



Newsletter

Issue 213

January - February 2021



You probably realize that our usual February Ultreya can't happen in IL yet; HOWEVER...your Executive board is tentatively planning a "SO-great-to-finally-be-together-again!" Ultreya day for Saturday, May 1. MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!! More details will be sent out soon.

FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

I recently got a text from a fellow pilgrim in Living Water, asking me if the movement was still alive. I responded that Living Water was still living, but the water may have become a bit stagnant because of the virus. It hurts us not being able to hold weekends and Ultreyas. The Christian faith is formed through our relationship to God and other believers. The pandemic makes this hard to maintain.

God's Word then becomes a great source of strength and help. When I used my concordance, the closest word I could find to "pandemic" in the Bible was the word "pestilence." That led me to Psalm 91, which is a Psalm of assurance of God's protection. In that Psalm, we read the following in verses 5 to 7:
You will not fear the terror of the night, or the arrow that flies by day, or the pestilence that stalks in darkness, or the destruction that wastes at noonday. A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you.

I recognized some to those words. They are used as lyrics for one of the favorite songs of Via de Cristo, "On Eagle's Wings." That is a great song to listen to, and sing along with, because of what it says. Its message reminds us of the theme of Psalm 91 - God watches over us and will protect us. In the shelter of the Lord we will be strengthened for this pestilence, and be delivered from fear and terror. Then God will "bear us up on eagle's wings" (from Exodus 19:3), "bear you on the breath of dawn" (Isaiah 58:1 and Isaiah 62:1), "make you shine like the sun" (Matthew 13:43), and "hold you in the palm of his hand" (Isaiah 49:15). God's presence in our lives will get us through!

This pandemic has affected us to be sure. I know of people who have suffered with the coronavirus, and some have died because of it. Yet our faith tells us an important spiritual truth. God will never abandon us in our time of need. God sent us Jesus to give us the victory over sin, the power of the devil, and death. So continue those practices of Piety, Study and Action that keep the faith active and alive. Maintain your Christian relationships in

whatever way possible. Strengthen your relationship with our Lord, and the words of Psalm 91 will ring true:

Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. (vs 9-10)

GLYASDI,
Pastor Randy

FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

Greetings fellow pilgrims,

I hope you have all been well and had a good holiday season. Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year were certainly a different way to celebrate this past couple of months.

Things at Living Water have been pretty much on hold for several months and plans have been on hold. There are a few things that may be happening in the next few months, but of course there is nothing confirmed yet.

Please keep Living Water in your prayers. We need your prayers and assistance in the near future to help get us back on track and continue to help spread the word of God's Grace.

We have all been blessed through Living Water and we continue to be.

Peace to you all and keep an eye on the website and talk to your friends. We look forward to the day when we can all get together again and sing our praises to our Savior.

Blessings Andey Koresko

FROM THE ASSISTANT LAY DIRECTOR

It has been a long winter so far but summer is coming! I pray that things will be much better then. The National Annual Gathering is being planned for July. It will be held at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin, Texas from July 22-25, 2021. This campus is just East of San Antonio so you could make a vacation out of the trip. Living Water can send 2 Lay Delegates and one Clergy Delegate to represent our secretariat. If you are interested please contact us about being a delegate. If you want to go as just a visitor that is always an option also. The Gathering is like a 3 day Ultreya with fun & fellowship of others from around the country.

Pam & Gary

FROM THE LEADERS CHAIR

Your Words Matter

"Dear brothers and sisters, whenever trouble comes your way, let it be an opportunity for joy. For when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be strong in character and ready for anything." James 1:2-4

As members of the **Fourth Day community** of believers, our words matter to others for many are watching what we say and do. Christ is counting on each of us individually and unified to fulfill our leadership roles in our environment. We can all do this by girding our faith by actively practicing the triad of **piety, study and action** on a daily basis. We can influence others by demonstrating the character of Christ which dwells in our spiritual DNA.

How you choose to voice your opinions should go through the filter of scripture. Criticism of others and the leaders in your congregation and community reflect what is in your heart and on your mind. May we all be united in the mind of Christ and be ready to mirror **James 1:19: "My dear brothers and sisters, be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to get angry."**

While the Fourth Day community waits and watches for a time when we can all gather together again, let us be active in our homes and churches and work together to support one another in creative and loving ways. Men's and Women's weekends are currently suspended until it is safe for us to confidently gather. One day very soon, we will begin to prepare for LWVdC weekends #59. Your prayers for the leadership of LWVdC are coveted, we can all benefit from the power of PALANCA to move the immovable.

