



The Emmaus Encounter

The Newsletter of Emmaus Lutheran Church

March, 2024

Dear Beloved of Emmaus,

In the span of this month of March, we will go from Lent to Holy Week to Easter. The calendar will go from winter to spring. It's hard to know whether the spring peepers will be singing in the vernal pools by the end of the month or if bulbs will be rising by then, but we know that Easter is coming.

In these days of Lent, it is good to pause and reflect on how God is present in our lives. God's desire is ALWAYS to grant new life. We are a resurrection people, trusting in the One who conquers death through the cross and empty tomb. This is especially true even when we face the brokenness of sorrow, the chaos of sudden changes, or unexpected challenges. God fiercely and tenderly loves us – and companions us through all things.

Even in the darkest of days after Pastor Tim died, God was made real to me in the caring and kindness of others, and the prayers and support, especially from so many of you here at Emmaus. As we companion each other through sorrow and joy, we live out life as the

people of God, the body of Christ. We witness to the good news of the resurrection as we share hope, grant mercy, and speak to how God can and will, through Jesus, bring about healing, courage, and new possibilities.

One of the optional readings for Ash Wednesday included these words from Isaiah 58:



The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you will be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. (vv.11-12).

For us, Jesus restores the breach between God and our brokenness. And we, in turn, by the power of God, can bring a message of restoration to others through our

words and actions. This is the good news the world longs for...and we can share.

Easter is coming!

Pastor Anne

The Dawn Will Come

~Holy Week Schedule~



Left -Stations of the Cross #1, “Jesus Prays in the Garden of Gethsemane” by Karen Gil & Mary Beaudet

Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion, 3/24: Palm Procession and Worship at 9am.

Please join us for a worship service with a Palm Procession, dramatic readings from The Passion of Our Lord According to Saint Mark, hymn singing, and Holy Communion.

Maundy Thursday, 3/28: Worship and Holy Communion at 7pm.

Please join us for a service of remembering, as we accompany Jesus and his disciples in the Upper Room. You are invited to this contemplative service as we retell the story of the Last Supper and hear Jesus’ commandment to love one another. Holy Communion will be served, and there will also be a stripping of the altar.

Good Friday, 3/29: Worship at 3pm.

Please join us for a service of witnessing as we follow Jesus from his arrest, trial, crucifixion, and burial. You are invited to this challenging service as we take time to pray for the world God created and so loves.

Easter Sunday, 3/31: Worship and Holy Communion at 9am.

At 9:00am at Emmaus, please join us for a service of new life as we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection from death to life. You are invited to this service of celebration, which includes an affirmation of our baptisms, readings, prayers, preaching, and Holy Communion. A special Easter Brunch will be served after worship with, naturally, an Easter Egg Hunt!

Zoom links to each service will be sent by email (via Constant Contact) throughout Holy Week. If you do not use a computer or receive email, please call the church office at (207) 781-4820 for the meeting IDs and passcodes to use in real time by telephone.

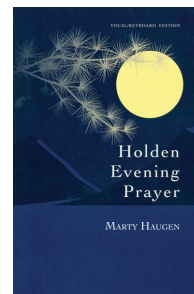
The Intern’s Corner

Emmaus friends, now that my internship has formally begun, I wanted to take the opportunity each month to share some of what I’m up to. Recently I spent a week on site at Luther Seminary in Minneapolis for an intensive class in leading Christian communities in mission. One of the things I like most about being on campus is not only catching up with my student friends, but also knowing that all these people I see in class have a goal, like me, to get out in the world and do good things in the name of God. This gives me hope.

While in Minneapolis this week, I had the good fortune to visit with Monica Aaskov’s sister-in-law Ruth (pictured here). Some of you may remember her from when she lived in Maine and was a member of Emmaus. For those who know her—at 93, she is active in her local faith community at Bethel Lutheran in Minneapolis, volunteers in her building complex library, and remains vibrant. It was great to be able to spend some time with her. Our Emmaus faith community stretches far and wide! In faith, Amy

