



# *The Emmaus Encounter*

The Newsletter of Emmaus Lutheran Church

Summer, 2023

## **Siblings-in-Christ,**

We find ourselves on the cusp of Summer. A time of long days, big blue skies, and life teeming all around us. I recently spoke to a friend who was describing all the life coming forth from her flower gardens. We both spoke of our fondness for hydrangeas, which she certainly seems to have an abundance of in her yard. Small and large puffs of flowers, in an array of colors, emitting a subtle aroma in the wind. Much like lilacs, another favorite flower of mine.

Growing up our neighbor, Mr. Fish, planted a row of lilacs to separate the two properties. I suspect his aim was to teach my sister and I where our yard ended, and his yard began. It was a futile undertaking. If anything, the lilacs lured me in more. I have many memories of laying amongst the bushes and having their scent wash over me on a warm summer day. Mr. Fish was not amused, frequently chasing me back into my own yard. One time he even called my parents to complain about me picking the flowers and putting them into small arrangements he could see on our dining room table from his kitchen window.

Some years later we moved to a different house,

leaving behind Mr. Fish and his lilac bushes. Several years after that I learned that the cantankerous old man had died, but that his family planted a bush where his ashes were scattered. It was a lilac bush, of course.



This summer, I want to invite you to join me in looking for God's spirit in the wild. In the flowing blue waters, in the blowing of wind chimes, in the tickling of the grass underfoot, in the silence of the sunsets, etc.

Pay attention to the birds that chirp, the frogs that croak, and the fish that splash. Watch for rainbows, storm clouds, and the mist lifting at the start of the new day. Take time to smell the flowers, the ocean air, and the smoke of bonfires. Feel the bark of the trees, the skin of ripe tomatoes, and the softness of old picnic blankets.

Notice the ordinary, and proclaim it to be extraordinary. The Holy Spirit is bursting forth love and life, do you perceive it?

Enjoy these beautiful days God has made!

*Pastor Andy*

# Welcome 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 (“Go tell the world about me,” perhaps?). 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 it is June 4th). 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. *“Now, go tell the world about me!”*

## The Results Are In!



Emmaus Lutheran Church is now a *Reconciling in Christ* congregation! The vote was held at the Special Meeting on May 21st and here are the results from the vote:

Yes: 37      No: 12      Abstain: 2

Thank you to everyone who attended this important meeting and for allowing a forum for everyone to have a chance to be heard.

**WELCOME TO EMMAUS!**

## Our New RIC Welcoming Statement

At Emmaus Lutheran Church, we embrace the uniqueness of every individual and respect their dignity and worth, for all are created in the image of God. We strive to welcome everyone in the fullness of who they are. As a congregation called to reconciliation, we share God’s vision of love for people of all races, sexual orientations, gender identities/expressions, socio-economic statuses, ages, abilities, political persuasions, and personal histories. Emmaus renounces the Church’s problematic past of oppression, hatred, and exclusion. We dedicate ourselves to the ongoing work of racial equality and justice for all. Here we believe there is a place for EVERYONE.

**Welcome to Emmaus!**

## Welcome New Members



The Mueller family has lived in Maine for 17 years, and before that Delaware and Pennsylvania. Julie teaches Political Science at Southern Maine Community College. S. will be

graduating from SHS and plans on attending the University in the fall studying architecture. Jim, Julie, and S. spent the morning helping out at the Yard Sale (thank you!). Welcome, Mueller Family!

## Looking for Friendly, Welcoming People!

We are looking for ushers this summer, and we need at least one usher each Sunday (other than one Safety Usher). It’s fun and it’s easy. No experience needed! You can sign-up anytime in the narthex. If you have any questions, please speak to Sandy Halverson or email Sandy.



*Café Emmaus*

*Now Open!*



[www.emmausfalmouth.org](http://www.emmausfalmouth.org)

## Look Who's Graduating!



Emmaus proudly presents five graduating seniors this year! Kaiden J. is graduating from FHS on June 11th. Kaiden will be taking his love of Legos and building and pursuing a degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Maine at Orno. Elizabeth C. is graduating from FHS and will be attending Northeastern University in Boston. Elizabeth will be on the pre-med track with interests in cardiology and physical therapy. She has also been accepted into the American Ballet Theatre's Collegiate ballet in New York. Kaelin G. is graduating from BHS and is planning to attend the Honors College at UMO this fall. Kaelin will be studying biology with a pre-med track. Becky C. is graduating from GHS on June 4th and is excited to be heading to Endicott College in Massachusetts this fall. Sydney M. is graduating from SHS and is heading to the University of Maryland studying architecture. Congratulations, graduates!

