



Newsletter

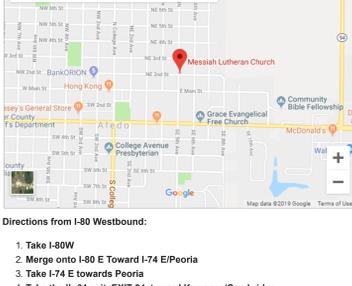
Issue 203

May - June 2019



Saturday, June 1st, 2019
Potluck: 5:30p.m.
4th Day Talk & Worship to Follow

Messiah Lutheran Church
509 NE 2nd St.
Aledo, IL 61356
309-582-5261



Directions from I-80 Westbound:

1. Take I-80W
2. Merge onto I-80 E Toward I-74 E/Peoria
3. Take I-74 E towards Peoria
4. Take the IL-81 exit, EXIT 24, toward Keeweenaw/Cambridge.
5. Turn left onto US Highway 150 E
6. Turn right onto State Highway 17 W
7. Turn right onto SE 8th Ave.
8. Take the 2nd right onto NE 2nd St
9. Messiah Lutheran Church is on the left.

Directions from Davenport Area:

1. Take IL-92 W
2. Turn left onto Turkey Hollow Rd/County Hwy-10
3. Turn right onto 134th Ave/IL-192/County Hwy-54
4. Turn left onto 108th St/County Hwy-19
5. Turn right onto 190th Ave/IL-94..
6. Continue to follow IL-94.
7. Turn right onto SE 5th Ave.
8. Take the 2nd right onto NE 2nd St
9. Messiah Lutheran Church is on the left.

**General directions are retrieved from MapQuest. For specific directions, please click on the map to be routed from your current location.

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.

FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

Jesus raised from the dead. New life. So we celebrated on Easter Sunday just a couple of weeks ago – and continue to celebrate throughout this Easter season. So we have confidence that this life is not the end – whether it be for a loved one, or for ourselves. So at funeral and memorial services, like one I was part of for my mother-in-law the day before Easter, we can celebrate the gift of life even as we grieve the absence of that special person in our lives. But there's more to it than that.

Knowing that we have that promise of grave-defeating, death-breaking life, we also have new life today, even as we continue our earthly lives, because we know that death does not have the final word. That frees us from worry about the end of our lives, and allows us to focus on living, not just staying alive. And having that gift, and knowing the love and power that is behind it, gives us reason to offer praise to God, to live in joy, and to bear that gift to others, offering them the same hope and joy that we have ourselves received. And when you make someone else's day with news like that, well, it kinda makes your day too.

Many of us who have attended a Via de Cristo weekend have discovered new life in coming to know the gift of God's grace for us. Some had that experience just over a month ago, attending weekend 58. Others may have had it years ago, all the way back to weekend 1, or even before that on a Cursillo weekend. Whenever people attended their weekend, it has been something of a life-changing, or life-moving experience. It was a kind of Easter experience, giving us new life. It moved us to live a new, and to share the great news of God's grace with others. It made our day.

In June, we will celebrate another event that infused new life into the church, an event that made the disciples' day. It's the day of Pentecost, the day when Jesus sent his. At the sound – as of the rush of a mighty wind – and at the appearance of what appeared as flames of fire over their heads, the disciples receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit comes and it enlivens and empowers the disciples with new hope, new energy, and inspiration to share their faith.

Easter hope. Easter joy. Pentecost power. New life forever. New life for now. A gift of God's grace. That's big-time news. I hope you take the opportunity to celebrate these events in your faith community at home, to refresh and renew your spirits with the Good News that they offer for us.

In that vein, your Living Waters Via de Cristo board has decided to offer an opportunity for renewal for anyone who has already attended a weekend, and would like to **Rekindle the Fire** that was sparked to life on our initial weekend. It's easy to let that fire die down, even be reduced to a smoldering ember, but there is hope for all of us in the love of Christ.

This weekend is intended to bring that fire back to life and send us back revived and re-energized – as Easter people who are Spirit-led. Details will be coming out in the next couple of months, but start thinking about it now, and getting excited about it now, because it will be a great weekend!

