



## NEW YEAR, SAME VISION

Greetings to all of my brothers and sisters in Christ, and happy New Year! As I reflect on 2004, I think of how many lives were touched, how many lives were changed, because of the Walk to Emmaus movement in Minnesota. None of this would have been possible without the overflowing support of our community members as sponsors, as team members, as agape servants, participating in Candlelight service, and making table agape. All of these wonderful personal sacrifices were undergirded by countless hours of prayer and unselfish giving of so many people's financial resources.

We welcome our new board members - Joan Phillips, George Lenarz, Dave Bunnell, George Sorenson and Rick Phillips, and our new Community Spiritual Director, Rev. Dennis Tamke. These individuals bring with them the energy and desire to continue our mission to bring others closer to Christ. We have added more sets of Walks and new Walk

sites to offer this opportunity to more Christian men and women.

In 2005 we will continue working in concert with our vision statement - to develop our Fourth Day community, leading to the autonomy of several new communities. We will also be improving our channels of communication via our community's website and the response to a survey that is gradually being distributed throughout our community. And the focus on reunion groups and monthly gatherings will greatly increase. All of these actions are geared to keeping alive God's grace in the daily lives of our community members. With your continued support and involvement, we can make that happen.

Jim Rottinger  
Community Lay Director

## THERE ARE NO SECRETS

The anxiety of a person you may sponsor can be greatly reduced by careful preparation on your part. You may want to keep this in mind as you recruit your friends to attend this experience. It is a gift of love - something that you want to give to someone you care about very deeply. Keep in mind that the Walk to Emmaus is not like a Christmas gift... you can tell the recipient exactly what will be received.

One's own response to their Walk will depend more on your openness than on what is being presented. When persons approach the Walk with an open, positive attitude, they find the experience to be a positive one. Likewise, when a person comes to the Walk to Emmaus with a closed mind, a self-satisfied attitude, or under pressure, they may benefit little from the experience. Proper preparation encourages participants' anticipation that God has something beautiful in store for them and they will be eager to learn, to grow, and spend time with other pilgrims in joyful Christian fellowship.

## WEBSITE UPDATE

I am very happy to announce that the Minnesota Walk to Emmaus Community website is now up and running. The website address is [www.mnemmaus.org](http://www.mnemmaus.org). We will be continually updating and improving its contents, adding new features and information. Please check out our site when you get a chance and give us your feedback.

So please tell your prospective pilgrim that there will be 15 talks, 10 by lay persons and 5 by clergy. There will be table discussions after each talk, followed by the option of doing either a poster, a skit or a song. There will be communion service each day. There will be time for long breaks, time for private prayer and reflection, and time for group sharing. And there will be lots of singing and lots of food. You may also want to explain the sleeping arrangements, as well as the requirement that all watches and cell phones be put away for the weekend. Of course, there is no need to mention the Agape dinner, the Candlelight ceremony, or the personal agape letters. But if your pilgrim should happen to know about any of these events, you can still acknowledge them without giving too much detail. Even so, your explanation will not even come close to the love and grace they will feel when they actually experience the special event first-hand. So no secrets, OK?

## WALK WEEKEND NOTES

Just a reminder that the scheduled times for our community events for the Men's and Women's Walks at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch are as follows:

**Candlelight** communion service **8:30 p.m.**  
(Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>)

**Closing** ceremony **4:30 p.m.**  
(Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>)

The Fourth Day meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Bethany UMC located in Rochester, MN.

We need the support of as many community members as possible to line the center aisle and the pews as the pilgrims and team walk past our raised candles. (Remember how awesome that experience was for you?) Looking forward to seeing you there!

## SPEAKERS' ATTIRE

During your pilgrim Walk, did you wonder why each of the 15 speakers giving talks would mysteriously be missing from the conference room, only to return wearing "more formal" clothing? Dressing up is not intended to attract more attention to the speaker, but rather to place more focus on the message. It is a sign of setting that person apart for a short time in order to give more notice to the words being spoken. Dressing up is only a symbol. The speakers are the same, whether they are dressed up, or not. But the symbols communicate to both the speaker and the people in the conference room that something special is taking place. And with the support of those in the prayer chapel before, during and after each talk, plus the ever-present guiding of the Holy Spirit, you can see why many a speaker has later said that giving a talk on an Emmaus weekend transcends every other occasion. It is a very awesome, but humbling experience. The 15 talks are a very powerful component of the Walk, and if a speaker's attire gets other people to sit up and take notice, then God's use of this human instrument will be successful in delivering His message to open hearts and minds.

