

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Men's Walk  
April 24-27
- Women's  
Walk May 1-4
- Board meeting Feb. 15, 1 p.m. at Richfield UMC  
(NOTE CHANGE)

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# Minnesota Walk to Emmaus

WWW.MNEMMAUS.ORG

JANUARY 2014

## Spring Walks Set, Pilgrims Wanted!

The Minnesota Walks are back on and we hope bigger and better than ever. After cancelling the Fall Walks last year for a Board restructuring, the Minnesota Emmaus Walks are established for April 24-27, 2014 for the Men and May 1-4, 2014 for the Women.

Once again the Walks will return to a familiar location for many at Koronis Ministries near Paynesville, Minnesota. It has been a popular event center for our Community for many years. For more information see:

[www.koronisministries.com](http://www.koronisministries.com)

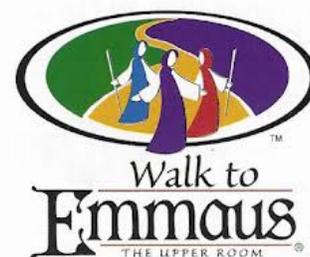
Now the challenge to all in the Community is to find a minimum of 20 pilgrims to fill the Walks to capacity. In order to do that we would like those who have already completed their Walks to consider sponsoring a pilgrim.

If you are inviting someone who is married or has a significant other, please invite the couple together, even though one may not be interested in attending a Walk. Both will have been given the opportunity and will understand the situation much better. To register you can find the regis-

tration form from the Minnesota Walk to Emmaus website.

If you have questions about how to register a Pilgrim or things you need to know about sponsoring someone there are a number of ways you can get that information. When you were a Pilgrim you received a copy of *Day Four, The Pilgrim's Continued Journey*. Chapter 8 outlines sponsorship. There is also an excellent Emmaus series pamphlet called *Sponsorship*, which is available from the Upper Room and can be ordered on line. The Board of Directors is available for your consultation if you need help. Lolly Naslund is the registrar for the Walks and Lora Sturm is in charge of sponsorship.

You have a very important role in your pilgrim's Walk! You are committing to register your Pilgrim, driving him or her to and from the Walk, being in prayer for him or her and the other Pilgrims during the Walk, providing assistance while they are away from home, attending Sponsor's Hour, Candlelight service and our closing service, and sup-



porting him or her after the Walk by helping your pilgrim get established in a Reunion Group and in Gatherings. You may also be a co-sponsor, and share sponsorship with another if needed. You can bring the loving Spirit of God to someone you care about! We look forward to helping you guide your Pilgrim to a closer walk with Christ!

The five-color Emmaus logo above says it all; two disciples, Cleopas and his pilgrim walking along the Road to Emmaus with Jesus. And remember it wasn't until much later, that the two had their eyes opened and they saw that the stranger was in fact Jesus. That shows that it took a sponsor, in the form of Cleopas to bring a pilgrim along for the journey to open their eyes.



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

## From Your Community Lay Director

**Beginnings** ... I love the feelings of hope and change that come with starting fresh on a clean slate for another year – those affirmations that “all things are possible through Christ who gives me strength” (Phill 4:13). And I am excited to see where God is leading us this year. God has brought some new members to the board who bring wonderful gifts and talents as we continue to look for more and better ways to engage you, our Community in your 4<sup>th</sup> days. I'd like to welcome Penny Fritze-Tietz, Scott Norcross, Jeff Adams, Lora Sturm, Audrey Benjamin, and Lolly Naslund to the board.

**Welcome New Board Members:** Penny is our Community Spiritual Director and brings her gifts of spiritual guidance to the board and the community. Scott chairs Communications and is already working hard to design a user-friendly data base so we can connect with each other more easily and effectively. Jeff will utilize his gifts as a former Lay Director and Community Lay Director on the executive committee as Treasurer and is covering Facilities while this position remains open. Lora chairs Sponsorship/Outreach and will utilize her communication skills to promote Emmaus through sponsoring. Audrey chairs 4<sup>th</sup> Day and will utilize her relationship-building skills to con-

nect community members to reunion groups and gatherings. Lolly will chair Registration and will bring her organizing capabilities and “can do” attitude to this function on the next set of walks.

**We need You:** There are many opportunities to serve as we prepare for the newest members to our Community that God will bring in our midst through the next set of walks. The teams are almost in place and are getting ready for the important process of team formation. But it is you, the Community, who impacts those new pilgrims the most through sponsorship and letter writing, signing up for the 72-hour prayer vigil, attending candlelight on Saturday night and/or closing on Sunday afternoon, or bringing or making the many gifts of agape that are given throughout the weekend. We are Christ's hands and feet and God uses all these loving acts to bring those pilgrims closer to Him during those precious 72 hours. And so, we need you to get involved in whatever way you can and are gifted for. Remember - “Christ is counting on you” – the words spoken to you at your walk when you received your Emmaus cross – to be His vessel of love and grace to His people.

