

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- **Men's Walk**  
Oct 23-26
- **Women's**  
Walk Oct  
30-Nov 2
- Board  
meeting  
Oct. 11, 9  
a.m. at  
Richfield  
UMC

INSIDE  
THIS  
ISSUE:

Ask the Board	2
Jump Start- ing Fourth Day	3
Luke 22: Water Your Soul	4
PILGRIMS, Sponsorship	5
Board Members	6

# Minnesota Walk to Emmaus

WWW.MNEMMAUS.ORG

SEPTEMBER 2014

## Freely, freely receive; Freely, freely give!

A message from Linda Nelson, your Community Lay Director

Lately the song "Freely" has been running through my head - Perhaps this is one you remember singing on your walk. **I want to share the words ...** *"He said, Freely, freely you have received. Freely, freely, give. Go in my name and because you believe - others will know that I live."*

What a call to action from our Lord - and what a privilege to be His disciple! The walks are coming upon us very soon and this song reminds me how important it is to give when we receive. And with our Lord - we give - not as a condition to gain His love - but out of our very grateful hearts for His gift of grace and eternal life - which we don't deserve. I hope you felt this way after you experienced the love of God expressed through others on your Walk To Emmaus - and that you now want to do for another that love expressed to you - and pass it along to someone you care about.

What action is God calling you to take on this next set of walks?

- Will you quietly serve behind the scenes in an important Agape Love role -- whether on site or from home in the form of making agape, praying, or donating snack items?
- Will you serve by being on the team of people who are with the pilgrims throughout the 72-hours to be God's vessel to bring another closer to God and feel His love more personally than perhaps they've ever known?
- Will you be a humble servant and help to bring the pilgrims closer to God through music?
- Will you sign up for a time on the prayer slot throughout the 72-hours of the weekend to let those newest members know they are thought about and cared for by others who don't even know them?
- Or perhaps most importantly - will you sponsor someone God has placed on your heart - and give that gift that was so freely given to you by another -- so they may know God's love firsthand.

Whatever role God is calling you to fill - we NEED you! Please consider contacting the appropriate board member and offer your gift of self to be used by God on the Fall Walks - so that others will know that God lives in each of us.

Barb Keith - Team Selection  
Lora Sturm - Sponsorship  
Audrey Benjamin - 4th Day

Mary Bogle - Agape  
Jeff Adams - Prayer Chart  
Rob Pescola - Music & Worship

# Ask the Board—What is a Team?

Question: **I've always wanted to serve on Team but what does that involve?**

Answer: I like this question because it brings up multiple answers. The **"Team" that was being referred to in this instance was the conference room Team** consisting of 19-25 individuals. They are the visible Team but there are two more Teams you may not see or know exist when pilgrims begin their Walk on a Thursday evening. All three Teams share an important role in putting the Walks together.

## The Board of Directors

The Board of Directors consists of 15 individuals who have completed a Walk and have been identified as dedicated individuals willing to commit to a meeting per month plus many hours of independent research, study, and organizing. These individuals are a balance of laity and clergy and each is assigned a **role, or "Chair", on the Board. Each "Chair" then has a committee of volunteers** who work even further behind the scenes to bring the Walks together. There will always be a need for more committee members. Each Board member, except for the Community Lay Director and Community Spiritual Director serve three-year terms with the options of running for re-election one time after the initial three-year term has been completed.

## Agape

Agape is definitely a behind-the-scenes entity, serving on each Walk. The Agape Team is formed four to five months in advance of the actual Walk. The Agape Team will have a Weekend Coordinator who will plan training sessions and appoint persons to certain roles for the weekend. There may be three training sessions, held at a central location for many that involve training in responsibilities and scheduling. The first training session is purposely held with the Conference Room Team to assure that both Teams understand the **structure of Emmaus and the roles that each play for the pilgrim's Walk experience.**

## Conference Room Team

Serving on the Conference Room Team allows you to experience faith-enhancement for 20 or more individuals. Bonds develop during the 72 hours that the Team is serving the pilgrims. For many Team members they get to re-live their initial Walk experience. To get there involves being selected by the Team Chair on the Board as a potential candidate to serve. Those names are then passed on to the Weekend Lay Director who will call to ascertain a **person's interest in serving. We'll get into "progressive servanthood" shortly.** There are a minimum of four training sessions for Conference Room Team members. The training sessions include an overall discussion of rules and responsibilities, history, expectations, and previewing the 15 assigned talks.

## Progressive Servanthood

Progressive servanthood is a term used by Emmaus frequently and it is merely the progress a servant takes as he or she moves through the role of serving pilgrims during their Walk experience. Ideally it begins with service on Agape.

