

FUTURE WALKS

- **Men's Walk**
November 9-12, 2017—
Mankato
- **Women's Walk**
November 16-19, 2017 – Mankato
- **Men's Walk**
April 19-22
Camp Koronis
- **Women's Walk**
April 26-29
Camp Koronis

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Weekend Lay Directors, Walk Locations, & Contact Us	2
The Anchor	3
Lay Ministry	3
Why 20?	3
The Back Page— "You Don't Know"	4

Minnesota Walk to Emmaus

WWW.MNEMMAUS.ORG

JULY/AUGUST 2017

Pete Schenk - Community Lay Director

3X5 Cards

At a recent workshop the Board attended, 3X5 cards were handed out asking four questions. Question #3 was directed at what I as a CLD could be doing better and the overwhelming response was, more and better communication. I take that to heart. That feedback provided me with more direction.

The first thing that I discovered is that not everyone is getting newsletters. We found that we weren't communicating with the "active" members of the community. Active means sponsoring, service on Team or Agape, Board members, as well as the important committees that are being developed. So we are working on changing that and adding more names on a weekly basis. We're also finding new Emmaus members transferring in from other States. Those too are being added as we become aware.

Question #4 asked for Board member and Committee member visioning for two years and five years into the future. The overwhelming response was more communities. In two years, most envisioned a southern community and a version of our exiting community. In five years, most envisioned three communities; south, central, and north. With such a large territory, it just makes sense. It's hard to swallow at times but the fact that one community splits from the source community does not mean that the two communities don't share common attributes.

We'll look at the two options that Emmaus International has for us. It's a little complicated but to make one of the options work, requires a significant change in the Board structure. We'll cross that bridge, if and when we get there. Just know that the Board is aware of the process, should it become necessary.

Bylaws

Everyone's favorite subject, I am sure. Bylaws, are our covenant with the Minnesota Emmaus Community. That is the reason that the community has the ability to approve or not approve the content. The Board develops the bylaws, discusses them, and ultimately votes to send the bylaw amendments to the community. If greater than 50% of the community does not approve, the bylaws revert to the original.

Unfortunately, this may not be the last bylaw amendment you see for the year. We had to make some changes now to be prepared for the challenges of the future. The changes we are making now, are proactive. When Emmaus International changes their structure, we have no choice but to be reactive. And again, that is something we are prepared to handle.

Four Emmaus Positions

Recently an email was sent to all community members, seeking to fill four Emmaus positions for service to our community. One of the requirements was to have the Board approve, by letter of recommendation, the applicant for each position. To date, no requests have been submitted. Now I'm not sure if that is the structural change in the Emmaus organization or not. I also am not sure if those are the reasons for the new manuals, yet to be distributed. I guess, stay tuned to stay informed.

Weekend Lay Directors Named

For the upcoming Walks in November, the Board has commissioned Mary Tucker for the Women's Walk and Benjamin Lehman for the Men's Walk. Both come to us with a variety of experiences. Already, Teams are being put together from a list provided by Team Selection and while not 100% full at the present time, they should be completed shortly.

Thank you to both Benjamin and Mary for the Teams you are building.

Site Locations

The Upper Room/Emmaus International requires communities to secure Walk locations a minimum of one year in advance. We are trying to be more visionary than that as some of the prime locations are sometimes already booked two years in advance. In addition, we need to be fully aware of the region we serve as well as the financial impact of hosting Walks at various camps. A lot of discussion takes place among the Board members and as a matter of fact, we will be discussing Fall walk locations at the next Board meeting.

So what factors does the Board consider? The location has to be affordable. Over the past few years, the cost at every facility we have approached, have some price increases which obviously affects our tuition fees. The facility needs to be able to accommodate a minimum of 51 persons. That's 31 Team & Agape members, plus 20 pilgrims. There needs to be a conference room, dining room, room for Agape setup, and sleeping facilities for 51. Each camp provides food service. (We could save money by providing our own food and meals but FDA requirements demand a certified cook onsite. Then there are other issues as well.)

But where should we hold our Walks? That has always been the hard part. Koronis serves the State of Minnesota the best with the 3-hour drive time covering most of southern and southwest Minnesota but requires a longer drive from southeast Minnesota and Western Wisconsin. Koronis reaches up to the Park Rapids area and ends up just shy of Duluth but requires a four to five hour drive for those in northern Minnesota and north and west Wisconsin. To put it bluntly, there is no facility within three hours of every part of the region we serve.

Keeping in mind that we cover over 100,000 square miles where do we want to go to fill our Walks? One theory is go where we are already strong and that way we will get full Walks. The other theory is to go to where we are weakest and can build. This gets us back into the discussion of splitting into two or three communities.

Honestly, there is no one good answer to selecting the quintessential Walk location. We will continue to do the best we can and try to be proactive and visionary in our thinking.

Contact Us

With this newsletter, several new names have been added to the list of persons on the mailing list. We have had a few who have joined our community from California, Indiana, and Ohio and as a way to continue their 4th Day experience, we are reaching out to them and others who may want to be a part of the Minnesota Emmaus Community. More names are being added as we become aware of their interest. Many come from the "Contact Us" section on the website. The most recent name added came from a clergy person who with her husband serves three churches in northern Minnesota. Before that, an enthusiastic Emmaus member from Ohio contacted us and now she will be serving on Team.

One of the criticisms I get is that there is a lack of communication. I need to improve and correct that, and overtime it will get better. Likewise, if there are areas you wish me to address, please feel free to select the "Contact Us" section of the website.

