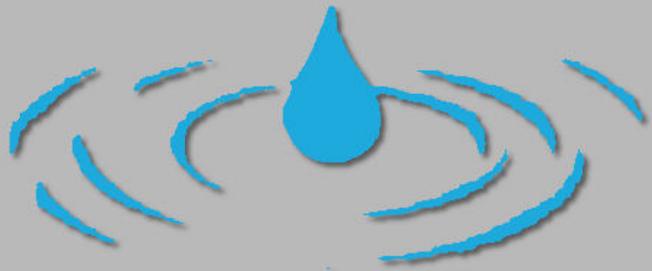


# Via de Cristo

Come to the  
Living Water



Issue 186

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May - June 2016

# Ultreya!



Saturday, June 4, 2016 5:30 p.m.  
First Lutheran in Ohio 201 S Main  
St, Ohio, IL 61349 (815) 376-7431  
Pastor Gene Vincent

Following the potluck we will have our annual meeting. This is an opportunity for the secretariat to share the work that has been done during the year, thank members who are leaving, and vote in new members. Following this, we will share in worship and the fourth day talk. All are welcome to attend. 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 drinks will need to be brought by the community. Babysitting will be available for children up to five. Directions: From I-80, take exit 56 to IL-26 N. Continue on IL-26 N until you reach Ohio, the church will be on your right. Click on the map pointer above to get step by step directions



## ***From the Lay Director***

**De Colores!!**

**First, a heartfelt and giant THANK YOU to all of Living Water from both Cindy and me. The grace, love and support you all demonstrated and we received (and felt!) over the last several months was absolutely overwhelming. You are His hands, feet, voices and heart. We are soooo blessed to be a tiny part of such a wonderful and loving community.**

**Next, a personal thank you to Greg Johnson who immediately said, “here I am Lord” and temporally stepped back into Lay Director duties during the roughest part of our journey. What a super example of Actual Grace.**

**Living Water weekends #53 are history, sort-of. We welcomed seven new men and seven new women into our community. Praise God! Unfortunately, two other ladies experienced health issues and were not able to complete the weekend—I'm confident they will return.**

**Notable was the fact that the women's weekend, originally scheduled for Camp Mennohaven, had to be moved to Camp Stronghold due to a date conflict that was discovered late in the process. Nevertheless, the super strong and flexible ladies of 53 didn't miss a beat keeping their focus on Jesus the Christ. And a huge atta-girl&boy to our Weekend Chair group who experienced double set-up and take-down duties due to the move. Well done, good & faithful servants.**

**Our fall mixed weekend, to be led by Greg and Cindy Hart, will be held starting October 27<sup>th</sup> at Mennohaven.**

**Our spring 2017 weekends, will be held starting March 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at Mennohaven. Easter is April 16, 2017.**

**Over the next few months we will be taking a comparative look at all of our camp options.**

**Election of Committee Chairs for 2016-17 will take place at the June 4<sup>th</sup> Ultreya/Annual Meeting that will be held at First Lutheran, Ohio. It looks like most, if not all of our leadership will stay on board for another year—however, this is a good time for review of job descriptions (available on our website) if you are thinking of serving on our board sometime.**

**Our Weekend Chair group performs a difficult and time consuming job exceptionally well—but they need some help. Our inventory of LW VdC shirts is now five tubs big. A person, couple or small group is needed to take charge of all duties related to our shirts and their tubs. Will that be you?**

**We will again participate in the Birdies For Charity program that's part of the John Deere Classic professional golf tournament. This is a very nice fundraiser for us with the chance for participants to win some very nice prizes, including a car. See Greg Johnson for entry forms.**

**The National Lutheran Secretariat Gathering will be held over the fourth weekend in July next**

Toledo, Ohio. We typically send two voting delegates to the convention that'll be held on a college campus—we have funding to send additional folks. Will that be you?

In His service....Bob Groene

## *From the Spiritual Director*

### Spiritual Direction

#### Luther's Morning Prayer

*I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.*

I teach Luther's Morning Prayer to our Confirmation students and ask them to say this prayer every morning. Then I ask them to see if they were more aware of God's presence in their daily life when they start their day in praise and thanksgiving. Luther's Morning Prayer is found on page 6 of your pilgrims guide and is a way to start your day with a deepened piety and to see Christ walking with you during your day. I, along with many of you, have a preference for "conversational" and "impromptu" prayer with God. But I encourage you to also try this and other written prayers including Luther's Evening Prayer to be used along with your usual "let the Spirit move me to speak" prayers. Below I have included an "explanation of Luther's Morning Prayer, to show you that written prayers are not just words to pray. They are a heartfelt, thought out, scripturally based and are from the heart of another human being who also, like you, has been moved by the Spirit with the words to pray.