Think about it for yourself, for someone you know that might benefit from it, and/or someone you have sponsored for a weekend that might have "drifted" since their weekend experience. Plan on it for yourself, and invite those who you know for whom this weekend could be a great uplift and inspiration. You – and they – won't regret it. It'll make your day!

Blessings, and GLYSDI!

Pastor Wayne

FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

Dear VdC Family,

First of all I would like to welcome our 16 new Pilgrims to the family. After meeting and listening to you at your Clausuras and at the Ultraya earlier this month, it was so nice to hear and feel your enthusiasm from your weekends.

I would also like to say thank you to the teams who served our Lord so graciously. A special thanks also to Cindy and Donna, Don and Tim for their tireless dedication, and a big thanks to the Living Water community for their prayers and support to the new Pilgrims and teams.

Work is now underway for our Fall Renewal weekend, "Rekindle the Fire". Your Secretariat Board is excited and working toward this fall. Keep the dates November 8-10 open. We will soon be taking reservations for this weekend. Keep watching your emails and the Living Water website for more information.

And remember, if you are not receiving our newsletter and emails let someone know. Now I know it seems funny I write that if you're not receiving this information and doesn't make much sense, but you may be seeing this on someone else's device.

Look for the information on Birdies for Charity for the John Deere Classic Golf tournament. You will be able to register online. Just look up Birdies for Charity and click the Living Water box and your donation will be registered. Living Water benefits greatly from this event.

Remember too to keep praying for Living Water, "Rekindle the Fire" weekend and our Spring Weekends 59.

HAPPY EASTER

God's love and peace to you all
 Andey Koresko. LWVDC 4

FROM THE ASSISTANT LAY DIRECTOR

Wanted Servants for Christ

Our Secretariat Board has positions that will be open for a 2 year term starting this July. We will vote on this at the June Annual meeting. We are looking for people with dedicated hearts to help keep Living Water moving forward. The positions open are: Secretary, Weekend, Pre-Weekend and another Spiritual Director. You can find out what each position's duties are by going to our website or calling us for some information. The board meets once a month for 1 1/2 hours in Geneseo to conduct the business of LWVDC. If you are interested in serving, please let us know. If you get a call to serve, please prayerfully consider serving on the board.

Gary & Pam Gross
 309-738-2385

2019 VdC Annual Gathering

Thursday July 25 – Sunday July 28

University of Indianapolis

Save the date to attend this Gathering. LWVDC is allowed to send 2 delegates & a Spiritual Director to this event and also any visitors who wants to attend. It is 3 days of worship services, learning, sharing, fellowship and fun. Get to know others from around the country and share ideas about how our communities differ while still having so much in common. To find out more information you can go to viadecristo.org or contact me. I will be driving there and could use some company. Since it is so close, it would be great to have a good number from LWVDC there.

Pam Gross
 309-738-2385

FROM THE LEADERS CHAIR

Christ is Counting on You!

"Be glad for all God is planning for you. Be patient in trouble, and always be prayerful." (Romans 12:12, NLT)

God has given each of us gifts to complete His plan for you as a leader in His Kingdom. The Leaders role gives us four supernatural qualities that only HE can provide for us: Living Faith, Hope, Love and Humility. All of these qualities are possible when we align ourselves with the truth are told within the WORD. Not what other think of us but what God thinks of us as his representatives. The apostle Paul tells us in Romans 12:2: "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know WHAT God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is."

Janet and Jim Larson LWVdC Leaders Chairs

FROM THE PRE-WEEKEND CHAIR

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with JOY because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Phil 1:3-6

De Colores to our VdC family:

Another Living Water weekend is "in the books," and the team members of #58 again showed their unwavering commitment to sharing Christ's love with the new candidates. As I said in a palanca letter to my fellow team members: Tie a bow on your toe, because what a gift you have been! Believe it: The Lord truly began a good work IN you and THROUGH you during those precious, grace-filled, tear-spilled, God-willed 72 hours.

