

**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- Men's Walk
Oct. 15-18,
2015
- Women's
Walk Oct. 29-
Nov. 1, 2015
- Board meet-
ing Sept. 19,
9 a.m. at
Richfield
United Meth-
odist Church

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Minnesota Walk to Emmaus

WWW.MNEMMAUS.ORG

SEPTEMBER 2015

From Linda Nelson, 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 show 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
Mary Bogle - Agape
Linda Nelson - Sponsorship**

**Jeff Adams - Prayer Chart
Audrey Benjamin - 4th Day
Jim Crecelius - Music & Worship**



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

-Luke 12:32

Sponsorship—the first and most important act of Agape love

SEEK	Prayerful guidance before asking prospective pilgrim to attend
ANSWER	All questions and concerns honestly
HELP	Resolve any problems that might prevent attendance
BRING	Your pilgrim to the site on time Thursday evening
PARTICIPATE	In the Sponsor's Hour Prayer Service at the site
OBTAIN	Personal agape letters from family and friends
ASSIST	Your pilgrim's family during his/her absence
ATTEND	The candlelight and closing services
DRIVE	Or ride home with your pilgrim after the weekend
TAKE	Your pilgrim to a follow up gathering after the Walk
PERSEVERE	In helping your pilgrim get in a reunion group

Sponsor's Checklist

As a sponsor, I understand and have done the following for my pilgrim:

- ◆ I have committed the whole process of sponsorship to prayer.
- ◆ I have listened to God about whom to sponsor on the Walk.
- ◆ I have discussed the Walk in full with my pilgrim and their spouse (if applicable) even if the spouse has no intention of attending the walk to Emmaus.
- ◆ I am sponsoring someone who is fully committed to living a life that is pleasing to God.
- ◆ I am sponsoring someone who is a Church leader, a servant, or someone who is seeking their servant role in the church.
- ◆ I have committed the time to sponsor this one pilgrim, by retrieving agape letters, by transporting this pilgrim to and from the retreat site. I have committed the time to help them get settled in their room, and to attend sponsors hour, candlelight services and closing services.
- ◆ I have also committed the time to assist my pilgrim in finding or starting their reunion group and taking them to their first 4th day community gathering.
- ◆ I am committed to keeping in touch with my pilgrim over the course of the next several months.



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

Sponsorship—Pilgrims are precious—handle with prayer

Taken from DAY FOUR: The Pilgrim's Continued Journey, also on pages 23-24 in Steve Bryant Handbook, discusses sponsorship steps

Pray for the person's openness to God's call to discipleship, not for how to get him or her to go on a Walk.

Make an appointment with the person or couple for the purpose of discussing their participation in Emmaus. Extend an invitation. Invite them to attend for the sake of a more vital relationship with Jesus Christ, not just to a weekend to go on.

Share your faith. Explain the basic elements of the Walk, its purpose and follow-up dimensions which help us live in grace for the rest of our lives. Have the attitude that you are giving them a wonderful gift rather than that they need to go.

Ask them to make a commitment by filling out the registration form. If the person is married, speak with both partners and encourage an equal commitment by both spouses.

Continue to pray, prepare agape letters, enlist the support of their pastor. Collect eight to twelve personal agape letters. Do not ask the team to deliver personal gifts during the weekend.

Support the Walk through your prayers during the 72 hour prayer vigil and your presence at the sendoff, sponsors hour, Candlelight, and Closing. Support the Pilgrim's family by house sitting, baby-sitting, watering plants, picking up the mail, feeding pets or just checking in with the spouse to see if any help is needed.

Encourage the Pilgrim in his or her Fourth day involvement. Give your friend an opportunity to talk through the experience. Help them find a group. Or, be prepared to start a group with him or her for a period of time until they find others to be in the group. Take them to Gatherings as your guest for a couple of months.

Help the pilgrim re-enter his or her own Church and consider ways to act out new commitment and enthusiasm. Inform the Pilgrim of how he or she can serve the Emmaus community and future Walks.

Help the Pilgrim sponsor others. Sponsorship is an act of love for God, for the Pilgrims, for the Emmaus Community, and for the church. It is a demonstration of agape love. It is making oneself an instrument of Prevenient Grace.

