

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- **Men's Walk**  
November  
9-12,  
2017—  
Mankato
- **Women's  
Walk-**  
November  
16-19, 2017  
— Mankato

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# Minnesota Walk to Emmaus—

WWW.MNEMMAUS.ORG

MAY/JUNE 2017

From Pete Schenck-Community Lay Director

## WELCOME NEW COMMUNITY MEMBERS!

Walks #115 & #116 are in the books and 20 new community members have been added to the Minnesota Community. Please welcome and pray for Walk #115 new community members: Brad Propp, Chuck Godfrey, Gary Horig, Jack Zei, Nate Greene, Ross Kohrs, Trokon Wellington, Warren Beaty. For Walk #116 new community members: Alesia Bakken, Denise Hepola, Barb Sipe, Carol Ottoson, Carollee Smith, Cheryl Propp, Shelly Junjak, Paula Green, Phyllis Roker, Debbie Schindele, Jenny Lewis, and Karen Lilla.

We now have twenty new members of the Minnesota Emmaus Community and we welcome you. During closing where each of the pilgrims spoke of the meaning of their 72-hours. It struck me that we need to thank God for the sponsors. Thank God for the Conference & Agape Teams. For each Walk, it takes approximately 31 members for the direct support. But then it also takes committed sponsors and prayer warriors. In order to successfully complete the two Walks, 96 people from the Community committed many hours for 20 pilgrims. Thank you. If you want to see the impact of the commitment of those 96 Community members, you only need to listen to the pilgrim testimonies. Here are some from Walks 115 & 116:

- ◇ *I have never been shown so much love and compassion.*
- ◇ *I really need to think of my relationship with God and Christ. I was so self-centered before.*
- ◇ *I needed to learn how loved I really am. I have never been surrounded by so much love.*
- ◇ *I learned the difference between being a Christian and being a disciple.*
- ◇ *I found, just what I needed.*
- ◇ *I received God's love through everyone.*
- ◇ *I need to listen to what God wants me to do next.*
- ◇ *I've seen a glimpse of heaven. I know I won't be alone.*
- ◇ *I learned patience. I've learned I want to serve my church and my God.*
- ◇ *Trust Jesus.*
- ◇ *This was a wakeup call for me. Here I am Lord.*
- ◇ *I had no idea the amount of love and support I needed and now received.*
- ◇ *I felt God's love. For a while my heart was cooled. Now it is on fire!*
- ◇ *I came here for spiritual renewal but received so much more.*

Just looking at those testimonies, is thank you enough. Honestly, during closing there was a healthy supply of tissues being used. Thank you for all involved and again, welcome to the Minnesota Emmaus Community.



## CHANGES

*There's that word again; changes. My career was with Northwest Airlines and the motto was "Change is inevitable—Growth is optional". Sometimes the change comes internally, while others changes come from external sources. The Minnesota Walk to Emmaus is experiencing changes from both. This newsletter will address both.*

### INTERNAL CHANGES

At the April Board Meeting, the Board decided to focus on three important aspects of being an Emmaus Community. All three are interconnected and could provide far reaching benefits.

Fourth Day changes will be purposeful in welcoming new community members. The 4th Day Committee members will be calling all new community members within two weeks of each Walk. We want to hear all about their experience and work with each individual in welcoming them to the community. This is showing the Agape love that we have for all community members.

The next focus is on Sponsorship & Outreach. On the Minnesota Emmaus [website](#) is a short presentation on effective Sponsorship. Effective and purposeful Sponsorship produces

quality pilgrims and builds a strong community. Working alongside the Sponsorship Co-Chair is the Co-Chair for Outreach. This is such an important function for the Community that one person just cannot handle the responsibility. For subsequent Walks, Sponsors will be called as well to make sure all aspects of effective sponsorship are being covered. This will also allow sponsors to contact an individual from the Board or committee if questions arise.

We are working on bylaw changes (everyone's favorite topic). The draft has not yet been approved but a concept that I think will have far-reaching positive effects is the addition of a Board position called Vice-Chair. This position would serve as another servant on the Board, taking many of the responsibilities of the Community Lay Director away. The Community Lay Director will then be able to focus on the Board and the Community while the Vice-Chair will focus on the preparation for every Walk.

As Community Lay Director, I have made a commitment for 2017 to be more communicative, not only via newsletters but also in person where possible. My job description says I need to provide newsletters quarterly. With everything happening, That is not adequate so I am committing to a newsletter six times a year.

### EXTERNAL CHANGES—EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL

On April 6th, Emmaus International distributed to Community Lay Directors throughout the world a short video on Emmaus International changes coming in 2018. I'd characterize the video as a teaser. April 18th, another teaser email appeared in our email inboxes. This provided a little more information about the reorganization that will occur next year. It was just enough to peak curiosity and to create more questions.

In October I will be one of only a few Community Lay Directors who will act as an advisor for the International Emmaus organization. I've received a lot of feedback as I traveled to Gatherings, Candlelight services, and Closing. The Upper Room will hear several of your comments.

There's no indication if the Walks will changes or if the talks will change. It "appears" that more local control will be provided each community with four Community Emmaus positions. More on this on the backpage.

