

Living Water Via De Cristo News January/February 2010 Issue 148

ULTREYA

Saturday, February 6, 2010
ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
2000 LUTHER DRIVE
PERU, IL (815) 223-1144

Potluck supper begins at 5:30 PM

Couples bring one dish to pass, families please bring two. Coffee and water and ice are provided by the host church, but any other drinks will need to be brought by the community. Babysitting will be available for children up to 5.

DIRECTIONS

1. From I-80 take exit 73 for Plank Rd.
2. Keep Right at the fork, follow signs for Peru
3. Turn right at Plank Rd.
4. Turn left at Peoria St/Peoria Lane
5. Turn right at Luther Dr
6. Turn right to stay on Luther Dr – church will be on the right



LAY DIRECTOR(S) ...

As we start out the New Year, let us take a moment to thank God for all the blessings he has given Living Water this past year. We were brought together for many Ultreyas and held 3 weekends. We were blessed to have a group of dedicated people serving on the secretariat that met monthly as well as people behind the scenes helping with the web site, newsletter and the coordinators that said yes to hosting events at their churches. Financially we are doing O.K. Living Water is doing well. But as always, we can do better. None of our weekends were “full”, so I challenge you to ask someone to attend a weekend this year. We know that God will send the ones He wants to a weekend, but He does need our help in being the instrument to do the asking. It is not too early to ask! By asking now, we can give God more time to have the Holy Spirit work in their lives to get that positive answer. Ask a person to attend and share what Via de Cristo has done for your life and your walk with Christ. People want to know how the weekend has helped you. We also need people to attend the send offs, serenades, and clausuras. Mark it on your calendars now. Get a group of people to carpool with you. Plan now so you don't let other little things get in the way. I know that things come up, but with over 1000 people who have gone through a weekend, we should always have a good group to support the weekends. Remember what those things meant to you on your weekend and help give that feeling to the candidates on their weekend. The dates for the spring weekends are: Men's weekend is April 15 – 18 & Women's weekend is April 22 - 25.

Some people have asked us where the offering taken during an Ultreya goes. It goes towards the general operations of Living Water and it also helps to subsidize the weekends for the expenses not covered by the weekend fees. We pay for the babysitters out of the offering received. Donations made to LWVdC are tax deductible under the same rules used for our regular charitable giving. We have our general fund to cover operating fees and we have a memorial fund that is used for scholarships to pay for candidates who cannot pay for their weekend.

Let's all work towards making 2010 at great year for Living Water by supporting the weekends and the Ultreyas.

In God's service,
Pam and Gary Gross
Lay Directors

LEADERS CHAIR(S)...

Continuing Education Class offered in January

Ever wonder about the rest of the LWVdC story? Want to serve on an LWVdC Team? Attending the next Continuing Education Class will help answer both of these questions. Mark your calendars now for the January 16, 2010 Continuing Education Class in Princeton, IL. We will meet at the Evangelical Covenant Church, 24 North Main, Princeton IL, at 9:30 am-Noon. Please RSVP to alfaff@verizon.net so we will have enough materials for all who wish to attend. Please note that one time attendance is required before serving on team. Feel free to email with questions or concerns. All are welcome. See you there!

Blessings,
Arnie and Anne Faber
Leaders Chair

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR...

Decisions, Decisions

When I was in seminary, one of my professors brought out a picture of Jesus. It was that well known image of Jesus knocking on a door without a handle. The idea being it was the door to our heart, and we were the ones who opened the door to let Jesus in. It was an image based on scripture, Revelation 4:30, which states, "*Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.*" What my professor said next surprised me. He said the picture was not Lutheran in its understanding of our relationship to God. It took me a while to understand what he meant.

What my professor was saying is that our salvation is the result of God's work, not our own. If we feel we have done *anything* toward our own salvation, it takes away from what Jesus did on the cross. When we think we have to do something to enable our salvation, it's called "works righteousness." Instead of works righteousness, we who are Protestant believe our salvation is a free, though costly, gift from God. This is the nature of God's grace, and one reason we spend so much time on grace with the clergy rollos on the weekend.

