

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- **Men's Walk**  
Apr. 21 to  
24, 2016
- **Women's  
Walk** Apr.  
28 to May 1,  
2016
- Board  
meeting  
Mar. 12,  
Electronic

INSIDE  
THIS  
ISSUE:

Meet the New Comm- unity Lay Dir	1
The Emmaus Experience	3
Clergy: Lead- ership and Development	4
Community Gathering	5
ALL about working in Committees	6
Servanthood Opportunities	7
Walk Dates/ Board Members	8

# Minnesota Walk to Emmaus

## Meet the New Community Lay Director, Barb Keith

I have been active in Walk to Emmaus since my pilgrim walk in Cedar Rapids IA, when the Minnesota community was still in the birthing process, about 23 years ago. I have served on walks in all lay capacities, and have served on the Board as Team Selection chair for the past three years. Being in a top leadership role is new to me, and I am humbled to see how God will use the gifts that I bring to it to serve the Minnesota Emmaus community. Emmaus has been an important part of my life. When my husband was serving as pastor, we moved frequently, and the contact with fellow clergy spouses and friends from Emmaus teams was my ongoing support system. Now my passion for Emmaus is much less self-centered, and I serve because I believe it is a well-thought out, effective tool, with its focus on one's Fourth Days, after the weekend walk, and accountability in one's daily discipleship walk. I have witnessed inspirational changes in many who have grown by taking to heart the one-message-in-fifteen-talks of God's love and grace. I would like to think others have observed some of these changes in my own life, as well! De Colores!

## Emmaus Prayer Warriors

We know that the weekend Walks are bathed in prayer, as evidenced by the 72 hour prayer chart and by the lives that are changed through the Walk experience. We know that folks around the community pray for MN Emmaus on a regular basis. When we strive to discern God's will and be the hands and feet of Christ, Satan is threatened, and fights back. As we begin to move into uncharted territory of finding ways to conquer the geographical barrier, we covet your prayer support. I will provide timely prayer topics every month (one to focus on each week) to anyone or any reunion group which commits to being a prayer warrior for Emmaus. What an opportunity for behind the scenes servant leadership! [Barb Keith, CLD](#)

## Fleshing Out the Future by Barb Keith



*Do not be afraid,  
little flock, for it is  
**your Father's good**  
pleasure to give  
you the kingdom.*

*-Luke 12:32*

Arguably the biggest challenge faced by the MN Emmaus community is our geography. Emmaus is designed for a much smaller area, for instance, one metropolitan area (or even a portion there-of), or a portion of a state. We are trying to meet the needs of both Minnesota and western Wisconsin! Distance to Candlelight and Closing is usually at least a two hour drive, and sometimes significantly longer, each way. Just attending team meetings requires a major commitment by a team member, and it has certainly made finding candidates for the Emmaus Board much more difficult. Sponsors and pilgrims find it a barrier to have to travel long distances to attend and support the Walk.

Certainly there have been attempts to deal with this in various ways over the years. Walks have been held in a variety of places, scattered throughout the region. Discussions have been held about splitting the community. Yet, the reality is, we are still dealing with this issue! I believe we are poised in a good position to make some serious inroads to overcome this obstacle.

The Board has been working HARD in the past three years to set in place the infrastructure needed to revitalize our community. We have cleaned up the membership directory, we have set in place processes to follow up with sponsors and recent pilgrims. We have more clearly described the task of each board position to eliminate gaps, and to aid transitions. We have increased our communication to the community. We are in the process of filling up committees working in each area of the board's responsibilities. This engaged community will allow us to consider ways to bring things to a more local level for the walks. Another very exciting factor is the increased promotion by the Minnesota United Methodist Annual Conference leadership to its clergy, to encourage use of this discipleship tool for developing their congregation's leaders.

I think that within 5 years, we could realistically be holding walks in each quadrant of the state. This will take additional work: finding facilities, providing opportunities for community members in all parts of the state to gain the experience necessary to support a more local walk, managing logistics of inventory (trailer, team meeting supplies), ensuring the local community is ready to support the on-site weekend activities and so on.

