

Current Newsletter

 livingwaterviadecristo.org/wp/

Via de Cristo
Come to the
Living Water



Issue 199

July – August 2018



Ultreya!

Saturday, August 4th, 2018

Potluck: 5:30 p.m. 4th Day Talk
& worship to follow.

Calvary Lutheran Church
2900 Avenue of the Cities
Moline, IL 61265
309-762-5423

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.

Directions:

From La Salle -Peru area take I-80 W to Moline, take exit 3 from I 74/US 6 W, Turn right onto Avenue of the Cities and Calavary Lutheran will be on the right. People in the QC area can follow E River Dr to State St in Bettendorf. Get on I 74/US 6 E, take exit 2 from I-74/ US-6, turn left onto 19th St, then left onto 12th Ave, and right onto 27th St. Finally left onto Avenue of the Cities and Calvary Lutheran will be in the right.



From the Spiritual Director

Notes from the Spiritual Director

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations. Amen.

– Eph 3:20-21 (NRSV)

Have you ever gone through a time in your life where you just felt either overwhelmed by life, or insufficient for a task? Ever felt like you were kind of insignificant in the bigger scheme of things, or like God had called you to something you just didn't think you had the capacity to do or achieve? It's not unusual! People go through that kind of experience, and so do pastors. What I find, from my own personal experience, is that this feeling of inadequacy or being overwhelmed often hits when we are relying on, and thinking only about, what "I" can do, what abilities "I" have, how strong "I" am, how significant "I" am. In those moments, or times, "I" takes over from the "we" of God with and in me, of the power of the Holy Spirit to do more than I can imagine myself doing.

There's a story about a boy and his father who were walking along a road when they came across a large stone. The boy said to his father, "Do you think if I use all my strength, I can move this rock?"

His father answered, "If you use all your strength, I am sure you can do it."

The boy began to push the rock. Exerting himself as much as he could, he pushed and pushed. The rock did not move. Discouraged, he said to his father, "You were wrong, I can't do it."

The father placed his arm around the boy's shoulder and said, "No, son, you didn't use all your strength — you didn't ask me to help."¹

It's so easy to forget that we are not sent out on our own in God's service, to do everything on our own, on our own merits and abilities and strength. We have a great Father, and Savior, and Spirit, that promise to work in and with and through us. Our God is the significant One who provides us with all that we need, who guides us in all we do, who gives us power through the Holy Spirit to accomplish "abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine." It's not just that God will "get us through," it's that God will accomplish great things in us and through us – more than we can imagine or ask. How much can you imagine? What all might you ask for?

As we answer God's call in our lives to be witnesses and vessels of love and service, the promise is that we just can't out do or out think or out imagine what God can do through us. And yet, I ask, what can you imagine God doing through you? With the power of the Spirit at work within us, the possibilities are amazing, perhaps even beyond what we can think or imagine. So do not fear, and keep your heart and mind open to the moving of the Spirit in your life – and see what can happen!

1 David J. Wolpe in Teaching Your Children About God, as cited in Spiritual Literacy: Reading the Sacred in Everyday Life, ed. Frederic Brussat and Mary Ann Brussat (New York, Simon & Schuster, 1996), 447.

Dear Sisters & Brothers in Christ:

The heat of early summer makes my mind move as slow as my body, There are a few things going on though, and we (Carol and I) want to keep you informed.

The National Secretariat Meeting is being held in Palm Beach, Florida later this month. Pam Gross and Barb Geerts will be representing Living Water. I', sure they will be bringing back some good ideas for us to analyze.

I remind you all that Way of Christ is having their summer Ultreya on July 31 at Krape Park, 1799 South Park Boulevard, Freeport, IL. They have graciously invited the Living Water community to attend. They have reserved Waterfall Shelter for the entire day. The park is open early so you can spend the whole day there. Please check the Krape Park website to see all of the family friendly activities offered. So if anyone would like to attend, you will be welcomed.

We are tentatively scheduling our October retreat/video day for Saturday, October 20, at New Hope Church of the Nazarene in Princeton, IL. Keep an eye on the website for upcoming information. Also, keep watching for info on both the August and October Ultreyas.

AND if anyone out there in Living Water Land would feel the desire to serve the community as Post-Weekend Chair, please let someone on your VdC Board know.

We wish you all a safe and restful summer and look forward to seeing you at future events.

In Him,

Andrew Koresko,
Co-Director, Living Water VdC Board

Leadership

As a Fourth Day community we work together to provide leadership within our home, congregations and community. We are all called to demonstrate strong spiritual leadership in many different ways. This leadership strengthens the body of Christ and is vital to the growth of individuals as well as supporting our clergy.

The Cursillo method of building leadership within the church has been a significant movement for many denominations for over 50 years. The intent of the movement was, and still is, the development of leaders to “renew the face of the earth.” We do this through practicing Piety, Study, and Action.

The Secretariat, known as Living Water Via de Cristo, must also be balanced through a strong Pre-Weekend, Weekend and Fourth Day (post weekend) community. When that balance gets “off” the entire movement becomes less effective. Over the next year, the Secretariat Board will be seeking ways to strengthen each pillar of that tripod. All members of our community will benefit from a leadership “tune-up” to restore our vision and focus.

We are planning a leadership “summit” on October 6 and will be sharing details in further communications. Please make this a personal goal to attend and refresh your leadership skills.

Grace and Peace,
Jim and Janet Larson, Leaders Chairpersons

From the PreWeekend Chair

As I am writing this, there is a major party going on – a birthday bash for an entire nation. Independence Day is when we mark the birth of America, a time to celebrate all that we are *together*, rejoice in our hard-won freedoms, and honor those who have sacrificed to preserve them.

