



Minnesota Emmaus Community Organized 1991
August 2008 Newsletter
Website www.mnemmaus.org

FROM THE COMMUNITY LAY DIRECTOR

Is it for me?

Those of us who are baby boomers will remember when our homes had only one phone. It was black and sat on a telephone stand which was often in the hallway. There were no telemarketers, call waiting or caller id. In fact some of us had a party line which we shared to save on the phone bill. There were strict rules of etiquette, like no calls during dinner, keeping the call brief, only family calls on Sunday. Living in a house full of girls the ringing of the phone was accompanied by a chorus of "Is it for me?" Today we have cell phones, blackberries, iPhones, email and IM so that we don't miss that important message or call. But are we so busy we are missing the most important call of all?

God has chosen to touch and use each of us in different ways following our three day weekend. And each of us has responded to His call in our own way. There is no doubt that only a very small number, if any, leave the weekend unchanged. I doubt that any of us left camp and became a new person over night. For most the changes in our lives are gradual and then we look back and say **WOW** how my life has changed during my 4th days.

If we are focused and heed God's call, our lives follow the pattern of the weekend. We start out slowly and then build. First we become more active at our home church. Finding time we never thought we had to do little things. Reassessing our priorities and investing in what is really important to us. For many of us, we are also called to become more active in the Minnesota Walk to Emmaus (MWTE) community.

I remember my first time as fourth day help serving on the Agape Team. I was blown away at all of the activity behind the scenes. Only then did I begin to appreciate the sacrifices others had made for me. When I signed up for the prayer vigil I didn't know how I was going to pray for the pilgrims by name since I didn't even know who they were or what their needs were. But of course the Holy Spirit knew exactly what their needs were and responded to my prayer for inspiration.

So why not turn off the computer and the cell phone and the TV and listen for that most important call of all... and yes it's for you!

Thank you, God Bless & DeColores!
Rick Phillips,
'08 Community Lay Director MWTE #53

EMMAUS VIDEO CONFERENCING

My wife and I went for a short visit back to New York last month for my niece's wedding. We picked up the rental car at the Albany airport and started heading north. As we're driving along I looked at the gas stations and saw a price of \$4.29 per gallon for regular gas. So we called back home to our banker to see if we could get a small loan – just enough for a week's worth of driving.

The high cost of gas is causing your MWTE board of directors some concern as we start bringing together teams for the upcoming walks. Typically, people who agree to be on team are from different areas of the state. Minnesota is a big state and it gets hard to ask someone to be on a conference room or agape team when you know the financial sacrifice they will need to make.

Our team meetings are meant to bring people together in unity with God and with each other. Traditionally our meetings require each team member share the same physical space and time for the team formation process to occur. However, we need to be sensitive to people who may have to travel great distances to be a part of our teams.

With the advent of technology and telecommunications, conferences no longer require a shared physical space, but still require a coordinated time for participants to meet. We realize, however, that this is not the best way to foster the formation of new teams

We are looking into the possibility of using the Internet to overcome this concern. At present we are starting to look into the feasibility and requirements that will allow remote participation in team meetings. We'll be keeping the Emmaus Community apprised of our findings.

Rick Phillips

IMPORTANT NOTICE : 2008 FALL WALKS AT CAMP KORONIS

Due to a set of circumstances we had not anticipated, the fall walks will be held at Camp Koronis in Paynesville, MN this fall. The men's walk will still be held from October 16-19. The women's walk, however, will be held from October 30-November 2.

Looking back, we were lucky Camp Koronis was available when we needed them. This may actually be a God-send. The last set of walks had a lot of pilgrims from the Perham/Dent area of the state (NW MN). There is also interest from the Marshall and Ortonville areas of the state. Koronis is more convenient for them than is Camp Ihduhapi, so we are hoping we get pilgrims from those parts of the state.

Maybe God is trying to tell us something!

Banners—Artistic Agape

Anyone who has been on an Emmaus walk knows how special it is for the pilgrims to see the banners when they are brought into the conference room; that sense of awe that someone they don't even know cared enough to put the time and effort into making a banner. However, many of the banners have been used since the early days of our existence and could stand to be replaced. What a wonderful gift of agape it would be for an individual, a reunion group, or members of a local church to make a banner for our community. There is no end to the many ways that we can express our love to the pilgrims. If you can help, please contact Molly Reko at mollyreko@comcast.net. Your gift of love would be greatly appreciated.

