



Newsletter

Issue 207

January - February 2020

Saturday, February 1st, 2020
Patluck: 6:30p.m
4th Day Talk & Worship to follow

First Lutheran Church
201 S. Main St
Ohio, IL 61349
815-376-7431

"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

"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you."

When we each were baptized, we were given a candle, a lit candle. Now if you were an infant like me, you didn't get to hold the candle, but it was for you, as it was for me; and it was a sign of what we are called to be as God's people, as children of the light – to shine for all the world to see, shine with the light of Christ. One of the Bible verses often quoted as that candle was given to us says, *"let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."*

In Baptism we are united with Christ, and with the light of Christ – the light of the world. And we are called to not only have that light within us, but to let that light shine for all to see. Jesus reminds us of this in the verses before "let your light shine" as he uses the images of a city on a hill, and of a lamp, saying, *"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house."*

In this new year, as we move forward in life, and in faith, we have an opportunity to rise and shine with that light we have been gifted with. And we have a chance as a community to let our collective light shine brighter.

Your Board has been working hard over the past 1-2 years to find ways to do just that – to rekindle and magnify that light among us. In December we had our first "service" Ultreya – something different, something new, an opportunity to let our light shine in service to others.

It is one way to let our 4th Day light shine brightly. Look for more "new" things in the coming year at our Ultreyas – an effort to generate excitement and participation in our life together in the Living Water community.

In November some of you attended our first ever Alumni weekend, under the theme, "Rekindle the Fire." For those that attended, it was indeed a rekindling experience, one I hope we will see signs of in our life together, even as it will hopefully also influence our participation in our individual church faith communities. For those who were not able to attend, I hope you can reflect on your own 4th Day walk and find ways to rekindle, renew and revitalize the gift you have in Christ that it might shine more brightly – in our Living Water community, and in your life "out there."

On our first weekend – whether it was the Spring of 2019, or twenty years ago (or more!), we were gifted with an experience that for most of us was a "re-igniting" event in our faith life and journey, one that enflamed the light of Christ within us. And our calling is to take off the bushel basket and *let it shine, let it shine, let it shine*, that we might "give glory to [our] Father in heaven." So, in this New Year, arise, and shine on, brothers and sisters in Christ, "you are the light of the world!"

GLYASDI
 Pastor Wayne

FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

Greetings Sisters & Brothers in Christ:

The holiday season has now passed and Carol and I sincerely hope that you all had a blessed Christmas. Christmas is a journey of the heart. We went to the manger and found the Christ Child; and now, we return to our world to share His love.

A recap of our most recent events:
 Our Renewal weekend went really well. This was our first attempt and we received a lot of positive response. It seems some of those who attended feel we should do this more often. Keep watching the newsletters for more information.

Our December Ultreya attendance was not the most we've ever had, but the idea of doing service projects has been received with a lot of positive feed-back as well. Just the thought of serving those who are less fortunate helps to remind us that it is the giving that makes the season.

We are going to be doing some different things for future Ultreyas. Please pencil in April 4, 2020, at St. John's Lutheran in Peru, IL, where their men's group will be performing their Passion Play in place of our Fourth Day speaker and Worship Service. Let's all make plans to be there and celebrate the Easter season together. And let us not forget to support our Vdc Spring Rector - Dennis VonHoltzen, and Rectora - Sandra Rose, their Head Chas - Jim Whitten and Carol Ploch, and the Men's and Women's teams. Prayer support is most important and the basis for palanca, the foundation of our weekends. Remember everyone is an important part of each weekend. Please pray for Living Water. The names of team members and candidates will be posted by Carol Ploch at regular intervals so that you may pray for them by name.

Also, please start praying for those people God has placed on your heart to invite to a weekend. Take them to God first and allow Him to prepare their hearts and minds to receive your invitation.

Finally, we want to thank each and every one of our Via de Cristo family for your thoughts and prayers, kind words and hugs, upon the earthly death of our sister Nancy Watkins. Nancy joined the Church Triumphant on December 17, 2019, and celebrated Christmas with Jesus and her heavenly family this year. Our hearts are heavy, but we know where she is and that we'll be together again... A precious gift we can hold on to. Peace.

In Christ we stand.
 God loves you and so do we,
 Andrew & Carol Koresko

FROM THE ASSISTANT LAY DIRECTOR

2020 – seems impossible that a new decade is here. Time marches on.

Soon it will be June when we vote in new board members to lead Living Water throughout the year. There will be some positions open. We are looking for people to give of their time once a month to keep Living Water moving forward. Maybe you have served in the past or maybe you haven't. Pray for what God might be calling you to do for His service. We especially need Spiritual Directors, so if we are willing, we really need you.

Just contact Pam or Gary Gross at gdgross144@gmail.com if you have any questions or an interest in serving.

