

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- **Men's Walk**
Oct 23-26
- **Women's Walk**
Oct 30-Nov 2
- **Board meeting**
June 14, 9 a.m. at Richfield UMC

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Minnesota Walk to Emmaus

WWW.MNEMMAUS.ORG

MAY 2014

Welcome to our new community members!

Our recent spring Walks at Koronis Ministries near Paynesville were very successful. The Holy Spirit was ever present.

We welcome the following men from Walk #103 to the community:

Greg Alm
Jeff Balcom
Bob Berg
Aaron Daby
Lee Dziuk
Bill Hewitt
Louis James
Shawn Junjak
Greg Keyport
Joseph Nelson
Matt Oswald
Dahmon Romness

We welcome the following women from Walk #104 to the community:

Kay Bach
Beverly Cooper
Beth Dahl
Michelle DeVaughn
Pam Dziuk
Alyssa George
Heather Gowanlock
Ardell Graner
Katie Grunloh
Lori Langer
Joey Levang
Linda Morshare

Cori Mundt
Karen Nau
Anita Nerhus
Barb Novotny
Nancy Saathoff
Caren Staples

Thanks so much to the conference room team members, Agape team members, and to all who helped create Agape gifts, served meals, attended the weekend events, helped with set-up and tear-down, prayed, and helped in any way to make this weekend special for the pilgrims.

One of the reasons The Walk to Emmaus exists is to make someone a more faithful disciple, an active church member, and one who seeks every opportunity to express faith in love acts of servanthood. Consider expressing some form of agape love and get involved in the fall Walks, which will be held October 23-26 and October 30-November 2 at Koronis Ministries. God will bless you

richly for extending love to one of His children.

Sponsorship is a very important process which invites new Christians to experience the Walk to Emmaus. Please prayerfully consider sponsoring someone in the fall Walks. More information about sponsorship and registration forms are located on our website. The aim of sponsorship is to build up the Body of Christ.

During our Walks we also received a "Time and Talent" sheet. This provides an opportunity for you to indicate your own gifts, talents, and desires for servanthood in the Emmaus community. We have many gifts which have been bestowed upon us, and we need to use them! One area we are especially in need of are music leaders for upcoming Walks.

Blessings to all of you in your Fourth Day.

Time for Reflection--and Humble Gratitude



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

Spring Walks #103 and #104 are over – and were a very impactful experience for our 30 newest community members – 12 men and 18 women. As I've reflected on this set of walks, it has struck me again that *“it takes a village to raise a pilgrim!”* 30 Lives were touched and changed – but here is a ROUGH estimate of the number of community members that were involved in bringing those 30 entrusted in our care closer to God and who were willing to be used in service to God for the sake of another...

200+ Prayer Warriors who filled the prayer chart for both sets of walks – though many additional prayed throughout team selection and formation who are not documented.

33 Sponsors – who had the important job of approaching, inviting, praying, securing letters, attending to the pilgrim's families, driving back and forth to the camp for sponsor hour, candlelight and closing – sacrificial, loving agape acts for others.

40+ Conference Team members who poured themselves out for these newest community members throughout the weekend and were willing to be God's vessel to bring these precious pilgrims closer to God throughout those 72 hours.

60+ On site Agape Team members - who worked tirelessly throughout those 72 hours in the background – mostly unnoticed by the pilgrims (but hugely noticed by God) for the sacrificial love shown to God's precious children – who set up, tore down, served and cleared tables, cleaned bathrooms, made beds,

delivered pillow agape, ensured all went smoothly with the many behind-the-scenes details that were attended to – so that these pilgrims would come to know how much they are loved by God – and that they could trust this experience throughout the weekend.

300+ Community members who attended events (sponsor hour, candlelight and closing) throughout the weekend, who donated abundant snack agape and made pillow agape, wrote letters, gave green Agape – all to let those 30 new pilgrims know that these newest belong to the larger community of support call the Minnesota Walk to Emmaus.

11 Board Members – who have worked hard on the vision of involving increased numbers of Community Members in these walks.

Thanks just aren't enough to express my deep appreciation to this Community and to our Board for all they do on behalf of others. This is truly the Body of Christ in action – being His hands and feet to a world that needs His message of love so badly. In addition to a HUGE Thank You to all who served, I am simply asking God to pour out His blessings to all of you as you live out your 4th Days in this grace-filled life as His disciple.

Fall walks will be here before you know it. If you are interested in passing on to another what you have received, please contact one of the board members about how you would like to serve our yet unknown pilgrims. —Linda Nelson, Community Lay Director

Fourth Day Thriving



Be joyful always,
pray continually.

-1 Thes 5:16-17

While going through some family papers recently, I ran across the birth records of my mother's family. There were the names and dates of birth for six children. I knew my mother had been raised as the youngest child, yet here was the name and dates of a younger brother, with the date of his death a few months later and the notation of cause of death: "failure to thrive."

How sad, I thought. And before I could even think what the reasons might have been for not "thriving" I thought about our newest Emmaus pilgrims and of all in the Emmaus Fourth Day Community. After the most loving and grace-filled moments of a lifetime – how are we doing? More specifically: are we thriving?!

