

Dear PSWTE Community Members,

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens. He has made everything beautiful in its time.” Ecclesiastes 3:1, 11)

Seasons come and seasons go! We have officially entered into summer! With that comes the anticipation of different things that will go on. For you, it may be relaxation! It may be jam-packed full of activities! It may mean planning for a trip! Whatever it is, there is a certain anticipation of what is to come, what will change, and part of it is planning!

We, the PSWTE Board along with the committee chairs and members, have been working on and planning and anticipating the future of Puget Sound Walk to Emmaus, the season we were in, and looking forward to the season we are about to enter. We have some things in the works and invite you all to be part of it! The board asked for your input and after much prayer and discussion, and hashing and re-hashing, along with the help of the Lord, we have come up with a plan. For starters, one of the biggest concerns are the tired servants. Looking at the weekend schedule, it is obvious that Saturday is the longest and busiest day of the walk weekend. It is not only busy for the servers, but for the pilgrims as well. They have so much coming towards them, with not a whole lot of process time. Not to mention that Saturday night is often a very late night after candlelight and Agape; for both teams and pilgrims.

After receiving community input, we came to understand that Agape, particularly, needed to be modified. Individuals shared that there are strawberry allergies, gluten issues, being uncomfortable with linking arms and drinking juice, etc., however the majority said they did not want to remove the experience all together. The next question posed was, “What made the Agape experience moving or special?”. Nearly all the answers were the background team who were mostly strangers, holding the candles, walking in and seeing the silhouette of Christ projected on the wall, along with the music. That gave us the foundation to start building off.

After much prayer, we came up with the idea of combining the still “cloistered” and intimate candlelight service and the Agape experience together into one. The schedule of events remain the same for Saturday, until after Fiesta. After Fiesta, the script (which is still being worked out) and schedule changes to:

Following Fiesta, we will still “go bless and thank the teams who have been serving us all weekend”. We will enter singing, “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus” with the background teams circled around the perimeters, per usual. When entering the room, the pilgrims will see Jesus’ silhouette up on the wall, tables and white linens formed in the shape of a cross with one red candle on each “arm” signifying His pierced hands,

flower arrangement circling the feet of Christ in the center, surrounded by each pilgrim's candle that has already been lit and prayed over by the background teams just like was done in the sanctuary before at the team's candlelight service. Instead of the LD/ALD explaining how this meal is like one in biblical times, etc., the Clergy will give a brief explanation of each pilgrim candles, prayer cover for them throughout the weekend, and a quiet time of meditation and reflection. A special song will be included. The background teams will have already exited singing, "Let Your Light" and have lined the halls as the pilgrims and talk room team exit and head to bed.

This will help the very tired pilgrims and teams alike get to bed at a much earlier time. The Agape/Candlelight team will have a much easier and faster time of setting up and tearing down and will be headed home, better rested to get up for Mananitas in the morning. The details of this are still being worked out. We look forward to doing a demonstration of what this will look like at the July 15th Fourth Day BBQ/Picnic at Rose Hill Church.

REMINDER: UPCOMING EVENTS!

PSWTE Fourth Day Mid-Summer BBQ

Please join us at our Mid-Summer Potluck BBQ, Saturday, July 15, 2017, at Rose Hill church in Kirkland. The church is located at 12202 NE 90th St, Kirkland, WA 98033. The party will start at 3:00pm. We plan to eat around 5:30pm. This will be a great time to renew friendships with those you may not have seen for a while, or get acquainted with other brothers and sisters in our community you may have never met!

LD/ALD training was held last Saturday, June 17th for the upcoming Walks for 2018!

Men's Walk #236, LD: David Frieboes, February 8-11, 2018

Women's Walk #237, LD: Christine Seifert, February 15-18

Location: Christ Lutheran Church, Lakewood

Combined Team Meeting: Saturday, January 13, 2018 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Fourth Day Celebration: Saturday, March 24, 2018 beginning at 9:00 a.m. at Christ Lutheran Church, Lakewood.

Men's Walk #238, LD: Bobby Berndt, August, 2-5, 2018

Women's Walk #239, LD: Denise Doezema, August 9-12, 2018

Location: Birchwood Presbyterian Church, Bellingham

Combined Team Meeting: Saturday, July 14, 2018 Birchwood Presbyterian, Bellingham

Fourth Day Celebration: Saturday, September 15, 2018 at Birchwood Presbyterian, Bellingham.

Requests to Serve for the February, 2018 Walks can be found on the pswte.org site! It's exciting to see service requests already coming in! Call a brother or sister you may not have seen serve for a while and invite them to serve with you! Ask the Lord to place someone on your heart to sponsor! There is joy in the journey and so many blessings as we serve together!

Please do not hesitate to let us know of your questions and concerns. We wouldn't even mind some encouragement along the way! Blessings to each one of you and your families in this summer season!

De Colores,
Rocky Dowrey
PSWTE President, 2017