



Crossroads Emmaus

July 2025

Dates of Interest:

Board Meeting

August 19, 2025

7:00 p.m.

JEC Bldg., 8925 TX-111

Gathering

July 17th, 2025 – 6:30 PM

Victoria

First English Lutheran Church

516 N. Main St.

Victoria, TX 77901

August will be in Palacios

Up Coming Gatherings

Exciting Walk News!

Upcoming Walks

We have a Men's Walk being planned for the first of 2026.

Please be in prayer.

[Documents](#)

[Reunion Groups](#)



2024-2025 Community Officers

Community Lay Director &

Board Chairperson: Mike Myers

Vice Chairperson: Cindy Krause

Secretary: Belinda Waters

Treasurer: Retha Hahn

Immediate Past LD: Mike Alderson

Ebenezer

This July begins the 250th year of our nation's founding. I remember the 1976 Bicentennial because we were in Millet, Texas building a small house on the land where our father was born. We missed the boat races, bingo and fireworks that year which was a bit of a let down. I honestly could not see the importance he placed on this activity, yet I have always treasured those memories. This small house was used for many years and helped us learn about a life in the country without many of the comforts we had at home like indoor plumbing.

I look back and am reminded of *1 Samuel 7:12 Then Samuel took a stone, and set it between Mizpeh and Shen, and called the name of it Ebenezer, saying, Hither to hath the LORD helped us.*

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Here I raise my Ebenezer;

hither by thy help I'm come;

and I hope, by thy good pleasure,

safely to arrive at home.

Our father was making a statement that all the gifts he was given come back to this small farm long since gone.

The United States of America is 249 years and counting. Our founding documents are set in the belief and gratitude of God in the creation of our country. Our country has faced difficult times and has fallen short of serving with God's love in the forefront. We are not a perfect people, but we serve a perfect God. As we meet the challenges and celebrate the successes. let us remember that *Hither to hath the LORD helped us*, and we are tasked to share our blessings with others along our way. De Colores, Cindy

HELP!!

We have two missing totes of green Emmaus song books.

If you know where they might be please call our Board Music Rep.

Jay Thigpen 361-648-2100.

If you feel a calling to sing or play an instrument with our music team, please call our Board Music Rep.
Jay Thigpen 361-648-2100.

Crossroads Emmaus - cremmaus.org

I would like to share my thoughts and the assurance I found in scripture over the last few days. As events have continued to unfold, scripture has come to mind, and I have gone back to those passages to try and make sense of this tragic event. I also provided some links. indicated in color, that provide more information about those who answered the call for help.



The flash flood in Kerr County on July 4, 2025 has touched each of us, and the country and world has come together in prayer. We continue to pray for those directly affected and those who are helping the community to recover our lost and to recover from the effects of this tragic event.

After an unprecedented amount of rain fell in a concentrated area, the Guadalupe River rose an estimated 40 feet in a very short period of time, raging through the riverbed, leaving no way to escape its path. The community came out from all corners of the county and to warn residents and campers of the impending danger. The devastation and the loss of life due to the flood (Genesis 7:20) grew even as the sun rose on a new day. In those moments, hundreds answered the cries of the hurt and lost. Who is my neighbor?(Luke 10:29)

Texans across the state came to assist, neighboring states and [Mexico](#) sent teams, supplies were collected, tools and equipment were loaded and began to make its way to the flood ravaged area before the water had even begun to recede. Local volunteers and rescue teams surged into the area to help as the water continued to rage.

Roads and bridges washed out , and the river was too turbulent to navigate a boat rescue.

Corpus Christi [Coast Guard team 6553](#)([Isaiah 6:8](#)) was called into action, battled weather that turned a 1 hour flight into 6 hours and made 4 attempts to land at [Camp Mystic](#). _ Coast Guard Rescue diver [Scott Ruskan](#) stayed at the camp to triage and allow more room for girls to be transported out. Scott soon found himself to be the only outside rescue personnel on site with the counselors who had been instrumental in getting the girls to safety. He triaged and helped the counselors keep the girls calm as they awaited their turn to be air-lifted out. The operation took about 3 hours during which there was little to no communication. He carried girls from Camp Mystic, sometimes two at a time on one arm, to the coast guard helicopter. He understood just how young these girls when, "Some asked if they could bring stuffed animals with them. 'Of course,' he told them." Scott related that he had to reassure the girls that "he would come back for them," as he carried and helped girls to the helicopter.

We live in a world of sin and chaos that can be overwhelming, yet Jesus promised us that he would return for us as well. (John 14:3)



Crossroads Emmaus

Crossroads Emmaus Meeting Minutes

June 17, 2025

Attendees:

Board Members: Mike Myers, John Behrens, Herb Decker, John Kinsey, Cindy Krause, Bill Rakowitz, Karen Webb, and Belinda Waters.

Call to Order: Mike Myers, Community Lay Director, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and opened with prayer.

Community Lay Director Report: Mike Myers - No report

Community Spiritual Director's Report: Debbie Head - No report

Minutes: No minutes were submitted for approval from the May meeting.

Belinda apologized for not providing them, but they were temporarily missing with her moving in their new home.

Treasurer's Report: Retha Hahn – no report

Gatherings Report: Cindy Krause reported that the Nov. and Dec. locations had agreed to the change, but won't make a move until all can change. Waiting on a church to accept to host the October gathering. Bill asked to be notified of any changes to get everything corrected on the website.