Agape—An Act of Love

Agape is an act of love! People who serve on the Agape team are again part of the entire Walk team. This unites the whole team (binding everyone together) into one unit. This has resulted in several wonderful weekends last fall and spring at Camp Ihduhapi. Would you like to serve on a team in the Agape position? Would you be interested in serving on a committee that would get together 2 to 3 times a year to work on Agape issues? If you are interested, please contact me at atjul-s@mchsi.com or by cell phone at 320-444-4665.

Another very important aspect of an Emmaus weekend is the agape which mysteriously appears on the tables in the dining room, on the individual tables in the conference room, and even on the pilgrims' pillows at the end of the day. It is such a great feeling for the pilgrims to know that so many people who don't even know them care enough to make or buy a piece of agape for them. We can never have enough agape items to share with the pilgrims. So with that said, I want to encourage all Community members, to express their love by sending agape for the upcoming walks. If you are able to do this service for the next pilgrims, we would like to ask that when the agape is sent that you also include a contact person for the group that is sending it. **Please send your agape to Julie Ufkes at P.O. Box 311 Buffalo Lake, MN 55314.**

De Colores! Julie Ufkes



Treasurer's Comments

It is exciting to be planning for our 2008 fall Minnesota Walk at Camp Koronis.

The cost for each pilgrim and team member for the weekend is \$121 per person plus \$10 per pilgrim to the Upper Room. This is the cost before we buy any supplies. We are still keeping the charge for the weekend at \$135. As you can see, we are not making any money from the people on the Walk. This is why we look to our members of the Minnesota Walk to Emmaus community to help us with your generous donations.

All team members and clergy on the Walks generously donate their time. Some pilgrims, team members and clergy, however, do not have the finances to pay for their participation on the Walk. Many scholarships are requested. We try to fill the requests, at least partially.

We are thankful for the blessings and challenges God provides. Your prayers and financial support are an integral part of His plan for this community. We pray that you, in turn, will be blessed abundantly for what you will sow into His Kingdom.

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at candlelight and closing. Your presence has a great impact on the pilgrims and we love to get reacquainted with old friends.

Donations can be sent to: MN Walk to Emmaus
c/o Joan Phillips
5325 Meadow Drive SE
Rochester, MN 55904



Welcome New Community Members!

The following men and women were pilgrims during the spring Walks. Let's all welcome them to the Minnesota Walk to Emmaus Community.

Walk #81

Cephas Davis
Ed Fishel
Norm Floden
Don Garber
Dave Libra
Ron Metzger
Jason Oberle
Steve Ostlund
Rich Prochaska
Lowery Smith
Richard Smith
Paul Sunderland
Phil Swanson
Greg Wallace

Walk #82

Laurie Bisila
Carolyn Campbell
Pat Coy Chris Draxler
Mary Floden
Denise Hammre
Jan Johanson
Brenda Johnson
Cindy Kennedy
Renee Malecha
Shannon Mattison
Fair Caldwell-Meeks
Claudia Melander
Christina Oberle
Kathy Parranto
Karyn Salley
Evie Smith
Diane Viesselman

Nominations for Serving

As you already know there is an Emmaus Board of Directors for the Minnesota Emmaus community. There are 15 total board positions and we still have positions available to fill. If you have a desire to serve our Community in an administrative capacity, we would love to consider you for a position on the board. The open positions are to be filled by individuals who are willing to attend monthly board meetings, head up a committee, and determine policy and procedures; it is definitely a "working" board. We value everyone's input, and as a board member you will be asked to be the eyes and the ears for our Community. Being a member of the Minnesota Emmaus Board of Directors allows you to play a significant role in helping shape the future of our Community.

If you are interested in serving in this capacity, or know someone that you would like to recommend, please contact Rick Phillips (507-254-2072/ rphil4525@bismark.com) or Michelle Schober (763-425-0794/ mschober4597@yahoo.com).

Sponsoring a Pilgrim—Bring a Friend Closer to Christ

Sponsoring a pilgrim for an Emmaus Walk is very rewarding. You know how special the weekend was for you, and helping someone else to have that special time is really quite a gift for you and the pilgrim. Lately we have been getting calls from people who are looking for someone to sponsor them for a walk. These people are usually new to the area and have heard about the Minnesota Walk to Emmaus. If you are willing to be a sponsor, please contact Michelle Schober at 763-425-0794 so we can start gathering a list of people who are willing to sponsor a pilgrim they have yet to meet.

