

The Emmaus Encounter

The Newsletter of Emmaus Lutheran Church

May, 2025

Dear Beloved Emmaus Family,

As we step into May, the world around us seems to mirror the tension of early spring—both hopeful and unsettled. The news is heavy with stories of division, violence, and uncertainty. As a nation, we feel the weight of political unrest, economic instability, and social strain. Many of us carry silent questions in our hearts: *Where are we headed? How do we respond? Where can we find peace?*

Into this very real chaos, we hear again the Easter story. Jesus, risen and alive, appears not with thunder or spectacle, but by walking quietly alongside two confused and grieving disciples on the road to Emmaus. They do not recognize Him at first. But as they speak honestly about their sorrow and fear, Christ listens. He walks with them. He explains the Scriptures. And in the breaking of bread, their eyes are opened, and their hearts burn with new understanding.

This story reminds us that we are not alone on this journey. Even in our most anxious and uncertain moments—as individuals and as a community—Christ is with us. He meets us on the road, in the questions, in the fears, in the sacred ordinariness of daily life.

As a church, we are called to be a witness to this hope. To gather at the table. To listen for God's voice. To encourage

one another. And to speak peace into a world longing for healing.

This May at Emmaus, we'll reflect on how to remain centered in Christ when the world feels off-balance. Through worship, service, and fellowship, we'll explore what it means to be people of resurrection in real time.

Here's what's ahead:

- **Yard Sale – May 3:** Come see what's available and take home a treasure or two (or ten)!
- **Mother's Day Worship – May 11:** A time to honor those who have nurtured us in love and faith—whether mothers by birth or by spirit.
- **David Backman Memorial Service – May 17:** We will gather and honor our beloved David at 11am.
- **Confirmation – May 18:** A powerful Sunday celebrating the affirmation of faith by Riley Martin and Leif Svenson. These two young men have been a joy to teach this year and will undoubtedly do Christ's work in our world!

In these uncertain days, may our hearts burn with the knowledge that Christ is with us. And may we be courageous in

hope, steadfast in faith, and generous in love.



*Peace and strength to you,
Pastor Gail*



The Easter Season—A Week of Weeks

Fifty Days of Easter

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks, so seven Sundays). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of Holy Communion, inviting us each week to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace. Our Lord is a hospitable Lord, and He is welcoming you!



The Intern's Corner

I wanted to share this extended version of The Lord's Prayer. When I came across it, I found it touched my heart. I hope it does for you as well. *With Faith, Vicar Amy*

A Lord's Prayer for Justice

Our Father . . . who always stands with the weak, the powerless, the poor, the abandoned, the sick, the aged, the very young, the unborn, and those who, by victim of circumstance, bear the heat of the day.

Who art in heaven . . . where everything will be reversed, where the first will be last and the last will be first, but where all will be well and every manner of being will be well.

Hallowed be thy name . . . may we always acknowledge your holiness, respecting that your ways are not our ways, your standards are not our standards. May the reverence we give your name pull us out of the selfishness that prevents us from seeing the pain of our neighbor.

Your kingdom come . . . help us to create a world where, beyond our own needs and hurts, we will do justice, love tenderly, and walk humbly with you and each other.

Your will be done . . . open our freedom to let you in so that the complete mutuality that characterizes your life might flow through our veins and thus the life that we help generate may radiate your equal love for all and your special love for the poor.

On earth as in heaven . . . may the work of our hands, the temples and structures we build in this world, reflect the temple and the structure of your glory so that the joy, graciousness, tenderness, and justice of heaven will show forth within all of our structures on earth.

Give . . . life and love to us and help us to see always everything as gift. Help us to know that nothing comes to us by right and that we must give because we have been given to. Help us realize that we must give to the poor, not because they need it, but because our own health depends upon our giving to them.

Us . . . the truly plural us. Give not just to our own but to everyone, including those who are very different than the narrow us. Give your gifts to all of us equally.

This day . . . not tomorrow. Do not let us push things off into some indefinite future so that we can continue to live justified lives in the face of injustice because we can make good excuses for our inactivity.

Our daily bread . . . so that each person in the world may have enough food, enough clean water, enough clean air, adequate health care, and sufficient access to education so as to have the sustenance for a healthy life. Teach us to give from our sustenance and not just from our surplus.

And forgive us our trespasses . . . forgive us our blindness toward our neighbor, our self-preoccupation, our racism, our sexism, and our incurable propensity to worry only about ourselves and our own. Forgive us our capacity to watch the evening news and do nothing about it.

As we forgive those who trespass against us . . . forgive those who victimize us. Help us to mellow out in spirit, to not grow bitter with age, to forgive the imperfect parents and systems that wounded, cursed, and ignored us.

And do not put us to the test . . . do not judge us only by whether we have fed the hungry, given clothing to the naked, visited the sick, or tried to mend the systems that victimized the poor. Spare us this test for none of us can stand before your gospel scrutiny. Give us, instead, more days to mend our ways, our selfishness, and our systems.