Rectora Cindy Groene had as her theme, "Choose Joy." For Christians, there is plenty of reason for rejoicing. Who should have more joy than a sinner saved, a beggar blessed, a child of the King? Still, there are days when we just can't seem to find it. At those times, I need only look to the kindergarteners I watch over as a classroom aide. You see, it takes so little to light up their faces—a sight word learned, a math problem conquered, or just coloring the best ... rainbow ... ever. Even when they're simply heading down the hall, you can't miss the joy, for kindergarteners never really seem to walk. They hop, they gallop, they fly like a pterodactyl, they zig-zag, they dance, they skip ... "Use your walking feet," I admonish them. But they can't seem to contain themselves. I believe that is the kind of boundless joy Christ wants for us.

So as you continue in your Fourth Day, know that we thank God for you, our VdC family (and especially our new pilgrims), and always pray with joy for our partnership in this special ministry. May your faith journey be not a sorrowful slog, but, rather, a giddy skip to the skies of heaven!

GLYASDW!

Your Pre-Weekend Chairs
 Barb and Joe Geerts #16

FROM THE WEEKEND CHAIR

We, the Secretariat Board, have seen a trend over the past several years of less and less folks attending Ultrayas and sponsoring new candidates to attend a Living Water Via de Cristo weekend. We changed the fall time from having a separate men and women's weekend to having one mixed weekend with the hope that would encourage more participation. Sorry to say, that didn't produce the results we were looking for. On one mixed weekend, there were 5 women and no men participants. This type of situation puts a great financial strain on the budget because the cost for 50 people is \$6,000.

Some Living Water Board members have spoken to other ministries/movements Board members and found that our situation is not unique. So the question is: what do we do?

Last October the Secretariat Board formed a renewal weekend committee. The committee members are: Paul Baker, Barb Geerts, Andy Koresko, Randy Mullin, Pr. Wayne Melaa-Swanson and Co-Chairs Pam Gross and Barb Hiesterman.

The renewal weekend is being designed for anyone who has served on team before but with an emphasis for those who haven't served in quite a while. Do you feel that you are missing something in your life and just can't put your finger on it? May I suggest that it is Living Water Via de Cristo?

"Rekindle the Fire Renewal Weekend" will be November 8-9-10, on Friday (Camp Menno Haven. The cost will be \$125 per person. Registration/fellowship is in between 6-7:00PM on Friday (11/8). Will you recognize some things from your weekend – yes. Will the Rekindle the Fire be different – yes. The closing ceremony is at 3:00 on Sunday afternoon.

The Rekindle the Fire Renewal committee is working on the script, leaders (no Rector/a), speakers, worship. Here is a small snippet of the weekend:

- Talks and, yes, note-taking!
- All meals will be buffet style. No Kitchen Chas so you'll be dropping your paper plate in the garbage cans so there will be minimal clean-up for those who volunteer to help do that.
- Musicians can attend the entire weekend or just for a day – jam session on Saturday night with fellowship.
- Prayer is the only Palanca. Missy Siffles will be creating prayer times on-line.
- Special activities.

A registration form is being created and will be posted on the LWVDC website so watch for it in the near future.

We on the committee and the board feel that this is a very exciting time for LWVDC. It is our hope and prayer that when you attend that you will feel the "Fire be Rekindled".

God's Love and Blessings to You,

Barb Hiesterman
 Weekend Chair

FROM THE POST WEEKEND CHAIR

ULTREYA!!!

What a wonderful spring Living Water Via de Cristo has had this year! We hope each of you have taken the opportunity to be a part of at least some, if not all, of our activities.

First came Men's Weekend #58 brimming with love, and then the women of Weekend #58 chose joy in great quantities. The Holy Spirit's abundant presence filled both Clausuras to bursting.

And the April Ultraya at a brand new-to-us church was one of our better-attended meetings recently.....we had such fun fellowship and meaningful worship that evening! Our Master continues to bless us so richly through the method of Living Water Via de Cristo, and we strongly believe we're short-changing ourselves of great possibilities to grow and support each other when we miss these types of events.

