

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Men's Walk
April 24-27
- Women's
Walk May
1-4
- Board
meeting
April 12,
9 a.m. at
Richfield
UMC

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Minnesota Walk to Emmaus

WWW.MNEMMAUS.ORG

MARCH 2014

Agape Love; message from your Community Lay Director

The spring walks at Koronis will soon be here. I've had the privilege of orienting the men's team as they began their team formation process – and in a few weeks, I'll do the same training for the women as they prepare for the walks. What a blessing it is to see the Body of Christ alive and well as the teams sacrifice their time on behalf of yet unknown to us (but very known to God!) future Emmaus community members. As we prepare for a new set of walks, it is impossible not to think of your own walk – and the many ways throughout that 72 hours that God used other people (Known and Unknown) to bring you closer to Himself – so that you would more fully begin to comprehend His vast and deep love for his children – His disciples. Beyond those blessed 15 talks that we heard, there are many critical – though subtle messages that encompasses what Emmaus is. Here are just a few.

The message of prayer – The entire weekend is wrapped in prayer. Prayer takes place before the first team member is chosen and before each team meeting. Prayer is offered before each talk, asking the Holy Spirit to make up for anything lacking. Prayer is offered in the chapel, the conference room, and the dining room – in fact, around the world – that pilgrims will receive God's message of love, forgiveness, and hope. Prayer is an integral part of Emmaus because it is an

essential part of each Christian's life. And YOU are asked to pray as well – throughout both weekends. On our newly remodeled website, you are able to sign up for prayer times on the Prayer Chart. What a beautiful way to show God's love to those new pilgrims.

The involvement and partnership of laypersons and clergy – Each layperson and clergyperson on the conference room team plays a vital and distinctive role during the three days. No individual is more important than another – at all times they are to complement and help build the environment so that pilgrims are encouraged to find new levels of commitment and appreciation for their developing discipleship. In fact, what this partnership hopes to accomplish is a model for how clergy and laity can work together in building ministries of the local church.

The message of Servanthood or Agape Love – Many may have heard the term Agape Love for the first time on their walk. Agape Love is selfless, sacrificial, unconditional love – the highest of the four types of love in the Bible. Agape love perfectly describes the kind of love Jesus has for his Father and for his followers: *Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and*

show myself to them. (John 14:21)

Acts of agape love undergird the entire weekend – from cleaning the restrooms, setting and clearing your table – to those gifts you continue to receive throughout the weekend – these acts display God's love to you through others. God brought about the salvation of the world through the great sacrifice of His only Son. Emmaus attempts to move pilgrims toward understanding that sacrifice through these acts of servanthood. It also reinforces the idea that many lives are brought to that salvation through the sacrifice of to others. Early Christians were identified by the way they loved each other. Jesus modeled servanthood on the night before his crucifixion when He washed His disciples' feet. Emmaus seeks to follow in the footsteps of Jesus by emphasizing acts of agape or servanthood – thus modeling for pilgrims a quality they should seek to incorporate in their own faith journeys.

The whole reason The Walk to Emmaus exists is to make you 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 this next set of walks. God will bless you richly for extending love to one of His children.

—Linda Nelson



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

Are You Passionate About Emmaus?

For some of us, it is all about the **people**. The Holy Spirit, alive and working among us, creates a bond that is hard to replicate in other circumstances. Our souls thrive on this intimate relationship with others in the Body of Christ. We crave continued contact with these wonderful people we have met on our journey.

For others it is about being blanketed by **love and grace**. Daily life can be harsh, not at all like the cloistered Christian community of a Walk, supported by around the clock prayers. For those of us who feel overwhelmed by circumstances in our daily life, a Walk can help restore what is lacking, reassuring us of God's love and of the certainty of grace.

I feel that my life direction was altered by how **God used the experience** of my Pilgrim Walk to help me decide which road to take in a time in which I was seeking direction. Striking out in the direction I felt God was leading me has given me a confidence that I had not experienced previously, and has led me to trust God with future decisions.

I have seen that Emmaus is a **powerful tool** to grow church leaders whose impact on the Church is very real. For some it means responding to the call to serve as clergy. For the majority, those who have been involved in Emmaus are capably filling leadership positions in the local church.

The unsung hero of Walk to Emmaus is the **Reunion group**. Ongoing weekly meetings create accountability with fellow believers for us to practice the means of grace, to grow our faith through study and to make Christ known in the world around us through our Christian Action. I know the value of the support of my friends when I am on a downswing or feeling disconnected, and by their example they inspire and challenge me to grow in my faith. Being part of a reunion group does not have the same emotional intensity as being on a Walk, but it is actually more important!

Do you see yourself in any of these descriptions? If you have withdrawn from Emmaus opportunities but are interested in re-engaging, we are here to help. In this time of transition, it is difficult for us to gauge the interest of our members. We don't know if your lack of activity is by choice, because we have lost track of you or because you don't know how to get involved. Specifically, I am interested in hearing from those of you who are interested in using your talents to help out either as a **team member** or as a **Board** or **Committee** member. Bide your time no longer! Call me or send me an email! As we reorganize and regroup, we need your help in determining which of you is ready for an active Emmaus role. I hope to hear from you!

Barb Keith, Team Selection Chair
team@mne Emmaus.org 507-779-4124

What Kind of Friend am I?

In 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10, Paul writes, no, *urges* us to stand as Christ's representatives in this world. We are to be reconciled to Christ.

Lent is just such a season for us to seriously consider this.

Do you represent Christ to your co-workers? Are you reconciled to God, or is it a constant fight (struggle, hassle, whatever) to live in God's love?

