

# Via de Cristo

Come to the  
Living Water



Issue 191

March - April 2017

## Ultreya!



Saturday, April 1, 2017

Potluck: 5:30 pm  
Worship and 4th day talk will  
follow

**Messiah Lutheran**

509 NE 2nd St  
Aledo, IL 61231  
Phone: (309) 582.5261

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: You may find it simpler to use GPS, but I took a shot at directions.

From I-80, continue on I 280 W. Take exit 11A to merge onto IL-92, West Centennial Expy toward Andalusia. Continue on IL-92 W. Take Turkey Hollow Rd, 105th St W and IL-94 S to NE 2nd St in Aledo. People in the QCA can take route 92 to IL 192 W. Turn left on 105<sup>th</sup> St W. Follow IL 94 S to S.E. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave in Aledo. Follow S.E. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave to N.E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.



## *From the Spiritual Director*

### *Spiritual Director Ponderings:*

With all this warm weather you'd think it was spring already! It's been a blessing for those who like warm weather, a bane for those who want to be out on the slopes skiing or snowboarding. Either way, it's been out of place with expectations for this time of year – I mean, I was in shorts for three of the last six days!

Things can also get out of place in our lives – caught up in a variety of different distractions like work, family time, recreational pursuits (indoor and outdoor), jobs around the home, and who knows what else. Often we even get out of place in our faith connections – whether it's going to church for worship, or attending a reunion group, or engaging in some kind of spiritual nurture (like Bible Study, devotions, prayer, etc.).

If you read through the Gospels, you find that Jesus could even get into times where he got caught up in things. It's then that he would step back, take a break, and reconnect with his Father in prayer. He did that often. It was a source of strength and guidance for him. Just imagine trying to live up to "Son of God" and living the perfect life! Remember, he was human as well as divine, and that part of him would always be a challenge.

As we approach Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent, we enter into a time where we can intentionally "turn back" to God, reconnect with the source of our life and faith – in worship, prayer, scripture, devotional time, time with fellow Christians. Prayer is especially appropriate in this "penitential" season when we consider our lives, our need for forgiveness and Christ's awesome sacrificial gift for us.

I hope and pray that you all may find ways to do that this coming forty days leading up to Holy Week and Easter. It's a good remedy for feeling "out of place" in life, and getting our faith feet under us again, for it is that gift of faith in Christ that is our foundation in life. Go to worship – even twice a week if your church offers it; PRAY; attend or connect with a reunion group; PRAY; read the Bible or be part of a Bible study – or both; PRAY! Often we hear about giving up something for Lent. Well here's something to take up – maybe in place of what you're giving up. May it bring you blessings of renewal and life that recenter and reorient you to a place that is not "out of place," but in the place where we are created to be – in the love of Christ Jesus our Lord.

God loves you and so do I!

*Pastor Wayne*

## *From the Lay Director*

Random thoughts.....

My memory keeps going back to what I heard and learned at the 2015 NLS Gathering that Living Water hosted. Hosted very well I might add. Wonderful experienced folks there. Lots of them. The next NLS Gathering will be in North Carolina the fourth weekend in July—interested??

A woman from the southeastern US told of her Secretariat covering two states. She and friends often drive up to six hours just to attend an Ultreya. They unfortunately do not have Untreyas as often as we do. Another said their Secretariat covered an entire state. Living Water covers many counties, but I doubt any of us ever have to drive more than two hours to attend a VdC function.

We do Weekends very well. We have glitches, hit speed bumps and have hiccups along the way, but we still do weekends very well. One of the reasons--we train for weekends very well. Not unlike the Boy Scout Motto, we are prepared—for most anything.

We build friendships and relationships pretty darn well too. Who among us can say they do not have new friends from Living Water? We all know and maybe cherish folks from all over our counties that we would not know were it not for Living Water. Praise and thanks to God for that.

We do Reunion Groups OK, in my estimation. I wish we had more. I wish each and every one of us were in a group that meets weekly. But that's just not the case right now—I hope that changes.

Not long ago at the Secretariat Board meeting we learned that Living Water has not one, not two, but THREE new reunion groups—WOO HOO. They are all women groups. Praise God for more Living Water relationships & friendships!

Sometimes I hear a bit of grumbling. Some of us don't really like the foot washing part of our weekend training. That takes me back to where foot washing first started—take a moment to review John 13:12-17.

Some folks don't like the overnight and the possibility of sleeping on the floor of a church and/or not being able to take a shower. Not many could really like that. That takes me to Jesus praying in the garden, where in His humanness He asked His Father for the cup to be taken from Him. We know the answer.

If someone has a genuine aversion to foot washing or staying overnight on a church floor, there is certainly room for some exception, always has been & always will be. As the Rector(a) says to candidates early in a weekend, 'you will not be asked or forced to do anything you don't want to do.'

Something else I heard several times at the NLS gathering..."the more you know about VdC, the less you want to change it."

My our God and Father continue to bless us all.....Bob Groene

## *From the Secretary*

Greetings from your Secretariat Secretary!

Just an update on what the Living Water Via de Cristo Secretariat has been working on:

The Spring weekend teams have been meeting and gearing up for the upcoming weekends. The Men's weekend is March 16<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> and the Women's weekend is March 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>.

Greg Johnson has been meeting with prospective camps as an alternative to Menno Haven. We are still gathering information on this.

There are some positions on Secretariat that will be coming open in July. If anyone is interested, please feel free to check out the Living Water website at [www.livingwaterviade Cristo.org](http://www.livingwaterviade Cristo.org) to view the job descriptions and get ahold of one of the Secretariat members!

GLYASDI

Ellen Dalton, Secretary for Living Water Via de Cristo Secretariat

## *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](#).

**Living Water Via de Cristo Secretariat Members 2016-2017**

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