Grace and mercy be to you all!

Janet and Jim Larson

Leaders chairpersons

FROM THE PRE-WEEKEND CHAIR

Fear is a strong word and one of the strongest weapons the devil has in his arsenal. Zach Williams has a song called "Fear is a liar." The lyrics talk about how fear will take your breath, stop you in your steps, rob your rest and steal your happiness. From the day Satan was kicked out, he has rebelled. He has authority over darkness and he can not rule in the light. Remember when your parents told you nothing good happens after dark? Lawlessness will abound until we return to righteousness. II Chronicles 7:14 says: "If my people who are called by My Name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My Face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land. Fear is false evidence, appearing real and evil at times may appear good.

Do not be deceived!

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, stand strong. GOD is still in control and still on the move but we have work to do. At the cross, we became sons and daughters through the blood of JESUS. We have divine healing. We are forgiven and joint heirs. Let us awaken, release fear and be the Church Triumphant! Put all trust in GOD Almighty and His Truth!

My prayer for each of you: Be strong and of good courage. We have all experienced loss and many of us are still battling, struggling, dealing and possibly feeling defeated. We may not always understand GOD's Ways but stay the course, cry to the LORD and hold on to His Word. HE will roll back your stone.

Hugs, love and prayers my friends! GOD loves you more than you can imagine!
The KING is coming!!! Soon and very soon!!! Until then, use us LORD!

FROM THE WEEKEND CHAIR

FROM THE POST WEEKEND CHAIR

I was shocked, confused, bewildered
As I entered Heaven's door;
Not by the beauty of it all,
Nor the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks there up in Heaven
Who made me sputter and gasp---
The thieves, the liars, the sinners,
The alcoholics and the "trash".

There stood the kid from seventh grade
Who swiped my lunch money twice;
Next to him, my neighbor
Who never said anything nice.

Bob, who I always thought
Was rotting away in hell,
Was sitting pretty on Cloud number 9
Looking incredibly well.

I asked Jesus, "What's the deal?
I would love to hear your take.
How did all these sinners get here?
God must have made a mistake.

And why is everyone so quiet,
So somber---give me a clue?"

"Hush, child", He said. "They're all in shock.
No one thought they'd be seeing YOU!"

---Tony Gray

Naming ourselves "Christian" doesn't make it true any more than sitting in your garage makes you a BMW.
What are each of us doing TODAY, in our 4th Day, to further develop our Christian piety, study, and Apostolic
action?

GLYASDW...

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



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## FROM THE SECRETARY CHAIR

The Living Water Via de Cristo Secretariat board met in November and January via Zoom meetings. The board did not meet in December.

The end of year donations from VDC people made up for the money that would've been collected at Ultreyas we couldn't have this past year. Thank you for all the generous donations!

The February 6th Ultreya has been cancelled.

The spring weekend has been postponed until the fall. We know that everyone is wanting (and needing) a weekend to take place, but the board has the health and safety of everyone as a top priority.

The National Secretariat meeting is being planned for July in Texas. If anyone is interested in attending, please get in touch with Pam Gross on the LWVDC board.

The women's #59 team will be having a Zoom meeting on Saturday, January 23 at 2 PM. This meeting will be to check on how everyone is doing and how we are impacting our local communities and congregations. The men's #59 team is also working on trying to set up a Zoom meeting at a future date.

The Palanca position on the LWVDC Secretariat board still has a vacancy. This role could be fulfilled by a person or a group of people! Please prayerfully consider joining the board!

But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. Isaiah 40:31

God's blessings to all of you in 2021! Please stay safe!

Linda Fine  
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**

| <b>Living Water Via de Cristo Secretariat Board Members 2020-2021</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                                                    | Pr. Randy Willers | 4915 N Fairmount St, Davenport, IA 52806 | 309 292-0881 | <a href="mailto:randy.willers@gmail.com">randy.willers@gmail.com</a>         |
| Spiritual Director                                                    | Pr. Larry Conway  | 617 Cherry Ct. Colona, IL 61241          | 309-912-8652 | <a href="mailto:chaplainconway@gmail.com">chaplainconway@gmail.com</a>       |
| 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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