



# Newsletter

Issue 215

May - June 2021



## LIVING WATER VdC ULTREYA!!!

You probably know that our first IN-PERSON Ultreya in over a year is being planned for Saturday, June 5, at **St Matthew's Lutheran, 1915 W Kimberly Rd, Davenport, Iowa 52806**. Our emphasis that day will be on each of the three legs of a mature Christian life: Piety, Study, and Apostolic Action.

Materials for our planned Ap Action service project are needed and we hope you can begin to help gather and collect these items:

- Cardboard rolls from TP, paper towels, and wrap
- Cleaning supplies: Cleaners, home sanitizers (bleach-based, etc), paper towels, etc
- Individually wrapped small candies

(NOTE: If you're not in a financial position to be able to contribute this time, PLEASE don't let that stop you from attending our Community's first chance at being back together for ever so long! We need each others' presence and fellowship more than anything else....except our Fathers', of course.)

More specific details will follow as we get closer to June. However, we all can spend our time wisely in the meantime by praying for those in need who will be the recipients of these materials.

If you have any questions, please contact us anytime! 815-223-0765

GLYASDW...

Gary and Jan Morse, #29, Post Weekend Chairs

## FROM THE SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR

### Being Seized

So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. -Mark 16:8

Have you ever experienced an event that just left you speechless? Something so wonderful and amazing you didn't have the words to express it? That's what happened to the women at the empty tomb. They expected to find a dead body, and encountered an angel instead. They had a hard time comprehending what had happened.

Many ancient manuscripts of Mark stop right here at verse 8. It seems like an odd way to end a story of "good news," which is how this gospel describes itself in Mark 1:1. The women are told what had happened; "you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised. . ." Jesus has risen! Yet there is no description of encountering the risen Christ. There is no joyful account of the women passing the angel's message on to the disciples. Only the report that they fled and said nothing.

We are now in the Easter season. The death and resurrection of our Lord is so wonderful and amazing, we spend 50 days celebrating it. However, I sometimes think we are having a tough time conveying that message in our lives, especially after the past year. After being isolated for much of the time, having to change our usual patterns of daily life, and not being able to worship together, we can find ourselves sad and depressed. We might compare ourselves to the disciples on Holy Saturday – the day between Good Friday and Easter. It was a liminal moment, which is the time after a tragic event where everything has changed and the future is uncertain. It's just that our "Holy Saturday" moment lasted a year!

But now we hear good news. The plague that has stifled us this past year is being lifted. Vaccines are opening up our tomb-like homes, so we can get back into circulation. God has brought us through this time, and things are looking up. The secretariat is planning our first ultreya in over a year on June 5th, and we are expecting to resume our weekends this fall. Like a breath of fresh air, the world is looking good again!

But what is our response to God's work in our lives? How can we express our gratitude for what God has done?

Will our return to "normal" leave us silent? We know that the women who went to the tomb didn't stay silent for long, because the good news of the Resurrection spread. We too can allow the Holy Spirit to transform us into a new creation – one who is unafraid to share our faith and let others know how God has blessed us. We can share our faith in many ways, but there is one way I want to suggest. I ask that you invite someone to attend our weekends this fall. We can let the Holy Spirit seize us instead of fear, and give others a chance to grow closer to Jesus. Christ is counting on us! (And we on Him!) Then maybe our "Holy Saturday" year may give way to a "Pentecost" year!

-Pastor Randy

## FROM THE LAY DIRECTOR

Greetings to you all,

My fellow Pilgrims, this will be my last letter to you as your Lay Leader of Living Water.

I have always had a personal philosophy, if you will, that anything I was involve in, when I left, it was at least in as good a shape as when I received it. Do no harm. As I look back on the last four years I believe your Board has made some steps in the right direction in following what God has wanted us to do.

Our renewal weekend in the fall of 2019 was actually supposed to be the launching point of revival for us. Before we could proceed Covid-19 came along and made a train wreck of everything. Weekends 59 have been cancelled three times. We have not been able to have Ultreyas. We have not been able to have training sessions for leadership. Our April Board meeting was our first in person meeting in a year.

I have missed, as I am sure you have, the abrazos, the singing, the fellowship. My greatest fear this whole time is that Living Water would just fade into the sunset, never to return. But that is not in my hands. If God wants Living Water to continue, if we believe we are not finished with his work, we will keep working to serve our Lord.

We are holding our first Ultreya in sixteen months on June 5, 2021, at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Davenport, Iowa, starting at 10:00 A.M. The seeds for Living Water were nurtured in the early years at St. Matthews. Many of our early pilgrims belonged to and worshiped there; and we had Ultreyas, send-offs, and clausuras there. It seems to be a fitting place to start over. The Spirit of God has not left us and never will.

Indulge me for a moment to thank all of the people who served with Carol and me these last four years: Charisse, Augie, Charlotte and Bob & Cindy for keeping our finances in order, Kate, Jen, Missy, Kim, Hal, DeeAnn, Barb & Joe G., Barb & Don H., Ellen and Linda for taking such care in recording the minutes, Carol P. for all of the organizing and streamlining of the communication and newsletters, Gary & Jan for your hard work and staying the extra year, Pam & Gary, and Janet & Jim... especially Pam and Janet on whom I dropped a lot of stuff and they never complained and always came through, our Pastors Wayne, Randy, and Larry, and all of the community

for your prayers and support.

