



The Emmaus Encounter

The Newsletter of Emmaus Lutheran Church

May, 2024

On Sunday May 19, we will celebrate both the Festival of Pentecost and our first anniversary as a Reconciling in Christ congregation. It seems fitting that both celebrations happen together – for each represents the work of the Holy Spirit among us.

The same spirit that empowers all the Galileans in Acts 2 to be understood by “*Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs*”— is the same one who unites all people – *all races, sexual orientations, gender identities/expressions, socio-economic status, ages, abilities, political persuasions, or personal histories*, as stated in our Reconciling in Christ welcome statement.

The power of God active through the Holy Spirit is defined in the explanation to the third article of the Apostles’ Creed by Martin Luther:

I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as the Spirit calls, gathers, enlightens and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith.

Pentecost is about celebrating God’s eternal, life-giving, resurrecting, renewing presence in this world: the living water that comes to us just when we are so parched and dry and

thirsty that we don’t know where to turn...the sustaining power that fills all the earth and our lives with holy and good things...the wisdom and light that clarifies, creates, enlightens and unites us as one body making a difference for others in the name of Jesus Christ.



And our Reconciling in Christ statement clarifies that who we welcome in the sanctuary, in worship, singing, or Holy Communion is also who we welcome in the kitchen, Fellowship Hall, or parking lot. We are called to accept, involve, and encourage all people God sends into our midst.

In the past I’ve decorated sanctuaries with red and white balloons on Pentecost. I’ve decorated altars with gold, orange and red fabric denoting the fire of the Spirit. I’ve lit floating candles in the baptismal font to represent the tongues of fire that landed on people on the first Pentecost. I’ve written opening responses where people spoke “Come, Holy Spirit” in languages other than English. Several churches sponsored red geraniums like we do with flowers at Christmas or Easter. There is the idea to wear red clothing. What will Emmaus do on the 19th of May? Come and see!

What we do know about the Holy Spirit is that imagination, creativity, dreams, visions, and new life are examples of its presence among us. So may the Spirit lead us to celebrate the diversity of all creation and all peoples! May the Spirit guide us to grow in faith and hope and love! May the Spirit lead us to deeper spirituality and prayer and centering in Christ! May the Spirit call us to action for all who are in need!

In peace, Pastor Anne

The Season of Pentecost

Go Tell the World About Me



After his death Jesus stayed with his disciples for a little while on earth before returning to the Father, and we can only imagine what Jesus might have said to them during this time (perhaps, “Go tell the world about me”?). It was the time of transition that took place from Jesus’ time on earth after his Resurrection

and before his Holy Ascension, and then the time of the beginning of the early church. In present day, this time is known as the season of Pentecost, or the time of the Church—the time we focus on growing together in the life of the Holy Trinity. That’s why during this season the church is decorated in green, the color of growing plants. This marks the season of growth in living in our Baptism and receiving the Lord’s Word and Sacraments.

On the first Sunday after Pentecost the Church celebrates Holy Trinity Sunday (this year that is May 26th). We are baptized into only one name, but that name is “of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” There is only one name, only one God—but there are three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. On this Sunday we confess the great mystery of the Holy Trinity. And remember as we say at the end of our Sunday service each week, worship has ended, now let the service begin.

“Now, go tell the world about me!”

The Intern’s Corner



My Emmaus Family—

I wanted to share an interesting new approach to worship I’ve been learning about in seminary. It’s called blended ecology. Essentially, it’s a way churches are branching out from their traditional in-building weekly worship services to bringing worship outside into non-church places. The goal is to reach people with faith that may not

feel comfortable coming to a church. An organization called Fresh Expressions of Church has been successful in meeting

people where they are in ordinary places. This organization has created worship services at a tattoo parlor, during lunch at a Mexican restaurant, at a dog park, and at a yoga studio. These services are lay leader led and achieve a dual purpose; first to serve congregation members today where they are in the community and secondly to attract new members. The word “ecology” is used to illustrate that this approach is like grafting to get new plant. Ultimately, blended ecology seeks to release the priesthood of all believers, take everyday activities and turn them into church. Where might we try this?

In Faith, Amy

How To Support Our Call Committee?



Pray!

The Call Committee has been quite active behind the scenes of Emmaus, and as their work continues they need our ongoing support. Not sure how to do that? Add the members of the Call Committee and this congregation of Emmaus to your daily prayers. Especially pray for all of the Call Committee members as they work their way through the interview process and walk the path to discernment in finding a new pastor. The Call Committee members are Wayne Chadbourne (*chair*), Emma Hallen, Beverly Hochberg, Judy Katzel, Elaine Lund, Lee Ruby and Suanne Williams-Lindgren. If you have any questions regarding the call process, please reach out to Wayne.

