

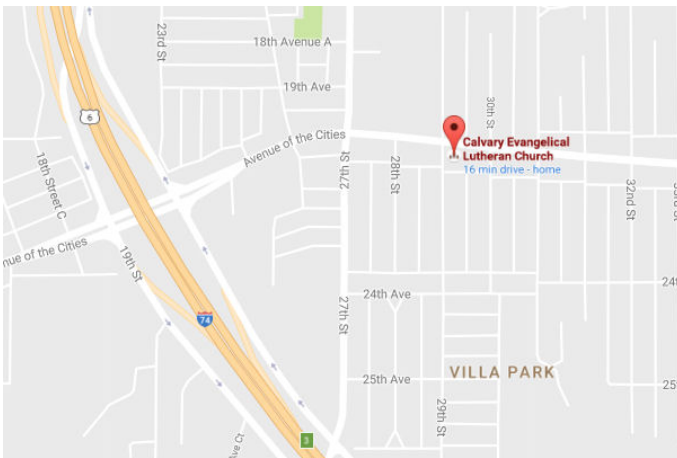
*Via de Cristo*  
Come to the  
Living Water



Issue 189

November - December 2016

*Ultreya!*



**Saturday, December 3, 2016**

**25th Anniversary Panel & Worship:  
3:00 p.m. Potluck: 4:30 pm**

**Calvary Lutheran Church  
2900 Avenue of the Cities  
Moline, IL 61265  
Phone: (309) 762-5423**

Our December Ultreya has a time change to accommodate pastors in the Quad Cities with evening worship services. A panel to celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary they will share about forming Living Water VdC and what that first weekend was like for those that attended in place of a 4<sup>th</sup> day talk.

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 74 take exit 3 for Avenue of the Cities. Merge on to 19<sup>th</sup> Street. Turn right on to 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue/Avenue of the Cities. Calvary Lutheran is on the right.



## ***From the Spiritual Director***

**Hi! My name is Wayne Melaas-Swanson, and I am beginning a term as Spiritual Director together with Gene Vincent. I attended weekend 21, sitting at the table of Jeremiah. I serve as pastor at Messiah Lutheran Church in Port Byron, Illinois, and sometimes attend with my two "children" Kirsten and Daniel. Sometimes? Well, Daniel is a student at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, and Kirsten is currently on Rotary Exchange Year in Zimbabwe, Africa. So the opportunities are limited! But we keep in touch - as much as we are able - and both of them are connected with faith communities where they are now primarily living.**

**Keeping in touch is a good thing. Whether it's with family at home, or our faith community family - whether it's our congregational community, or our support community in Via de Cristo. In our faith journey those connections are vital in helping us continue our walk with Christ. That's the purpose of the 4th Day program in Via de Cristo. It's an extension of the weekend experience, a means of building on that experience to grow further in our relationship with Christ, and in living out our faith in the church and in our communities.**

**Within the Via de Cristo community there are three ways we can live out our 4th Day walk. First is the Reunion Group. If you haven't connected with a group since your weekend, I encourage you to seek one out - it's a great way to have support in continuing forward in your faith walk from those who have shared the same weekend experience you've been blessed with. Second is the bi-monthly Ultreya, an opportunity to join with the larger Living Waters community for a shared meal, an inspirational 4th Day talk, and a time of worship together. Finally, there is the opportunity to take your weekend experience and share it with others by serving on a weekend team. This last opportunity is not only useful as a way of offering a weekend experience to new people, but a way of reconnecting both with those in the Via de Cristo community and with God in a little different but great way than that first weekend experience.**

**If you can't serve on a team, there is also the option to help with the weekend by praying for the weekend, inviting new people into the experience, and coming to either the Serenade or the Closures to support those who are on the weekend for the first time.**

**Community is a vital part of our faith. We are joined with one another in Christ who is our center and who calls us together to be his Body in the world. And community is what defines us as Living Waters Via de Cristo. We aren't a movement or program if we are not a community. So I invite you and encourage you to connect - or reconnect - in one or more of these ways - or to encourage those you know who may not be connecting with the Via de Cristo community. As we connect, we grow, and as we grow, we foster our connection with Christ and become a greater resource to the family of faith we are part of in our local congregations.**

**In it all, remember the One who is at the center of our life and faith, the One whose love and grace never fails and never runs out. Indeed, God loves you, and so do I.**

**Pastor Wayne**

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

Well, Living Water Weekend #54 is “in the books.” Successful as usual, we welcomed six ladies into the/our fold of LW weekend people. The weekend was typical in that obstacles were encountered—but as usual—overcome. One of the most unusual things is that there were no men candidates on the mixed weekend—a first, I think. The good news was that with the absence of men candidates, there were several men on team that could then slide over into other areas of weekend duties making “bearing the weekend yoke” easier for all.

At the Closura we greeted leaders for upcoming spring weekends #55: Paul Baker will be Rector for men (March 16-19) and Barb Heisterman will be Rectora for women (March 23-27.) Please pray for Barb, Paul, teams #55 and candidates still unknown to us.

