

!!! DECEMBER ULTREYA!!!

Also, a December Ulteya (desserts only) will be hosted at:
Salem Lutheran

1724 15th St.

Moline, Illinois 61265

309-764-5614

See map below:

The Service will begin at 5 p.m. with fellowship and desserts immediately following.



Upcoming dates:

Final team training October 3 @ St. Mark Lutheran Church Polo, IL

Fall Mixed Weekend October 15th through 18th 2009 at Rock River Christian Camp in
Polo, IL

Send Off Thursday October 15, at Camp

**Due to road construction, take highway 52 out of Polo to highway 64 turn
right and go approx. 2 miles. Camp will be on the left.**

Serenade Saturday October 17, Staging at St Mark's Polo @ 6 p.m.

Clausura October 18, Church @ St. Mark's Polo @ 5 p.m.

FROM THE LAY DIRECTORS . . .

Greetings to all,

As I sit here on a beautiful sunny day in September, I am reminded that God is in everything and with us always. I look at the beauty of the flowers still blooming in our garden and the leaves that are starting to change color. I hear the birds outside the window singing their praises. God created us all and He did a beautiful job! It is easy on a quiet day like this to know that He is near. When Monday comes and we start to rush with our jobs, family activities, and life's other commitments, it is very easy to lose track of His presence. I often ask myself, "How did I get so busy that I fail to notice that the Lord is here – here with me?" We tend to get caught up in "life" and forget to stop and live the life that God wants us to live. The Via de Cristo weekend really allows us to take time and live the life God wants us to have. We need to live our fourth day that way. Let's not get caught up in every day "life" and forget to share God's love with others. Who do you know that would benefit from a weekend of walking close to Christ? Pray and then ask. Let the Holy Spirit do the calling to the person, but remember Christ needs you to give the spoken word to that person. Just share how the weekend has impacted your life. We need to be bold in the asking and the telling of Christ's Love and Grace.

The weekend will be here before we know it. Be a part of the weekend through being a sponsor, attending the send off and clausura, singing at the serenade, or praying. Remember Christ is counting on you.

Your Lay Directors, Pam and Gary Gross

FROM THE ASSISTANT LAY DIRECTORS . . .

Wow! It's hard to believe that LWVDC Mixed Weekend #40 is almost here! After months of praying, training, planning, and serving the calendar says, "God is almost ready for Weekend #40 to begin!" You still have time to encourage someone to attend Weekend #40. It's sometimes a challenge to step out of our comfort zones and invite, but pray for the words and the timing to ask someone that you may sense that the Holy Spirit is nudging you to ask.

Challenges at times can be difficult in our lives. A few months ago after church, we stopped at the county shelter and adopted our kitten, Rosie. We had no idea about the journey ahead when we brought Rosie home. She had the sniffles at the shelter, but they gave her a shot and sent her home on an antibiotic, and told us she would be fine in a couple of days. The illness plaguing her became more intense in the next few days, and the shelter informed us that we could bring her back and get a different kitten if we would like. Instead we made countless trips to the vet, listened each night wondering if each breath would be her last, forced antibiotics and other medications down her twice a day, and most importantly we prayed over that kitten. The vet wasn't sure of her future. Our love for Rosie was sincere, and our goal was to do whatever it took to help her become well. This story has a happy ending because Rosie is now a healthy, loveable, and happy kitten that loves us just as much as we love her.

You may wonder what a story about a kitten has anything to do with a Living Water Via de Cristo weekend. In truth every LWVDC weekend offers our hearts great challenges. Obstacles are present for each weekend that occurs, but God's sincere Love helps us overcome all of these. Forming a team, bonding a team together, preparing to serve, inviting friends and family to become candidates, planning logistics, and working through minor problems, changes, or conflicts, can present challenges. But when the weekend arrives, love is abundant, and God has created a beautiful place for the candidates to come and see a reflection of His Love in the servants that He has prepared. You have the opportunity to help that love grow in someone's life. It might be a challenge, but you still have time to invite someone to come and see what God has prepared for them.

Praying for Weekend #40,
Jim & Debbie Case

FROM THE HEAD SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR . . .

Unity and Diversity

When I began seminary, my first class was called “Unity and Diversity.” It was meant to accomplish many different things. One was to show us the many different areas of study that were taught at the seminary; biblical, theological, and pastoral care. We also examined the differences between different Christian denominations and various world religions. Field trips were taken to both the ELCA church wide offices in Chicago and to a mosque of Islam. During several sessions, we looked at the Biblical scholarship over the past century. This caused a real struggle for me, because it made me realize that my simplistic Sunday School view of the Bible would be challenged. It even made me wonder if I was really called to the ministry. But I stuck it out, and with prayer, reliance on the Holy Spirit, and continued study I found the Bible to be even richer than I had ever imaged. Since that time, I have never regretted or questioned my call.