#### Explanation to Luther's Morning Prayer

I (*this is a personal prayer, not a corporate prayer, you and God, face to face/heart to heart*) thank you (What a great way to start the morning, with an attitude of gratitude. It puts you in the right frame of mind right from the get-go - *1 Thessalonians 5:18*), my heavenly Father (it is to God that we give thanks, God our Father, representing strength, protection, providence and safety, the One who is above all; the one whom Jesus prayed to for our protection (*John 17:11*), through Jesus Christ (Yes, we have one Mediator - *1 Tim 2:5*-, only one who stands between us and judgment...), your dear Son, (Yes, that Mediator Jesus Christ is God's Son. It is through Christ and for the sake of Christ that God gives to us - *John 16:23*) that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger (It is indeed God in whom our safety lays - *Psalms 121:8*). Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, (Now we start looking into the future of our day where sin and evil lurk, ready to snare us - *1 Peter 5:8*) that all my doings and life may please you (Though all our works are as filthy rags - *Isaiah 64:6*- because we fail to fear, love and trust God above all things, we ask in faith because we are chosen and sent by Jesus. We pray that what we do each day will be pleasing to God and show others God's kingdom - *Romans 12:1*). Into your hands I commend my body (we trust that God will watch over us and we offer ourselves and our day to the glory of God - *Psalms 121:1-8*) and soul and all things (We ask that God will direct us to use

the gifts of God, all that we have and all that we are, for God's purpose and for God's glory - Romans 12:1-2). Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me (Even though darkness relentlessly pursues me, God protects me - Psalm 23:4).

Amen. (So be it – Matthew 26:39)

Blessing to you all.

God loves you and so do I.

Pastor Gene Vincent

Spiritual Director for Living Waters VdC

LW VdC # 18

## ***From the Rector/Rectora of 54***

*“We have different gifts according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.” - Romans 12:6-8*

De Clores Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Wow, what perfect words that God gives us to prepare ourselves to serve Him on the mixed fall weekend #54.

Is He calling you?

When He called us, we were sitting on the balcony of our cruise ship gazing out at God's beauty of ocean and sky, not knowing where one ends and the other begins, enjoying our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary vacation, we received a text (not even knowing we could receive texts in the middle of the ocean) asking us to prayerfully consider being the Rector and Rectora for the fall weekend #54. What a perfect place to receive this request, on vacation in the middle of the ocean, no distractions (other than the buffet line) to give it our undivided attention. We first prayed separately and then together and the answer was clear: God was calling us to be His representatives for His weekend #54.

We new the next step for us at that point was to pray for God to send us the name of someone to be the Head Cha. And once again we prayed separately and then together and with no surprise God had sent us the same name.

After we were introduced at the end of the men's spring weekend we made the call and after a few days of prayer we were delighted and blessed that Kevin McAnally said yes.

The next step is to get prayer warriors in place and ask if you are unable to serve on team to prayerfully consider being a prayer warrior.

Is He calling you to team?

Is there someone you have been praying for to attend a Via de Cristo weekend?

See the link below for an application.

Humbled and blessed to be called,

Greg and Cindy Hart #35

Kevin McAnally #31

Rector, Rectora and Head Cha weekend #54

[http://livingwaterviadechristo.org/wp/?page\\_id=136](http://livingwaterviadechristo.org/wp/?page_id=136) (Team application)

[http://livingwaterviadechristo.org/wp/?page\\_id=133](http://livingwaterviadechristo.org/wp/?page_id=133) (Pilgrim application)

## ***From the Rector of 53***

Dear Team Members of Living Water Via de Cristo Men's Weekend # 53 and VDC Community,

I can't believe how fast weekend # 53 came and went!! It seems like we just finished team selection and BAM, the whole weekend is over. Thank you all for your dedication and hard work. It was a great privilege to serve with each of you. It is my prayer that this time has strengthened your 4th Day walk and that God would continue to bless each of you in whatever way you need most.

I also would like to thank the VDC community for all their prayers and support over the last 4 months. You have been awesome.

God's Blessings to all,

Mike Turner, Rector, Men's Weekend # 53

and

Jim Larson, Head Cha, Men's Weekend # 53

## ***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](mailto: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](#).**

<b>Living Water Via de Cristo Secretariat Members 2016-2017</b>			
<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
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	katewebster56@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