I will soon be asking for ideas as to how we can best look into new pastures for candidates. I’m sure there are folks and congregations out there within our geographic “boundaries” who know little, if anything, about Via de Cristo. I hope and pray that can be changed. I ask all to think and pray for the best and most effective avenues we can travel to reach those future sisters and brothers.

In His service....Bob Groene

## ***From the Rectora of 55***

*Proverbs 3:5-6*

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.*

*Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.*

My name is Barb Hiesterman. I worship with my husband, Don, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Davenport, IA. Both Don and I attended Living Water Via de Cristo weekend #2 in March of 1991 and I sat at the table of Tabitha. Weekend #55 will be on March 23 – 26, 2017 at Camp Menno Haven. With a very humble heart, I have accepted the position of Rectora.

Let me introduce a very wonderful friend, a beautiful person and my Head Cha, Ellen Dalton. Ellen worships at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Davenport, IA. She attended LWVdC #16 and sat at the table of Elizabeth. On weekend #55, we look forward to serving on team with many of you.

Community – we have a challenge for each of you. Would you:

- Please, speak to God about your friend. And, after receiving His confirmation, speak to your friend about attending His Via de Cristo weekend. We would be thrilled to have a full weekend of 30 women, but, would be just as excited if we had 15 candidates. So, don’t wait – start praying now so your candidate’s name can be on the list before the first team meeting on January 21<sup>st</sup>.

- **Please attend the sendoff ceremony on Thursday, March 23, 2017 around 7:30PM.**
- **Please attend the serenade on Saturday, March 25; practice begins around 6:00PM at the Camp.**
- **Please attend the closing ceremony on Sunday, March 26 beginning at 5:30. The ceremony will be at First Lutheran Church, Princeton, pending council approval during the December meeting.**
- **Please pray for the team members - for health; for safe travels; for following God's guidance and for good weather.**
- **Please pray to hear God's call of action.**
- **Please know that we are counting on you!**

**Team – your mission will be to**

- **Attend team meetings on January 21, February 3-4 (overnighter), February 18 and March 4 so a special bond can be formed.**
- **Focus on your position and pray to be the best team mate possible.**
- **Pray for the team members individually and as a whole to bond together as one. We are God's words and actions and, yes, that is a great responsibility. Our actions speak volumes.**
- **Be flexible. We may have to change meeting dates if the weather is too bad for the majority of us to travel on a scheduled date.**
- **For the Rollistas – pray for God's words, review your rollo outline, pray, make notes, pray and write, write, write. Many of you will preview during the overnight meeting on Feb 3/4.**

**A special message from Ellen:**

**I am humbled by Barb's kind words and her asking me to be Head Cha. It is so rewarding to be asked to serve on a VdC team and knowing that God has His wonderful hands in the whole process is comforting. While each team is different, the basics remain the same and it is all for the Glory of God! God will direct our paths, we just need to follow His lead.**

**God Loves You and So Do We!**

**Barb & Ellen**

## ***From Secretary***

**Greetings from your Secretary of Living Water Via de Cristo. Just a quick note about what your Secretariat board has been up to! In our September meeting we had a report from Barb Geerts & Teri Gribel on the National VdC Gathering they were our delegates to. Lots of good information was shared.**

**The importance of Reunion Groups has been discussed and we are encouraged to find groups if we do not have one. Kate Webster had us break out in reunion groups at the October Ultreya in lieu of a 4<sup>th</sup> Day Speaker. It was fun to hold a reunion group with people you don't normally!**

**At our October meeting Bob Grone shared that we missed our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary date and we need to do something to recognize that. He is thinking of gathering as many from weekend #1 together to do a presentation of what it took to put together Living Water Via de Cristo. An idea was also mentioned to add this to our website.**

**We will also be having child care available at various VDC events & functions, depending on the policy of the church hosting to encourage families to come. Watch for more details at each event posting.**

**The next Ultreya is Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> (location is TBA), the men's Spring weekend #55 will begin March 16, 2017 with the women's Spring weekend #55 beginning March 23, 2017. The Fall weekend #56 will begin Oct 5, 2017. At this point all of these next weekends will be at Camp Menno Haven.**

**GLYASDI**

**Ellen Dalton, Secretary**

**Weekend #16**

## 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	Bob Groene	309-441-5544	groene@qconline
Assistant Lay Director	Charisse Jesiolowski	815-590-5160	hospicesw2010@yahoo.com
Spiritual Director	Pr. Gene Vincent	309-236-5699	micahsixeight@comcast.net
Spiritual Director	Pr. Wayne Melaas-Swanson	309-523-9191	pbmessiah1@juno.com
Treasurer	Charlotte Gustafson	309-714-5203	charlotte12165@gmail.com
Secretary	Ellen Dalton	563-343-7979	ellendalton63@yahoo.com
Pre Weekend	Barb & Clyde Wray	312-757-1229	barbeesw@hotmail.com
Weekend	Barb Hiesterman	563-210-3967	donbarb77@gmail.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
Palanca	Jennifer Schmidt	309-737-4055	jenpen126@yahoo.com
Communications	Adam & Amanda McMillin	309-644-0942	communications@livingwaterviadecristo.org