But deliver us from evil . . . that is, from the blindness that lets us continue to participate in anonymous systems within which we need not see who gets less as we get more. Amen.

www.emmausfalmouth.org

Carol Carlton Gift to Emmaus



It is with great joy that we report to the congregation that Emmaus has been gifted a large sum of money from Carol Carlton's estate. Carol's Last Will named Emmaus Lutheran Church as one of the beneficiaries of her estate. Emmaus' share of the estate is roughly \$416,000.

This is a great and generous gift from Carol to our

church. These funds will ensure that our church is sound and strong for many years to come. Committee members of Emmaus will make sure there will be a special way to memorialize Carol and also her trustee, Andre, for this very special gift for our church.

Last month Tom, Ron, and our Treasurer Erik, opened a 9-month Certificate of Deposit at our banking institution for \$416,985 at an interest rate of 3.8%. This will allow interest returns and also give some time for the Congregation Council, members of the congregation, the Finance Committee, and the Stewardship Committee to discuss how to best generate maximum returns on this investment.

We thank God for the legacy of Carol Carlton and this wonderful gift for our church. Carol, you will not be forgotten!

Update—MEMA Grant Funds



If you recall in March, Emmaus was informed that the federal administration of grant funds had been "paused." This prompted a Special Meeting of the Congregation which took place on March 30th to fund our parking lot project in the event that the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) did not reimburse those funds under the grant (which passed unanimously). Here is the latest up-

date from MEMA from April 22:

"FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security will resume processing grant payments using the procedures in place before the manual review process began. Following a brief

catch-up period for MEMA, this means a return to "normal" business practices and (hopefully) payment processing times. ***Applicants and subrecipients can expect to start seeing reimbursement of previously submitted invoices*** as early as this week." [Emphasis added]

Emmaus submitted an invoice to MEMA for the security camera installation, and just this week Emmaus received a check for \$6,997 reimbursement.

Good news! The last invoice, which will be the largest one for the parking lot lighting improvements project, is slated for summer. Scott Wiemer has already submitted the Site Plan Review with the town. Under the terms of the grant, Emmaus

must pay upfront for any work performed and then seek reimbursement through MEMA. If/when Emmaus receives reimbursement on invoices already submitted, there should be no problem getting reimbursed for the parking lot project, but we'll keep you posted! If you have any questions or concerns regarding this project, please contact Wayne Chadbourne at (857) 498-1215.



David Backman Memorial—May 17th

We will gather and honor our beloved David Backman at a Memorial Service for Dave on Saturday, May 17th at 11:00 a.m. at Emmaus. David passed away in January at the age of 84 and was received into membership in 2012. David was a good and faithful servant at Emmaus, and was particularly knowledgeable about the Scriptures. Dave was also a writer, a poet, a veteran having served in the USAF, an archeologist, and just a caring person. If you recall, David gave a riveting presentation at a Bean Supper last September about Casco Bay prehistory and his 8-year archeology dig on Casco Bay Island. Come and honor Dave and his legacy on May 17th.



Dave's Pietà Rock (left) compared to Michelangelo's Pietà (right)...Similar!



Annual Yard Sale—May 3rd



This year's Yard Sale is Saturday, May 3rd, from 8-2. This is a HUGE endeavor that takes a great deal of organization, time, and effort. Thanks to Bob and Jencie Gerwig who spend countless hours getting ready for this fundraising event. 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 was able to sponsor 6 kids attending summer camp (\$700 apiece), in addition to a \$1,050 contribution to the Calumet Sponsorship Fund (for a total contribution of \$5,250). This year we have our own Danica Hallen who will attend Calumet as a CIT (Councilor in Training). Way to go, Danica!

We collect donations all year round and we appreciate all of you who donate. We still need several volunteers to work the day of, and especially need help cleaning up and boxing up the unsold items. Please let Jencie Gerwig know if you can help (774-4872).

*Breakfast-for-All is
Sunday, May 4th
starting at around
8:15 a.m.! All are
Welcome*



God's Work, Our Hands—May 4th



Emmaus typically recognizes "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday in September, but the day can be designated any time! So, the generous donations of school supplies received last

fall will be assembled with your hands into backpacks for the School Kits on Sunday, May 4th. Then they'll be boxed and

shipped with other donations around the state to the Lutheran World Relief Central Warehouse. Lutheran World Relief will send the School Kits to communities in crisis all over the world. Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. These LWR School Kits contain essential supplies to help children continue learning while facing serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for them, their families, and their communities. This year there are enough supplies and backpacks for 48 School Kits. Thanks to all who donated to this effort!

Spring Workday—May 10th



The Spring Clean Up Day at Emmaus has been postponed to Saturday May 10th from about 8-12. Efforts this spring will focus on cleaning up after the Annual Yard Sale and general cleaning, sweeping, blow-

ing, and trimming our grounds. A special effort will be made to prepare for the upcoming parking lot lighting improvement project. Please mark your calendar and lend a hand to the Property Committee for this event.

Confirmation Sunday—May 18th

Two young Christians at Emmaus will celebrate the rite of Confirmation on Sunday, May 18th, during worship. This year Pastor Gail will confirm Riley Martin and Leif Svenson. You don't want to miss this rite of passage and hear these young people as they witness to their faith.