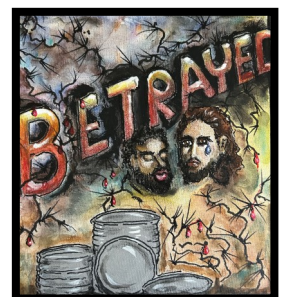


Midweek Lenten Service Opportunities



The Community Midweek Lenten Services take place at First Lutheran Church in Portland (132 Auburn Street) and feature Holden Evening Prayer at 7:00 p.m. and Soup Supper at 6:00 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with familiar friends from Trinity, First, and Emmaus. On March 6th Pastor Marian will be speaking, on March 13th Vic-ar Amy will be speaking, and on March 20th Pastor Anne will be speaking. Emmaus is organizing supper on March 6 and March 13 and we will need 6 pots of soup for each date. Be sure to sign-up in the narthex if you can bring soup and/or dessert.

Right -Stations of the Cross #2, “Jesus is Betrayed by Judas” by David Hansen



www.emmausfalmouth.org

Tom's Letter & Congregation Meeting



Dear Emmaus Family,

It is exciting that Amy is able to do her Pastoral Internship here at Emmaus. Amy has become an important part of our church family and her ministry here at Emmaus is a tremendous blessing to our church.

The Church Council has learned that there are financial requirements for Internship congregations. The congregation's financial obligations include a stipend, car expenses, and an internship fee. The Luther Seminary requires that these expenses be paid by the congregation where the internship is being performed.

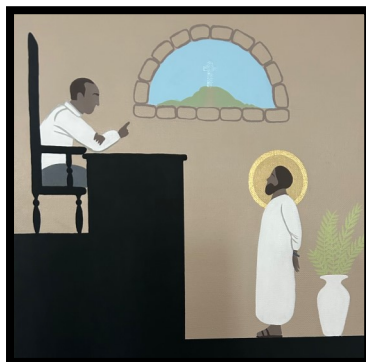
These expenses total about \$14,000.00 for this year. This amount includes \$12,000.00 stipend and \$2,000.00 in Seminary fees and travel expense. While part of this expense will come back to the church in an increase in tithing from Amy, it is still an expense that will be paid out of church funds and the Congregation will need to vote on the expense.

The Church Council has called a **Special Congregation Meeting on Sunday, March 10, 2024**, after worship to vote on this expenditure. If you have any questions, please reach out to myself or any council member.

Yours in Christ, *Tom Duchesneau*

Our New Contact Pastor

Effective February 26th, our new Contact Pastor is Warren Geier from Brunswick. You may remember Pastor Geier when he presided over our worship service in May, 2023. We are thankful to Pastor Marian Marks for serving Emmaus these past months, extending her service past its expiration last December. Pastor Marian remains an active member of Emmaus, despite her long commute from Wales! Welcome, Pastor Geier. Pastor Geier's contact information is found on page 6.



Right -Stations of the Cross #5, "Jesus is Judged by Pilate" by Elizabeth Chadbourne

Correction to Synod Sunday Giving

Last November, Emmaus observed Synod Sunday in order to support the ministry of the New England Synod and the ELCA. In addition to our annual pledge for Congregational Mission support of \$5,100, Emmaus raised an additional \$1,095 (this may have misreported to the congregation as \$595). Funds received are used in New England (approx. 65%) for starting new and supporting existing congregations including call processes, and other funds (35%) are sent on to the ELCA for global mission, seminaries, and outreach.



Right -Stations of the Cross #7, "Jesus Carries His Cross" by Pr. Anne Roser

Milestone Recovery



MILESTONE RECOVERY

Our Thankoffering for March is Milestone Recovery whose mission is to provide compassionate care and services to empower individuals experiencing substance use disorders, mental illnesses and homelessness to attain an enhanced quality of life regardless of ability to pay. Milestone operates Southern Maine's only specialized substance use disorder emergency shelter along with homeless outreach, detoxification programs, and extended care. Please use your designated Offering Envelope for March or note "Thankoffering" in the memo line of your check.

Interested in serving? We specifically are looking for a couple of members to serve on the Finance Committee which meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. No Accounting experience is required!

Ask and You Shall Receive!



At the Annual Meeting in January, the congregation approved an expenditure of up to \$15,000 from the Maintenance Reserve Fund to install a new roof

at the parsonage. Wasting no time, the Property Committee already made it happen! The roof was replaced in February at a cost of \$11,250 plus \$400 for re-flashing the chimney. The architectural shingles are warranted for 50 years, and the workmanship is guaranteed for 10 years. It looks great!