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### MEN'S WALK #65 PILGRIMS & SPONSORS

Pilgrim	Sponsor
Kevin Anderson	Brian Cooper
Kevin Blank	Joan Blank
Judd Fischer	Amy Munson
Jeff Houdek	Randy Erickson
Russ Kid	Diane Truax
Mark Langhus	Jim Rottinger
Jeff Luedtke	John Hedges
Don Malinsky	John Bromeland
Jon Munson	Amy Munson
Steve Naill	Jim Rottinger
Marvin Schultz	Steve Koehne
Rod Simmons	Sue Simmons
Greg Townsend	Jay Schnoor

### WOMEN'S WALK #66 PILGRIMS & SPONSORS

Brenda Canning	Lynn Chrysler
Sherry Dahlman	Mary Ann Smith
Karen England	Mary Kay Paine
Sue Hennem	Gloria Feigal
Debbie Houdek	Sandy Cooper
Corey Jahnke	Gary Thomas
Machelle Kendrick	Rachel Foss & Theresa French
Becky Kidd	Diane Truax
Linda Knauss	Jon Marburger
Jeanne Kunkel	Mary Ann Smith
Geri Maness	Vicki & Gene Limesand
Kathleen Moore	Laura Renken
Paula Naill	Jim Rottinger
Conna Roesler	Jon Marburger
Pen Seepaya	Mary Kay Paine
Connie Theurer	Vicki & Gene Limesand
Ann Vanvick	Molly Reko
Laurel Yost	Jim Rottinger

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### REUNION GROUP vs. GATHERING

How does a reunion group differ from a gathering? The Emmaus reunion group is a small accountability group of two to six people who have usually, but not always, participated in the three-day Walk to Emmaus, and who have a desire to continue their pursuit of a life lived wholly in the grace of God. These small follow-up groups help pilgrims translate the message conveyed on the weekend into a daily walk with Christ, through the disciplines of piety, study and action. Reunion groups have a common purpose, that is, to help us persevere in grace. The groups meet at regular times, usually weekly for an hour. The meeting consists of people sharing the stories of their walk with Christ during the past week, in the pattern provided by the service card. Group members listen to one another, celebrate the grace of God in each person's life, and reinforce each one's commitment to living in union with Christ in all facets of daily life. The group provides support, encouragement, and accountability, and may also

include people who have not been on a Walk to Emmaus.

The gathering is the monthly reunion of all the members of the Emmaus community. Due to the large geographic area of our Community, several local gatherings have been established (see the back page of this newsletter for specific times and locations). The monthly gathering is a time for us to share our stories through singing and prayer, small-group sharing, Fourth Day speakers, and Holy Communion. We help one another recognize the risen Christ in the midst of our busy lives. Whereas the gathering is much less intimate than the sharing that takes place in the reunion group, it is also open to people who may or may not have had an Emmaus Walk experience.

The Christian life is strengthened and deepened by being shared with those who also have a vision of a life directed wholly to God through Christ. You cannot achieve this life on your own; you must have the right kind of support and fellowship from other Christians.

## AGAPE NEEDED

A very important aspect of an Emmaus weekend is the overflowing supply of agape which mysteriously appears on the tables in the dining room, on the individual tables in the conference room, and even on the pilgrims' beds before they retire for the evening. How many times have you heard the words of a pilgrim who said that he/she was "blown away" by the fact that so many people who didn't even know them, would take the time to make a piece of agape for them? We can never have enough agape items to share with the pilgrims, and we have seen a dwindling supply of agape provided on recent Walks. Therefore, I want to encourage all Community members, especially those in reunion groups, to express their love in this manner. A total of 50 pieces of agape for each Walk should cover everyone in the conference room.

## AGAPE SERVICE

Do you feel called to be a part of the upcoming Walk weekends at Ironwood Springs? We can always use more servants who are willing and able to devote their time and effort behind the scenes. There are a multitude of opportunities in which to serve: set-up on Thursday, take-down on Sunday, serving the Agape dinner, praying with the speakers, cleaning the dining room after meals, replenishing the snack table, and sorting agape items, to name a few. We do need several people who are able to stay the entire weekend as well as those who can come for short stints and perform specific duties. If you are able to serve any part or all of the upcoming Men's or Women's weekend, please contact Jim Rottinger at (952) 412-3594.

