



Newsletter

Issue 210

July - August 2020



As of right now, Saturday, September 5th, 2020 is the date scheduled for the next Ultreya, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Peru. Because of the uncertainty of whether we will be able to gather together due to COVID-19, more details will follow as that date gets closer.

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

Living Water Via de Cristo Lay Leader article for July/August newsletter:

Greetings Friends,

I hope this finds you all well. It's been quite a year hasn't it? A lot of changes and adjustments have influenced our lives these past months and have been the reason behind many of the changes we have had to implement in Living Water.

In an effort to keep all of you informed, here is a list of events that we have postponed or delayed until dates yet to be determined:

- The Fall weekend is now weekends: Men's – October 21-25; Women's – November 19-22. (Please continue to keep Dennis & Jim and Sandy & Carol in your prayers.)
- Our 30 year anniversary celebration: probably sometime next summer.
- Annual meeting to be determined.
- Election of Board members: June 2021 at the Annual meeting.
- Ultreyas (at least until September of this year).

It has been difficult to make any concrete decisions in this fluid environment. But more than that, it seems our world is in utter chaos. Covid-19, racial and political unrest piling upon us. It seems there is no good news. But there is Good News. God created this world out of chaos. I think maybe He still is.

The situations of today can be changed if we keep our faith strong. We have been given so much to be grateful for, given so much to strengthen us, given so much to be hopeful for. Let's not forget from where our strength comes from – our strength comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth. Also, seek each other out, talk to one another. Keep praying – God does hear. As our churches are re-opening, go, meet, and worship together. Sing!! Pray for the clergy. More than you can imagine, many have been under more stress because of the isolation.

Folks, I can only tell you to watch Living Water's website for information. We will try to keep you informed.

Pray for us, pray for yourselves, pray for pastors, lay leaders, fellow parishioners. We will return to a 'normal' way again. "For I surely know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you. When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart." – Jeremiah 29:11-13

Keep the faith.

Yours in Christ,
Andrew & Carol Koresko

FROM THE ASSISTANT LAY DIRECTOR

NLS wants YOU!

The National VdC Gathering is being held virtually this year. That means no travel and no cost to anyone who wants to attend as a guest. You just need to be able to connect virtually with your phone, tablet, or computer.

There will be Speakers, Forums, and Worship videos that can be watched on your time schedule starting late July. On Aug 1 there will be a live session for the business meeting and elections. I hope that many will take this opportunity to register and see what a National Gathering is all about. Just go to viadecristo.org and click on the box for the Gathering. There you can create a username and password and then complete your registration. At the end it says pay but the amount is filled in as zero so just finish. The most that Living Water has sent to the Gathering is 5 people except when we hosted, so let's see how much we can increase that number.

Pam Gross

FROM THE LEADERS CHAIR

Leaders Chair Article July 2020

Nowadays, many conversations include the phrase "new normal" as if we ever had a "normal". What strikes me is the different viewpoints: those who long for the old "normal", those who fear change, and those who embrace a new "normal". Jesus speaks to his followers and tells them that what was old has gone away and he has come to **make all things new!**

Leaders in our churches are facing challenges that were unthinkable just 6 months ago. It would have been hard to imagine not gathering for worship, not visiting the homebound, having private funerals and postponing weddings. But the Church has found **new ways** of spreading the Gospel and demonstrating Apostolic Action. Many followers have embraced on-line Bible studies, watching other pastors preach on YouTube, and have met with others using platforms like Zoom.

Ponder a minute about one "take-away" you have learned from this season of pandemic. What have you embraced and what have you chosen to eliminate from your spiritual journey? Where will the Holy Spirit lead to you next? A shift of priorities can make for a more fulfilling journey. Having learned what it is like to be isolated may lead some to reach those living on the fringe. This is the time that we all need to step up our role as leaders in our local community.

Consider this reminder from Colossians 3:12-13 (NIV)

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

FROM THE PRE-WEEKEND CHAIR

FROM THE WEEKEND CHAIR

FROM THE POST WEEKEND CHAIR

FROM THE RECTOR/A

Peace to you Brothers and Sisters in Christ—

Summer is here and going by fast. I thought when I retired from the cheese factory, things would be slower, but for some reason, farming and the "Honey-do list" is keeping me very busy. But, that's a good thing! Everything is going well in my life, especially being able to attend worship again at First Lutheran in Ohio! I pray and hope all is going well for all of you.

From what I can see so far, everything looks good for the upcoming Weekends #59, in October and November. Please continue to pray for these weekends, so that we may continue building God's Kingdom through Christ Jesus.

Sorry to say, but sadly we've had some who have had to drop off of the Men's Team. So, if you are feeling that nudge from the Holy Spirit, to serve on Team ..please give Jim #815-663-7509 or myself #815-303-2984 a call, and please fill out a Team application, so we have your up to date information.

God's Blessings to you all, and praying you have a healthy and happy summer!

God Loves You and So Do I!
Dennis Von Holten
Rector

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## FROM THE SECRETARY CHAIR

The past two months the Via de Cristo secretariat board has met via Zoom meetings. We continue to plan upcoming events and the fall weekends, with the understanding that these plans are subject to change depending on the corona virus status.

We are hoping to appoint a new spiritual director soon. The open palanca position on the VDC board is also available for any person or reunion group that may be interested. Current board positions expiring this summer will be extended until June 2021.

Via de Cristo will still receive monetary donations given through Birdies for Charity this summer, even with the event being cancelled. There will be an additional 5-10% given to the total money we receive going towards our scholarship fund.

The national Via de Cristo annual gathering the end of July/early August will be a virtual event this year. The viewing of worship times and various forums will be free and available to listen at your leisure time. No preregistration will be needed to "attend" the annual meeting. Viewing these events would give you an idea of what happens during the national convention. Be looking for an email soon with the national website information.

Summer volunteer days to help at Camp Menno Haven have been canceled. Any updates to the camp activities can be followed by "friending" Camp Menno Haven on Facebook.

The 30th Via de Cristo anniversary will be celebrated next August, 2021, during our 31st year instead!

I pray that each one of you is well, safe, and blessed beyond measure! God loves you and so do I!

Linda Fine  
Secretary for the VDC board

## 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**

| <b>Living Water Via de Cristo Secretariat Board Members 2019-2020</b> |               |                                          |              |                                                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Position</b>                                                       | <b>Name</b>   | <b>Address</b>                           | <b>Phone</b> | <b>E-Mail</b>                                                                |
| 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                                                    | <b>OPEN</b>   |                                          |              |                                                                              |
| 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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