A Very Festive Easter Sunday Morning!



www.emmausfalmouth.org

Come and See! May 19th



On Sunday, May 19th, Emmaus will celebrate its one year anniversary of becoming a *Reconciling in Christ* (RIC) congregation. Join us that Sunday as Pastor Anne

presides over our worship and we have an opportunity to financially support this non-profit organization. May 19th also happens to be the final Sunday of the Easter season, or the Day of Pentecost, which was a day adopted by early Christians to commemorate the first great harvest of believers for Christ. Pentecost is the birthday of the Christian Church as the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples as they gave their compelling witness about the resurrected Lord. Let us witness together about our resurrected Lord and the Holy Spirit at work as we embrace the uniqueness of every individual created in the image of God.

Here we believe there is a place for EVERYONE!

New England Synod Assembly in June

As reported to you last month, the New England Synod Assembly this year is June 6-8 in Worcester, MA. This year's



meeting is especially notable as the election for a new bishop will be held. Curious about who the 11 preidentified candidates are? Click on the link below to read each candidate's biographical information:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wa00NHfECnQv4w56XYmANYvGs-FafTHJ/view>

There will be 5 ballots; the first ballot allows write-in candidates. Each ballot narrows the choices down to fewer candidates. The last ballot would be the vote on 2 candidates. You are encouraged to read and consider each candidate's qualifications and let our representatives know your thoughts and aspirations for a new bishop. Amy Dunkelmann and Tom Duchesneau from Emmaus are planning to attend the assembly and each will be able to cast votes.

Property Committee Hard At Work



By the time you read this newsletter the Spring Work Day will already be over (hopefully!). Crews are focused on cleaning up our grounds after a long, wet winter, and preparing for a new pastor at the parsonage.

The upcoming project to improve the parking lot security at Emmaus will begin this summer. If you recall, Emmaus was awarded a security grant through Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) in the amount of \$53,867. The project includes replacing and upgrading one door (the one near the kitchen), replacing the parking lot lights on existing poles, installing 8 video security cameras (inside and out), additional locks, lights on the building, and additional light poles. The project includes ground disturbance for new light poles and utilities. After the grant work is complete, the parking lot will be resealed and resurfaced.



Over at the parsonage, a new sidewalk is being laid out front and cracks repaired on the porch. The new laundry area (shown above) is progressing nicely with the installation of new upper cabinets (donated by Scott Wiemer) and new paint. All the work is being done by Wayne C., Scott W., Gerry B., Bob G., and Dick M. Be sure to thank them for their dedication and time spent on these projects.



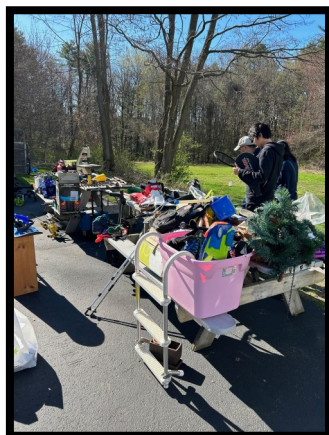
Annual Yard Sale! Saturday May 4th



The annual Yard Sale at Emmaus is the first Saturday in May, always, this year on May 4th from 8-12. We have steadily been collecting gently used items to sell of which are being organized in Fellowship Hall. There is typically a late rush of donations, and that's okay! Be sure to call the church office ahead of time if

you plan to drop items off before the sale (781-4820). This year's sale will feature a Bake Sale and maybe a Plant Sale. Many volunteers are necessary in order to make the sale a success and there are many ways that you can help. You can donate items, bake, volunteer your time, help set-up, buy things, or clean-up. Any and all efforts are welcome even if it's just letting Jencie or Bob take a well deserved break!

ALL THE PROCEEDS from the Yard Sale each year go to fund camperships for kids attending summer camp at Camp Calumet. Camp Calumet is a resident camp (among other things) run by Calumet Lutheran Ministries on Lake Ossipee in New Hampshire. Last year, Emmaus sponsored 6 kids attending summer camp, in addition to a \$500 contribution to the Calumet Sponsorship Fund. Please find your own special way to help out with this event.



Breakfast is Served! Sunday May 5th

Starting around 8:15 on Sunday, May 5th, join us in Fellowship Hall for a hearty breakfast before worship. That Sunday during worship we will hear from Pastor Warren Geier who is preaching. Thank you to our cooks and kitchen helpers, Tom D., Bob G., Brandon H., Wayne C., and everyone who lends a hand in the kitchen! This event is always the first Sunday of each month.

*Dick Lindahl in the kitchen,
circa 2008*



Monthly Bean Supper! May 18th



Join us on Saturday, May 18th at 5:00 p.m. at Emmaus for a traditional Bean Supper where Suanne will take us on an armchair tour of Australia and New Zealand, aka, the Down Under. You'll visit the Outback, Milford Sound, learn the real story about kangaroos and kiwis, and you won't even have to cross the International Date Line to attend! It's always an entertaining

and fulfilling evening, and a great way to fellowship with each other.

*See page 5 for details
regarding the Bean
Supper taking place in
June!*



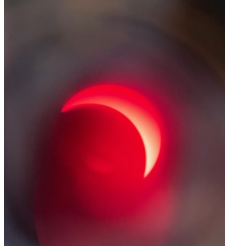
How Will We Celebrate RIC Sunday?

