



Rainbow Connections

Kalamazoo Area Emmaus Community

[HTTP://WWW.KALAMZOOEMMAUS.ORG](http://www.kalamzooemmaus.org)

From Our Community Lay Director—Rae Williams

Dear Family,

I believe that is what we are. We see each other only at weddings funerals or graduations, events of that nature. When we do get together it is a great reunion and we always talk about how we should get together more often. We part our ways and before you know it, it has been another year.

This is the type of family I would like us to be, the one that gets together on a regular bases because we want to stay connected or the ones that talk daily because we want to hear each other’s voices. I miss my family and want to see you all soon.

Sooooooo, we are having an all community gathering at Martin UMC on September 26. Please plan on coming. Come as a group, oh like your cluster group! That would be fun.

Seriously, the board has been hard at work. Looking for a new place for the next walks.

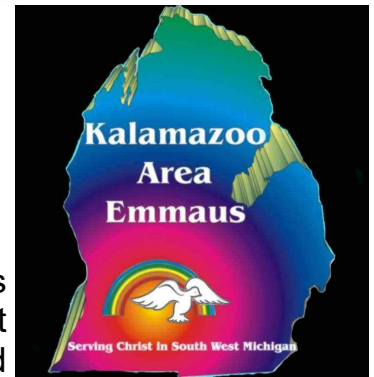
As frustrating as it may seem we want to do it right and honor God. Last year we agreed that we were going to schedule one walk a year until we have successful walks regularly. We are committed to following the recipe. Without a Community Spiritual Leader we are not able to have walks there for we need to get that position filled. With the schedules the clergy have and the pressure on them we are having trouble finding someone to fill the position. So family, if you are aware of any names please contact the board.

God says; Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord. Psalms 31:24

Our family Father is well aware of how things are going He knows the troubles we are having and has a plan for our life as Kalamazoo Emmaus Community. He hasn't given up on us and I am asking you the same. Take heart, keep strong and as God tells us.

Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. Hebrews 10:23

Again I am coming to you, asking you to hang in there, keep the faith, and continue in prayer and Do Not Stop gathering together. God Loves You And So Do I.



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Waiting—Annette Hoppenworth—Women’s Lay Leader

Do trials lead to deeper belief or do we walk away believing God doesn’t answer our prayers? As I pray about the walk being postponed for the second time and the possibility of pulling together a third team (I’m hoping most of you will come back) this is what I hear the Lord asking. When things don’t go our way do we think we are at fault or that we don’t deserve an immediate answer to our prayers or that God chooses not to answer? That is a human response to our world of immediate gratification and self-centeredness. It’s not about us, the Kalamazoo Emmaus community or our churches. It is about spreading the gospel and the importance of walking faithfully with Christ that matters. I remember asking God why he hadn’t fixed my marriage once and he showed me that His answer didn’t only rely on my alignment with His word, but that my whole family needed a change of perspective for Him to be able to answer my prayers. That kind of shift requires time. Knowing the Lay Director talk was perseverance I told God when I was asked for the first time to be an ALD that he would have to fix my marriage by the time I was the Lay Director, because I felt that was my greatest challenge and I wanted it wrapped up in a neat bow for my talk. Well I have previewed my talk twice and my marriage was still a work in progress, but there has been a shift since the walk was postponed and the next time I give my talk it will have the ending I have been praying for. So will we need to wait 20 years for the next walk, most likely not, but I can tell you in full confidence that God does answer prayers, even the most impossible ones, even when it requires a lifetime of waiting.

At the funeral of an infant recently the pastor referred to Psalm 130 “I will wait for the Lord, my whole being waits, and in his word I put my hope. I wait for the Lord more than watchman wait for the morning.” The pastor referred to this as an active waiting. Waiting for the pain of a lost child to ease, waiting for disappointment to make way for God’s plan. I think the Kalamazoo Emmaus community is in a time of “active waiting.” While God is doing His thing, shifting the hearts of those who are meant to attend this walk, we need to be actively waiting. What does that mean for us? We need to be praying for his direction. Who does he want us to ask? How does he want us to strengthen our community? How is he calling us to be involved? God will do his part even when we don’t do ours, but it will take longer because it then requires more hearts to be shifted.

We need to remember His faithfulness and rest on His promises. Remember your walk; share your story again with your spouse, family, pastor, and friends. Reignite the fire that was there after your walk, when you were eager to walk in obedience. Trust, believe, and wait, actively, on the Lord. The poem by Russell Kelfer has given me great comfort and perspective over the years. I hope it will do the same for you.