What do you think? The community's support will be essential to make this a reality! Can you help flesh out the vision, helping to break it down into smaller, doable steps? Can you market it? Can you fund raise for the multiple sets of walk materials that will be needed? Can you sponsor and mentor pilgrims in your area, who are willing to serve in positions of progressive servanthood? Can you bring this vision before God in prayer? Pray about your part in the future of MN Emmaus! If you are ready to answer yes to one of the above questions, please [contact our Community Lay Director, Barb Keith, for further information on cld@mneammaus.org](mailto:cld@mneammaus.org).

# The Emmaus Experience

## Emmaus – A Journey with Christ

The walk to Emmaus is an experience of Christian spiritual renewal and formation that begins with a three-day short course in Christianity. It is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as God's grace and love is revealed to you through other believers.

The Walk to Emmaus experience begins with the prayerful invitation from a sponsor – or someone who has walked the journey before you. Just as Christ walked with the disciples on the road to Emmaus, a sponsor walks with both you and Christ to ensure you don't walk alone in this journey.

**Who should go to an Emmaus weekend?** Emmaus is open to members of any Christian denomination whose aim is for the development of Christian leaders who ...

- Are members of a local church
- Have a desire to strengthen their spiritual lives
- May have unanswered questions about their faith
- Are willing to dedicate their everyday lives to God in an ongoing manner

**What happens on this 3-day weekend?** You will enjoy three days of singing, learning, laughing, worshiping, reflecting, praying and participating in small groups. Discussions center around fifteen talks given by laity and clergy. These talks present the theme of God's grace, how that grace comes alive in the Christian community and how it is expressed to the world. You'll also discover how grace is real in your life, how you live a life of grace, and how you bring that grace to others.

**What happens after an Emmaus Weekend?** You are invited to have a closer walk with Christ for the rest of your life. Where the retreat is 3 days of your life – the days following your walk are referred to as your 4<sup>th</sup> Days. Those who attend a Walk to Emmaus are encouraged to:

- Form or join an accountability/reunion group with 2+ people to meet regularly to walk together as you face the challenges and blessings of a life lived in grace.
- Attend local gatherings and events sponsored by the community.
- Expand your own spiritual life through worship, study and active participation at your local church.
- Become more active disciples of Christ in service to the world.
- Participate in the many opportunities to serve on a future Walk to Emmaus.

Please consider sharing what Emmaus has meant to you with someone you care about — and giving of yourself on the next set of walks.



*While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them . . .*  
-Luke 24: 15a



*Be joyful always,  
pray continually.*

*-1Thes 5:16-17*

## Clergy Corner

As a board seeking to grow our numbers in the MN Walk to Emmaus Fourth Day movement, we celebrate all the support and promotion we are receiving from the Minnesota Conference of the United Methodist Church. On Saturday, February 27 about 200 lay leaders and clergy from the Southern Prairie District met throughout the day at First United Methodist Church in Windom, MN to learn about ways we can reach out to others with the good news of the Gospel and meet them right where they are. Topics such as looking at evangelism differently, being intentional about discipleship, transforming people through our Wesleyan identity and reenergizing our giving to a world who needs us were discussed – and the Walk to Emmaus was promoted as a vehicle to support these topics. We were fortunate to be able to have a booth about the MN Walk to Emmaus and upcoming walks and spoke to many who are considering and excited about attending a future walk.

Teams are being formed and team meetings are being planned as of this writing. We are encouraged about the new clergy who are involved – either as a team member – or as a new pilgrim who will take the message of Emmaus to their congregations. The Holy Spirit is alive and well – and moving among us.

We have a lot to celebrate as we work together to develop leaders for the church. If you are interested in hearing more or becoming involved in your congregation, please contact Jim Crecelius at [csd@mne Emmaus.org](mailto:csd@mne Emmaus.org).