Linda Nelson, 2014  
Community Lay Director

## God's Grace—Hey! Live it Up!

Greetings from your Community Spiritual Director! Please read Romans 12 (I use *The Message*, but you may use your favorite).

As I read through the Bible I find so many favorite passages. Romans, chapter twelve, is one such of my favorites. Have you ready it lately? Go ahead and read it now, I'll wait. These verses are chuck-full of goodies. (Have you a particular favorite?)

Here's the quote for us today: “Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace. . .” (Romans 12:3, *The Message*) There's a lot more to that sentence and to those thoughts but, enough for today (and tomorrow and

tomorrow and tomorrow. . .)

Are these words, “Living in pure grace. . .” wow, neat-o, wonderful? Yes, my friends, we are gifted and blessed with God's grace in Christ Jesus!

There is not one thing to hold us back. Not one thing to keep us down. Not one thing to defeat us.

It is not who we are but rather whose we are.

You are a beloved child of God, living in God's Grace. (Hey! Live it up!) (Can I hear an “Amen?”)

Grace and Peace,  
Penny Fritze-Tietz



*Then beginning  
with Moses and  
all the prophets,  
He interpreted  
to them the  
things about  
himself in all the  
scriptures.  
-Luke 24:27*

## Bylaws - Like Them or Not

In 2013 the community was asked to vote on several different sets of bylaws. These changes brought us to compliance with the structure we had in place, added some legal language, and provided for adjustment to the Board structure.

Bylaws are a requirement of any 501 (c)3 organization. To be in compliance with IRS rules and regulations, bylaws must be written, kept up to date, and followed. We also have a covenant with the Upper Room organization who guides our Walks and our operations. Our bylaws also stipulate that our community have a governing board and community

members who may be part of committees. We are also challenged to not only coordinate Walks, but to strengthen the Fourth Day in our entire community. The Emmaus model for vibrant communities challenges the community to put on the Walks, which happens primarily through committees.

A new change of bylaws is now before the Community seeking approval. This change will hopefully take us well into the future. There are two significant changes that shape the Board's future.

The first, and probably the most significant change in the bylaws for

many years is the reduction of the Board from 19 Board members to 15. The change is proactive and will allow for efficient governance and oversight of various committees, will reflect better the Emmaus model, will provide better opportunity to achieve a quorum at board meetings, and will free up community members who would prefer to serve on a Walk team.

The second significant change allows for more clergy on the Board. These changes open up tremendous opportunities for everyone. The possibilities are truly exciting and beneficial.

## New Ways to Communicate

As we reorganized the Board we also reorganized the way we communicate.

A brand new website is being developed and should be available soon. The new website will be more interactive and user friendly. There will be many exciting functions for the website coming through the year.

The IMS database was very cumbersome for

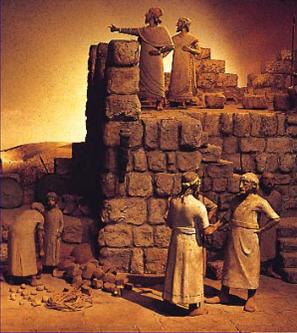
practical use and is in the process of being replaced by a new and dynamic database called SharePoint.

Begun last year, the quarterly newsletters have been revived. The newsletters are essential as we strive to get the community more involved. Please watch for opportunities not only in newsletters but also on the new website.

Board members, Walk Lay Directors and other groups may now meet electronically utilizing a product called GoToMeeting. The GoToMeeting concept is important as we try to get more community members involved. Many are more than 200 miles away. GoToMeeting solves that problem.

Stay tuned for more!

# Rebuilding and Thanks



**“Let us start rebuilding.” So they began this good work.**  
**-Nehemiah 2:18b**

This past year has been a year of change as we are in an exciting rebuilding phase, guided by the Holy Spirit. Last January, our board of directors and several other members of the community participated in Emmaus leadership training, conducted by Cathi Eberly and Pastor Carl Wiggins, regional trainers for Walk to Emmaus.

We were challenged to improve in filling our registrations for new pilgrims, in providing the best possible sponsorship for new pilgrims, and in emphasizing how important fourth day is. We also want to continue to engage our community members in the lives of our local churches, and continue to foster ongoing support and growth for the Emmaus community so that more may experience the grace and love we have received.

Our board of directors held a retreat at Camp Victory near Zumbro Falls in May. We were grounded in scripture, using passages from Nehemiah, which set the stage for review of the following areas:

- Improving Fourth Day experience and sponsorship

- Improving our committee, board roles and structure

- Adhering to the Emmaus standards

- Improving communications

- Enhancing relationships within our community, with other three-day events, and with churches

Our board worked very hard during the year to arrive where we are today. I want to thank the board members who completed service in 2013: Greg Sprick, facili-

ties chair, Deni Knaeble, communications chair, Mary Ann Smith, past community lay director, Lowery Smith, reunions/gatherings chair, Ron Bogle, outreach chair, Peter Bell, registrar, Bruce Schroeder, music/worship chair, Cindy Waldt, sponsorship chair, Michael Stelck, treasurer, John Paul, clergy, Jeanne Jones, clergy, Rich Hutchinson, clergy, and Art Keith, community spiritual director.

