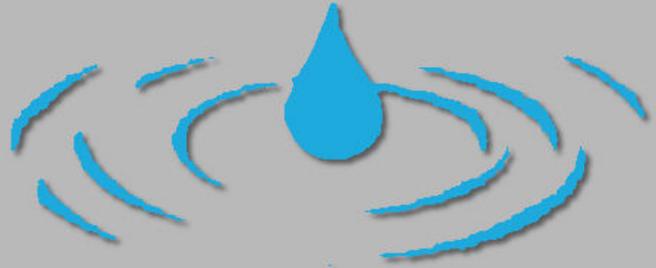


Via de Cristo
Come to the
Living Water



Issue 185

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March - April 2016

Ultreya!



Saturday, April 30, 2016
4:30 p.m. - Meal and Fellowship
6:00 p.m. - Worship and 4th Day Talk

St. Paul's Lutheran
Church

Pastor Mike Lawyer

1001 9th St

Orion, IL 61273

(309) 526-8406

Please note the date and time change. This will be the first Ultreya following Weekend # 53. We will be having an early potluck to join Pastor Mike's church in worship.

Individuals and 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:

For those coming from the Quad Cities, you can reach the town of Orion on US 150 E. Turn left onto 10th Ave, then right onto 9th St. The church is on the left. Those coming from the east can take I 80 W, to I 280 W. Take exit 5B, stay on US. 6 until you turn right onto 150 E.



From the Lay Director

The team trainings have begun for the upcoming Men's and Women's Weekends #53.

Now is a great time to step out in boldness and ask your friends, relatives, or co-workers to attend this Weekend. Remember, it is a gift to them; something that they will treasure forever.

Please keep Rectora Jan Morse and Rector Mike Turner in your prayers as they prepare to lead the Weekends in April. More information will be provided by Jan and Mike.

Please support the recent candidates in any way you can, such as helping them to find reunion groups, inviting them to Ultreyas, encouraging them to work on teams, and keeping them in your prayers. The role of a sponsor does not end at the Clausura! Also, there is a list of current reunion groups in recent newsletters. If you know of anyone who is not in a reunion group, please encourage and help them find one.

If you have talked to anyone who attended the National Lutheran Secretariat Annual Gathering in July 2015, you know that they thought the event was awesome! The 2016 registration forms and travel forms are now available on the National VDC web site -- <http://www.viadecristo.org/>. The event will be held July 21 - 24, 2016 at Lourdes University in Sylvania, OH (just outside Toledo). There is an early discount to the fees, which expires May 1st. If you think you might be interested or have any questions, please contact me.

Please continue to keep the Groene's in your prayers, as Cindy is just about done with chemotherapy and Bob is providing much-needed support. I am helping out a bit with the Secretariat board, and I feel privileged to do so.

As always, please contact me, or any Secretariat member, with any questions or comments.

Thanks.

GLYASDI

Greg Johnson

Acting Lay Director, LWVDC

From the Spiritual Director

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Wouldn't it be better for us if we went back to Egypt? So they said to one another, "Let us elect a captain and go back to Egypt (to slavery)?" Numbers 14:3-4

Saturday we had a retreat for our church council and other church leaders. We've had those ever since I was called to First Lutheran Ohio. It is good to get together with the newly elected council, to worship together as a small group, to meditate on the Word of God and to nourish each other, in the dialogue sermon, and to be nourished with the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior in Holy Communion, which we gave to each other. After worship, we do a meditation on a particular spiritual discipline and then we discuss the key factors of our mission in Christ and how each one of the leaders not only fits into that vision, but also their own vision for each of the areas of Christ's mission they are leaders in. It was a good meeting; with much sharing of vision. We had discussions that would not have been possible earlier in my call to First. With our years of being together (8 years now), we have gained a trust that allows us to have differing opinions, yet work together to stir those differing ingredients into a big pot that tastes good to all and which nourishes all to strengthen them for Christ's work. The highlight for me was when one life-time member, a 3rd generation son/daughter born into the church, who said, "Now I get it". Now I get it. I tried to get them to elaborate as to what it was they "got", but they really couldn't articulate-not ready yet. What I gathered was that they finally understood about how we, who have different gifts of the spirit, different like and dislikes, different thoughts-how God brings us all together as one in Christ's mission.

This epiphany, and this one in Christ attitude for the sake of Christ's mission, comes from looking with the eyes of our heart (faith) instead of the eyes of our head (flesh). We are slaves to the flesh, but our faith sets us free from that slavery. One thing I shared with the group is the difficulty I have at times, realizing that the life I live as the pastor at First Lutheran is not my own; my life belongs to God and my life belongs to the people of the congregation at First Lutheran. As one who thinks that he had control over my life before I became a pastor, this eats at my soul at times. I asked the attendees of the retreat to pray for me, and I ask you, as Living Waters, to not only pray for me, but to pray for your pastor, and all pastors who may be struggling with various issues only we know about. In the meantime, I know that this where God has placed me, at First Lutheran, Ohio, IL, and in God's calling there I have actually been freed instead of enslaved. Though I see the past control of my life as freedom, it was indeed really slavery, a slavery I long to return to, but a slavery that I should not return to, for my own good and for the good of those God has placed in my hands.

You too have been brought out of bondage, an imprisonment through no fault of your own, into freedom, through no merit of your own. You have been unshackled. Why would you want to shackle yourself again with the life you used to live before you realized God had already freed you in your baptism in Jesus Christ? If the Son has set you free, you are free indeed.