Committee Reports:

Agape Letters (Wall): Cheryl Worley – No report

Candlelight: Mike Kinsey – No report

Community Trainer: Kimberly Blezinger – No report

Ministry Manager/Website: Bill Rakowitz reported some haven't signed their Upper Room Covenant letter. Some expressed they couldn't get in to sign and Bill said he would get with them.

Prayer Vigils: Linda Alderson – No report

Music: Jay Thigpen – No report

Newsletter-Perseverance Press – Cindy Krause reported one is coming by the weekend.

Reunion Groups: Mike Myers – Reminded us of the new men's group in

Cuero that meet at 6:00 am on Wednesdays at Jalisco's.

Registrar Report: Retha Hahn – No report

Team Selection: Karen Webb reported that she met with Retha and Wes and he has a good long list of possible team members to contact for Men's Walk #92. Carl Westbrook accepted the position as Spiritual Director.

Trailer-Sharing the Love of Christ Reunion Group, Salem Lutheran:

Retha Hahn – No report

Lay Director's Report: Wes Dukes – No report

Spiritual Director's Report: No one appointed yet.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Next Meeting: July 15th, 2025 at 7:00 pm via Zoom unless some request in person.

Adjourn: Mike Myers closed the meeting with prayer at 7:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Belinda Waters 07.12.2025





Crossroads Emmaus

Crossroads Emmaus Meeting Minutes May 20, 2025

Attendees: Board Members: Mike Myers, John Behrens, Herb Decker, Wes Dukes, Retha Hahn, Cindy Krause, Jay Thigpen, Karen Webb, and Belinda Waters.

Call to Order: Mike Myers, Community Lay Director, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and opened with prayer.

Community Lay Director Report: No report, but Retha said she's working to line up Cathedral Oaks and thanked Wes for accepting the Lay Director's position for the men's walk.

Community Spiritual Director's Report: No report

Minutes: Minutes from the April 15 th meeting were reviewed. Retha Hahn made the motion to approve; Karen Webb seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Retha Hahn submitted as information. She stated we have around \$20,000 in the account and we're very stable. We haven't needed many scholarships in the past walks so those funds are there if needed.

Gatherings Report: Cindy Krause reported all the gathering locations are filled.

June 19 th : Edna July 17 th First English Lutheran in Victoria

September 18 th : ??? HELP, I missed this location October 16 th Seadrift United Methodist

November 20 th Salem Lutheran in Port Lavaca December 18 th Danevang

Committee Reports:

Agape Letters (Wall): Cheryl Worley – No report

Candlelight: Mike Kinsey – No report

Community Trainer: Kimberly Blezinger – No report, but Retha stated the letter sent in her email doesn't appear to be what was sent last year, but she will get it corrected and sent.

Ministry Manager/Website: Bill Rakowitz – No report, but Cindy gave a shout out to Bill for all he does on our website – it looks great! Retha said it was time for covenant letters to be signed and they haven't been received so she would contact Bill.

Prayer Vigils: Linda Alderson – No report

Music: Jay Thigpen reported he took care of getting the songs for the Gathering.

Newsletter-Perseverance Press – Cindy Krause reported there will be a

May newsletter going out as well as June. Still struggling a little, but it will get better.

Reunion Groups: Mike Myers – No contact of any other new groups, but a new men's group in Cuero is meeting at 6:00 am on Wednesdays at Jalisco's. David Cheek is the leader.

Registrar Report: Retha Hahn reported she has Wes' information and will get letters set up and is ready to work with him to get those pilgrims, but a date needs to be set. Retha motioned to accept Wes Dukes as Lay Director of Men's Walk #92; Belinda Waters seconded; motion carried.

Team Selection: Karen Webb explained the process of team selection. She, Retha, and Wes will meet and develop a list and phone numbers of potential team members. We can also maybe pull from LaGrange. They will meet via Zoom on May 27th at 7:00 pm. Cook team is already set with Jean Wehmeyer in charge.

Trailer-Sharing the Love of Christ Reunion Group, Salem Lutheran:

Retha Hahn reported the trailer is in good shape, but it still needs a little adjustment to suit Cathedral Oaks and not the Spiritual Renewal Center.

Lay Director's Report: Wes Dukes - Wes' last Lay Director position was in 1994, but he is ready to accept the challenge and learn the new changes.

He was the second Lay Leader to have a walk at Cathedral Oaks. He's looking forward to serving God, the community, and the pilgrims.

Spiritual Director's Report: No one appointed yet.

Old Business: Belinda addressed the book sales issue as discussion and felt that QR codes as previously discussed wouldn't work since they don't have their cell phones. Retha will talk to Prosperity Bank about possible

getting a card reader. Cindy said she would be happy to donate to a book fund, but Retha is worried we're making things too difficult. No decision was made.

New Business: Dates for the Men's walk were discussed. Wes said 1 st choice would be January 22 – 25, 2026 and 2nd choice February 5 – 8, 2026. Cindy moved to set 1 st choice as primary and 2 nd choice as secondary dates for Men's Walk #92; Retha seconded; motion carried. John Behrens shared that his wife, Joan, wanted to ask the board to consider moving the gatherings back to Fridays. After discussion, Belinda motioned to move them back to the 3rd Friday of every month; Cindy Krause seconded; motion carried with the agreement that they would not be moved in 2025 unless ALL host churches already scheduled agree to move to Thursday. If not, we will change for 2026. Next Meeting: June 7th, 2025 at 7:00 pm via Zoom unless some request in person.

Adjourn: John Behrens closed the meeting with prayer at 8:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Belinda Waters 07.12.2025