Many of us have learned we need to be a part of the community gathered for continual support and encouragement. We don't have to do "it" alone. Our home church is our opportunity for worship, but where are we being held accountable? Through Emmaus we are encouraged to be a part of a Reunion Group – a 2+ group who regularly meet to keep in touch through prayer, concern and a further understanding of God's direction. Some Reunion Groups even meet via Skype. Through Gatherings we encounter others of the wider Emmaus Community when we gather for fellowship, sharing of lives, maybe even food and the celebration of Holy Communion.

So are we existing or thriving? We need to do our part by attending. Could your Sponsor, Table Leader or I be of help to you?

Audrey Benjamin, Fourth Day Chair

Two Questions from Barb Keith, Team Selection Chair

"What did this weekend mean to me?" "What am I going to do about it?"

Your three days may be a blur in your memory—I know mine are! I don't have any idea what I said at Closing, but I remember the eagerness I had to get up and share a response to what I had experienced. In the years since my pilgrim Walk, Emmaus has been a strong influence in my discipleship. We will never get a chance to have another pilgrim Walk, but I invite you to drop us a line about how your life has changed because of those three days! Send your BRIEF response to: pcltd@mneammaus.org for future newsletters. Here's 2 board member responses to those questions ...

"The weekend showed me God's love in a way I have never experienced before. My life has changed in that because of that love shown to me, I am able to reach out to another in their moment of need. God has placed people in my path that need to feel God's love for them no matter what -and He has used me powerfully to do that for Him." —Scott Norcross, Communications Chair

"For me the weekend was a complete renewal and immersion in God's love and how great it is! Since the walk, I have enjoyed serving in Emmaus and as a result of getting involved in the community, I have made many wonderful friends – now even international ones because of my work as Agape Chair. I feel very blessed." —Mary Jo Bogle, Agape Chair

Important things to remember when you are ready to sponsor....

P	Pray	Prayer is so important in sponsorship. Pray first. Pray before ever asking someone to consider taking an Emmaus Walk. Ask God whom you should sponsor. Listen for God's answer. Don't rush the decision. Remember, we're on God's time and His time is perfect.
I	Inform	Pilgrims need to be informed. Don't rush their decision. Inform them about the objectives of the Emmaus Walk. Let them think about going. Ask them to pray about their decision. Meet with them a few times to answer questions. Help them make an informed decision.
L	Letters	The letters the Pilgrim will receive are so important. Start with the spouse. If the spouse has not attended a walk, ask them to write a private 'love letter' to their partner. Next, contact the parents and close friend to get other names. Explain the nature and purpose of the letters. Obtain just 8-12 letters.
G	Gatherings	Your job of sponsorship doesn't end at closing. Explain about the Gatherings before they fill out the registration form. Let them know that you will be picking them up for their first Gathering after their walk. This is another act of sponsorship agape.
R	Reunion Groups	As a sponsor, you should definitely help your pilgrim find a Reunion Group. Work with the Pilgrim, and the Community 4 th Day Chair to find the pilgrim an existing Reunion Group, or help your pilgrim start their own Reunion Group.
I	Invitation	Invite the Pilgrim to your home a few days following the end of their Walk. Use this time of discussion to share thoughts about their experience. Reinforce the goals of the Emmaus Walk Program. Make arrangements for attending the next Gathering and discuss Reunion Groups.
M	Marriage	Marriage is Holy. Invitations should be extended to both and they should both be encouraged to attend an Emmaus Walk. If one spouse refuses, it is best not to immediately invite the other. Instead, commit to praying about the decision for six months. If the two are still split on the issue, proceed very prayerfully.
S	Secrets	There are no secrets in the Emmaus Program! Give the pilgrim all the information they need to make an informed decision. People going through the program, knowing all about the talks, the communions and even candlelight, are still powerfully moved by the weekend. No Secrets.

Minnesota Walk to Emmaus
Richfield United Methodist Church
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New e-mail addresses for Board Members

In order to improve communications and continuity from year-to-year with board members, we are introducing new e-mail addresses as listed below. These addresses reflect the position/title of the board member and will continue as new board members rotate into the various positions and titles.

2014 Minnesota Walk to Emmaus Board of Directors

Linda Nelson	Community Lay Director	612-655-1899	cld@mnummaus.org
Penny Fritze-Tietz	Community Spiritual Director	763-295-2047	
Pete Schenck	Secretary	612-791-3356	secretary@mnummaus.org
Jeff Adams	Treasurer/Facilities	507-340-2432	treas@mnummaus.org
Don Putzier	Past Community Lay Director	507-345-1553	pclld@mnummaus.org
Mary Bogle	Agape	612-799-8022	agape@mnummaus.org
Scott Norcross	Communications	612-267-4881	com@mnummaus.org
Audrey Benjamin	Fourth Day	651-698-3034	fourthday@mnummaus.org
Barb Keith	Team Selection/Membership	507-779-4124	team@mnummaus.org
Lora Sturm	Sponsorship/Outreach	507-330-0025	sponsorship@mnummaus.org
Lolly Naslund	Registration	763-257-3043	registrar@mnummaus.org