

The Emmaus Encounter

The Newsletter of Emmaus Lutheran Church

June, 2025

Dear Emmaus Family,

As we move into the time after Pentecost—the longest season of the church year—we enter a season often referred to as "Ordinary Time." But don't be misled by the name. This season is anything but ordinary. It is a time of spiritual growth, a season when the seeds of faith planted in us by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost begin to take root, blossom, and bear fruit. The green paraments on our altar reflect this season of life and renewal, symbolizing the ongoing growth of the Church and each of us as disciples of Jesus Christ.

This summer at Emmaus is full of life, connection, and joy. We'll be gathering to watch and discuss *The Chosen*, a thoughtful and moving series that brings the story of Jesus and his followers to life in fresh ways. We're also planning an outdoor worship service, where we'll celebrate God's presence in creation and enjoy the beauty of Maine in summertime. And in a spirit of joyful inclusion, we're thrilled to announce that Emmaus will be marching in the Portland Pride Parade for the very first time! This is a powerful opportunity to witness to our faith in a God who loves and embraces everyone. As an inclusive church, we celebrate the diversity, dignity, and wholeness of every person—because every body is a beloved child of God.

As our congregation continues to grow and serve, we are also in need of helping hands to support our worship

life. If you feel called to participate more fully, please consider signing up to be a Worship Assistant, Altar Guild, Tech Team Member, or Usher. These roles are vital to creating a welcoming, smooth, and Spirit-filled experience for all of us. No experience is needed—just a willing heart and a readiness to serve. Training and support will be provided. You can speak with me directly or contact the church office at (207) 781-4820 if you'd like to get involved.

This season is rich with opportunities to connect with God, with one another, and with our wider community. As we walk together in faith, may we continue to be a church that reflects Christ's love through welcome, service, justice, and joy.

(More information about marching in the Pride Portland Parade and Festival event is found on page 3).



☪ *In peace and hope,*

Pastor Gail+

The Season of Pentecost

The Time of the Church



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 budding plants, blossoms, and growing plants. This “Ordinary Time” marks a season of spiritual growth in the waters of our living Baptism.

The first Sunday after Pentecost the church celebrates Holy Trinity Sunday (this year that takes place on June 15th). 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.

“I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)

The Intern’s Corner

As I continue to grow in my faith and broaden the way in which I read Scripture, I continue to evolve the ways in which I analyze the Bible. One way in which to understand Scripture is in community (e.g., Bible Study). This means that reading the Bible as an individual is not as rich as reading it with others because everyone brings their own lens through which they interpret



Scripture. Our understanding of a passage can be greatly enhanced or changed by hearing different perspectives and interpretations of others.

Additionally, analyzing Scripture through a lens of Law and Gospel is a way to look for what a passage is saying about God’s Law for us and the Good News at the same time. This analysis strategy is important because it helps us understand at the most basic level what is God asking of us and what is God giving us. The Law gives us guidelines, commandments, and examples of how to do the will of God on earth. This is different from civic laws. Through the Gospel we get hope in the Good News, which enables a closer relationship with God through Scripture study.

Sometimes a literal reading of Scripture provides a sufficient understanding of a particular passage. However, sometimes a text uses characters and events to represent something else. Allegories help get the message across using something everyday people can understand. Looking for an allegory in a passage may reveal another message (message within the message) or serve as a proxy for the lesson. I also find that the use of allegory in Scripture makes it easier for me to update the example with a more modern one that will help me better relate to the lesson (or explain it to others).

I use a variation of these strategies when I’m preparing to lead Bible study or preparing a sermon. Sometimes I start with one, then add more to make sure I’m not missing an important perspective. What approach do you use to analyze Scripture? Let me know.

With Faith, Vicar Amy

Vicar Amy Dunckelmann’s Internship Program serving Emmaus will conclude at the end of August. There is no doubt that Vicar Amy will be called to her “First Call” very quickly. Godspeed Vicar Amy!

www.emmausfalmouth.org

Carol Carlton Legacy Fund



Our Stewardship Committee has now agreed to serve on a newly formed "Carol Carlton Investment and Stewardship Committee." The members are Carl Carlson III, Wayne Chadbourne, Ron Thompson, Beverly Lindahl, Pat Sonnenberg, Pastor Marian Marks, Pastor Gail, and new members Erik Svenson and Amy Dunkelmann. Carol's gift has already been placed

into a 9-month CD and when it matures in January should earn about \$12K in interest. These funds will be initially put towards charitable gifts to different organizations at the discretion of the Social Ministry Team and Congregation Council.

