



Newsletter

Issue 212

November - December 2020



Our next Utreya is planned to be held in February 2021 and as of right now, we plan to have it at St. John's Lutheran Church in Peru, IL. 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

I feel like I am an Israelite trudging through the wilderness towards the Promised Land behind Moses. More specifically, at the point in the Exodus where it's been a long while since they left Egypt, and the promised land still seems so very far away. But in my case it is a trudging through time, from when the pandemic hit to that promised time in the future when it will finally be over. And our "prophets" – the experts on things like pandemics and stuff – are saying now that their best guess is that we will get past this pandemic sometime in the middle of next year. That means Thanksgiving and Christmas 2020 with COVID 19, that most unwanted guest.

But I have to admit that this Exodus experience has not been all bad for me either. It has helped me better understand why the Israelites, while Moses was up on the mountain with God, decide to chuck it all and make a golden calf to worship. I get on a deeper level now why they did it. They were tired of all the trudging, the limited diet of manna (Literally Hebrew for "What is it?") and quail, and still so far from the goal. I suspect that many of the Israelites were simply weary and as a result ready to give up on God. Perhaps some of you are also weary and wondering where God is and why isn't our Lord doing something about it after all of our prayers?

If so, please remember that God never promised us an easy life. Just look at the people in the Bible. Jesus did not have an easy life. Neither did any of those first disciples. And if you can find an old book called Fox's Lives of the Martyrs – well, you get the point. But what God did promise in Jesus was that we would not be alone in our Exodus like experiences in life. That the promise of God's help not to stop it but rather to continue through it with the Holy Spirit remains. That the Promised Land of eternity has not gone away because of some stupid virus.

So, I invite you, fellow members of this Via de Cristo community called Living Waters, to trudge with me through time, faithful to our God and our Lord. To trudge with me not just until this pandemic is over, whenever that comes, but onward until that time when we see Jesus face to face!

Pastor Larry Conway
Currently Chaplain at Friendship Manor, Rock Island.

FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

Greetings fellow pilgrims,

This year has been a test. Personally Carol and I have avoided Covid-19, but it has been close a couple of times. Some of our family and friends have been touched, but fortunately none too seriously. For me the most difficult part has been not being able to see and be around my Via de Cristo family.

Now it looks like it may be many weeks, maybe months before we will be able to have an Ulteya, team meetings or an actual weekend. Your Secretariat Board is keeping a close watch on developing situations. It is still difficult to make any solid plans.

We need your support at this time. Keep Living Water in your prayers. Keep meeting with your Reunion Groups, either by social distancing or remotely by Zoom or other means you have available.

God will see us through this time. He is our strength. My. 28:20...behold, I am with you always...

God's Peace to You All

Andey and Carol Koresko

FROM THE ASSISTANT LAY DIRECTOR

FROM THE LEADERS CHAIR

"After all this..." is how Revelation 7:9 begins the reading for All Saints Sunday. Our pastor preached on this text with the emphasis on these three words. "After all this.. Pandemic, presidential election, natural disasters and economic woes can we envision what life will be like? As believers we can put our faith and trust in God to see us through and we can be the beacon of light and hope for others as we pass through these trials.

But we must actively and intentionally proclaim our faith and share with others the Gospel message. We are called to strengthen the church and build up the body of believers to glorify God. The Fourth Day community is called to demonstrate piety, study and apostolic action in everyday life and be ready to give an account for the hope that lies within us. Christ is counting on us, and to whom do we count?