This is also why Lutheran clergy have difficulty with what is called "Decision Theology." This theology states that it is our decision that Jesus becomes our savior (i.e. that *we* open the door and let Jesus in). This is evident when someone speaks of their faith by saying, "*I accepted Jesus . . .*" This clashes with another verse in the Bible, John 15:16; "*You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.*" Decision Theology also rubs against Martin Luther's explanation to the Third Article of the Apostle's Creed regarding the Holy Spirit. In it Luther writes, "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith." So not only our salvation, but also our faith (which enables salvation) is a gift of the Holy Spirit.

When Jesus died on the cross, he redeemed all of creation by his sacrifice. It is our faith in Jesus that makes this redemption effective, and gives us eternal life. God can work faith within us through whatever way God wants. It can be at a specific point in time, or it can grow within us over months or years. It can be by divine intervention (the conversion of Paul), by coming to our senses (the Prodigal Son) or through the teaching and upbringing of a faithful family (Timothy). Regardless of how, when, or by what means faith comes to us, one thing is certain. Faith is a precious gift, freely given to us by God.

- *Pastor Randy*

RECTOR...

Christmas and New Year Greetings to the entire Via de Cristo Community!

His name shall be Emmanuel - God with us!

As I write this, Christmas is fast approaching. As you read this, it will be a memory. I trust you were able to take time to celebrate the wondrous birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who came into this world as an infant, and now reigns forever as King of Kings! It is because of His unconditional love for us, that we are called to serve one another.

Rectora Barb and I consider it a sacred privilege to serve on Weekend 41. At this point in time, Team selection is still taking place, and I appreciate those who have made their willingness to serve known.

You are **all** an important part of this community of believers. Is God nudging **you** to serve on Team? Is He calling upon **you** to invite that Pilgrim (or two, or three) to the Weekend?

Please keep the entire Weekend process in constant prayer. May you all be blessed in 2010!

Joel Nelson - Weekend #41 Rector

RECTORA...

I've been washing some extra feet this week. They belong to my two grandsons, the newest of whom just happened to be born while I was serving on LW Weekend #40 this past fall. What a joy it has been to have an opportunity to spend some extra time in Omaha, doing my "grandma thing" and getting to know my two favorite boys a little better. (There are some benefits to being laid off from your job.) The day ends with bath time, and though my knees are a little creaky, I'm not going to let that scuttle a game of "This Little Piggy..." So I wash those tiny toes. And all the while, love grows.

Can I really be so thankful to have the inglorious job of washing someone else's feet?!

That's a question we might all be asking ourselves as we prepare for Weekend #41. As Christians, our goal is to follow Christ's example. Jesus washed the feet of his disciples to show us what it means to be a true servant of God. It's hard to fathom it: Jesus, the King of Kings, on his knees, a towel around his waist, washing the dusty, crusty feet of a rather rag-tag band of followers. Here was Christ's "pedicure" for haughtiness and self-centeredness. "Whoever wants to be first must be a slave of all," Jesus said. Servanthood, it seems, starts from the feet up.

I admit I have not been the world's best foot washer. Sometimes it's hard for me to get past the corns and bunions and floating fuzzies in the basin and concentrate on the face that belongs to the feet – the face of one of God's beloved children. I wonder, what does that person see when she looks at me, there on my pained knees? My prayer is that it will be the face of Christ.

And that's what it's all about – serving others. Getting beyond who we *think* we are, and just being what God calls us to be: foot washers extraordinaire. Now *there's* a profession with great job security. As weekend #41 approaches, consider how you can go about the business of foot washing. How will you give of yourself? Has your servant's heart lead you to answer the call to work on team? The candidates will surely see Christ through you. Will you ask that certain person to attend—even the one you're sure *won't* (never limit the power of the Holy Spirit). Will you offer prayer and palanca? Will you attend the send-off, the serenade, the clausura, as so many did for you? Will you let yourself experience the joy of "washing some little piggies" for sake of the Kingdom?

Grab a towel. You may just discover that sometimes faith grows not by leaps and bounds, but one (washed) foot at a time.