The Anchor Symbol



For those who know me, it is common knowledge that I love to sail. I've sailed in only a few locations in the world, like Lake Superior (cold), the Virgin Islands (hot & humid) and the Chesapeake Bay. Anchoring a sailboat in various conditions, wind, weather, and sea bottom can be challenging at times. Once that anchor is set however, one can rest assured until it comes time to raise that anchor one more time.

The anchor design is the design from larger ships and from an earlier time. Its design is quite unique and very functional. It holds the ground no matter how it rests on the sea floor. The anchor provides stability and security.

My wife and I were over in Rome a few years back and one of the private tours we had was through the catacombs. There we saw many anchor symbols carved into the wall and on display at the welcome center. Naturally we asked. During the Roman occupation, Christians were not permitted to wear Christian symbols such as the cross. Some started wearing anchor symbols in public. The Roman guards never caught on but other Christians knew that this was an indication of a fellow Christian. At that time, Christians who died had to be taken out of town to a secret location where they were "buried" in the catacombs. Some of the catacombs still display the anchor symbol.

So why the anchor? If you look at the image above and take away the flukes at the bottom and the loop at the top, you have the Christian cross. Religionfact.com/anchor goes on to say that the anchor is a heavy weight that holds a ship in place. It remains firm and steadfast in all sorts of adversity. It provides tranquility, firmness and hope. "In a spiritual context, the anchor symbolizes "the stable part of our being, the quality which enables us to keep a clear mind amid the confusion of sensation and emotion."

Lay Ministries

A couple of weeks ago, I had a meeting with Janet Beard from the UMC Lay Ministries. We discussed how Emmaus works, the process we follow, and what benefit there is for a person interested in Lay Ministry. Lay Ministry is a Leadership Development program within the United Methodist Church. Emmaus says a few times in the Emmaus Model that Emmaus builds church leaders, although many would argue it does so much more. There is a natural fit with the two programs.

While Emmaus is open and available for all Christians from all denominations, this is just the first program which is a natural fit for us in Minnesota. You'll be hearing a lot more in future newsletters about credits for Lay Ministry service.

Why 20?

There's been a lot of discussion as to why the Board voted to cancel Walks if a minimum of 20 pilgrims were not registered **two weeks in advance**. The simple answer would be because Emmaus International requires it. But in reality it goes beyond that. Twenty provides an even number of four pilgrims per table enabling better and more fruitful discussions. On the other hand, Walks with five or six provides perhaps a more personal experience. There is a financial aspect as well as some facilities we use charge a facility use fee that is NOT dependent upon the number of pilgrims. Few pilgrims means a much larger loss financially.

Emmaus Positions Offered

Emmaus in Nashville is still trying to get the four positions filled for MNWTE. Lately the emphasis has been on the Community Trainer which would be trained online and in Nashville. Fortunately for us, we have a Leadership Development & Training position on the Board. For Nashville, they want that person trained with the way Nashville wants all communities to be trained. If they are looking for us to be trained to follow the Emmaus Model (one of their goals) we are already doing that. Anyway, if anyone is interested in any of the four positions, Community Trainer, Start Up Trainer, Communicator, and Consultant. If anyone is interested in knowing more about these positions, please feel free to reach out to me at cld@mnummaus.org.

THE BACK PAGE**“You Don’t Know Our Community”**

Initially I took that comment as an offense. It came from a person with whom I have the utmost respect. That feeling lasted for a while and even to this day I hear those words echoing in my mind. Finally, I decided to find out just what those words meant as it relates to Minnesota Walk to Emmaus.

Despite having nearly five years on the Board, I found out those words were so, so true. In fact, it looks like I don’t know Minnesota and parts of Minnesota very well at all. I firmly believe, that if we all know our community, filling Walks with pilgrims will come closer to reality.

Those words were spoken in reference to the area south of the Twin Cities. That area is strong with the farming industry which serves not only our States but the nation as well. Not only are the farmers important to us but so are the support services of the farming community. That tells me that Novmber and February should be real good months for Walks.

After getting that feedback from the southern part of our region, I got the same feedback from thr northern region of the State. That gave me a whole new perspective but then it got a little more interesting as we spend most of our summer in the central part of Minnesota near Pequot Lakes. There, so many people involved with the resorts and all of the services that are provided. Again, November and February would appear to be the best months for Walks.

Then we traced our history of Walks and found that November and March are perhaps our best months. Now there’s some latitude with the November being the best month for Walks. Typically the Men’s Walks have been in October with a lower attendance ration while the Women’s typically are the first week in November with a higher attendance.

Our Spring Walks also hinge around the variable Easter dates so that needs to be taken into account as well. It would be difficult to say whether holding the Walk before Easter or after would be better.

We’ve also received feedback from teachers telling us that only summers work for them. Automatically we’ve eliminated another profession. Then planning a summer Walk conflicts with when children and grandchildren are on vacation with trips already planned.

Finally, if we hold walks in November and then follow up in February with another set, we will then be forced to purchase two more sets of Walk materials in order to give Lay Directors time to formulate and train their teams.

All of this is a topic of many discussions for the Board to try and resolve. At the same time, we are looking at multiple communities, Working Board vs. Coordinating Board, and what we need to do to guarantee we meet the Emmaus minimum number of pilgrims (20).

While we meet only once a month, the board has to tackle many diverse opportunities and obstacles. We will continue to work for the benefit for all served by the Minnesota Walk to Emmaus.

Please keep the work of the Board and the Minnesota Walk to Emmaus Community in your prayers.

Pete Schenck

CLD Minnesota Walk to Emmaus