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## Loud and Clear

Did you know that Emmaus offers hearing assistance on Sunday? Yep. We have 4 listening devices available each Sunday. The devices are an easy-to-use tool that amplifies the sound through an ear bud. There is also a neck loop available that works with hearing aids equipped with a telephone coil (T-Switch). Please ask one of the ushers if you would like to use one during worship.



## Thankoffering for June

**Creating Homes. Rebuilding Lives.** That's the mission of *Furniture Friends of Greater Portland*. Furniture Friends puts used furniture to good use by providing it to people in need. Furniture Friends serves the community by finding people who have no beds, no tables, and no chairs and/or no place to store the few possessions they do own. Furniture Friends pro-

vides people who have next to nothing with dignity, stability, comfort and a sense of ownership. Our June Thankoffering will be going to Furniture Friends where...

*"No one should sleep on the floor."*

## Yard Sale & Bake Sale Recap



The Annual Yard Sale and Bake Sale last month was, once again, a huge success thanks to the Gerwigs and all the many people who volunteered their time and talents. Proceeds from sale topped \$2,637.50, and every penny goes to the

Campership Fund to send kids to summer camp at Camp Calumet. The fund was already substantially funded due to ongoing Thankofferings, proceeds from Bean Suppers and monthly Breakfasts-for-All, private donations, and residual funds from last years' Yard Sale. Dick Miller carted away 6 truckloads of the remaining items (a big job...thank you Dick!) and delivered them to the Freeport Masonic Lodge for their Annual Yard Sale which will take place on August 26th in Freeport. What great recycling!



This six-piece place setting called "Botanic Garden" from Portmeirion, shown above, sold for \$200 thanks to Katryn Gabrielson who took the laboring oar and posted them for sale on Facebook. The dishes were initially owned by Meikle Patch. The bakeware pieces, shown below, also sold for \$200, and a few other miscellaneous pieces sold for \$140 (all together \$590!) Thank you, Katryn for your expert marketing!



## Our Prayers are With...



We offer a special prayer for the Svenson families on the passing of Sandy Svenson. We give thanks

for the promise of the resurrection in which Sandy now rests, and we pray for God's comfort to be with Terry, Erik, Abby, the grandkids, and the entire family. A Memorial Service for Sandy will be held at Emmaus on Saturday, June 3rd, at 3:00 p.m. with a reception following. All are welcome to attend.

## Mother's Day Diaper Drive = 487 Diapers!

### Pastoral Concerns

Pastor Andy Flatt-Kuntze is the rostered ELCA minister of Emmaus Lutheran Church. Pastor Andy is available in the church office Sunday through Thursday (781-4820). You can also reach Pastor Andy via email at

[pastor.andy@emmausfalmouth.org](mailto:pastor.andy@emmausfalmouth.org).

For pastoral care concerns, Pastor Andy can be reached at (270) 781-4820.



### EMMAUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

265 Middle Road  
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(207) 781-4820  
[www.emmausfalmouth.org](http://www.emmausfalmouth.org)

Pastor—Rev. Andrew Flatt-Kuntze  
Church Musician – David Hansen  
Secretary – Beverly Lindahl



|                | April      | Year-to-Date* |
|----------------|------------|---------------|
| Regular Income | \$13,386   | \$70,053      |
| Expense        | (\$15,921) | (\$56,366)    |
| Net            | (\$2,534)  | \$13,688      |

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

Income for April was solid, near the budgeted amount and similar to previous April. Expenses over budget for April resulted in ~\$2,500 monthly deficit, but no cause for concern—multiple expense overages for the biannual property tax bill, salary catch-up amounts, NE Synod support and one extra cleaning were paid. YTD remains in the black due to the pre-payment of several annual pledges.



You can give electronically with Vanco anytime (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 offer automatic bill pay (EFTs) at no cost.

