1-2, 5*

It is when we are Jesus’ hands and feet giving His words and love, His smiles and laughter, His encouragement and support, His comfort and fellowship that we are serving Him and allowing Him to work through us. That is why each weekend is PERFECT in the eyes and hearts of those candidates attending. Jesus would *not* have it any other way. It is His teaching and our learning, enabling us to carry on His business in the world.

So, even though while I am writing this I have no proof of it being so, I have faith and trust in our Father that He made Weekend 52 .....perfect... for His plan and glory.

I know we, as the VdC community already know all of this, and very probably have experienced the same, but it should be told over and over...which is what we do when forming and attending our Reunion Groups and Ultreyas.

Reunion groups and Ultreyas are where we are held accountable in our walk-in-faith with Christ. Jesus works *through* each of us *for* each of us. These gatherings are where we celebrate being Christian and grow in faith. They are where we find encouragement, support and strength while walking in the valley of our earthly lives. They are where the bonding that started on the weekend strengthens and grows to include others. They are a mini-weekend.

Think about those you have sponsored on a VdC weekend. Are they part of a reunion group? Have you, or are you helping them to find a reunion group? Or have you started a reunion group to include them? As their Sponsor it is your never-ending responsibility to stay in contact with your participant, encouraging them to be a part of a reunion group, to attend the Ultreyas, and possibly to work on a weekend.

The Ultreya in December is another opportunity to begin this process for your candidate from weekend 52.. If your candidate hasn’t been invited to attend a reunion group, and you know of others who are looking for a reunion group, the Ultreya is a good way to meet and inquire of those in existing reunion groups, or to form a new one. Please encourage new participants to attend the meal and fellowship, and also the Continuing Education class before the meal.

At this minute while writing this, it is just a few days before Weekend 52 begins. It is hard to believe by the time you read this the weekend will be over. Even so, we can say with great humility and gratefulness, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve with our chas, silent professors, rollistas, and spiritual directors on Weekend 52; and we have been so blessed, and so very humbled to see Jesus at work in you....through your prayers and care for this team and these candidates. Thank you. God loves you, and we do, too.

Clyde and Barbee Wray, Rector/a Weekend 52  
(Weekend 13)

## Find a Reunion Group

### Women's Groups

Reunion Group Name	Location	Time	Contact Person	Email	Phone Number
First Lutheran Women	First Lutheran Church Princeton		Gayle Little	<a href="mailto:Gmerr@acehardware.com">Gmerr@acehardware.com</a>	815-872-6029
Princeton Women	Perry Memorial Chapel	Every 2 weeks	Barbee Wray	<a href="mailto:barbeesw@hotmail.com">barbeesw@hotmail.com</a>	630-672-3209
Princeton Library Women	Princeton Library	Monday at 6:30 p.m.	Amy Peterson	<a href="mailto:pete318@comcast.net">pete318@comcast.net</a>	815-878-9203
St. Matthew's Women	St. Matthews Lutheran Church	Monday at 6pm	Sandra Rose	<a href="mailto:cutecutter64@yahoo.com">cutecutter64@yahoo.com</a>	
Women's Pilgrim Group	Messiah Lutheran Church in Aledo	Wednesdays at 1:00 pm	Margie Olson	<a href="mailto:margie13wld@gmail.com">margie13wld@gmail.com</a>	
Peru Women	Peru Library	Tuesday at 5:30pm	Carol Ploch	<a href="mailto:ploch70@yahoo.com">ploch70@yahoo.com</a>	815-202-3338
Baker 87	Dixon IL	Wednesdays at 7:30 am	Wanda McBride	<a href="mailto:wgmebride@yahoo.com">wgmebride@yahoo.com</a>	815-994-1397
Moline Women	Hungry Hobo Moline IL	Thursday at 5:30 pm	Barb Geerts	<a href="mailto:ezwriter@netins.net">ezwriter@netins.net</a>	563-940-4933
Davenport Women's	Family Resources, 2800 Eastern Ave, Davenport, IA	1st and 3rd Tuesday at 5:15	Chris Medina	<a href="mailto:cawm54@yahoo.com">cawm54@yahoo.com</a>	
Geneseo Women	Geneseo IL	Thursday at 11:30 am	Patty Tuner	<a href="mailto:prkt40@gmail.com">prkt40@gmail.com</a>	309-945-5538.

## Men's Groups

Reunion Group Name	Location	Time	Contact Person	Email	Phone Number
Peru Men's	St. John's Lutheran Church	Thursdays 5:30 to 7:00 pm	Jeff Whalen	<a href="mailto:jeffreywhalen@sbcglobal.net">jeffreywhalen@sbcglobal.net</a>	
Lazarus Connection	Meet at St. Johns Lutheran Church, East Moline IL	Monday at 6:00 P.M.	Duane Little	<a href="mailto:grandpasblessed@yahoo.com">grandpasblessed@yahoo.com</a>	
Princeton Library Men	Princeton Library	Wednesday Nights	Jeff Jaques	<a href="mailto:jjaques@mblusa.com">jjaques@mblusa.com</a>	815-303-4552
First Lutheran Men	Princeton IL		Merle Polson	<a href="mailto:polsonme@frontier.com">polsonme@frontier.com</a>	

Illowa Lutheran Coalition  
 Augustana College  
 639 – 38<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Rock Island, IL 61201

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
 Rock Island, IL 61201  
 PERMIT NO. 224

<b>Living Water Via de Cristo Secretariat Members 2015-2016</b>			
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
Lay Director	Bob Groene	309-738-1310	groene@qconline
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	whh5@frontier.com
Kitchen	Mike & Lori Turner	309-764-4554	Docmat1@aol.com
Post Weekend	Kate Webster	815-992-9036	katewebster56@gmail.com
Leaders	Jeff Whalen	815-674-7722	jeffrewhalen@sbcglobal.net
Palanca	Missy Silfies	815-915-5035	melissasilfies@gmail.com
Communications	Adam & Amanda McMillin	309-644-0942	communications@livingwaterviadecristo.org