Jim and Janet Larson

FROM THE PRE-WEEKEND CHAIR

This has been a difficult season for each of us. Some have lost loved ones, their jobs, their assurance, their livelihood, their joy. GOD though is still the same. HE has never wavered or left our side. We were never promised that life would be easy or that we wouldn't have struggles. HE did though promise that HE would see us through it all. I came across a devotional that I would like to share with you. It seems perfect.

~~~~Don't worry if you feel like your leaves have withered and you can no longer offer shade. Seasons are required for all good things to remain alive. You're growing. You're still blooming. HE must do a new thing inside of you so that you can refresh others. You are gaining grit, deeper empathy, and strengthening your roots. Flourishing always requires the stripping away so the new can come. Fall and Winter reminds you that you never needed the adornment of leaves to be adored by The Creator. So as you wait, walk expectantly. You can still hold joy while waiting for Spring. ~~~~

Hugs and prayers my friends. In case no one told you today: You are beautiful, you are loved, you are stronger than you think and GOD loves you beyond measure.

LORD, please refresh, renew, revive and rekindle Your Spirit in each of us. Only You can heal our hearts and this world.

~Blessings,  
Dee Ann

## FROM THE WEEKEND CHAIR

## FROM THE POST WEEKEND CHAIR

Probably most of us identify ourselves this way at times. Jesus handed us this facet of our identities during a great sermon:

"How blessed are those who make peace, because it is they who will be called God's children!"  
Matthew 5:9

He lavishes gift upon gift on us....blessing....peace....identity: "Child of God"...great reward in Heaven....and so many more. Along with those gifts, I think, comes a grave responsibility IF we dare call ourselves "Christ-followers".

We have seen more signs of the lack of peace this year than maybe ever in our lifetimes. So many parts of our lives seem out of control or else dependent upon the whims or foibles of others. We fear...we get frustrated, angry or depressed...we want to lash out.

There is SUCH GREAT HOPE in this impossible situation! We can allow our Prince of Peace to flow through us into all that darkness. Can you just envision the attraction of His marvelous light as both a beacon and a refuge? We have the enormous privilege and opportunity to be reflections of His light in this present darkness. Let us not let even one day go by without passing along His unfailing and unending Light!

Jesus Only...  
Gary and Jan Morse, #29, Post-Weekend Chairs

## FROM THE RECTOR/A

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FROM THE SECRETARY CHAIR

The Via de Cristo board continues to meet monthly via Zoom.

There is a new, private Facebook group for anyone that has gone through Living Water. It is listed as "Living Water VdC Pilgrims." It will be a way to stay in touch, post prayer concerns, and connect with Living Water members. If you have any difficulty being added to the group, please contact one of the board members to be invited.

The board continues to discuss ways to update the massive VDC roster. If you have any information for yourself or another VDC member that is more current than when a weekend was attended, please pass that information on to the board.

The board is also updating the VDC Policies Manual. This covers the foundation of the VDC movement; from board duties, team selection and training, weekend activities, serenade, clausura, 4th day talk, and continuing education. It has been ten years since the manual has been updated. Each board meeting we try and work through a couple areas.

The board prays that each of you are staying well, that you continue to be the light of Jesus in your community, and that your faith remains strong.

Blessings!
Linda Fine
Secretary, 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. 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 2020-2021				
Position	Name	Address	Phone	E-Mail
Lay Director	Andey Koresko	977 Highway 94 Aledo, IL 61231	309-738-4181	andykoresko@gmail.com
	Carol Koresko	977 Highway 94 Aledo, IL 61231	309-738-4181	cskoresko53@gmail.com
Asst Lay Director	Gary Gross	3810 32nd Ave. Moline, IL 61265	309-797-5561	gdgross144@gmail.com
	Pam Gross	3810 32nd Ave. Moline, IL 61265	309-738-2385	
Spiritual Director	Pr. Randy Willers	4915 N Fairmount St, Davenport, IA 52806	309 292-0881	randy.willers@gmail.com
Spiritual Director	Pr. Larry Conway	617 Cherry Ct. Colona, IL 61241	309-912-8652	chaplainconway@gmail.com
Treasurer	Bob Groene	305 Hickory Hills Geneseo, IL 61254	309-441-5544	bgroene47@gmail.com
	Cindy Groene	305 Hickory Hills Geneseo, IL 61254	309-738-1316	
Secretary	Linda Fine	1014 S. Main St Princeton, IL 61356	815-875-6026	onefineteacher230@yahoo.com
Pre-Weekend	DeeAnn Heuer	434 5th Avenue Drive Princeton, IL 61356	309-253-7584	gracemae164@comcast.net
Weekend	Hal Gustafson	8 Hickory Heights Geneseo, IL 61254	309-945-7021	hsgconst@gmail.com
Post-Weekend	Gary Morse	301 7th St. LaSalle, IL 61301	815-223-0765	garygem32@yahoo.com
	Jan Morse	301 7th St. LaSalle, IL 61301	815-223-0765	soiled111@yahoo.com
Kitchen	Kim Bush	109 14th Ave, Moline, IL 61265	309-714-0085	kimkonitzer@gmail.com
Leaders	Jim Larson	11281 N. 1800th Ave. Geneseo, IL 61254	309-945-2557	jlars6931@gmail.com
	Janet Larson	11281 N. 1800th Ave. Geneseo, IL 61254	309-507-2997	jslarson6931@gmail.com
Palanca	OPEN			
Communications	Carol Ploch	2 Park Rd. Oglesby, IL 61348	815-202-3338	ploch70@yahoo.com

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