The upcoming Ultraya at Messiah Lutheran in Aledo on June 1st will include our yearly business meeting and nominations of Secretariat board members, in addition to our usual companionship, service of praise, potluck dinner, bad jokes, and Fourth Day talk. (Yes.....Aledo is quite a distance for most of us.....and YES!!! it will definitely be well worth the trip.)

Please note these future Ultraya dates to help you in planning your social calendar:

June 1, August 3, October 5, and December 7, 2019 (Saturdays)

February 1, April 4, and June 6, 2020 (Saturdays)

Hoping that we all continue to avail ourselves of the chances and freedoms we have to gather in Jesus' name!

GLYASDW,

Gary and Jan Morse, Post-Weekend Chairs

FIND A REUNION GROUP

To access Reunion Group Listings please click [HERE](#). This list of both Men's and Women's Reunion Groups is up-to-date with the most current information that has been submitted to the Secretariat board. If there are additional groups meeting (or any other changes to be made), please email Gary or Jan Morse (Post Weekend Chairs) at solled111@yahoo.com. Or you can call 815-223-0765.

Remember these important facts of a 4th Day Reunion Group:

- The ideal group size is 3 to 5 members
- Accountability and total confidentiality are absolutely essential
- Meeting weekly at the same time and place is the most productive
- The groups that stand the tests of time stick very closely to the VdC Service Sheet ("green card")

If there isn't a current group that fits your life or needs, START YOUR OWN! The VdC Director and Priest is a wonderful and extremely effective method of growing our Christian maturity in the areas of Piety, Study, and Apostolic Action.

GLYASDW,

Gary and Jan Morse

Living Water Via de Cristo Secretariat Board Members 2018-2019				
Position	Name	Address	Phone	E-Mail
Lay Director	Andey Koresko	977 Highway 94, Aledo, IL 61223	309-738-4181	andykoresko@gmail.com
	Carol Koresko	977 Highway 94, Aledo, IL 61223	309-738-4181	ckoresko52@gmail.com
Asst Lay Director	Gary Gross	3810 32nd Ave. Moline, IL 61265	309-797-5561	ggross144@gmail.com
	Pam Gross	3810 32nd Ave. Moline, IL 61265	309-738-2385	
Spiritual Director	Pr. Wayne Melaa-Swanson	311 4th Ave. Port Byron, IL 61275	309-523-9191	wmelaa@stjohns.net
Spiritual Director	OPEN			
Treasurer	Bob Groene	305 Hickory Hills Geneseo, IL 61254	309-441-5344	lgroene47@gmail.com
	Cindy Groene	305 Hickory Hills Geneseo, IL 61254	309-738-1316	
Secretary	Ellen Dalton	1316 N Lincoln Ave. Davenport, IA 52804	563-343-7979	elldalton63@yahoo.com
Pre-Weekend	Joe Geerts	1552 Olde Brady Lane Davenport, IA 52807	563-376-0411	ezwrtter@netins.net
	Barb Geerts	1552 Olde Brady Lane Davenport, IA 52807	563-940-4993	ezwrtter@netins.net
Weekend	Barb Hiesterman	13654 116th Ave. Davenport, IA 52807	563-210-3967	donbarb77@gmail.com
Post-Weekend	Gary Morse	301 7th St. LaSalle, IL 61301	815-223-0765	garym2@yahoo.com
	Jan Morse	301 7th St. LaSalle, IL 61301	815-223-0765	john811@yahoo.com
Kitchen	Augie Calyn	475 44th Ave Ct. East Moline, IL 61244	563-340-4349	ajcalyn@mpn.com
Leaders	Jim Larson	11281 N. 1800th Ave. Geneseo, IL 61254	309-945-2527	jlars031@gmail.com
	Janet Larson	11281 N. 1800th Ave. Geneseo, IL 61254	309-907-2987	jlars0991@gmail.com
Palanca	Missy Siffles	401 S Main St. LaMoille, IL 61330	815-915-5035	mlassuffles@gmail.com
	Jen Schmidt	2027 Parkway Dr. Port Byron, IL 61275	309-737-4055	jenschen126@yahoo.com
Communications	Carol Ploth	2 Park Rd. Oglesby, IL 61348	815-202-8338	ploth7@yahoo.com