Waiting—continued

Wait

By Russell Kelfer

Desperately, helplessly, longingly, I cried; quietly, patiently, lovingly, God replied. I pled and wept for a clue to my fate and the Master so gently said, "Wait." "Wait? You say wait?" Lord I need answers, I need to know why? Is your hand shortened? Or have you not heard? By faith I have asked, and I'm claiming your Word. My future and all to which I relate hangs in the balance, and you tell me to Wait? I'm needing a 'yes' a go-ahead sign. Or even a 'no' to which I'll resign. You promised, dear Lord, that if we believe, we need but to ask, and we shall receive. Lord, I've been asking, and this is my cry: I'm weary of asking! I need a reply. Then quietly, softly, I learned of my fate, as my Master replied again, "Wait." So I slumped in my chair, defeated and taut, and grumbled to God, "So, I'm waiting for what?" He seemed then to kneel, and His eyes met with mine... and He tenderly said "I could give you a sign." I could shake the heavens and darken the sun. I could raise the dead and cause mountains to run. I could give all you seek and pleased you would be. You'd have what you want but you wouldn't know Me. You'd not know the depth of My love for each saint. You'd not know the power that I give to the faint. You'd not learn to see through clouds of despair; you'd not learn to trust just by knowing I'm there. You'd not know the joy of resting in Me when darkness and silence are all you can see. You'd never experience the fullness of love when the peace of My spirit descends like a dove. You would know that I give, and I save, for a start, but you'd not know the depth of the beat of My heart. The glow of My comfort late into the night, the faith that I give when you walk without sight. The depth that's beyond getting just what you ask from an infinite God who makes what you have last. You'd never know should your pain quickly flee, what it means that My grace is sufficient for thee. Yes, your dearest dreams overnight would come true, but, oh, the loss, if you missed what I'm doing in you. So, be silent, my child, and it time you will see that the greatest of gifts is to truly know me. And though oft My answers seem terribly late, My most precious answer of all is still "wait."

Scholarships

Kalamazoo Area Emmaus is always accepting donations for scholarships for Pilgrims to attend a Walk. If you would like to provide a scholarship or partial scholarship please send a check to the registrar with the notation Scholarship. No donation is ever too large or too small to make a difference.

Thank you for supporting the Walk to Emmaus with your financial gifts. These gifts will enable others to experience God's love is a real and powerful way.

DeColores

Dorie Litchfield, Treasure

Walks of 2016

Preparations are underway for the a numbers of people who would like to or have worked in the conference room during an Emmaus weekend. During the Team Selection process “the list” is handed out to about a half a dozen people who represent our community to assist the lay directors of the coming weekends find a “balanced” team for the Walk to Emmaus experience. The “balance,” a cross section of experienced and new members from Southwest Michigan that meet the qualifications for the responsibilities that are required for working in the conference room.

“Qualifications?” you might ask. You should have worked in the background first before going in to the conference room. That is a blessing in itself. Seeing the many facets of service that take place to grace the pilgrims of the weekend. Watch how they are being prayed for, how the bathrooms are cleaned and posters put up, how the tables are decorated, how the meals are being prepared, following “the schedule,” because timing is everything. We want things ready when they are supposed to be, we don’t want them to be late and have their food be cold and we don’t want to make them wait for their food to be ready. Having the background experience helps you appreciate what is being done on the weekend.

So if you’re on Facebook, Kalamazoo Area Emmaus or just a browser of our website (www.kalamazooemmaus.org) and have wondered how to get “called” for participation of a weekend event, we need your information. You know most of it from attending any gathering or follow-up meeting; example, “My name is Rocky Starland. I took my walk in the spring of 93 in Battle Creek and sat at the table of Thomas.” What we also need is your address, telephone number, e-mail address if you have one, what and where have you worked on weekend events already. Example: “I worked on the auxiliary team setting tables and helping in the kitchen when needed for the fall walk in South Haven. I also was an assistant table leader on the men’s walk in the spring of 2010. I would like to work in the conference room again and maybe someday be a lay director of a weekend event.”

So, send us that information, to me at rcjsr50@i2k.com and your name will pop up on “the list.” There are over 1,200 names in our database. You would think that there shouldn’t be any problem getting a team put together. But people have things that prevent them from participating; health, weddings, new born babies, graduations, you name it, we’ve heard many reasons. And one of the hardest positions to fill is music. If you have a love of singing and would like to lead a room full of men or women to lift their voices to the Lord, pray now and let us know if you’re available.

Remember “Christ is counting on you.”

GLYASDI ~ Rocky Starland

Sponsorship—Who Cares Anyway?