Whether you are sponsoring someone whom you have yet to meet, or you wish to sponsor a friend, sponsorship is very easy; follow these simple steps:

- Pray for God's direction in whom to sponsor and for their openness.
- Discuss the retreat with your potential pilgrim. Share what the Walk to Emmaus meant to you.
- Give them a [registration form](#) and follow up. But never force anyone to go on a Walk to Emmaus!
- Get a copy of the [sponsor form](#) and fill it out.
- Submit the completed form(s) to the registrar as soon as possible.
- Continue in prayer for your pilgrim and get started on your [sponsorship responsibilities](#). On the Thursday evening of the walk, you bring your pilgrim to camp and help to get him or her settled, then stay for a short sponsor meeting once the pilgrims are led away to start their Walk. Then if you are able, you come to Candlelight on Saturday evening and share in that awesome experience. And of course, you may come back on Sunday for Closing and pick up your pilgrim.

Please consider sponsoring someone for the upcoming Walks. Please be a blessing to someone you know and sponsor their Walk to Emmaus. Bring your friend closer to Christ!

Your 2008 Board of Directors

Rick Phillips	Community Lay Director	507.289.3466	rphil4525@bismark.com
Rev. Paul Kobi	Community Spiritual Director	651.460.6110	pastorpaul@frontiernet.net
Rev. Duane Sarazin	Past Community Spiritual Director	952.890.2515	dsarazin@riverhillsumc.org
Joan Phillips	Treasurer	507.289.3466	jmp@bismark.com
Beth Tomlinson	Registrar	763.755.8366	bethom_54@yahoo.com
Mary Kay Lenarz	Education/Sponsorship	651.771.3677	crafterladykmz@comcast.net
Julie Ufkes	Agape	320.833.9915	jul-s@mchsi.com
Michelle Schober	Nominations/Outreach	763.425.0794	mschober4597@yahoo.com
Don Putzier	Communications	507.345.1553	drdcp@hickorytech.net
Dan Zei	At Large Director	715.212.2233	daniel.w.zei@gmail.com
Mary Ann Smith	Team Selection	612.722.3339	smith310@umn.edu
Molly Reko	Facilities/Site Sel./Database	651.454.2208	mollyreko@comcast.net

A Word from Our Community Spiritual Director

I feel like the convention speaker introduced as a Texan who made 100 million dollars from drilling for oil. The man said, "Thank you, but I have a few corrections. I'm from Pennsylvania, not Texas. I'm in coal, not oil. It was 100 thousand dollars not, 100 million. I lost it rather than made it." Then he paused and said, "And, it was my brother, not me."

I have a few corrections too. I'm not your Community Spiritual Director. The Rev. Paul Kobi is recovering from surgery. Your Immediate Past Community Spiritual Director, the Rev. Duane Sarazin is helping Paul with the approaching Walks, but suffered a health setback also and is not available to write... so you got me, their (spiritual) brother. (Paul and Duane appreciate your support in prayer.) The Bible says, "In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps" (Proverbs 16:9). I think we experience a lot of unplanned things, but it can be difficult to believe that God determined our steps. However, sometimes it is easy to see.

It was so obvious at the Men's Walk last fall. I was privileged to work on the team, and a jolt of excitement shot through me when I heard the talks at a preparation session. I was awed by how important each person's personality was to their talk. It was so obvious that each person was a letter from heaven. God had put speaker and speech together.

During the Walk I looked around the conference room, and saw God dismantle our defenses. I saw our resistance to his life-changing grace evaporate. I witnessed the impact of those supporting us in prayer. I knew God was hearing and answering prayers. Workers and pilgrims were being saved, in the fullest sense of that word. Tears filled my eyes and dripped down my cheeks. The weekend was planned by humans, but it was divinely orchestrated. We need to continue to plan and believe that God will orchestrate his great work through us. However, the circumstances are often not so kind and the fruit not quickly visible. The Apostle Paul walked a divine path of triumph though he frequently suffered ailment, injury, opposition and mishap. Knowing the amazing, rewarding love of God, he focused on his assignment.

We also need to focus on our assignment. God has lifted you and me up, whatever the circumstances, to make a difference today. It requires faith. When the giant Goliath stood between Israel and victory, all Israel believed God could deliver them; however, only one person believed that God could deliver the nation through him. That is why David became God's champion.

From the registrar

We still are looking for more pilgrim registrations for the Walks that are coming up in October. Brothers and sisters, please talk to your friends and family and encourage them to attend a Walk. Maybe there is someone you have been meaning to talk with about this. Call them and ask them out for coffee! Then bring up the subject of the Walk to Emmaus! Our community can only grow when we encourage others to attend this awesome experience!

