

Living Water Via de Cristo News
Sept/Oct 2011 Issue 158

~ Upcoming Dates and Ultreya News ~

UPCOMING DATES

Weekend#44: October 20st-23rd 2011
Retreat Site: Rock River Christian Camp, Polo, Illinois

Team Training Dates

September 3rd Prince of Peace Davenport, IA.
September 16-17th overnight St. Matthew's Princeton, IL.
October 1st First Lutheran Geneseo, IL.
Training sessions at 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Overnight begins at 7 PM
on Friday.

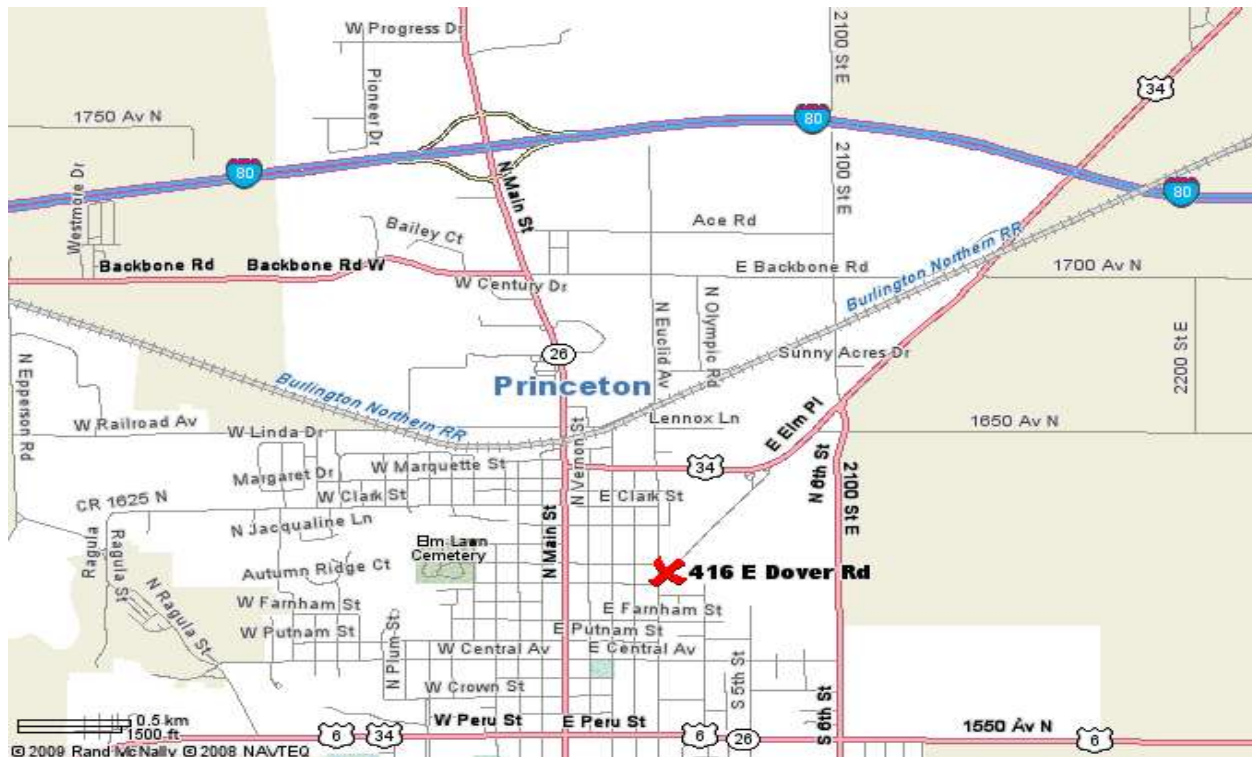
The November 5th Ultreya

Will be hosted by:
ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
416 E. Dover Road
Princeton Illinois 61356
815-879-6491

I-80 & N MAIN ST in PRINCETON going toward ACE RD - go 1.1 mi

Turn Left on E ELM PL (US-34) - go 0.3 mi. Turn Right on N EUCLID AVE – go 0.4 mi.

Turn Left on E DOVER RD. Arrive at St Matthew's on left



Potluck begins at 5:30 with services to follow
Bring a dish to share and your own table service
Nursery is provided for children up to age 5.

