



Newsletter

Issue 208

March - April 2020



Saturday, April 4th, 2020
4:00pm ~Presentation of The Living Last Supper
Potluck to follow

St. John's Lutheran Church
2000 Luther Dr.
Peru, IL 61354
815-223-1144



****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

Winter is waning (I hope!), and spring is not far off. In the church the shift in seasons is from that of light (Epiphany) to reflection and confession and repentance (Lent). The turning point for us is not Ground Hog Day, or the Spring Equinox, but Ash Wednesday. And it's coming up in just five days as I sit to write this article. For some, Ash Wednesday is something of a mystery – why do we observe "Ash" Wednesday, and what are the ashes all about anyway? We may wonder, "Do I have to have a cross smeared on my forehead to show that I'm a follower of Jesus?" And we may feel a little uneasy leaving worship and going anywhere out in public with that cross showing (while a necklace or charm or T-shirt is fine).

Without going too far into this – it would take a while! – let me just offer a couple of thoughts.

First, ashes – why ashes? In the Old Testament, ashes, along with something known as sackcloth, were traditional symbols of repentance – of coming before God in our sinfulness, seeking God's forgiveness. It was a physical way of acknowledging one's sin, reminding us that the result of sin in our lives – without Jesus, and his cross! – would be death. And ash, or dust, is what God created us out of, and what we return to without God's grace. Kind of circle of life stuff. So we say, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The promise in Christ is that dust is not our end!

Second, the cross. If you recall your own baptism, or one you were part of or witnessed, after the water was poured (or you were put in it), after the prayer for the gift of the Holy Spirit, the whole ritual is "sealed" as the pastor takes either water or oil and makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of the one being baptized. At the same time he/she says, "Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever." It's our invisible tattoo that says we are God's son or daughter, and heirs to life in God's kingdom – a Gift for us to claim and live in.

So, a cross of ashes on your forehead ... remembering that though our end ought to be dust and ash, returned to the earth from which God create humanity, yet, in the gift of the cross, and Jesus death, we have hope, the hope of eternal life – beyond the dust and ash. And that is reason to live with hope each day, knowing the "end" is not the end. So we reflect in the season of Lent on the great gift Jesus has given to us, and seek to return to Him in prayer and new life, with the light of the resurrection waiting at the end of the tunnel.

One last word about Lent ... if you give something up, do it as a way to build your faith and relationship to Christ – maybe by taking up something that would help you do that!

Have a blessed Lent!

GLYASDI
Pastor Wayne

FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I have a question. Where do you think you would be without the prayers of others? I think we can all remember the prayers of our mothers and grandmother's. It almost goes without saying, I'll say it anyway, those prayers were probably expected, taken for granted, maybe even an obligation of those who loved us.

How about the prayers of a total stranger? Those of an acquaintance? How about the sacrifice of someone you don't even know exists praying for you at 2:30 am or noon or during prime time 8:00 pm? Someone did for YOU!!!

Our weekends are built on prayer. Palanca people. That's what we should try to be. The lever of prayer. Archimedes said, "Give me a lever long enough and a fulcrum on which to place it, and I shall move the world ." Christ is the fulcrum, your prayers the lever. Nothing is impossible.

We need your help and prayer support, not just for these Spring Weekends, teams and new Pilgrims. We also crave your prayers for the Clergy of Via de Cristo, the board and our National Secretariat leadership. We will pray for you.

Yours in Christ
Andey and Carol Koresko

FROM THE ASSISTANT LAY DIRECTOR

In June we will hold elections for board positions and we need people to fill these positions. Our monthly meetings are held the first Monday of the month currently from 6:00 - 7:30. The board oversees the operations of our secretariat and each position is a 2 year term. The board is very important to the vitality of our VdC ministry. Please pray about what God is calling you to do for Living Water. We need a Palanca Chair which could be a reunion group if one in the group is willing to come to the meetings. We also need Spiritual Directors as there are 2 openings. Other position may come open if those holding them do not want to run for a second term. Please contact us if you are interested in serving.