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 Landry, for this very special gift for our church.

RIC—Come and See! June 1st



On Sunday, June 1st, Emmaus will proudly celebrate its two year anniversary of becoming a *Reconciling in Christ* (RIC) congregation.

Join us that Sunday as Vicar

Amy will deliver the sermon. We will also have an opportunity to financially support this non-profit organization. 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!

And Speaking of Pride...

Members of Emmaus and our local partners will be marching in the Portland Pride Parade on June 21st. The event will be held rain or shine! Emmaus will be hosting a pre-parade pizza and sign-making party the evening of Friday, June 20th in Fellowship Hall. The parade steps off from Monument Square at 1:00 p.m., proceeds along Congress Street to Congress Square Park, down Hight Street to Park Avenue, where it enters Deering Oaks Park by Mellen Street, and lasts for about an hour.

The Pride Festival will be held at Deering Oaks Park from 1-5. Please join Emmaus in supporting and celebrating our fellow members of the LGBTQIA+ community!

"The Chosen"



We will be gathering at some point to watch and discuss "The Chosen", a thoughtful and moving series that brings the

story of Jesus and his followers to life in fresh ways. Please participate in this quick survey (by clicking on the link) to help us plan when these events will be most attended.

www.surveymonkey.com/r/3GRT3JG

Property Committee Update



By the time you read this newsletter the Spring Clean Up Day will already be over (hopefully!). Crews this Spring are focused on cleaning up our grounds after a long, wet winter, and preparing for the new parking lot lighting project set to take place 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 the door nearest to the kitchen, replacing the parking lot lights on existing poles, installing 8 video security cameras, 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.

Special thanks to our Property Committee for their hard work and dedication to improving our buildings and grounds.

ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION



Celebrating Confirmation Sunday



Two young Christians, Riley Martin and Leif Svenson, celebrated the Rite of Confirmation and have become full members at Emmaus Lutheran Church! It was a wonderful witness that day to hear their proclamation of faith and to celebrate with their families.

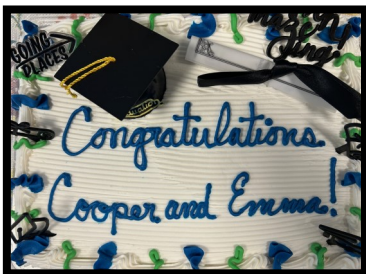
Shown at Right—Riley and Leif



More Celebration!

Also last month two young members of Emmaus, Emma Hallen and Cooper Jacobs, celebrated their upcoming graduations from High School. It feels like just yesterday that they were Confirmed! In the fall, Emma will be attending Holyoke in Mass. Cooper will be attending St. Lawrence University in New York. Cooper is planning to pursue Environmental Science

and rowing on the St. Lawrence Men's Rowing Team in addition to playing some club ice or pond hockey in the winter. Congratulations Emma and Cooper!



Although Cooper could not be present in church that day, his brother Kaiden did a good job representing Cooper at the celebration!



Annual Yard Sale—A Huge Success!