August Gathering and State of the Community



*Be joyful always,
pray continually.*

-1st Thes 5:16-17

The community met August 15 at Spirit River Community Church in Isanti for fellowship and dinner while catching up with old friends—and meeting new ones. We were able to raise several thousand dollars for pilgrim support. Thanks to all who came or donated. It is truly appreciated! The feedback has been so positive, we look to make this an annual event. If you have ideas or suggestions for next year please send comments to agape@mnemmaus.org.

Linda Nelson gave a “State of the Community” Report on Board activities this year. Back in January the Board met, discussed and debated which 2 things we could do that would have the greatest impact on our future. Consensus was reached on the two items listed below.

Enhancing communication with community – Under the direction of Darlene Vandermyle, a team of former lay directors are making personal calls to other former lay directors throughout strategic geographical locations across Minnesota asking them if they're interested in serving – and finding ways we can utilize their talents. She is working on training documents for the lay directors, Board rep, and mentors in preparation for the Fall Walks and continues to build the structure of committee members for each Board role - thereby utilizing more community members in each set of Walks going forward.

Audrey Benjamin is working through a committee to personally call all our recent pilgrims to talk with their about their 4th Days and find ways they can serve in upcoming Walks. We are making great headway in communicating more intentionally and strategically with our community. Barb Keith has been actively involved with our Fall Lay Directors (as have Darlene and her mentors for the fall – Terry Berg and Jim Rottinger) to ensure we are calling qualified team members with an eye toward progressive servanthood. We are attempting to be more strategic in providing opportunities of increased responsibility for our community – starting with Agape and serving in the Conference Room. We are continuing to grow our impact and reach through Facebook posting.

Intentional Outreach/Sponsorship – Jim Rottinger has just completed a huge project of matching records in IMS (our data base system) and identifying active and inactive members so that when Team Selection and Lay Directors begin searches for prospective team members, our calls are much more productive. Those we're calling are interested in serving, but may not be available until future Walks. This takes away much of the frustration that former Lay Directors had with calling so many people. This project and coordinating records has helped us to communicate more effectively with those interested in serving. Jim continues to keep a list of prospective sponsors/pilgrims and is personally calling the sponsors to remind them of their intent and inform them of our early bird discount.

Pastor Russ Jacobsen has made some great personal contacts with clergy and clergy leadership in determining their interest level in serving and progression to Spiritual Director on the next several set of Walks - as well as securing leadership for the Fall and Spring Walks. He is mentoring Spiritual Directors as they put their teams together. He and Jim Rottinger are working together to maintain lists of possible sponsors/pilgrims and new clergy to attend future Walks. Several Board members have and continue to visit churches and present Emmaus at various congregations across the state.



*... it is by grace
you have been
saved.
-Ephesians 2:5*

**Feel free to
print out this
page and
distribute to
people as
you invite
them on a
Walk.**



Walk to Emmaus—An Invitation

The Walk to Emmaus is an opportunity for you to meet Jesus Christ in a new way as He is revealed to you through other believers. It is an experience that begins with prayerful discernment, followed by attending a three-day experience of God's grace. There are fifteen talks regarding various aspects of Christianity, small group discussions, communion, lots of food, and fellowship during the weekend. Following the three days, participants are given an opportunity to join in small groups, such as our Friday morning men's group or our Tuesday evening women's group, and to continue to share in God's grace in a variety of ways, while supporting each other in our ongoing walks with Christ. **Emmaus is a terrific part of discipleship development at your church.**

The purpose of Walk to Emmaus is to develop leaders for the church. Walk to Emmaus will inspire, challenge, and equip participants for Christian action in their homes, churches, and places of work. Walk to Emmaus helps allow our grace-filled lives to be lived and shared with others.

Upcoming Fall Walks are October 15-18, 2015 for men, and October 29 to November 1, 2015 for women. Spring Walks are April 21 to 24, 2016 for men, and April 28 to May 1, 2016 for women. These Walks will be held at Koronis Ministries near Paynesville, MN. Transportation to and from the Walk will be taken care of by your sponsor. Your sponsor will provide you with registration materials for reserving a spot on an upcoming Walk.

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

Upcoming Walks! **Walk #109 (Men) Oct. 15-18, 2015** **Camp Koronis, Paynesville**

Walk #110 (Women) Oct. 29-Nov. 1, 2015

Walk #111 (Men) April 21-24, 2016

Walk #112 (Women) April 28-May1, 2016

2015 Minnesota Walk to Emmaus Board of Directors

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