LAY DIRECTOR(S) ...

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”

2 Cor 5:17

De Colores from Your Lay Directors!

I’m writing this having just returned from a little “getaway” in Dubuque, Iowa, with the hubby. We spent a night at the town’s historic, downtown hotel, thanks to a gift certificate we received from our son and daughter-in-law for our 30th anniversary last fall. Why that particular hotel? Because we had stayed there the second day of our honeymoon, on our way to ... the Caribbean? The Greek Isles? Paris, the City of Romance? No, it was that marvelous Mecca of the newly married, The House on the Rock in Wisconsin (way to woo a girl, Joe).

At the time, this landmark hotel was definitely a pothole in the road to Dodgeville – one I’d like to forget. The once-grand hostelry had, shall we say, lost a good deal of her luster. I can still picture “our” room: It was the tiniest I had ever seen in a hotel, smaller, even than a dorm room. With the bathroom door open, you couldn’t walk by the bed, which, itself, was almost wide enough to accommodate the Travelocity gnome. The only thing missing was a top bunk and a pin-up of Farrah Fawcett. Everything was old and dingy and ... I loved my husband, but ... this?

Fast forward to the present: Our honeymoon hotel recently was fully restored, its interior renovated and richly appointed to serve even the most well heeled of clientele. And this time around, we two guests felt like royalty. Why, there were even plush robes hanging in our closet! What a transformation! What a difference three decades had made!

Sounds vaguely familiar for us at Living Water, doesn’t it? We’ve often heard, “What a difference three days make.” First and foremost, the phrase speaks to the Crucifixion of our Lord, who died and was raised three days later, freeing us from sin and death. But for many, the expression also describes their Via de Cristo experience. That’s how it was for me. The slightly anxious person who arrived at the camp that Thursday night was not the same person who vacated the premises on Sunday. What a difference three days make. I didn’t know exactly how to explain it, but something had changed deep inside me, and it was good. I discovered that God’s love and grace are just too big to put a finger on, but there’s no denying His power to transform. Think of it as “Extreme Makeover: Hope Addition.”

I figure it’s no accident that Jesus was a carpenter. And what he fashioned in three days with only a hammer and three nails will never crumble and fade. He is an expert at restoration – ours! He helps us “put off the old.” In Him, we are a new creation!

Let’s not forget that the upcoming VdC weekend offers the perfect opportunity for a “spiritual spruce-up.” There are Christians out there whose faith foundation may be cracking just a bit,

who could use a “faithlift.” Others might simply need a little extra TLC to get that “shine” back. Whatever the case, we have the world’s best Carpenter and a great crew (the team of #44) ready to get to work. The Lord will

use the tools of Living Water Via de Cristo to “make over” His children into the true treasures they were created to be.

Now all He needs is YOU and ME and a “COME AND SEE!”

GLYASDW!

Barb and Joe Geerts, LW #16

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR...

Green Palanca

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God.

2 Corinthians 9:11-12

It seems that prices are always going up. Even with interest rates at historic lows, the cost of food, gas, clothing and shelter keep rising. The same is true for the cost of providing a weekend. In the early days of Living Water about 20 years ago, the cost for a candidate or team member to participate was \$75. Now that cost has gone up to \$110 – an increase of 47%. And with the move to a new location next year, the weekends will be at a much nicer facility - but the cost will run even higher.

This has been a concern to the secretariat, because if the cost becomes too great it may become an obstacle to attending. While there are some funds for scholarships, most of the financial burden still falls on the candidates and sponsors to foot the bill. We do not want people to stay away from the weekend due to cost, but we wondered what can be done to reduce the fee for candidates to attend.

While several options were considered, one way to lower the cost to candidates is to underwrite their expense through donations from the community. Consider this. We now have over 1500 people who have attended a Living Water weekend. Only a small fraction of this community is able to help on each team. But those who do not serve can help in other ways. One is through prayer. Prayer is always the strength of our weekends, and is the palanca (the lever) that causes great things to happen. Another way to help was mentioned at the National Lutheran Secretariat meeting this summer. At this annual convention, I learned the term “green palanca.” Green palanca consists of the prayers and the sacrifice of a financial donation made to the movement. For those who are unable to be on a team, this is another way to serve. Donations to Living Water would also be considered tax-deductable, since we are a 501 c3 organization.