We truly are “the land of the free.” We are free to speak our peace, free to travel where we please, free to make our own way in life, and most importantly, free to worship our God in the manner we choose. These are things Americans have always cherished.

But there is a very special freedom we enjoy that is so often overlooked, one which, sadly, is never celebrated with parades and flag-waving and fireworks. It was not fought for; it could not be “earned”; but someone *did die* for it. I’m speaking of the freedom from sin and death that Jesus gave us through his sacrifice on the cross. In Revelation 1:5 we learn that Jesus “loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.”

We were once slaves to sin, but through Christ our chains are broken—forever. We have this assurance from Jesus himself, in John 8:34-36: “I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but the son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

Free. *Indeed*. Perhaps a celebration is in order!

But let’s go beyond that. Our pastor once told us that while we should be eternally grateful for being freed from sin and death, it doesn’t end there. You see, we are not just freed *from* something; we are freed *for* something. We are freed to do the work of God’s Kingdom.

The Via de Cristo movement is all about encouraging others to serve God in whatever way He has gifted them. So ... what have *you* been freed for? On this day and every day, let us celebrate the freedom that has been won for us through Christ, and exercise our freedom to respond, in great love, to whatever God calls us to do.

GLYASDW!

Your Pre-Weekend Chairs
Barb and Joe Geerts, LW #16

*From the Weekend
Chair*

From Treasurer

From the Secretary

Well...what has the Living Water Via de Cristo Secretariat Board been up to lately? We welcomed in new members Pam & Gary Gross as Assistant Lay Directors Chair, Augie Calsyn as Kitchen Chair, Jan & Jim Larsen as Leaders Chair and Bob & Cindy Groene as Treasurer Chair. We also had to say our goodbyes to outgoing members Charisse Jesiolowski, Mike & Lori Turner, Jeff Whalen, Kate Webster, and Charlotte Gustafson. Their service & dedication to LWVDC is greatly appreciated! We still have an opening on the Secretariat Board for a Post-Weekend Chair. Anyone who would be interested can check out the job description on the website and get in touch with Andey or Carol Koresko, our current Lay Directors.

We are still exploring doing a video day in October with the videos we have from the National Secretariat. More information will be forthcoming on that as it is arranged. We are also exploring a Trivia Night for everyone to get together.

As always, we would love to hear from anyone who has a suggestion or comment. The complete list of the Secretariat Board members is at the end of the newsletter...reach out to one of us!

Enjoy the rest of your summer...it is winding down!

GLYASDI

Ellen Dalton, Secretary

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 Board Members 2018-2019 | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--|--------------|--|-------------|
| Position | Name | Address | Phone | E-Mail | Term |
| Lay Director | Andey Koresko | 977 Highway 94, Aledo IL 61231 | 309-738-4181 | andykoresko@gmail.com | 1st 2019 |
| | Carol Koresko | 977 Highway 94, Aledo IL 61231 | 309-738-4189 | cskoresko53@gmail.com | 1st 2019 |
| Assistant Lay Director | Gary Gross | 3810 32nd Ave, Moline IL 61265 | 309-797-5561 | gdgross144@gmail.com | 1st 2020 |
| | Pam Gross | 3810 32nd Ave, Moline IL 61265 | 309-797-5561 | | 1st 2020 |
| Spiritual Director | Pr. Wayne Melaas-Swanson | 311 4th Ave, Port Byron IL 61275 | 309-523-9191 | pwayne.messiahpb@gmail.com | 2nd 2020 |
| Spiritual Director | OPEN | | | | |
| Treasurer | Bob Groene | 305 Hickory Hills, Geneseo IL 61254 | 309-441-5544 | bgroene47@gmail.com | 1st 2020 |
| | Cindy Groene | 305 Hickory Hills, Geneseo IL 61254 | 309-738-1316 | | 1st 2020 |
| Secretary | Ellen Dalton | 1310 N Lincoln Ave, Davenport IA 52804 | 563-343-7979 | ellendalton63@yahoo.com | 2nd 2019 |
| Pre-Weekend | Joe Geerts | 1552 Olde Brady Lane, Davenport IA 52807 | 563-570-0411 | ezwriter@netins.net | 2nd 2019 |
| | Barb Geerts | 1552 Olde Brady Lane, Davenport IA 52807 | 563-940-4993 | ezwriter@netins.net | 2nd 2019 |
| Weekend | Barb Hiesterman | 13054 116th Ave, Davenport IA 52804 | 563-210-3967 | donbarb77@gmail.com | 2nd 2019 |
| Post-Weekend | OPEN | | | | |
| Kitchen | Augie Calsyn | 475 44th Ave Ct, East Moline IL 61244 | 563-340-4349 | akcalsyn@msn.com | 1st 2019 |
| Leaders | Jim Larson | 11281 N. 1800th Ave, Geneseo IL 61254 | 309-945-2557 | jlars6931@gmail.com | 1st 2020 |
| | Janet Larson | 11281 N. 1800th Ave, Geneseo IL 61254 | 309-507-2997 | jlars6931@gmail.com | 1st 2020 |
| Palanca | Missy Silfies | 401 So. Main, LaMoille IL 61330 | 815-915-5035 | melissasilfies@gmail.com | 2nd 2020 |
| | Jennifer Schmidt | 2027 Parkway Dr, Port Byron IL 61275 | 309-737-4055 | jenpen126@yahoo.com | 2nd 2020 |
| Communications | Carol Ploch | 2 Park Road, Oglesby IL 61348 | 815-202-3338 | ploch70@yahoo.com | 1st 2019 |