Unleash your imagination and creativity by thinking about ways you would like to see Emmaus celebrate RIC Sunday on May 18th. Pastor Anne encourages us on page 1 to ponder ways the Holy Spirit moves us and challenges us to come up with visible ways to celebrate the diversity of all those in our midst. If you have an idea to celebrate RIC Sunday, let our Worship & Music Team know by contacting Chairperson Sandy Halverson.

There are still some dates available on this year's Flower Chart. It's a great way to honor, celebrate, or memorialize someone on occasion. Please help grace our chancel each week by supporting this ministry. Flowers are only \$20 payable to Phyllis Johnson. We are grateful to Phyllis and Sandy Johnson for delivering our flowers each week!



Viewing the Solar Eclipse



April showcased quite a dramatic event with the rare and long-awaited total solar eclipse which passed right over northern Maine on April 8th. Here in Falmouth people gathered at Emmaus to witness the partial eclipse (about 90%) in the parking lot. Ron Thompson supplied the viewing glasses and gave us all a view of the eclipse from two different telescopes equipped with special lenses. Shown at left is a picture taken from a cell phone through the lens of the telescope (which was much more spectacular when you looked through the lens in person!). A special thank you to Ron and Carole Thompson for hosting this viewing party. Ron has a real passion for astronomy and has been an officer of the Southern Maine Astronomers Club for many years. Ron has taught astronomy over the years to all age groups, including all those present in the parking lot on April 8th! Thank you, Ron!



A Preview of June's Bean Supper



At the Saturday, June 8th Bean Supper, Dave Backman will present an overview of Casco Bay prehistory starting at glacial times and introducing the peopling of the bay which commenced 12,400 years ago. Dave will then focus upon "The Island Family" discussing his 8 year solitary archaeology dig on a Casco Bay Island. It was the second largest dig on Casco Bay and one of the richest considering the variety of artifacts and fauna recovered at the site.

Dave has been actively involved with prehistoric Maine archaeology for over 25 years



working closely with both avocational and professional archaeologists. Dave learned a great deal from them and also made some contributions to understanding Maine prehistory with his work at "The Lady Slipper Midden."

In addition to the slide presentation, Dave will bring display cases revealing many of the artifacts and faunal bones of both extinct and living fauna. Dave will identify these photos shown for you at the event. You don't want to miss it!

Disaster Recovery Available

Photo, right, is taken from Littejohn Island looking towards Cousins Island. High tide that day in January was a record 14.3 feet



Are you aware that FEMA is canvassing local towns including Falmouth to help spread the word that Federal Assistance may be available if you suffered damage from the January storm? If you experienced damage to your home or belongings during this storm event, regardless if you have insurance or not, you can apply for assistance through FEMA for help. Call (800) 621-3362.

Summer Ushers & Altar Guild

Soon Emmaus will be flinging open the front doors on Sunday mornings to help welcome guests inside our worship service. In the summer months we can always use more help with ushering and Altar Guild responsibilities. We already have security ushers scheduled whose responsibility it is to check the doors and the parking lot while worship is taking place. Specifically, we need greeters, someone to take attendance, and pass out bulletins. It's easy and fun! Altar Guild rotation is once a month and requires setting up Holy Communion. Special thanks to Dick Miller who stops by the church at least once a week to make sure the Eternal Flame is always, well, eternal!



Registration Now Open for Calumet



It's time to register your kiddos for summer camp at Camp Calumet! Calumet offers 1 or 2 week resident camp sessions, and the registration form can

be found at calumet.org. Here are the weeks being offered:

Week 1 June 30—July 6

Week 2 July 7—July 13

Week 3 July 14—July 20

Week 4 July 21—July 27

Week 5 July 28—August 3

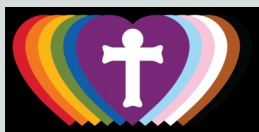
Week 6 August 4—August 10

Week 7 August 11—August 17 (music camp!)

Our Thankofferings for April and May will go to the Campership Fund, as well as the proceeds of the Yard Sale. This greatly helps to offset the costs of attending summer camp. What a great ministry!

Pastoral Concerns

Emmaus Lutheran Church is affiliated with the New England Synod of the ELCA and is 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

265 Middle Road
Falmouth, ME 04105
(207) 781-4820
www.emmausfalmouth.org

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



	<u>March</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Regular Income	\$13,318	\$47,440
Expense	(\$11,688)	(\$31,221)
Net	\$1,630	\$16,219*

March ended over \$1,600 to the positive. Since Easter Sunday this year landed on March 31st, the gifts received that day will not show up on the Treasurer's Report until April. One large check was received in March which represents a lump sum payment of an annual pledge. Overall our Treasurer, Erik, reports that Emmaus is "right on track" for the year so far. We continue to pay our Contact Pastor weekly and the Supply Pulpit clergy as necessary.

**figures may differ slightly from Treasurer's Report*

You can always give electronically through 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.