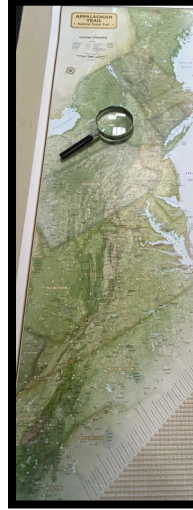
New insulation has been installed in the attic and basement areas. Waterproofing improvements in the basement are almost completed with a reconfiguration of the laundry area. Be sure to thank Wayne C., Bob G., Scott W., Dick M. and Gerry B. for all their time and efforts to renovating the parsonage.

Breakfast-for-All, March 3rd

The next "Breakfast for All" will be Sunday, March 3rd. Breakfast starts at about 8:15 a.m. and this month includes blueberry pancakes, eggs, potatoes, toast, sausage, juice and coffee. Thank you to our cooks and kitchen helpers, Tom Duchesneau, Bob Gerwig, Brandon Hallen, Wayne Chadbourne, and everyone who lends a hand in the kitchen!

There will be no Bean Supper in March so Emmaus can focus on Lenten and Easter activities. We will resume the monthly Bean Supper in April with presentations from more of our members' adventures!

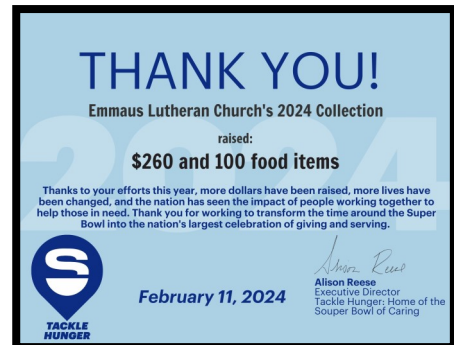
The Long Trail Hike



At last month's Bean Supper Tom Duchesneau led us on a video journey through parts of the "AT" better known as the Appalachian Trail. Beautiful photos of the trail and documentation of some amazing accomplishments were shared. Thank you for your stories Tom, Heidi, Bob, and Marlin. (BTW, Marlin is currently in Spain on another long trail hike...God Speed, Marlin!).

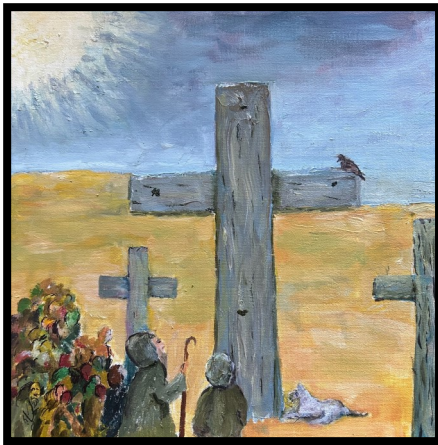
Emmaus in Action

The Souper Bowl of Caring netted \$260 cash and over 100 food items for St. Luke's Food Pantry. Wow! In addition, the Dolls of Hope campaign was able to complete 28 adorable dolls and donate about 20 Matchbox cars. Everything will be delivered shortly thanks to the hard working Social Ministry Committee.



Below is a photo of the new roof at the parsonage, good for the next 50 years!





Left -Stations of the Cross #12, “Jesus is on the Cross, with His Mother and Disciple Below” by Monica Aaskov

Celestial Delights

The month of March is named for the planet Mars, and used to be the first month of the year back in the early Roman calendar over 2,500 years ago.

March marks the return of Spring when we observe the vernal equinox, this year on March 19th. The vernal and autumnal equinoxes are the only two days each year that the sun rises due east and sets due west for everyone on Earth except at the poles. That’s nearly EVERYONE!

March is packed full of celestial highlights and next month will be even more dramatic with the long-awaited total solar eclipse passing right over northern Maine, the first one since July 20, 1963. The moon will pass in front of the sun on April 8th, casting a wide swath of Maine into utter darkness. Maine is uniquely situated for a front-row seat to this rare astronomical phenomenon.