## Leadership and Development Training

Thank you to all the former lay directors who responded to the survey we sent from the MN Emmaus board of directors. We value your experience and are pleased that many of you are willing to help us as we move forward. The mentoring of current lay directors is in the second round. We are beginning the mentoring of Talk Preparation for current team members. Your experience and expertise will also prove valuable as we move ahead in expanding on-site prayer during walks, visitation of churches and outreach efforts. Several also responded with willingness to be serve in an emergency pool to assist on team as needed. This is a valuable resource for lay directors when unexpected changes in team formation occur. We will be sending a second request to those former lay directors who may have misplaced the survey, or who are still thinking about how you wish to serve. Your input is important to us.

Your ideas and input as always are welcomed. Call me at 763-218-0719 or email at [d\\_vandermyde@yahoo.com](mailto:d_vandermyde@yahoo.com).

**Darlene Vandermyde, Leadership Development Chair**

## Calling all Quilters!

The Emmaus Gala is coming up in August. I thought it could be fun to work together to create a quilt to donate to the silent auction. (I have never worked on a joint quilt project.) I would love to hear from anyone who has an interest in either working on a quilt like this or coordinating the project. Potential purchasers are welcome to contribute thoughts about potential size, style or colors.

If interested, contact Barb Keith at [barbartsweden@gmail.com](mailto:barbartsweden@gmail.com) 507-779-4124. I can also be found on Facebook.



... it is by grace  
you have been  
saved.  
-Ephesians 2:5

Save the date!  
Mark your calendars!  
Second Annual Gathering  
of the Emmaus Community  
Saturday, August 20, 2016  
Watch for more details

We're excited about this event being our **2nd Annual**—and as last year—plan to devote the funds raised for pilgrim support. Our goal is to make this year's event even bigger—and welcome your ideas for making this a very special evening for all. Plans are underway to secure auction items to potentially raise even more funds. If you have ideas, or wish to contribute possible items for the auction, please contact our Community-Wide Event Coordinator, [Mary Jo Bogle at cameolady420@comcast.net](mailto:MaryJoBogle@cameolady420.comcast.net).



Dear friends, let us  
love one another,  
for love come from  
God.  
-1 John 4:7a

## Walk to Emmaus—the Big Picture

Walk to Emmaus is an ecumenical tool of the Upper Room, with active communities around the world, and weekends taking place year round. You may be interested to learn that there is a whole family of experiences geared to different audiences. Chrysalis is the name of the program for youth in 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade, and from 19-24 years old. It differs from Emmaus by having adult leadership at the tables for the youth participants. Last year the Upper Room introduced a new program: Face to Face, which is designed to better meet the needs of people over age 60 by having the content divided into 8 different sessions. This year they will begin offering Journey to the Table, a version designed with young adults aged 18-35 in mind. Additionally, the Upper Room is actively seeking support for developing overseas Emmaus communities through a program called “The Gift.” Please see the website at <http://emmaus.upperroom.org/> for additional information about these programs, and for an opportunity to donate to The Gift.

## The Work of Emmaus—Committees!

The MN Emmaus Board of Directors is a “working” board. This means that each board position has a function essential to Fourth Day activities, Walk performance and maintaining an active MN Emmaus Community. The duties/tasks to be performed under each area are numerous. It would be a large task for one person and some of the important tasks may be overlooked. We are asking each person on the board to develop a committee to assist with covering all the necessary duties. This will lighten their workload and also allow more members of the Emmaus community to be involved.

We are looking at each job description, breaking out the tasks to be performed, and recruiting committee members accordingly. One example is Agape. The board director for that area looks at his/her job description and determines a committee person is needed in the following areas:

- a. maintain schedule/training
- b. send and receive letters from other Emmaus communities
- c. Recruit servers/decorators for Sat Dinner...men’s and women’s walks (2 persons)
- d. Sat dinner coordinator
- e. Prayer coordinator – 72 hour chart and development of on-site prayer

Each of the directors will follow this example. Some areas need 3-4 committee members and others need 6-7. We are in the process of developing committees for each of the areas:

Gatherings/Reunion Groups/Follow-up; Music/Entertainment; Facilities; Sponsorship/Outreach; Registration; Team Selection; Agape; and Leadership Development/Training

If you are available/willing to help in any of these areas please let us know. We welcome your involvement. You may talk with any of the board members or let me know and I will put you in touch with the Director responsible for your area of interest. Darlene Vandermyde at [d\\_vandermyde@yahoo.com](mailto:d_vandermyde@yahoo.com).