Why consider donating “green palanca” to Living Water? For one thing, it will allow others to experience God’s grace in a new way. Can you image the impact it would have when people can go through a weekend at a greatly reduced cost? It would be another expression of God’s love that will affect the candidates. In another way, “green palanca” would be a way to give thanks for our own weekend experience. If you are like me, the weekend will have changed you in ways you could never have imagined. The deepening of faith and the peace that comes from being closer to our Lord is something we cannot put a price on.

So I ask you to keep praying. Pray for Living Water Weekend 44, and pray about asking someone to attend. We have a great treasure with Via de Cristo that is meant to be shared. And if you are able, join me in donating “green palanca” to Living Water. For as Saint Paul wrote to the Corinthians, it will not only supply the needs for the saints who attend, but it will also overflow with many thanksgivings to God.

- Pastor Randy

RECTOR/RECTORA...

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

As we write this letter, it’s hard to believe that our first team meeting is fast approaching. We have been reminded constantly by Matthew 18:20 which says “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” This verse reminds us that God has been with us during team selection and will continue to walk with us at each of our team meetings preparing us for weekend #44. This is so comforting to know.

We have been truly blessed by those that have said yes to God’s call. We do know that God had already chosen the team for weekend #44 and now it is time for us to start praying about candidates for the weekend. Take time to talk to God about that person whose name has been placed upon your heart. Remember as one of our Rollos says – talk to God about the person before you talk to the person about God.

We have also been reminded that when it looks like everything is going well, watch out! As in so many teams before us, this is where Satan starts to try and cause problems for the up coming weekend, for those serving at the camp and for those who have been called as candidates for the weekend. With the entire VDC community as part of this team we need to pray daily for every aspect of the up coming weekend and keep Satan behind us and let God lead us through this exciting journey.

We ask for prayers for each of our team meetings: 2nd meeting: September 3rd – Prince of Peace, Davenport, Overnighter: September 16/17 – St. Matthew’s, Princeton and 4th meeting – October 1st – First Lutheran – Geneseo.

**GLY&SDW,
Jeff & Linda Berry Rector and Rectora and Jeff Whalen, Head Cha**

PRE-WEEKEND CHAIR...

The Fall weekend #44 is only weeks away! We actually had two candidate applications as a roll over from the spring weekends. The closer to the weekend the harder it is to get the needed information out to those who need it! Please keep in prayer those people who you are thinking about asking to attend the weekend! Pray for the people who have already said yes to attending! All of our Thanks and Praise to God for allowing us the continued opportunity to be a part of His call to Action to bring His people closer to Him and each other through these weekends! Pray about bringing someone closer in their relationship with Christ. We pray that in the next few days and weeks that you will strongly meditate on those people that you care about deeply enough to pray for to attend a weekend. We say pray for because if God has put them on your heart to consider asking to attend a weekend, you should pray about it before you act. Please pray also for the team of weekends #44 and for Rectora Linda and Rector Jeff that God continues to prepare us to act in service to Him. Please pray for the candidates that are to come. Pray that God fills the mixed weekend with candidates, and pray that God calls all of us to be a part of His Movement! So, what are you waiting for? Get Praying!

God Bless,
Amy Peterson
Pre-weekend Chair
#24

PALANCA CHAIRS...

The prayer vigil for the fall weekend is posted. Remember how you felt when you realized people had been praying for you the entire weekend!

Please sign up at our website at:

www.livingwaterviadecristo.org

You can sign up for as many 30 minute spots as you would like.

Jim and Patty Turner
Palanca Chairs

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@sbcglobal.net

Or call: 309-792-9030

Check out our website: www.livingwaterviadecristo.org

In His service,
Cindy Hart
Communications Chair

**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 Chair:

Amy Peterson
318 Elm Place
Princeton, Illinois 61356
815-872-5703

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 2011-2012

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Asst. Spiritual Director: Pastor Terrie Wilder	815 677-3444	tfwilder@comcast.net
Treasurer: Lisa Vincent	815-875-9123	glvin922@frontier.com
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