If you need assistance with sponsoring someone, please feel free to call Mary Kay Lenarz at 651-771-3677 or me. We have material to help in the process. Pray about who you might want to contact about this! God bless all of you! De Colores!!
Beth Tomlinson
Registrar, MN Walk to Emmaus
763-755-8366

Today, do you believe in the grace and love of Christ that forgives your sins and grants you favor? Do you believe in the grace and power of Christ that makes you God's champion? Don't fret circumstances. Don't focus on ailment, injury, mishap or opposition. God has determined your steps as a champion. Show up for assignment. It is worth it. A parade of joy is coming. *You will go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and hills will burst into song before you, and all the trees of the field will clap their hands* (Isaiah 55:12).

Wesley Gabel, pastor of Bethany UMC - Rochester

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.

—Mark 16:15

Communications Director Notes

It is a pleasure to compile this newsletter to help keep the community informed. Don't forget to access our website at <http://www.mnemmaus.org> for more information. Feel free to contact me at drdcp@hickorytech.net if you have questions or concerns. Also, please contact Molly Reko, our current database manager, at mollyreko@comcast.net for changes or corrections in contact information.



Don Putzier

Serving the Lord Unconditionally

Remember all the unconditional love you received on your Walk? You can return that love by serving during the upcoming Walks. If you are interested in helping on the Agape team, decorating for the Agape dinner, serving during the Agape dinner, providing music or entertainment, or helping in any way, please contact Michelle Schober at 763-425-0794. Your love will go a long way toward serving the pilgrims—and most of all, serving the Lord!

Minnesota Walk to Emmaus Active Reunion Groups

Minneapolis

Lowery Smith Reunion Group

Meets at - Lowery Smith's home
Contact - Lowery Smith
Phone - 612-722-3339
Meets - Mornings (check with Lowery)

Shoal Lake Reunion Group

Meets at - varies
Contact - Molly and Al Reko
Phone - 651-454-2208
Meets - 1st Tuesday evening of every month

Bethlehem Stars

Meets at - Bethlehem Covenant Church and members' homes
Contact - Mary Ann Smith
Phone - 612-722-3339
Meets - Check with Mary Ann

Rochester

No Name Reunion Group

Meets at - Bethany Church
Contact - Rick Phillips
Phone - 507-254-2072
Meets - Tuesday, 7:00 am

LaCresant

No Name Reunion Group

Meets at - Varies
Contact - Linda Thrune
Phone - 507-643-6320
Meets - Check with Linda

Austin

No Name Gathering

Meets at - Austin UMC
Contact - Don Defor
Phone - 507-643-6320
Meets - First Friday of each month

Blaine

No Name Reunion Group

Meets at - Blaine UMC
Contact - Beth or Wayne Tomlinson
Phone - 763-755-8366
Meets - Wednesday evening at 6:15 p.m.

Blaine

No Name Gathering

Meets at - Blaine UMC
Contact - Beth or Wayne Tomlinson
Phone - 763-755-8366
Meets - Third Friday of each month at 6:30

Cross Winds UMC

No Name Gathering

Meets at - various homes of members
Contact - Dianne Roth
Phone - 763-420-9686
Meets - First Saturday of every other month

Detroit Lakes

No Name Gathering

Meets at - various homes of members
Contact - Reva Husby
Phone - 218-847-8662
Meets - monthly in Detroit lakes on the third Monday

Perham/Dent

No Name Gathering

Meets at - various homes of members
Contact - Rev Roger Parks
Phone -
Meets - monthly at the Perham United Methodist Church on Wednesday evening

Mankato/North Mankato

Men's Morning Risers

Meets at - Hilltop United Methodist Church, Mankato
Contact - Don Putzier
Phone - 507-345-1553
Meets - Every Friday at 6:30 a.m.

Minnesota Walk to Emmaus
Don Putzier
Communications Director
160 Country Club Drive
Mankato, MN 56001

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Minnesota Walk to Emmaus Upcoming Walks

Men's Walk #83
Oct. 16-19, 2008
**Koronis Assembly
Grounds**
Paynesville, MN

Men's Walk #85
Apr. 16-19, 2009
Camp Ihduhapi
Loretto, MN

Women's Walk #84
Oct. 30-Nov. 2, 2008
**Koronis Assembly
Grounds**
Paynesville, MN

Women's Walk #86
Apr. 30-May 3, 2009
Camp Ihduhapi
Loretto, MN

Fourth Day Event

Nov. 8, 2008, 10 a.m. to Noon
River Hills UMC Burnsville
Spiritual leader: Duane Sarazin
Music leader: Kurt Triebenbach

Support Candlelight and Closing!

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 before the Saturday evening Candlelight for song, communion, and to lift up the Pilgrims in prayer. You are also welcome to join for closings, which will be Sunday afternoons, at approximately 4:30 p.m.

Map to Koronis