Gary & Pam Gross

Palanca

Please remember to sign up for the prayer scroll. It would be great if it were full by early March. Also hold please hold up the teams of Weekend 59 in your daily prayers. The prayer vigils can be accessed by clicking on the blue buttons below.

National News.

NLS is now accepting registrations for the National Gathering in Minnesota. It will be held at Hamlin University July 30 - Aug 2. We need 2 delegates to attend as well as one SD delegate. If you are interested in being a delegate please contact me. You can go to viadecristo.org for more information. You can register as a guest if you want to attend the Gathering and not be a delegate. The Gathering is 3 days of talks, fellowship, and worship that will inspire you!

Pam Gross

Men's Weekend #59 Prayer Vigil

Women's Weekend #59 Prayer Vigil

FROM THE LEADERS CHAIR

Leaders School

“The aim of 4th Day Continuing Education is to promote the continuing spiritual growth of the members of the Fourth Day community. This is to be achieved by a continuing education program that promotes Christian leadership and knowledge of the Cursillo aims and methodology. The 4th Day Continuing Education’s purpose is to provide spiritual understanding so that the Christian leader may live in keeping with the teachings of Christ and the Church, yet be careful that this not be limited simply to knowing more, but include moving from knowledge to love, from love to faith, and from faith to action. ” LWVdC Secretariat By-Laws.

We will be offering Leaders School on Saturday, April 18 from 9-Noon at First Lutheran Church, Geneseo. Members from the LWVdC Board will be presenting fundamental information about the ministry. We strongly recommend attending this event to prepare for serving on future weekend teams. The Fall retreat will be a co-ed weekend where both men and women will serve together.

This weekend #60 will be held October 22-25 at Camp Menno Haven. Team applications will be posted on the website following Weekend #59.

It is our prayer that all members of the Fourth Day Community will attend, both new members and those needing a “refresher” course. This is a wonderful way to reconnect with our Living Water Via de Cristo family. Please register for this event so we know how many materials to prepare. Geneseo has many wonderful restaurants near the church if you want to stay and enjoy our community.

Jim and Janet Larson, Leaders Chair



**Living Water Via de Cristo
Leaders School**

April 18, 2020 9:00 a.m.- Noon

First Lutheran Church,
114 E. Main Street
Geneseo, Illinois 61254

Leaders School Registration

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Telephone Number: () _____ - _____ Email Address: _____

Home Church: _____

Retreat Weekend # _____ Living Water Via de Cristo or Other: _____

Have you served on a weekend team before?
Yes _____ No _____

Are you interested in serving on
team in the future?
Yes _____ No _____

Contact Janet Larson at jslarson6931@gmail.com or (309)507-2997 for more information or any of [LWVdC](#) Secretariat Board members. Leaders School Registration forms may be sent to me via email or to my home address: 11281 N. 1800th Avenue, Geneseo, IL 61254

FROM THE PRE-WEEKEND CHAIR

Time is passing by so quickly and in just a few short weeks the Men and Women will gather to humbly serve on Weekend #59.

Spring too is just around the corner. I find this season to be an amazing time of year filled with a sense of hope and renewal.

We all have seasons in life when we may feel distant from GOD, perhaps we need a "do over" to renew our hearts and relationship with HIM. I am so happy all of you have listened to GOD's calling to serve. May you all be transformed and touched throughout.

Currently, GOD has blessed us with 2 Candidates for the Men's and 4 for the Women's weekend.

Please, pray for:

- ~ Mike Timler
- ~Terry Johnson
- ~Val Ramirez
- ~Linnea Farrell

~Marla Johnson
~Nancy White

Is there a family member, friend, co-worker, neighbor you are thinking about asking? If someone is on your mind, pray for them and ask GOD what HE would like you to do. GOD may have put them on your mind for a reason.

Loving GOD & Loving Each Other!!!

Dee Ann

FROM THE WEEKEND CHAIR

FROM THE POST WEEKEND CHAIR

During this Lenten season, are you remembering once again:

--- That, despite our illusions of self-sufficiency and independence, we are dust...and we, on our own, are capable of absolutely nothing.

--- That Jesus named us, in the freedom and living water of our baptisms, with the name "Redeemed" and marked us with His cross forever.