(continued on page 3)



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

## Jump Starting Fourth Day

During summer, those jumper cables are, thankfully, deep in the trunk of the car! We do know the days are coming when they will come in handy, so we are glad those cables are still around!

**This is similar to Emmaus Reunion Groups to me. We have Jesus remind us, "If two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." Mt. 18:19-20**

**Trust me, I know you are "too busy for one more thing," "don't need to meet with anyone else to pray," "can't find anyone to meet with" or another excuse.** However, a goal of the Walk to Emmaus experience is to help you maintain your desire to follow Jesus Christ. Reunion Groups and attending Gatherings are designed to renew this spiritual desire within you. If you have not been a part of a Reunion Group, perhaps this is just what you need.

Why not decide to make the effort. Ask God to lead you to like-minded individuals. Check in with people from your table group. If distance apart is a problem, consider meeting via Skype. Perhaps your sponsor has some ideas for you. Have you checked the Emmaus website for groups? As a representative of the Emmaus Board, I would like to help you find a group, start a group or renew a group. Sometimes we do need a jump-start to get going!

—Audrey Benjamin, Fourth Day Chair

## Ask the Board (continued)

**If that isn't the primary step, it will be before progress goes much further.** After Agape, the next step involves being on the Conference Room Team serving as an Assistant Table Leader once, Table Leader twice (giving at least one talk), Assistant Lay Director two to three times and finally Lay Director. That is progressive servanthood in the ideal world. It is important to note that this does not necessarily happen to an individual one Walk after another. In many cases a break of **one to two Walks is intentionally provided so as to not overburden an individual's** time or finances.

The One Third Rule

**One of the rules we adhere to is the "One Third" rule. It seems simple but it** turns out to be a little complicated. The One Third requires that each Walk Team have one third new members, one third members with two or more years of experience, and the remaining third having three or more years of experience. The same One Third rule applies to the staffing of the Board as well, hence the elections annually and the three-year terms.

Volunteering to Serve

Coming soon to the website will be a form where Community members can submit their name for inclusion on future Walks as well as the Board. In the meantime if you would like to be considered for service on the Conference Room Team, Agape Team, or the Board of Directors, submit an email to [team@mhemmaus.org](mailto:team@mhemmaus.org).



*Be joyful always,  
pray continually.*

*-1Thes 5:16-17*

# Luke 22—Your Father's good pleasure

Luke 12:22-34

I discovered this passage when I was about ten years old—most especially verse 32 (i.e. "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.")

I have never forgotten. I mean, wow—God wants to give me the kingdom—not only wants to but is pleased to do so.

As a ten year old this was probably my first personal revelation of God. It delighted me then. It delights me still. And it has flavored my entire belief and faith system.

God love me. God wants good for me. God acts for my good. Wow! Dear friends, surely God loves you, as well. Come, let us live as beloved children of a loving God.

Prayer: Gracious God, may others see you in all I say and do. So be it.

Grace and Peace,  
Penny

## Water Your Soul

These last few weeks, I've had to be out watering my plants. They need water to thrive. Our souls thirst for the love of God. Are you remembering to water your soul with Scripture reading, studying, and being in fellowship with other Christians?

One of my favorite songs, 'As the Deer pants for the water so my soul longs after you...' reminds me to take time to be with God. You probably know someone who would have their souls refreshed by attending the Walk to Emmaus.

The Fall Men's and Women's Walks are filling up fast. Please sponsor the person God has placed on your heart. Not only will his or her soul be satisfied, but so will yours. De Colores!

Lora Sturm, Sponsorship Chair



*Do not be afraid,  
little flock, for it is  
your Father's good  
pleasure to give  
you the kingdom.  
-Luke 12:32*



## Support the Walks!

**Men's Walk #105**—Oct.  
23 to 26, 2014

**Women's Walk #106**—  
Oct. 30 to Nov. 2, 2014

Koronis Ministries near  
Paynesville, MN

We want to see you! Remember the feeling of walking into a chapel full of people singing, "Jesus, Jesus"? The Walk to Emmaus Community will gather around 8 p.m. before the Saturday evening Candlelight for singing, communion, and lifting up the Pilgrims in prayer. You are also welcome to join for closings, which will be Sunday at approximately 4:30 p.m.

## 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 <sup>th</sup> 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**  
**5835 Lyndale Ave. S.**  
**Minneapolis, MN 55419**

Time and Talent—**It's all about You!** The Time and Talent sheets have been revised to reflect our new community structure. Please check our website in the near future to complete one of these. Information will be sent out via e-mail when the update on our site is available.

## 2014 Minnesota Walk to Emmaus Board of Directors

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