Eugene Peterson, in his translation, *The Message*, suggests that we become friends with God. I like that idea. God is my friend (OK, OK, I know God is more, much more than that, but it's a place to start, isn't it?).

Now, the question is what kind of friend am I?

Prayer: Draw me closer, God, even when (if) I try to pull away. Amen.
Grace and Peace, Penny Fritze-Tietz, Community Spiritual Director

Story behind the Praying Hands



*Be joyful
always, pray
continually. . .
-1 Thes 5:16-17*

Back in the fifteenth century, in a tiny village near Nuremberg, lived a family with eighteen children. Eighteen! In order merely to keep food on the table for this mob, the father and head of the household, a goldsmith by profession, worked almost eighteen hours a day at his trade and any other paying chore he could find in the neighborhood.

Despite their seemingly hopeless condition, two of the elder children, Albrecht and Albert, had a dream. They both wanted to pursue their talent for art, but they knew full well that their father would never be financially able to send either of them to Nuremberg to study at the Academy.

After many long discussions at night in their crowded bed, the two boys finally worked out a pact. They would toss a coin. The loser would go down into the nearby mines and, with his earnings, support his brother while he attended the academy. Then, when that brother who won the toss completed his studies, in four years, he would support the other brother at the academy, either with sales of his artwork or, if necessary, also by laboring in the

mines.

They tossed a coin on a Sunday morning after church. Albrecht Durer won the toss and went off to Nuremberg.

Albert went down into the dangerous mines and, for the next four years, financed his brother, whose work at the academy was almost an immediate sensation. Albrecht's etchings, his woodcuts, and his oils were far better than those of most of his professors, and by the time he graduated, he was beginning to earn considerable fees for his commissioned works.

When the young artist returned to his village, the Durer family held a festive dinner on their lawn to celebrate Albrecht's triumphant homecoming. After a long and memorable meal, punctuated with music and laughter, Albrecht rose from his honored position at the head of the table to drink a toast to his beloved brother for the years of sacrifice that had enabled Albrecht to fulfill his ambition. His closing words were, "And now, Albert, blessed brother of mine, now it is your turn. Now you can go to Nuremberg to pursue your dream,

and I will take care of you."

All heads turned in eager expectation to the far end of the table where Albert sat, tears streaming down his pale face, shaking his lowered head from side to side while he sobbed and repeated, over and over, "No ...no....no .no."

Finally, Albert rose and wiped the tears from his cheeks. He glanced down the long table at the faces he loved, and then, holding his hands close to his right cheek, he said softly, "No, brother. I cannot go to Nuremberg. It is too late for me. Look ... Look what four years in the mines have done to my hands! The bones in every finger have been smashed at least once, and lately I have been suffering from arthritis so badly in my right hand that I cannot even hold a glass to return your toast, much less make delicate lines on parchment or canvas with a pen or a brush. No, brotherfor me it is too late."

More than 450 years have passed. By now, Albrecht Durer's hundreds of masterful portraits, pen and silver-point sketches, water colors, charcoals,

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

Praying Hands (continued)

woodcuts, and copper engravings hang in every great museum in the world, but the odds are great that you, like most people, are familiar with only one of Albrecht Durer's works. More than merely being familiar with it, you very well may have a reproduction hanging in your home or office.

One day, to pay homage to Albert for all that he had sacrificed, Albrecht Durer painstakingly drew his brother's abused hands with palms together and thin fingers stretched skyward. He called his powerful drawing simply "Hands," but the entire world almost immediately opened their hearts to his great masterpiece and renamed his tribute of love "The Praying Hands." The next time you see a copy of that touching creation, take a second look. Let it be your reminder, that no one - no one - ever makes it alone!

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace."



Walk to
EMMAUS
THE UPPER ROOM

Prayer Vigil and New Minnesota Emmaus Website

Please check out the new website at www.mnemmaus.org and see what is there! Parts of it are still under development. (There is no need to sign in on any of these web pages to go to the prayer sign up for the upcoming Walks.) As we prepare for the spring Walks, you can go to the website, click on **72 Hour Prayer Signup**, follow the directions on the page and click the link that is indicated. This will take you to the Internet Membership Systems page. Once you are on that page, click on **Prayer Vigils**. As you recall from your pilgrim Walk, prayer by community members is such an important part of the weekend. This is another way of showing your love and God's love to the pilgrims during the weekend.

It's not too late to Sponsor someone!



This has been an exhausting winter, time to refresh and be ready for Easter. Now is a great time to sponsor someone(s) to attend a Walk to Emmaus. There are still openings for the upcoming walks, but if timing is better for you later, now is a great time to register and reserve the space.

If you aren't sure why you'd do this, remember, the aim of the sponsor is to bring spiritual revitalization to Christians who, in turn, will bring new life and vision to the work of the church in the congregation, home, workplace, and community. The aim of sponsorship is to build up the Body of Christ.

Doesn't sponsoring a pilgrim sound like a great way to share the joy of Easter? Please let me know if you need help. E-mail pastorlora@live.com or sponsorship@mnummaus.org or (507)-330-0025

Pastor Lora Sturm

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	pcld@mnummaus.org
Mary Bogle	Agape	612-799-8022	agape@mnummaus.org
Scott Norcross	Communications	612-267-4881	com@mnummaus.org
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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

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

Upcoming Walks

Minnesota Walk to Emmaus

Men's Walk #103—April 24-27, 2014

Women's Walk #104—May 1-4, 2014

Men's Walk #105—October 23-26, 2014

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

All will be held at Camp Koronis,

near Paynesville, MN