I also want to thank all the others in the community who helped in a variety of other areas, including the Walks at Luther Point in the spring.

We are now starting a new year and I have great optimism. Thank you so much for your support in 2013 and God bless you.

Don Putzier, Past Community Lay Director

## Pilgrim and Team Walk Fees Adjusted for 2014

It probably was a long time in coming but in November 2013, the Board voted to raise pilgrim fees to \$175. Ouch! Probably every Board member had the same reaction. The decision was not taken lightly. So why the increase?

Having to justify all of our expenses we looked at Walk expenses first. We found for every pilgrim the actual cost comes to \$171.50. That was based on utilizing the lowest cost retreat center we have used. That means that every time we put on a Walk, we were guaranteed to lose \$21.50 per pilgrim, using our old fee of \$150.00.

These fees were also applied to Team members serving in the conference room. Agape members had their fees increased as well from \$135 to \$150. Some may question why team members need to pay a fee as well when they are volunteering their time. Team members on a Walk incur facility, meal and other expenses, just as pilgrims do.

Fortunately we have had some very generous donations (a.k.a. green Agape) over the past few years. That has kept the Community in the black, which is the Board's goal. While the green Agape is essential for the Community's viability, the request for the use of scholarship funds is also on the increase. In spite of fee increases, we never want anyone to be turned away because they feel they cannot pay. Scholarships are available and other payment methods can be arranged.

A lot of thought and prayer went into the Board's decision. The Board recognized that to continue to lose money was not the responsible course of action to take. Just think--three-night's lodging, a weekend with eight great meals, plus the joy of serving others or experiencing a Walk still adds up to a bargain.



*For where two  
or three gather  
in my name. . .  
I am with  
them.  
-Mat. 18:20*

## Stay in Touch . . . Did You???

Stay in touch...DID YOU???

Remember how you felt: As you introduced your "new" best friend? When you began your Walk to Emmaus? Went to bed in silence? Thinking: What have I gotten myself into? Who are all these people? Why did I agree to this? I want to go home!!!

Fast forward to: getting to know your table mates, Saturday Night Dinner, Candlelight, reading all those letters, and finally Closing. Before you loaded your things into a car and headed for home...the hugs, tears, and promises to stay in touch. Did You?

As you have noted from other articles in this newsletter, we are rebuilding our Emmaus Community from the ground up so we may share all those wonderful things with others in our world. One focus has been on ways to build an effective, energized and enthusiastic 4<sup>th</sup> Day Community: A community where we love and support each other, enjoy fellowship, and share what Our Lord is doing for and through us in our Church, Community, and Life.

One very important way to share is through small groups or reunion groups.

*For where two or three gather in my name...I am with them.* (NIV)—Mathew 18:20

In essence, this is the purpose of the Emmaus "reunion group" principle. For many, the faith journey is enriched by the *Walk to Emmaus*. The reunion group is an extension to that continuing faith journey, and, it only takes two to have a reunion group. For the Emmaus Community, the reunion groups are the foundation.

Emmaus guidelines suggest that reunion groups meet weekly. For many that just is not possible. Now if meeting weekly is too much, try to meet on a regular basis and at a set location. At the end of this article, you'll see why this is important to the entire Community. The guidelines also suggest we follow the information on the Reunion/Gathering card presented at the end of each Walk. In principle that is good but reunion groups around the state often modify the directions the card provides. Following the card with 12 members

often gets lengthy and so typically for larger reunions, one or two "God-based questions" are asked, such as "When in the past week have you felt closest to God?"

Sponsors, take note: One role that you play in the life of your pilgrim is getting them into a reunion group. If there are no reunion groups in your area, form one! Your pilgrim and you can form a reunion group. It only takes two.

We know reunion groups are meeting at various locations throughout the region, including Wisconsin. Please tell us when and where you meet and who the contact person may be. Often the Board is asked to provide reunion group information for new Community members. Updating our data base would be so helpful. Please send an e-mail to Audrey Benjamin at [Grandma\\_\\_b@msn.com](mailto:Grandma__b@msn.com) or [arbalb@msn.com](mailto:arbalb@msn.com) with your group name, location, list of members, meeting days, time, place, and contact information. Together we can build a strong Emmaus Community. Audrey is our Forth Day chair and contact for reunion groups and gatherings.

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

## The Emmaus Model

The Emmaus Model is contained in multiple publications from the Upper Room. In our seven-month research of the model we learned, "If it is not in the model, we cannot do it". We are seeking to comply as best as possible. The one factor that gives us some latitude is our large geographic territory.

Our reach extends from the Washburn, Wisconsin area, to the Fargo, North Dakota area, down to the Marshall, Minnesota area, and over to the Rochester, Minnesota area. It is the largest Emmaus community geographically in the nation! Our area presents many challenges as well as many opportunities. So while we follow the Emmaus Model we are also aware of the influence of our geography.

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