The ELCA is also going through a time of struggle after our Churchwide Assembly this past August. During that assembly, the ELCA approved a social statement on human sexuality that included the acceptance of gay and lesbian members in a committed relationship, and allowed for them to be rostered as clergy. This has lead many to wonder what we are going to do in Via de Cristo. Will we take a position on this issue? Will we be having gay and lesbian pastors as Spiritual Directors? Will we be taking a different stand on scripture?

I will first begin by saying that Living Water Via de Cristo will *not* be taking a stand on this issue. As we have repeatedly said, Via de Cristo is not the church, it is not a church within the church, it is a movement of the church. As such, we will continue to emphasize and teach those doctrines of the church that lead to salvation. That Jesus Christ is the Son of God who died for our sins so we can be reconciled to God. That we are saved by grace through our faith. That Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to bring us, keep us and strengthen us in that faith. Nothing that happens within the ELCA, or the LCMS, or the PCUSA, or the UCC, or the UMC, or in any other denomination is going to change that.

Bishop Mark Hanson, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA and President of the Lutheran World Federation, was featured in a documentary last year entitled “In God’s Name.” It examined the different religions of the world, and how we can live together. In it Bishop Hanson said something that very much applies to this issue. He said, *“I think one of the greatest challenges today is the relationship between unity and diversity. If we don’t have a sense of what holds us together, then our differences, our diversity, will become cause for division and conflict; one seeking to dominate the other. But if we have a sense of what unites us, then our differences, our diversity, will enrich our lives.”*

We will hold to different religious tenets, principles, and ways of examining scripture. And yes, there are already many differences between our denominations. But we have one thing that unites us, and that is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Via de Cristo is a spiritual renewal movement that seeks to strengthen the faith of the individual so they can be better equipped to serve our Lord. We follow Lutheran doctrine, but are ecumenical in nature. Via de Cristo can do this because we focus on those things we have in common as Christians. If we continue to do this, we will be fulfilling the prayer of our Lord, when he prayed; *“As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one.”* (John 17:21b-22) May we continue to be united in our Lord through Via de Cristo, even with our diversity.

- Pastor Randy

FROM THE RECTOR...

Dear Community,

It is just a short time before weekend #40 will start on October 15th. The team has had three great trainings so far and we are looking forward to the final training on October 3rd. All the team has preformed well in preparation for the weekend. We are looking forward to serving the candidates, as we are servants of Christ for them. Team #40 thanks the Via de Cristo community for their support up to now and we look forward to their continued support in prayer along with the support from those that will attend the send off on Thursday night, the Serenade and the Clausura on Sunday. This will show the candidates what the community is about and how Living Water Via de Cristo can help them in their fourth day. May god bless you all as we support weekend #40 and the weekends to follow.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer. Psalm 19:14.

Gary Gross, Rector mixed weekend #40

FROM PALANCA...

We still have 23 open time slots on the prayer scroll. If you have already signed up, thank you so much. If you have not yet signed up, please take some time to remember the impact the unrolling of the scroll had on your weekend and prayerful consider signing up now.

GLYASDI!

Heidi (W#30) and Jeff (M#30) Elkins - *Living Water Via de Cristo Palanca Chairs*

504 - 23rd Avenue, Moline, IL. 61265
phone: 309.736.0013
email:Elkins2k@mail.com

WEEKEND...

It is getting to be that time of year again and our fall weekend is fast approaching. This will be our second weekend at the Rock River camp near Polo IL. The fall weekend dates this year are October 15th thru the 18th. I want to encourage everyone to make the trip out to the camp sometime during the weekend. The community's support during the weekend is very important to the team and the candidates, plus it is a great way to get back in touch with some of your Christian brothers and sisters that you may not have seen for a while. There are two aspects of the weekend that are very important and those are the setup of the camp on Thursday afternoon and packing everything back up on Sunday afternoon. The trailer with all of our equipment etc. will be at the camp on Thursday at 1pm. So if you are able please help out the team and come to the camp on Thursday afternoon and help set the camp up. We can also use your help Sunday afternoon to pack everything back up and clean the camp. We need to make sure we leave the camp in as good a shape or better than we found it when we leave. Not only is it the Christian thing to do but the camp can charge us an extra \$200 if we do not. There is one last item. I have received some requests for crosses from members of the community who need a new one. I do have extra crosses so I should be able to fulfill these requests. The cost of a cross is \$5 and I will have them with me at the weekend. I plan on being at all of the activities during the weekend so if you need crosses please track me down and I should be able to get you one.

God bless all of you and go in peace.

Paul Baker

Weekend Chair

FROM COMMUNICATIONS...

E-mails for prayer requests, joys and thanksgivings to be shared with the community can be emailed to either: prayers@livingwaterviadecristo.org or qcharts@att.net

Cindy Hart #35, 3611 Friendship Farm Road, East Moline, Il. 61244, (309-792-9030)

Check out our website: www.livingwaterviadecristo.org

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 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

Princeton, IL 61356

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 2008-2009

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Assistant 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
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