FROM THE LEADERS CHAIR

The More You Know... At our very first steering committee meeting to discuss bringing Via de Cristo to the Illinois/Iowa area, we had the privilege of meeting with two men who are still the forefathers of Vdc, Luther Piel and Greg Steele. The "takeaway" pearl of wisdom these men instilled in us was: "The more you know about the Cursillo Method the less you want to change it; the less you know, the more you want to change it." (Paraphrased).

Over the past thirty years I have heard many people offer suggestions to "improve" the way the Cursillo method is implemented and I have gently listened then instructed. As an educational psychologist, I have come to appreciate the beautiful design and implementation of a sound series of lessons that move a person from one level of understanding to a more robust relationship with Jesus.

The dynamics of a Cursillo weekend actually begin with pre-weekend palanca and preparation through the actions of our extensive Fourth Day Community. The actual weekend retreat is sandwiched between pre-weekend and post-weekend disciplines and activities. What we do to prepare the soil for the retreat (pre-weekend) and how we tend the growth (post-weekend) has the greatest impact on the success of the harvest. The harvest will be decided by Christ's standards, not ours.

As we work together to prepare the soil for Weekend #59, let us all strive to commit to demonstrating a sound foundation of Piety, Study and Action through participation in Palanca, Ultreyas, Group Reunion as well as participating in team training and other opportunities for growth. Leadership comes from the wisdom of knowing the dynamics of the Cursillo Method and respecting the design which is God inspired.

Janet Larson Leaders Co-Chair

FROM THE PRE-WEEKEND CHAIR

FROM THE WEEKEND CHAIR

FROM THE POST WEEKEND CHAIR

At the start of a new year, it's quite common for people to choose a sort of "theme" word that describes a virtue or characteristic which they'd like to strengthen within the next 12 months. One of our words for 2020 is "encourage".

Living Water Via de Cristo has hosted two great events within the last two months of 2019 that were meagerly attended. The Rekindle the Fire Renewal Weekend in November made as much impact on us (and others, too) as our original pilgrim weekend did. And the giving to help others that was shown at our December Ultreya was the perfect way to kick off a season of celebrating Jesus' birth.

We're working on differing formats for future Ultreyas; some of them also may be held daytimes or afternoons. For our many sisters and brothers who haven't been to an Ultreya for a while: we'd like to encourage you to **come back**. You are sorely missed by your Vdc community! It just isn't the same without YOUR gifts and personality and strengths there.

And the people who regularly attend Ultreyas need **your** encouragement and vitality, too.

Always in Him,
 Gary and Morse, Post-Weekend Chairs

FROM THE RECTOR/A

De Colores,
 Jesus is the Light of the World

As I am writing this letter, it is a few days before 2020. We just celebrated the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. What a joyous time of the year. I have done a lot of reflecting on Jesus and how he came into the world for us. He is the light of the world. He is our Savior. He is our Emmanuel.

Women's Team #59 is almost complete. If you are still interested please contact Carol Ploch or myself to see if any positions are still open. Our first team meeting is coming up soon on January 11, 2020. Please pray for this team as we begin to bond together.

I pray our light shines through our words and actions for the candidates. Speaking of candidates, I ask you to be thinking about who you would like to ask to attend the weekend. Remember to pray before asking someone.

Blessings to all of you and Happy New Year,
 Sandy Rose
 Weekend #22

Blessed Greetings to all, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! What great news of great joy he brings to us, filling our hearts with hope, strength, and love!

The theme for Men's weekend #59 is: **"I AM A CHILD OF GOD."**
 Galatians 3: 26-27- "So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

I have been blessed to have Jim Whitten serving as Head Cha for Men's weekend #59. Jim will be providing a full roster soon. Please continue praying for Team #59. And finally, please ask God to place someone in your heart to attend Weekend #59. If everyone in the Living Water community asked one person to attend Weekend #59, there wouldn't be enough rooms for them all!

Jim and I will keep you informed of any changes or updates. Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year!

GLYASDI
 Dennis Von Holtzen #43

A Team Application has been included in the Newsletter but can also be found on the website: <http://livingwaterviadecristo.org> and then go to the Applications tab or you can find [Here](#) and be taken directly to the digital Team Application.

Living Water Via de Cristo Team Application
Spring Weekend #59 Men's: March 19-22, 2020 & Women's: March 26-29, 2020

Weekend Retreat Site: Camp Menno Haven & Retreat Center, Tiskia, Illinois

Name (PRINT) _____ Email: _____
 Address: _____
 Primary Phone Number: _____ Secondary Phone Number: _____
 Emergency Contact Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

I am not able to serve on team. I would like to be Prayer warrior.
 I would like to submit my talents, my prayer support, and myself. I understand as a Team Member I would receive training sessions in their entirety, except by special arrangement of Rector / A.
 I am willing to help set-up on the Friday afternoon of the Men's weekend at Camp Menno Haven.
 I am willing to help help set-up on Sunday afternoon of the Women's weekend at Camp Menno Haven.