The next total solar eclipse over Maine after this one will not be until May 1, 2079. That’s a span of 114 years! So you won’t want to miss it—a once in a lifetime opportunity to be within the path of totality in several northern counties in Maine. It is good time to pause and reflect on just how many ways God is present in our lives.

Also, don’t forget that Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 10th at 2:00 a.m. Spring forward so as not to miss worship!

Yard Sale Preparations

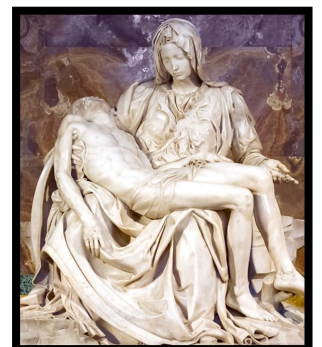
Before you know it, it will be May. And the first Saturday in May is (as always!) the Annual Yard Sale at Emmaus. We’ve been collecting items all year long, but now with Spring approaching it’s time to finish cleaning out your closets and garages and give those gently-used items to the church for a worthy cause, sending kids to summer camp. Did you know that last year Emmaus sent 6 kids to camp, and sponsored an addi-

tional campership in the amount of \$500 for a wanting child in the Camp Calumet community? True. And that’s not all. One hundred percent of Yard Sale proceeds fund camperships. One hundred percent of Bean Supper and Breakfast-for-All donations fund camperships. Specifically designated Thankofferings fund camperships. Because of all these efforts, the Campership Fund sits at a healthy \$4,491.35 and even more kids this year will have a chance to go to camp.

Rocking the Artwork



Take a look at this photo, a white quartz rock ‘find’ from David Backman. Ron Thompson enlarged a photo of the rock, manipulating the contrast and brightness. If you examine the photo, you can see the Virgin Mary looking down from her cowl into the infant Jesus’ face, who is looking toward His Mother...he’s resting/nurturing in Mary’s lap. Reminiscent of Michelangelo’s Pieta, right? Only Dave’s rock is only 2” tall and 1.5” wide! Ron’s photo enhancement has helped us see the much larger picture than that little piece of rock!



Loosely translated Pieta means Compassion. Michelangelo’s Pieta depicts the crucified Christ in Mary’s lap



Left -Stations of the Cross #15, “Jesus Rises from the Dead” by Rob Anderson

All of the Stations of the Cross can be viewed in the Sanctuary of Emmaus. Make it your Lenten Devotional to walk the Stations of the Cross in contemplation, prayer, and

anticipation of Easter and the Resurrection.

Our Prayers Are With...

Our prayers are with Debbie and Gerry Breton on the sudden loss of their son Matthew who died in a car crash on February 19th. We give thanks for the promise of the resurrection in which Matthew now rests and pray for God’s comfort to be with the entire Breton family.

Pastoral Concerns

Emmaus Lutheran Church is affiliated with the New England Synod of the ELCA and also a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Here we believe there is a place for EVERYONE. For pastoral care concerns, please contact Pastor Warren Geier at the church office at (207) 781-4820 and leave a message.



EMMAUS LUTHERAN CHURCH
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www.emmausfalmouth.org

Contact Pastor—Rev. Warren Geier
Church Musician – David Hansen
Secretary – Beverly Lindahl



	<u>January</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Regular Income	\$22,756	\$22,756
Expense	(\$8,853)	(\$8,853)
Net	\$13,903	\$13,903

We’re off to a good start. The expenses remain low due to these last few months gone without a full-time pastor on the payroll. We do continue to pay the Contact Pastor weekly and Supply Pulpit as needed.

We want to extend a special thank you to Pastor Marian Marks for helping to provide pastoral care and leadership while we search for a new pastor. Pastor Marian even served beyond the expiration of her agreement last December. Pastor Marian will continue to preach on occasion and we look forward to her interpretation of the lessons, her insight, and her message. Thank you to all our clergy—Pastor Anne, Pastor Mary Beth, Vicar Amy, and now Pastor Warren!

You can always give electronically with Vanco (a one-time donation or even repeating donations) by clicking the Online Giving button below (you will need your routing number and account number—be sure to include any zeros that may begin your sequence of numbers). Most banks also offer automatic bill pay (EFTs) at no cost.

