

*Via de Cristo*  
Come to the  
Living Water



# Newsletter

Issue 209

May - June 2020

*Ultreya!*

Saturday, August 1st, 2020

5:30pm ~Potluck with Annual Meeting and worship 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

## FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

My Dear Fellow Pilgrims:

As I am sitting down to write this letter, the weather is cool and wet. I'm liking to stay inside today, but we have Sophie, our baby girl. Regardless of the weather conditions, Sophie has to go outside. Our last trip into the yard had me in a water-resistant jacket, gloves, and rubber boots. Sophie had her leash. She is never in a hurry. We bound through the yard smelling every dandelion, chasing every leaf that blows by. Anything that looks new gets a once-over. Lots of new smells; and she bounds along for what, to me, seems like forever.

This morning though, I thought wouldn't it be great to see Sophie's world through Sophie's eyes? She sees everything and is troubled by nothing. Every trip out the door is a new adventure. Every day brings something new to Sophie. She knows she is safe. Mom or Dad is not far away, and all she needs to do is take a

glance behind her to know we are right behind her keeping watch. I want to live like Sophie.

These last few months have been difficult ones, not just personally, but locally, nationally, and worldwide... new rules to follow, not always happily... changes in lifestyles, and many, many changes in plans and cancellations of many traditional events. For me, missing Holy Week has left an empty hole this year. Many of you may have had a graduation, birthday, or other celebration cancelled. Some of you have not been able to attend the funeral of someone you loved or cared for – not been able to visit them in the hospital or rest home. Isolation has left you feeling isolated physically and spiritually. Alone.

Our own Spring weekends had to be postponed until the fall. Some authorities seem to think the pandemic may rebound this fall. That could possibly put those weekends in jeopardy. We really don't know what even the near future holds for us as worshipers, VdC people, workers.

One thing we do know is God is faithful and God is good. We will not, nor can we be forsaken by God.

No matter what the politicians, doctors, or news wags say about our present or future situations, God will not forsake us.

Your Board is still making plans for future events and we need your prayers and support. The June Ultreya and election / annual meeting has been postponed until August 1st. Site yet to be determined, I would like to see a record attendance to celebrate months of quarantine. (Carol and I could be needing some hugs!)

We don't know what our future holds except the promise we've been given of

eternal life. So until we  
get to that point, let's try to see our world like Sophie sees hers. See the  
graces we have been given every day.

God loves you and so do we,  
Andrew & Carol Koresko

## FROM THE ASSISTANT LAY DIRECTORS

Living Water Secretariat is seeking people to run for board positions. The meetings are usually held on the first Monday of the month at First Lutheran in Geneseo. Meetings are 1 1/2 hours and have a start time of 6:00 or 7:00 per consensus of the board members. The term is for 2 years unless stated as one year. We have openings for Post Weekend Chair, 2 Spiritual Director positions, and Palanca Chair (1 yr term). The Treasurer, Kitchen Chair, and Assistant lay Directors are seeking a second term so those positions are filled. Please prayerfully consider giving your time and talents to this ministry by serving on the board. Contact Gary(563-320-3135) or Pam(309-738-2385) if you have any questions or would like to serve. Elections will be held at our August  
Ultreya.

Gary & Pam Gross  
Assistant lay Directors

Barb Hiesterman and Barb Geerts will be our delegates for the National Gathering this year. It was to be held at Hamlin University in St. Paul, MN in late July but will be held virtually at that time. They will be looking at updates for the ByLaws of the National Lutheran Secretariat as well as electing officers and taking care of other business items. Please keep the National Secretariat in your prayers as they try this new way of doing business.

## FROM THE LEADERS CHAIR

### Living Water Via de Cristo

#### Leaders

**I would like to thank Dennis Von Holton, Sandy Rose, Jim Whitten, and Carol Ploch for their leadership for team #59. They have guided and prayed for the weekend team and participants as we made the hard decision to postpone the weekend until October/November. It is such a blessing to hear that the majority of team members have willingly agreed to serve in the Fall. We will be publishing more information about the training and details of the weekend in future newsletters.**

**As followers of Christ, we are the models that others will look to during times of crisis or change. In these pandemic days we have the opportunity to model for others the faith and trust we have that God is sovereign in ALL things. We need to be ready to give an answer to those who ask about the hope that resides within us.**

**“In view of all this, make every effort to respond to God’s promises. Supplement your faith with a general provision of moral excellence and moral excellence with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with patient endurance, and patient endurance with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brother affection with love for everyone.” 2 Peter 1:5-7**

**This model for growth as followers of Christ means to not only model for others but to disciple others to grow into a full and vibrant relationship with Jesus. Now is the time to step forward and BE the church to a hurting and confused community. As the song so aptly says, “and they will know we are Christians by our love.”**

**Jim and Janet Larson,**

**Leaders Chairpersons**

## FROM THE PRE-WEEKEND CHAIR

## FROM THE WEEKEND CHAIR

## FROM THE POST WEEKEND CHAIR

## FROM THE RECTOR/A

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I pray this letter finds you all healthy. It saddened me that we had to cancel our Spring weekend, yet our health and safety were important. During this time of unknown it gives me comfort knowing that our Loving God is in control and will continue to guide us through. I ask that you keep the Fall weekends in your prayers. The Womens VDC weekend is set for November 19-22. Mens VDC weekend is set for October 22-25. 1 Corinthians 2:5 says, so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power.

God Loves you and So Do I,  
Sandra Rose

## FROM THE SECRETARY CHAIR

Any VDC board minutes are obsolete at this moment! So in these trying times I cling to Bible verses to trust and praise God for all the blessings He has given.

May you and your families stay safe and hold fast to your faith during this pandemic!

Isaiah 26:3-4 You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.

Philippians 4:6-7 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Romans 15:13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

Blessings to all of the Via de Cristo community!

Linda Fine, VDC 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>