From the Rectora

During my study of the theme for LWVdC Women's Weekend #53: SERVANT DAUGHTERS OF THE KING, I discovered Melissa Deming's fabulous website, Hive Resources. One of her dramatized messages reads:

"My Warrior Princess: I know that many days you feel like a weary warrior, too tired to fight. I see you when you have exhausted your faith and lost your passion for My people. Today I want to paint an eternal picture for you, My beloved. Every act of kindness you share will water someone's thirsty soul. Every time you pray for someone, you are changing their destiny from darkness to light. You are more than a light in the darkness. Your faith will continue to be a raging fire that will burn in the hearts of many generations who follow your wonderful works on earth. Love, Your Eternal King."

Team #53 has already witnessed those raging fires for our King within one another, and inhabiting the prayers of our precious Prayer Warriors. By April 14, we're going to be oh-so-ready to share those kindnesses, prayers, and Light with each and every pilgrim that God entrusts to us.

Have you prayed for the right pilgrim to respond to Jesus' call through the instrument of YOU? Once He places that person's name on your heart, it's impossible NOT to invite, NOT to encourage His pick to come to the Living Water.

God has already richly equipped Team #53 with all we need...except for His chosen pilgrims and your continued prayers. This time WE are counting on you!!!

GLYASDI...Always in Him,

Rectora #53 Jan Morse

From the Rector

"Grace and peace to you from God our father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I always thank God for you because of His grace given to you in Christ Jesus. For in Him you have been enriched in every way..." 1 Corinthians 1: 3-4.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The first two team meetings are done and two remain. Our teams have come together and despite some "enemy interference" our camp locations are set. Praise God! I am excited to see what God can do through us.

I hope you will continue to pray for all team members individually and collectively for protection from evil, temptation, and indifference. C.S. Lewis once said: "Christianity, if it is false is of no importance, and if true of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is

moderately important". We have been called to serve the Creator of the Universe. He knows us each by name. Mega high!! He knows my heart and my past. I'm so ashamed! He has paid the price for my sins and I am forgiven through His Grace and mercy. Fall down in humble worship and praise!

Isaiah 43:1 "...Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine."

Please continue to pray for possible candidates. May God protect us from being too timid to invite friends, future friends and loved ones to a 4 day retreat with the "Creator of All Things". May God bless each of us with "Holy Boldness" to step out of our comfort zones as we try to fulfill His Great Commission found in Matthew 28: 18 - 20.

GLYASDI,
Mike Turner,
Rector Men's Weekend # 53

From Communications

De Colores,

You may notice that this newsletter is coming directly to your inbox rather than through a link you would click to get to the newsletter. This is because we have made the decision to code the newsletter in a web page format. You will still be able to download the pdf versions of the newsletters on the site, through the "Newsletter Archive" link. The biggest reason for this is because people wanting to view the newsletter from the site on their mobile devices have been having some issues, myself included. As we make this transition, there may be a few things that need to be ironed out. However, I assure you that I am trying to think of all of the hangups that could possibly result from this. I think I have taken care of them and any problems should be minimal. However, if there is anything that needs to be brought to my attention please email me at communications@livingwaterviadecristo.org and let me know.

I have also added new pages to the website for the reunion group pages. This was done with images so the phone numbers and email addresses of the contact people do not get spammed from crawler bots (yes, that is a real thing). **The link is below in Kate's article.**

GLYASDI,
Adam McMillin
LWVDC Communications

Find a Reunion Group

This list is a work in progress, but I pray that it can be the start of accurate information that can continue to grow. If you have a group to be added or changed, please email Kate Webster (Post Weekend Chair) at katewebster56@gmail.com. You can also call or text 815-992-9036. If you had a reunion group listed on the previous list that is still active, please notify me so that I may add you to the current list. If you are in need of a reunion group, but don't see one in your area or time frame, please contact myself or another member of the secretariat. We can connect you with other Living Water Pilgrims in your area.

GLYASDI,

Kate Webster

Post-weekend Chair

Please remember that the ideal reunion group size is 3 to 5 members. If your reunion group seems large, please consider splitting off to allow new members to join. It can be difficult for new or inexperienced pilgrims to start a reunion group, consider being that mentor.

WEBMASTER NOTE: To maintain security for the contacts in this list, I have added images of the tables to their own pages, to which I referred in my article. You can access the lists at [this link](#).

Living Water Via de Cristo Secretariat Members 2016-2017			
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
Spiritual Director	Pr. Gene Vincent	309-236-5699	micahsixeight@comcast.net
Treasurer	Charlotte Gustafson	309-714-5203	charlotte12165@gmail.com
Secretary	Charisse Jesiolowski	815-590-5160	hospicesw2010@yahoo.com
Pre Weekend	Barb & Clyde Wray	815-872-1054	barbeesw@hotmail.com
Weekend	Jim Whitten	815-894-9315	whtt5@frontier.com
Kitchen	Mike & Lori Turner	309-764-4554	docmat1@aol.com
Post Weekend	Kate Webster	815-992-9036	katwebster56@gmail.com
Leaders	Jeff Whalen	815-674-7722	jeffreywhalen@sbcglobal.net
Palanca	Missy Silfies	815-915-5035	melissasilfies@gmail.com
Communications	Adam & Amanda McMillin	309-644-0942	communications@livingwaterviadecristo.org