Living Water... just think about that name. As our Lord Jesus is our Living Lord and continues to bless us, Living Water will survive. The back side of our crosses state, "Christ is counting on you." I only ask that you listen for the call of Christ and like Samuel say, "Speak Lord, your servant is listening." and answer the call like Isaiah and say, "Here am I Lord, sent me."

God loves you and so do we.  
Andey & Carol Koresko

## FROM THE ASSISTANT LAY DIRECTOR

As of this writing, the secretariat board still has 2 positions to fill. Open positions are Palanca which is a 1 year term and Secretary which is a 2 year term. The board meets the first Monday of the month at First Lutheran in Geneseo. If you are willing to serve your community or need more information, please contact us. The terms start in July after elections at the June Ultreya.

Gary & Pam Gross  
563-320-3135  
309-738-2385

## FROM THE LEADERS CHAIR

## FROM THE PRE-WEEKEND CHAIR

## FROM THE TREASURER CHAIR

## FROM THE POST WEEKEND CHAIR

"Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day of Salvation approaching."

---Hebrews 10: 23-25

On a cold and rainy day, the good pastor went to visit John, a formerly faithful member of the congregation who no longer attended worship services. John greeted the pastor, welcoming him in to the warm and cozy house, and directed him to the chair beside the fireplace. John asked the good pastor what brought him to visit, but the pastor didn't say a word.....he simply picked up a hot coal from the fire with the tongs and set it out on the hearth, away from the fire.

As the fire roared on, the coal which previously had flamed red hot began to lose its heat. Fading more and more

as the moments ticked by, soon that single coal turned gray, stone-cold, and covered with ash.

Silently, the pastor reached out and returned the coal into the roaring fire.....and in just a few short moments, the coal once again glowed red hot, as the pile of other flaming coals caused it to heat up again.

The good pastor then got to his feet, put his hat on, and shook John's hand. And John looked at the pastor with tears in his eyes, and told him "Thank you for coming, Pastor....I'll see you in church this Sunday!" Church services are scheduled for this coming Sunday and our in-person VdC Ultreya is scheduled for June 5, 2021.

Will YOU be there?

## FROM THE RECTOR/A

De Colores to all of you. I have missed you all so much. It has been a long year for all of us. Romans 12:12 says " Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer." Thank you all for being so patient through this year. It looks like we have a weekend planned for October 28-31. I am so excited. Please keep this in your prayers that we can finally be together again. Let me now if you are still willing to be on team. Carol and I will be getting together soon to start getting things rolling again.

God Loves You and So Do I,  
Sandy

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## FROM THE SECRETARY CHAIR

The LWVDC Secretariat board met via Zoom for their March meeting. The April board meeting was also through Zoom, plus for the first time in a year, some of the board did meet in person at First Lutheran Church in Geneseo.

The board is grateful for various monetary donations that have come from the VDC community! These donations help bolster weekend scholarships along with other areas. Thank you for your continued generosity!

Please prayerfully consider being part of the LWVDC Secretariat board! The positions that will be available starting with the July board meeting are included with the Assistant Lay Director's notes in this newsletter. Use your talents to bring glory and further the Kingdom of God!

Saturday, June 5th will be a "Picnic with Jesus" Ultreya. Our first Ultreya in over a year! St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Davenport, Iowa, 10-3. There will be music, food (please bring your own this time!), talks, a service project, and friendships renewed! We hope you will plan to attend!

Be looking for information coming soon about supporting LWVDC through the Birdies for Charity program during the John Deere Classic golf tournament this summer.

Camp Meno Haven is looking forward to having LWVDC back for our weekends this fall. The camp has a new phone number, 815.255.4649. The new phone number is also on their website. The camp had a spring work day on Saturday, April 24th.

Please be praying about people to invite to the fall weekends! The men's #59 weekend is scheduled for October 21st-24th at Camp Meno Haven. The women's #59 weekend will be October 28th-31st at Camp Meno Haven.

"Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love." Psalm 31:16

Please stay safe and well!

Blessings!

Linda Fine  
LWVDC Secretary

## GENERAL INFORMATION

For those of you that care 'crafty', there is still time to make scarves for children and staff at Point of Hope in Romania. We have til the end of June, as that will give Another Child Foundation plenty of time to pack them up and ship them before it gets cold.

Feel free to call me if you want me to pick them up.... and thank you!  
Pr. Vicki

Thanks!  
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[vlsauter151@gmail.com](mailto:vlsauter151@gmail.com)  
815-973-2819 -c

# HANDMADE SCARF DRIVE

## 134 SCARVES FOR ROMANIA

- Handmade
- Crocheted
- Knitted
- Sewn
- Winter Fabric
- Neutral Colors

Drop off at:  
ACF Mission Office  
416 E. Dover Rd.  
Princeton, IL 61356  
Tim: 815-303-1725  
Pastor Vicki: 815-973-2819

*Benefits*  
THE KIDS & STAFF  
AT POINT OF HOPE

#SHARETHEWARMTH 



## 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                                                          | Andy 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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