*The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into the harvest.*  
—Matt. 9:37-38

# Servanthood Opportunities

## On-Site service

Emmaus aims to develop leaders for the church. Part of leadership development is learning to serve humbly and anonymously, as Jesus did when he washed his disciples' feet. Most Emmaus communities cover a geographical area that encompasses one metro area (rather than 1+ states) and includes agape servants who come and go during the course of the weekend, serving behind the scenes preparing, serving and cleaning up after meals, cleaning bathrooms, praying for the conference room participants, etc.

We have gotten away from that model, patterning our Agape servers to stay for an entire weekend on site, and holding our retreats at a camp site where staff do all the kitchen work. Sponsors and a small fraction of the larger community attend Sponsors' Hour, Candlelight and Closing. Community has not been expected nor encouraged to engage in any other part of the weekend.

As we continue our efforts to more fully follow the model, we would like to offer ways for you to gain on-site agape experience in preparation for further service in the conference room as an alternative to being a part of a weekend Agape team, or just because your servant's heart compels you! We understand these roles to demonstrate a servant's heart by being behind the scenes, and by requiring a sacrificial effort on your part, partly because of the inclusion of travel time in order to participate in the following ways:

1. Assist with either set up on Thursday or tear down on Sunday.
2. Assist with both dining room set up/tear down and serving of the Saturday night meal.
3. Pray at the on-site Prayer Chapel (new) while at least two speakers are speaking.
4. Assist the on-site Agape team for at least a half day.

For planning purposes, we need to know your intention. Sign up today! Visit our website at [www.mnemmaus.org](http://www.mnemmaus.org) —fill out the information on the Willing Servant form to indicate where you would like to serve. It can be found on the On Site Servanthood Opportunities tab—or copy this link in your browser

[http://www.mnemmaus.org/site/questionnaire.asp?q\\_id=180006754&sec\\_id=180014908](http://www.mnemmaus.org/site/questionnaire.asp?q_id=180006754&sec_id=180014908)

**Minnesota Walk to Emmaus**  
**Richfield United Methodist Church**  
**5835 Lyndale Ave. S.**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55419**  
**www.mnemmaus.org**

**Upcoming Walks!**      **Walk #111 (Men) April 21-24, 2016**      **Camp Koronis, Paynesville**

**Walk #112 (Women) April 28-May 1, 2016**

**Walk #113 (Men) Oct. 27-30, 2016**

**Walk #114 (Women) Nov. 3-6, 2016**

2016 Minnesota Walk to Emmaus Board of Directors

Barb Keith	Community Lay Director	507-779-4124	cld@mnemmaus.org
Tammy Malcom	Secretary	507-276-1133	secretary@mnemmaus.org
Adela Scherer	Treasurer	507-388-1892	treas@mnemmaus.org
Linda Nelson	Past Community Lay Director	612-655-1899	pclld@mnemmaus.org
Jeff Adams	Facilities	507-340-2432	facilities@mnemmaus.org
OPEN	Agape		agape@mnemmaus.org
Shirley Jackson	Fourth Day	651-698-3034	fourthday@mnemmaus.org
OPEN	Team Selection		team@mnemmaus.org
Jim Crecelius	CSD/Music/Worship	763-269-1548	rjhsrc@gmail.com
Lolly Naslund	Registration	763-257-3043	registrar@mnemmaus.org
Yvonne Mangum	Membership	952-484-7268	membership@mnemmaus.org
Darlene Vandermyde	Leadership Development	612-781-9839	d_vandermyde@yahoo.com
OPEN	Sponsorship/Outreach		