--- That "you and I may be mutually encouraged by each others' faith: each of us will be a blessing to the other."

(Romans 1:12)

If you're looking for a way to strengthen your own understanding and faith, as well as build up your VdC brothers and sisters, you simply **MUST. NOT. MISS.** the LWVdC Ultreya on April 4, 2020. It begins at 4:00pm that Saturday (**note the change in time!**) at St John's Lutheran in Peru, IL, with the presentation of The Living Last Supper and potluck dinner afterwards.

The Living Last Supper features 12 ordinary men who play the part of each of Jesus' disciples while seated around Him at the table mere hours before He is crucified. Many of the actors are men whom you'll recognize from the VdC Community.

This is sure to be an Ultreya that you won't want to skip! Why don't you invite some friends or fellow congregants from your church to "Come and See" how very much Jesus loves us? We're hoping to fill St John's to the rafters for this moving program. It won't be the same without YOU there!

Always in Him,

Gary and Jan Morse, #29, Post-Weekend Chairs

FROM THE RECTOR/A

DeColores,

Time sure does fly. I can't believe Women's weekend #59 is just around the corner. It will be an amazing weekend filled with a great team ready to serve the candidates. Carol and I have seen God at work as this team has been bonding together.

Do you have someone placed on your heart to ask on a weekend?

If so, please pray about it and then ask. This world needs more people who are willing to share their love of Christ to others. As I am writing this we have 2 candidates so far.

Please keep Carol and I in your prayers as we grow closer to the weekend. We ask for calmed nerves and focused hearts and minds.

GLYaSDW

Sandy Rose, Rectora
Carol Ploch, Head Cha

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Greetings to You My Dear Friends in Christ,

Praying and Hoping all is going well for you all!

It's a tough road to travel on, in this world today, but just remember, it's a lot easier with GPS—"God's Positioning System." He knows right where to lead us, and His lead never fails. Thanks be to God!

Weekend #59 is closing in fast. The trainings have been going well. Keep the prayers coming—many have been answered already. The Team is binding together quite well, and the candidates are starting to come. Keep praying and asking, and they will come. We'll tell you to stop when we run out of rooms!

Hey, I missed some of your faces at the last Ultreya. I hope to see ya at the next one! It's gonna be a good one, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Peru, IL. The worship time will be very touching with the presentation of the "Living Last Supper" and a chance to celebrate Holy Communion with God and all His children. Please save the date: April 4, 2020. This will be a very special time during Lent. Hope to see you there!

God's Blessings to You All!

"Pray First, Last, and Always"

GLYASDI—Dennis Von Holten, Rector LWVdC #59

## FROM THE SECRETARY CHAIR

Share the love of Christ with someone by asking them to attend the men's #59 weekend, March 19-22 and/or the women's #59 weekend, March 26-29!

Palanca on a VDC weekend should be focused on prayers; for the candidates, the team, and everyone's 4th Day! Please sign up on the prayer vigil at [livingwaterviade Cristo.org](http://livingwaterviade Cristo.org).

The April 4th Ultreya will start at 4 PM at St. John's Lutheran Church in Peru. The men of St. John's will be portraying the Living Last Supper. Come early for a great seat! We will follow at 5 PM with our potluck meal. The Living Last Supper will be our church service for the evening.

Leader's School will be held on Saturday, April 18th from 9-12 at First Lutheran Church in Geneseo. This is a

morning to learn about the background of Living Water. Attendance at a Leader's School event is required to serve on team.

Monetary gifts may be sent anytime at the [livingwaterviadecristo.org](http://livingwaterviadecristo.org) website under the "Make a Donation" tab.

The master list of every person that has gone through a Living Water Via de Cristo weekend needs to be updated! If your phone, email, or address has changed since you attended a weekend, please update your info with our communications chair, Carol Ploch, at [ploch70@yahoo.com](mailto:ploch70@yahoo.com). With many people dropping their land line phones and email addresses nonexistent or changing, it has become increasingly difficult to stay in touch. Please ask VDC friends and family to update their information, too!

Current board positions available are palanca and one spiritual director. Other board positions will be open this summer. Please prayerfully consider joining the VDC board!