The other day, I looked around our church and noticed the people who have attended an Emmaus walk. As I noticed each one, I thought for a minute about the good contributions (that I'm aware of anyway) that each person has made either to our church or community. Like a spark that ignites a fire, I was aware that each one of those people have made a difference in life and body of our church. Some are known for their good attitudes, some for the good work they have been doing to help the less fortunate in our community. Others have served on church committees and provide encouragement to others. The list seemed endless, people going on mission trips for God, for serving in campus ministry, preparing food for others, to leading bible studies.

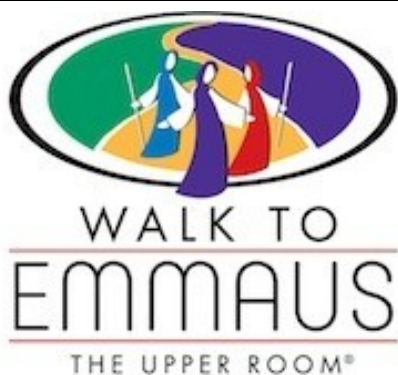
Another thing I noticed about those people that have attended an Emmaus walk; the light in their eyes and the apparent love of God they have. These people are sometimes sought out for spiritual advice, these people will walk beside you in your times of trouble. These people say they will pray for you and they do. These people have a faith in God that others admire. These people create a spark that ignites a passion in other members of our church. It's like the gift of Emmaus keeps giving.

God's greatest commandment is to love the Lord your God, with all your heart and soul and mind and to love your neighbor as yourself. Sharing the gift of Emmaus is the biggest gift you can give to your church and community.

What is that saying...Be the change you want to see in the world? Sponsor the next change agent (also called pilgrim!) and then watch and see what happens.

GLY&SDI

Karen Thompson



A New Look for the Future— The Growing Emmaus Family

For over 30 years, we've been offering the Walk to Emmaus for adults and Chrysalis Flights and Journeys for youth and young adults. As we've continued to offer these programs, we have seen the need to reach more people with appropriate life stage offerings. As a result, this year we will launch Face to Face for adults who are 60 and older, and, in 2016, we will introduce Journey to the Table for young adults between the ages of 18 and 35.



Agape: brotherly love (verb)

I've heard Emmaus described as three days of Christmas. The continuous flowing gifts of agape bring home the message GOD LOVES YOU! The entire weekend is filled with anonymous agape love, from the meals which are loving prepared, to the beds that are made, the bathrooms cleaned and filled with necessities left behind, the continuous prayers at the church, within the community, and around the world, to the loving thoughts and gifts found on pillows and tables. There has been some confusion as to who can give agape. **Agape gifts may be donated by individuals, small groups, churches, Sunday school classes, and communities. What is most important is that these gifts are given anonymously; please do not put individual names on them.** The name and/or location of your small group, your church, your city, or just the Kalamazoo Emmaus Community would be fine to put as the giver. You may also simply put "God Loves You." Please bag or box your items and mark the number contained on the outside. You may specify what talk you would like items used for or leave that up to the weekend servers. Anyone who has been on a walk can serve. It is required that one serves on auxiliary before working in the conference room. Please note agape is no longer being put in the conference room so please make sure to send enough for meal and pillow agape. Deliver as soon as possible to the mailroom.

Talk One: Priority

Talk Two: Prevenient Grace

Talk Three: Priesthood of all Believers

Talk Four: Justifying Grace

Talk Five: Life of Piety

Talk Six: Growth through Study

Talk Seven: Means of Grace

Talk Eight: Christian Action

Talk Nine: Obstacles to Grace

Talk Ten: Discipleship

Talk Eleven: Changing Our World

Talk Twelve: Sanctifying Grace

Talk Thirteen: Body of Christ

Talk Fourteen: Perseverance

Talk Fifteen: Fourth Day

Pilgrims: 36 pieces (take home bags only)

Meal Time: 80 pieces

Pillow Agape: 80 pieces



Special Community Gathering!

Where: Martin United Methodist Church
969 E. Allegan,
Martin, MI

When: September 26,
2015

Time: 5pm Worship

and 6pm Potluck

We will be joining Martin in their “Rock” worship service and having a Community Emmaus potluck and social time after the service.

Request for Board Members

Kalamazoo Area Emmaus Board needs members in the following positions:

Assistant Lay Person
Community Spiritual Director
Agape Coordinator
Nominations
Set up/Clean Up
Database & Web servant

Please contact Rae Williams 269-357-4904



**Kalamazoo Area Emmaus
Community**

5227 Sandstone
Climax, MI 49034

Be sure to check out

<http://www.kalamazooemmaus.org/>

For all the information you will need on YOUR new
Community!

There are many, many ways for you to live out your 4th Day.

God Loves You and So Do We!