AND THEN THERE ARE THE GATHERINGS

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

Emmaus says in their model that reunion groups should meet once a week. The model goes on to say that Gatherings should occur every month, and they even go on to say it should be the last Friday of every month. Taking it up one more level, the model says we should have a Regional Gathering every six months. Well we haven't done that. I mean look at the territory we cover. Emmaus then says they will host an annual International Gathering. I guess I've never known of one. But still the local Gatherings are very important.

I attended the one in Marshall on May 2nd and it was wonderful! It was a small group but we all had the opportunity for a hand-washing service with song and testimony. Afterwards a potluck dinner was served and we sat around two small tables and were just to enjoy a very pleasant evening together. Other Gatherings in the Twin Cities, Mankato, and Washburn Wisconsin were larger but still it was an opportunity for Emmaus Christians to come together in fellowship and prayer. The model Gathering is in Lake City, Minnesota where they meet after church the first Sunday of every month, and everyone is invited! What a great way to promote Emmaus. Now in the Twin Cities, there was a conversation about rotating Gatherings. What a great idea! I hope that catches on.

GOOD COUNSEL—NOVEMBER 2017

As was announced at the most recent Walks, our next set of Walks will be held in Mankato at Good Counsel. With these Walks being the true 25th Anniversary for Minnesota Emmaus, it seems only appropriate to return. There are going to be some very significant changes from previous Walks:

- ⇒ The location for the Walk is a new, fully enclosed building to the right at the top of the hill. The original facility is now a high school.
- ⇒ The cost will be \$200 per participant and that will not cover all of our costs. To break even we would have to charge \$255 per participant. Participant includes the Conference Room Team, Agape Team, Pilgrims, and Clergy Pilgrims.
- ⇒ Everyone is required to display a name tag while inside the building.
- ⇒ There will be **NO SMOKING** anywhere on the grounds.

DID YOU KNOW?

Emmaus, 40 years ago was an offshoot of Cursillo and it was done with the blessing of the Cursillo movement in order to create an ecumenical 4th Day movement. The Emmaus model which covers a lot of territory and several publications, still reflects the original intent of holding all Walks in churches. Over the years, many Emmaus communities shifted to a "camp-based" location. Iowa Emmaus still holds their Walks in churches. They've purchased a 24-foot trailer just to handle their 74 cots which everyone sleeps upon. Their cost is \$60 per participant. The similar set up occurs for other 4th Day movements in the State, where sleeping on cots and showering at other facilities is the norm.



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

Feel free to  
print out this  
newsletter  
and  
distribute to  
churches and  
people who  
want to walk  
to Emmaus.

## THE BACK PAGE

For the most part, this is where the CLD gets to ramble and make announcements of things to come. I'll ramble first and announce later.

*As CLD, I have been blessed with a very active Board who is dedicating themselves to their duties as laid out in job descriptions. In addition, many Board Chairs are forming committees to help with all of the responsibilities. Board members should not serve on the Conference Room Team (Emmaus rule) and that is hard for most of us to accept. Unfortunately, the amount of work required for the Board and the amount of training and time spent on the Walk, means one, or both rolls may suffer. It is so hard to give up serving and I do understand. Now, committee members may serve on Team and so if you have talents to share, please let us know!*

*A little more than five years ago, two Board members and one Community member poured over every word of every publication in print for Emmaus at the time. Linda Nelson, Jim Rottinger, and I spent many hours, at many locations, for three full months looking at how we operate and what opportunities we were missing that could better the Minnesota Emmaus Community. The Board members and committee members now have an understanding of their roll as servants of the Minnesota Emmaus Community. Because we are providing a quality experience for pilgrims, we are just now discovering how important that is to continue. In recent weeks I have had the pleasure of communicating with Lay Service Ministries (LSM) of the Minnesota United Methodist Church Conference. They are now providing credit for attending one of our Walks, to those who are seeking one of the LSM levels, or need to maintain a LSM level. I'm not sure if past credit can be had. This is one of the issues we will be discussing, hopefully in June.*

*BOARD POSITIONS— some have asked recently about coming on the Board. Honestly, yes we do have positions open. We're going through Time & Talent sheets looking for those who may have checked an interest in Board service.*

*EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL SERVICE—As I was wrapping up this edition, I got an alert about the four positions being offered, Communicator, Community Trainers, Start-up Trainers, and Consultants/Coaches. Here's what I know about those opportunities:*

*June 15th, 2017 job descriptions and applications will be distributed.*

*July 2017 Interviews begin.*

*August 2017 hiring begins.*

*September—December 2017 training begins.*

*January 2018 implementation.*

*I also just found out a couple of days ago that most of the manuals will change except for the talk outlines.*

*I will keep you posted as I discover more information. The Board will be the first to know and then discussions will begin. Again all of this is brand new to us.*

*Thank you for joining the Board in developing a strong and vibrant community. We are on a journey of a lifetime together.*

*In July we'll talk more about the difficulties in serving a community that is spread over 100,000 square miles, more on the reorganization of Emmaus International and the exciting addition of Lay Service Ministries!*