The fall mixed weekend will be October 22-25. Mark your calendars now!

Blessings to everyone on your 4th day!  
Linda Fine, LWVDC 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 [soiled111@yahoo.com](mailto:soiled111@yahoo.com). Or you can call 815-223-0765.

### Remember these 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 needs, **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

## Living Water Via de Cristo Secretariat Board Members 2019-2020

| Position           | Name                     | Address                                  | Phone        | E-Mail                                                                             |
|--------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lay Director       | Andey Koresko            | 977 Highway 94 Aledo, IL 61231           | 309-738-4181 | <a href="mailto:andykoresko@gmail.com">andykoresko@gmail.com</a>                   |
|                    | Carol Koresko            | 977 Highway 94 Aledo, IL 61231           | 309-738-4181 | <a href="mailto:cskoresko53@gmail.com">cskoresko53@gmail.com</a>                   |
| Asst Lay Director  | Gary Gross               | 3810 32nd Ave. Moline, IL 61265          | 309-797-5561 | <a href="mailto:gdgross144@gmail.com">gdgross144@gmail.com</a>                     |
|                    | Pam Gross                | 3810 32nd Ave. Moline, IL 61265          | 309-738-2385 |                                                                                    |
| Spiritual Director | Pr. Wayne Melaas-Swanson | 311 4th Ave. Port Byron, IL 61275        | 309-523-9191 | <a href="mailto:pwayne.pbmessiahluth@gmail.com">pwayne.pbmessiahluth@gmail.com</a> |
| Spiritual Director | <b>OPEN</b>              |                                          |              |                                                                                    |
| Treasurer          | Bob Groene               | 305 Hickory Hills Geneseo, IL 61254      | 309-441-5544 | <a href="mailto:bgroene47@gmail.com">bgroene47@gmail.com</a>                       |
|                    | Cindy Groene             | 305 Hickory Hills Geneseo, IL 61254      | 309-738-1316 |                                                                                    |
| Secretary          | Linda Fine               | 1014 S. Main St Princeton, IL 61356      | 815-875-6026 | <a href="mailto:onefineteacher230@yahoo.com">onefineteacher230@yahoo.com</a>       |
| Pre-Weekend        | DeeAnn Heuer             | 434 5th Avenue Drive Princeton, IL 61356 | 309-253-7584 | <a href="mailto:gracemae164@comcast.net">gracemae164@comcast.net</a>               |
| Weekend            | Hal Gustafson            | 8 Hickory Heights Geneseo, IL 61254      | 309-945-7021 | <a href="mailto:hsgconst@gmail.com">hsgconst@gmail.com</a>                         |
| Post-Weekend       | Gary Morse               | 301 7th St. LaSalle, IL 61301            | 815-223-0765 | <a href="mailto:garygem32@yahoo.com">garygem32@yahoo.com</a>                       |
|                    | Jan Morse                | 301 7th St. LaSalle, IL 61301            | 815-223-0765 | <a href="mailto:soiled111@yahoo.com">soiled111@yahoo.com</a>                       |
| Kitchen            | Kim Bush                 | 109 14th Ave, Moline, IL 61265           | 309-714-0085 | <a href="mailto:kimkonitzer@gmail.com">kimkonitzer@gmail.com</a>                   |
| Leaders            | Jim Larson               | 11281 N. 1800th Ave. Geneso, IL 61254    | 309-945-2557 | <a href="mailto:jlars6931@gmail.com">jlars6931@gmail.com</a>                       |
|                    | Janet Larson             | 11281 N. 1800th Ave. Geneso, IL 61254    | 309-507-2997 | <a href="mailto:jslarson6931@gmail.com">jslarson6931@gmail.com</a>                 |
| Palanca            | <b>OPEN</b>              |                                          |              |                                                                                    |
| Communications     | Carol Ploch              | 2 Park Rd. Oglesby, IL 61348             | 815-202-3338 | <a href="mailto:ploch70@yahoo.com">ploch70@yahoo.com</a>                           |

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Our email address is:

[prayers@livingwaterviadecristo.org](mailto:prayers@livingwaterviadecristo.org)

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