De Colores!
Barb Geerts
Rectora, #41

Living Water via de Cristo

Continuing Education

Saturday, January 16, 2010
9:30 am -Noon

Evangelical Covenant Church, 24 North Main Street,
Princeton, Illinois

Purpose of Continuing Education

- To go over the events of the retreat and place them in the context of the dynamics of the weekend
 - To emphasize the importance of sponsorship and palanca to the success of the weekend
 - To affirm the reality that the retreats are held to provide the Fourth Day, and that group reunion, attending Ultreyas, and spiritual direction are the Cursillo methods means of ensuring perseverance in the faith
- To introduce the role of the Secretariat in providing the retreats and the Fourth Day experience
 - To remind new pilgrims that Via de Cristo is *one* of the tools used to further the mission of the local congregation and the larger Church.

Complete the form below. Make reservations now for your place at the next Continuing Education Meeting using any of the following means:

Mail: Complete the bottom of this form and mail to Anne and Arnold Faber, Leaders Chair
407 Bryant Circle Drive, Princeton, IL 61356

Email: alfaff@verizon.net Please put "VDC Continuing Ed" in the subject and include the information asked for in the form in your email

Call: 815-872-1178 and leave a message with the information asked for in the form below.

Name _____ Weekend attended _____

Address _____ Telephone or email _____

Living Water Via de Cristo Team Participation

Weekend#41:

Men's Weekend April 15-18, 2010 Women's Weekend April 22-25, 2010

Retreat Site: Rock River Christian Camp, Polo, Illinois*

Team Training Dates: January 23, February 13,

February 26-27-men overnight, March 5-6-women overnight, March 20, 2010

Training sessions at 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., overnight begins at 7 PM on Friday.

Location of team trainings will be announced later. All team members should, regardless of experience, attend **all** team meetings. ****Continuing Education class is required for first time team members. Training sessions are only offered twice a year.**

I understand that as a team member I will be expected to:

- attend the training sessions in their entirety, except by special arrangement with the Rector/a:
- regularly worship and participate in local church activities:
- be active in a reunion group.

_____ I would like to submit my talents, my prayer support, and myself for Living Water VdC Weekend #41.

Served on any previous team? () Yes () No *If "yes", my last team service was on Weekend # _____*

My special talents: (music, guitar, kitchen experience, etc.) _____

Reunion Group Participation () Yes () No *All team members are requested to be involved with an active reunion group to serve on team.*

My home congregation is: _____ in _____

Because of physical limitations or dietary needs, if I serve on team, I will need the following accommodations: _____

_____ I am trained and certified for CPR. _____ I hold a food service license, issued by _____

_____ I am unable to serve on team, but would be willing to be a prayer warrior for #40

_____ I am willing to help set-up on Thursday afternoon or tear-down on Sunday afternoon of the weekend.

Name: _____ e-mail address (optional) _____

Address _____ telephone #: () _____ Cell # () _____

* RRCC is a smoke-free facility

Thank you for your willingness to serve the Lord through this renewal weekend. Please return this form to the following leaders by **12/5/2009**. *Application submission does not guarantee placement on team, only willingness to be called.*

Rector: Joel Nelson
447 S First St
Princeton, IL 61356
815-875-1228

Rectora: Barb Geerts
2011 E. Rusholme St.
Davenport, IA 52803
563-388-2847

Living Water Via de Cristo
Application for the Lutheran Spiritual Renewal Movement
Affiliated with the Illowa Lutheran Coalition

I. Applicant Information *(Please print. Return application to sponsor when completed.)*

Full name _____ Age (18 minimum) _____ Male _____
Female _____

Name or nickname you would like on name tag _____ Home phone () _____
Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Occupation _____ Work phone () _____ E-mail _____

Home church _____ Denomination _____

Church address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church phone () _____ Pastor's name _____

Contact person (*other than spouse*): Name _____ Phone () _____

Tell us about your current church involvement - activities, positions held, etc. (*Attach sheet if needed.*)

Please note any special medical or dietary needs, physical limitations, or sleeping arrangements needed:

Marital Status: Single _____ Divorced _____ Widowed _____ Married _____ Spouse's name _____

If married, spouse: has _____, will _____, will not _____, attend(ed) a Via de Cristo or similar weekend
(*Spouses are encouraged to attend consecutive weekends.*)

Weekend you wish to attend _____ Would you be available on short notice if a cancellation occurs? _____

Applicant's signature _____ Date _____

II. Pastor's Signature *(See information on back.)*

As the applicant's pastor, I offer my support and prayers for my parishioner's participation in this opportunity for growth as a Christian leader.