Information for Team Member:
 * Dates and location of team training sessions will be announced at the first team meeting. When the Rector / A or Head Cha calls you to serve, you will be given the date and location of the first team meeting.
 * Continuing education will be offered twice a year. Information about this will be available by your weekend.
 * Payment for the weekend is \$2000.00. If you are unable to pay in full, please contact the team meeting contact person at each team meeting as accepted. If a scholarship is needed, please speak with the Head Cha or Rector / A.
 * Thank you for your willingness to serve the Lord through the service weekend. Your service will be a blessing to others. Applications submitted after our pasteur placement on team, and will require a \$2000.00 fee.

RELIGIOUS: _____
 DEED: _____
 WILSON, IL 61376
 Call: 815-308-3266
 Email: ddh347@evangelist.com

RELIGIOUS: _____
 DEED: _____
 WILSON, IL 61356
 Call: 815-308-3266
 Email: retirecenter4@evangelist.com

COMMENTS: _____

FROM THE SECRETARY CHAIR

The Vdc Secretariat Board is open to ideas to change up how Ultreyas are conducted! The December Ultreya was a service project filling Christmas stockings for a group called Youth Hope in the Quad Cities. The April Ultreya is planning on attending the Living Last Supper. A different day, a new time, a change in food; and any and all ideas are welcomed!

The Rekindle the Fire renewal weekend in early November went very well! There were inspiring talks and great food!

There will be some board positions open this summer for Secretariat. If you are hearing God calling your heart to serve in a different way, please pray and consider joining us! The meetings are held the first Monday of each month at First Lutheran Church in Geneseo and run from 6-7:30 PM.

The cost to attend a weekend, either with serving on team or having a candidate attend has been raised to \$150. Wow, that's still a wonderful bargain for 3 days and 3 nights of lodging, meals, building life long friendships, and amazing spiritual growth!

Start asking potential spring candidates now about attending the weekend! It can be life changing for someone! Men's weekend will be March 19-22 and women's weekend will be March 26-29.

As always, please keep the whole Via de Cristo community in your prayers!

Blessings to you!
 Linda Fine, LWVDC Secretariat Board Secretary

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 the important parts 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 growing, **START YOUR OWN!** The Vdc Reunion Group 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

Position	Name	Address	Phone	E-Mail
Lay Director	Andrey Koresko	977 Highway 94 Aledo, IL 61231	309-738-4181	andykoresko@gmail.com
Asst Lay Director	Carol Koresko	977 Highway 94 Aledo, IL 61231	309-738-4181	ckkoresko13@gmail.com
	Gary Gross	3810 32nd Ave. Moline, IL 61265	309-797-5561	gdgross144@gmail.com
Spiritual Director	Pr. Wayne Mellaas-Swanson	311 4th Ave. Port Byron, IL 61275	309-523-9191	wayne_ebmellaas@stjohn.org
Treasurer	Subi Greene	305 Hickory Hills Geneseo, IL 61254	309-441-5544	bjgreene47@gmail.com
Secretary	Linda Fine	1014 S. Main St Princeton, IL 61356	815-475-4026	onefineteacher236@yahoo.com
Post-Weekend	DeeAnn Heuser	434 3th Avenue Drive Princeton, IL 61356	309-253-7584	gracemas104@comcast.net
Weekend	Hil Gustafson	8 Hickory Heights Geneseo, IL 61254	309-945-7021	hgustad@gmail.com
Pre-Weekend	Gary Morse	301 7th St. LaSalle, IL 61301	815-223-0765	garym32@yahoo.com
	Jan Morse	301 7th St. LaSalle, IL 61301	815-223-0765	solled111@yahoo.com
Kitchen	Kim Bush	109 14th Ave. Moline, IL 61265	309-734-0083	kimbush123@gmail.com
Leaders	Jim Larson	11281 N. 1800th Ave. Geneseo, IL 61254	309-945-2957	jarlson11@gmail.com
	Janet Larson	11281 N. 1800th Ave. Geneseo, IL 61254	309-507-2997	jlarsond911@gmail.com
	Missy Siffes	401 S. Main St. LaMoille, IL 61330	815-915-5035	melsussiffes@gmail.com
	Jan Schmitt	2027 Parkway Dr. Port Byron, IL 61275	309-737-4055	janschmitt2@yahoo.com
Communications	Carol Ploch	2 Park Rd. Ogletree, IL 61348	815-302-3138	aploch7@yahoo.com