## MANY THANKS

It is with great appreciation that we say "goodbye" and "thank you" to Molly Reko, Nick Nickerson Jeff Adams and Rev. Don Budd as they complete their years of service on the Minnesota Walk to Emmaus Board of Directors. Their committee work and their input during the monthly board meetings contributed greatly to the success of our community. Their efforts and participation have definitely made an impact in shaping the direction and policy-making of our board of directors. We are truly grateful for their contributions.

## COMMUNITY AGAPE LETTERS

Listed below are some walk dates of communities that we received agape letters from. Please add them to your prayer list:

Birmingham, AL  
Women's Walk #35      Feb 24 - 27

Spring, TX  
Women's Walk #25      Mar 10 - 13

### FUTURE WALK DATES

Men's Walk #65	January 20 - 23, 2005	Ironwood Springs (Stewartville)
Women's Walk #66	January 27 - 30, 2005	Ironwood Springs (Stewartville)
Men's Walk #67	April 21 - 24, 2005	Lake Shetek (Slayton)
Women's Walk #68	April 28 - May 1, 2005	Lake Shetek (Slayton)
Men's Walk #69	July 21 - 24, 2005	Luther Point (Grantsburg, WI)
Women's Walk #70	July 28 - 31, 2005	Luther Point (Grantsburg, WI)
Men's Walk #71	October 27 - 30, 2005	Lake Koronis (Paynesville)
Women's Walk #72	November 3 - 6, 2005	Lake Koronis (Paynesville)

San Antonio, TX  
Women's Walk #1201      Jan 27 - 30

Eastern NE/Western IA  
Women's Walk #85      Feb, 2005  
Men's Walk #85      Feb, 2005

Show-Me-the-Way Community  
Men      Mar 3 - 6  
Women      Mar 10 - 16

### 2004 Board of Directors

Jim Rottinger	Community Lay Director	952-892-6199
Michael Stelck	Secretary	507-282-4069
Joan Phillips	Treasurer	507-289-3466
Rev. Dennis Tamke	Community Spiritual Director	507-344-0324
Rev Jim Crecelius	New Community Development	507-532-4024
Cathy Hamblin	New Community Development	715-824-2201
Ginger Amos	Outreach	715-294-2995
Rodney Beckman	Set-up / Tear-down	507-634-7972
Dave Bunnell	open	952-758-3261
Bonnie Chant	Team Selection	651-686-6480
Sue Lehrer	Registrar	763-755-7331
George Lenarz	open	651-322-7643
Shawn Mickschl	Entertainment / Child Care / Worship	952-250-5581
Rick Phillips	4 <sup>th</sup> Day Gatherings/Reunion Groups	507-289-3466
Maggie Rein	Education/Training	651-405-0698
Nancy Sjoquist	Agape	612-825-3576
George Sorenson	New Community Development	715-434-2723

Central Texas  
Women's Walk #268      Jan 20 - 23  
Men's Walk #269      Jan 27 - 30  
Men's Walk #270      Feb 10 - 13  
Men's Walk #271      Feb 17 - 20  
Women's Walk #272      Mar 03 - 06

Crescent City Walk to Emmaus  
New Orleans, LA

Emmaus of the Rockies  
Eastern Colorado

Crossroads Emmaus of New England

Western New York Emmaus/Chrysalis  
Mar, 2005

**Minnesota Emmaus Community**  
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**Burnsville, MN 55306**

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## MN Emmaus Community Monthly Gatherings

### Austin

1st Friday - 7:00 p.m. - First UMC  
Elliot Larson 507-433-6437

### Blaine

3rd Friday - 6:00 p.m. - Blaine UMC  
Beth Tomlinson 763-755-8366

### Lake City

Lake City UMC  
Constance Anderson 507-289-3419

### Mankato

1st Thursday - 7:00 p.m. - alternating  
Hilltop UMC or Belgrade UMC  
Craig & Diane Zimmerman 507-385-0250  
Jeff Adams 507-344-0324  
Don Putzier 507-345-1553

### Marshall

Wesley UMC  
Jean Metcalf 507-537-0932

### Rochester

4th Friday - 7:00 p.m. - Bethany UMC  
Rick Phillips 507-289-3466



This Minnesota Emmaus newsletter is published for the Minnesota Emmaus Community© 2005

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