Signed _____

III. Sponsor's Information *(To be filled in by sponsor.)*

Sponsor's name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home phone () _____ Work () _____ Are you involved in a reunion group? _____

Date & location of your VdC or other weekend _____ Weekend number _____

Note to the applicant's pastor:

This member from your congregation has applied to attend an upcoming Via de Cristo weekend sponsored by the Illowa Lutheran Coalition. These weekends are designed to provide faith renewal for Christians by grounding them more fully in God's grace and in the disciplines of prayer, study and service. It is our hope that participants in the weekend will return to their home parishes renewed and better equipped to serve their church as leaders. Therefore we expect participants in the weekend to be active members of their church. Like Marriage Encounter, which seeks to strengthen healthy marriages rather than heal troubled ones, Via de Cristo is designed to strengthen faith rather than provide spiritual conversion for a struggling Christian. In addition, it is our hope that married persons will be able to attend consecutive weekends so that they can share the experience together. This can be a very positive thing. If one partner is unable to do this, but could at a later date, we encourage the couple to wait. If one partner simply doesn't want to attend a weekend and is unlikely to ever do so in the future, then we wish to know whether or not you as their pastor have any concerns about the impact of the weekend on their marriage.

If you do not have any concerns about your parishioner's involvement in this weekend, we ask for your signature of support. If you have any apprehension, we would appreciate hearing from you in writing. If you wish to talk further to one of our spiritual directors concerning Via de Cristo, please call Pastor Randy Willers at 309-764-5614. Thank you for taking this under consideration.

Sponsor's Checklist:

- _____ The applicant's portion of the application (Part I) is complete.
- _____ The applicant's check is attached.
- _____ The applicant's pastor has signed the application (Part II).
- _____ I believe this applicant will benefit from a Via de Cristo weekend.
- _____ I have read the responsibilities of the sponsor and agree to abide by them.

Sponsor's signature _____ Date _____

Please return the completed application, along with a non-refundable deposit of \$25 (make checks payable to Living Water Via de Cristo), to the Pre-Weekend Chairs:

Jerry and Krista Hanson
1624 S Main St
Princeton, IL 61356-2629
815-875-2359

The deposit will be applied to the suggested contribution of \$110.00. Financial assistance is available when needed. **Applications should be sent at least five weeks prior to the weekend.**

Thank you for helping to expand the reach of the VdC movement.

Illowa Lutheran Coalition
 Augustana College
 639 – 38th Street,
 Rock Island, IL 61201

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID Rock Island, IL 61201 PERMIT NO. 224

Return Service Requested

Living Water Via de Cristo Secretariat Members 2009-2010

Lay Director: Gary and Pam Gross	309-797-5561	ggross@qconline.com
Asst. Lay Directors: Jim & Debbie Case	309-787-4895	debjim1277@gmail.com
Spiritual Director:		
Spiritual Director: Pastor Randy Willers	309-764-5614	rwillers@qconline.com
Treasurers: Lisa Vincent	815-875-9123	Glvin922@verizon.net
Secretary: Margie Olson	309-582-7885	Dolson2@winco.net
Pre-Weekend: Jerry and Krista Hanson	815-875-2359	jandkhanson@msn.com
Weekend: Paul Baker	815-223-2095	ptb1818@gmail.com
Kitchen: Augie and Kim Calsyn	319-391-6126	akcalsyn@msn.com
Post-Weekend: Bruce and Valerie Daniel	309-798-9494	grdmail@hotmail.com
Leaders: Arnie and Anne Faber	815-872-1178	alfaff@verizon.net
Palanca: Jeff & Heidi Elkins	309-736-0013	ElkinsJeffM@JohnDeere.com
Communications: Cindy Hart	309-792-9030	prayers@livingwaterviadechristo.org