Breakfast Chefs Bob Gerwig, Tom Duchesneau, and Marlin Conrad on Easter Morning



Lenten Midweek Services

The community-wide Midweek Lenten Services this year were held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Westbrook. Along with First Lutheran, the services each week were collaborative with beautiful music and moving sermons. Our own *Emmaus Roadies* (shown above) led the musical portion of the Holden Evening Prayer at two of the services. Thank you to them and to everyone who participated in these services and provided soups and desserts. Also, thank you to our clergy (Pastor Gail and Vicar Amy) who offered the homily. These offerings truly added to a weekly Lenten experience leading us to the cross and resurrection.



Bishop Eaton's Letter to the ELCA

We join our Catholic brothers and sisters in grief at the passing of Pope Francis on Easter Monday. A prayer of Pope Francis... *"Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out. O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your kingdom of justice, peace, love, and beauty. Amen."* Read Bishop Eaton's letter concerning Pope Francis's death at:

[Elca.org/news-and-events/pastoral-message-on-the-death-of-pope-francis](https://elca.org/news-and-events/pastoral-message-on-the-death-of-pope-francis)

Graduation Time



One of our high school graduates next month is Cooper Jacobs. Cooper will be attending St. Lawrence University in Canton, New York, in the fall. Academically, Cooper is planning to

pursue environmental science and still exploring a minor in history, marine biology, or even forestry. Athletically, Cooper will be rowing on the St. Lawrence Men's Rowing Team and hoping to play some club ice or pond hockey in the winter. Congratulations, Cooper!

RIC Anniversary in May

The second anniversary of Emmaus becoming a *Reconciling in Christ* (RIC)

ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



congregation takes place in May. Look for details soon regarding how and when Emmaus will commemorate this event, and also how we can help support the ReconcilingWorks organization.

Emmaus Open Arms Team

The next meeting of the Emmaus Open Arms Team is in flux due to Mother's Day. Please contact either Stacey Carlson or Pastor Gail for additional details. Please check out our social justice library—feel free to borrow a book or bring one by to loan out (the library is temporarily upstairs due to the Yard Sale). And get out those sneakers and get ready to march! We will be marching for the first time in this year's Pride Parade in Portland on Saturday, June 21st! Mark your calendars!



May Thankoffering



KyleCares is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting open and honest communication about the mental health challenges experienced by teens and young adults in today's society. Ultimately, they aim to eliminate student self-harm and suicide by creating school environments where students and their caregivers have the confidence and support to seek help without shame or hesitation. KyleCares helps high schools and colleges in New England support student mental health by:

- **Connecting** schools with mental health resources and service providers
- **Facilitating** long-term, comprehensive strategies to address student mental health
- **Funding** school-based mental health education, awareness, and suicide prevention programs

The next Bean Supper will be Saturday, June 7, at 5pm with a special presentation by Emma Hallen

Two Lights for Tomorrow



A Nationwide Call to Action—Two Lights for Tomorrow is a nationwide initiative to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the

founding of the United States of America. Paul Revere's famous ride occurred on the overnight of April 18-19, 1775. Emmaus participated in this event by shining these two lights from our stained glass windows (which also caught the attention of the director of the Historical Society!). Two Lights for Tomorrow uses the imagery of the Midnight Ride as a uniting call to action for our citizens to celebrate and serve.

Pastoral Concerns

Pastor Gail Angellis is the rostered ELCA minister of Emmaus Lutheran Church. Emmaus 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 you can contact Pastor Gail at pastor.gail@emmausfalmouth.org. You can also contact Pastor Gail by cell phone at (603) 557-8671.



EMMAUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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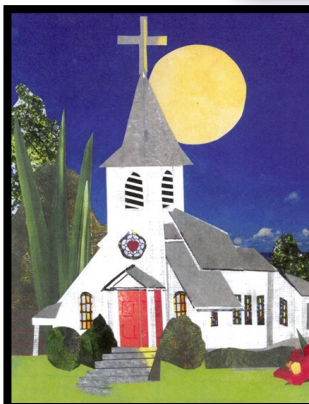


Pastor—Rev. Gail Angellis
Church Musician—David Hansen
Secretary—Beverly Lindahl

Worship Schedule:

Sunday Worship—9:00 a.m.
Sunday School—9:30 a.m.

Emmaus is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and a *Reconciling in Christ* (RIC) congregation.



EMMAUS

Lutheran Church



	March	Year-to-Date
Regular Income	\$14,528	\$36,599
Expense	(\$17,648)	(\$48,560)
Net	(\$3,120)	(\$11,961)

Expenses continue to outweigh regular income in the first quarter. First quarter Contribution Statements are available now for pick up in the narthex. For those at home, the statements will be mailed out to you in early May.



"We want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude for your faithful giving each week. Your generosity allows our ministries to thrive, touching lives and spreading God's love in countless ways. From worship and discipleship to outreach and care, every gift you give makes a difference. Thank you for your commitment and generosity—our ministry at Emmaus wouldn't be possible without you!" ~Pastor Gail+

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.