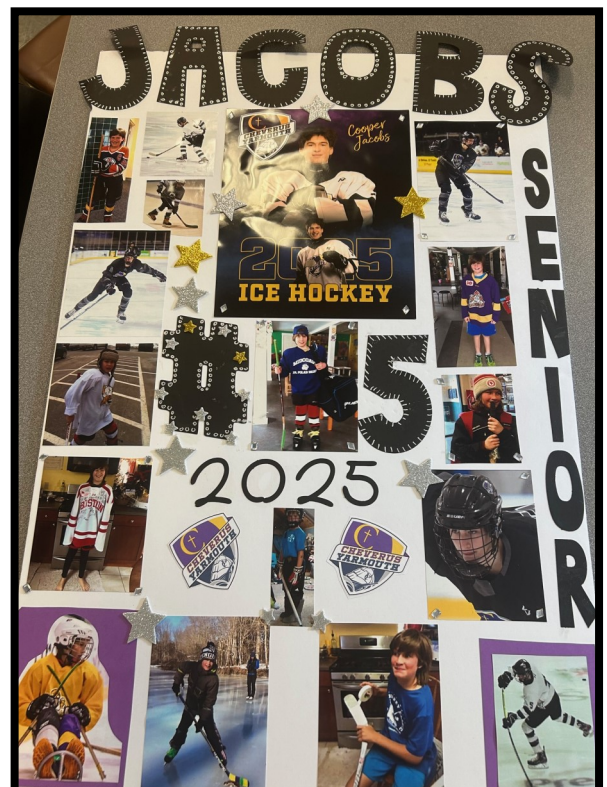
We've done it again! This year's Yard Sale was a HUGE success thanks in large part to



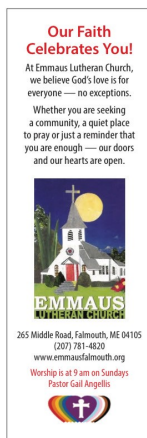
Jencie and Bob Gerwig but also to the many people who volunteered their time to make this event possible. Proceeds from the sale this year topped over \$2,400 and every penny of that goes to the Campership Fund to send kids to summer camp at Camp Calumet.

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!

It's not too late to sign up for camp! If you have already registered for summer camp or if you have an interest in sending your kiddo to summer camp, please let Pastor Gail, Jencie Gerwig, and Beverly in the church office know at 781-4820. We appreciate all of you who volunteer and donate items to the Annual Yard Sale so this ministry can continue!



Emmaus Open Arms Team



The next meeting of the Emmaus Open Arms Team (EOAT) will be right after worship on Sunday, June 8th. And take a look at these beautiful bookmarks that are being made to hand out at the Pride Portland Parade on June 21st! Please contact either Stacey Carlson or Pastor Gail for additional details and be sure to sign up for this event on the sign-up

sheet located in the church narthex. Also, just a reminder that the social justice library is on display in Fellowship Hall—feel free to borrow a book or bring one in to loan out (be sure to put your name on the inside or cover).

"Safe Church" Compliance



If you have been unable to watch the Safe Church video on your own, we will have it available on Sunday, June 8th after church in the Fellowship Hall for your viewing pleasure. Please plan to attend so that we can get your training completed. All those members who serve on committees, serve on council, are on staff, or teach Sunday School are required to view this video. If you have any questions, please let Ellen Wills know.



In June, the Social Ministry Team will be focusing on Project Linus, an organization that provides love, security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need through the gifts of new handmade blankets and afghans, lovingly created by volunteer "blanketeers." In June, look for samples of blankets and patterns at the back of the sanctuary. Blankets will be collected in September.

Thanks last month to the Hallen family who assembled the School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. The kits are ready to be taken to the Central Distribution Center in Brunswick for shipping all around the world. Well done, Emmaus!



The next Bean Supper will be Saturday, June 7, at 5pm. After a supper of homemade baked beans and all the fixings, Emma Hallen will be giving a special presentation.

Summer Worship Assistants Needed



As the weather continues to improve, Emmaus soon 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 especially 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. 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!

Spring Plantings



Thank you, Tom, for always making sure our planters have beautiful flowers blooming! From Easter Sunday, to tulip season, to the beginning of summer, it always looks garden-fresh and renewed! Thank you!

The Thankoffering for June will go directly to sponsor camperships for Camp Calumet!



Shout-Out to ServiceMaster Clean!



Many thanks to Carl Carlson III and his company ServiceMaster Clean for cleaning the carpets last month

at Emmaus. Carl's crew took care of not only the carpets in the sanctuary and offices, but also cleaning the area rugs and entry floor mats which get the most grime. Thank you Carl & Co.!

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 (207) 781-4820.



Our Congregation Council and all of our committee teams will be taking a well-deserved break and will not be meeting in July.

EMMAUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

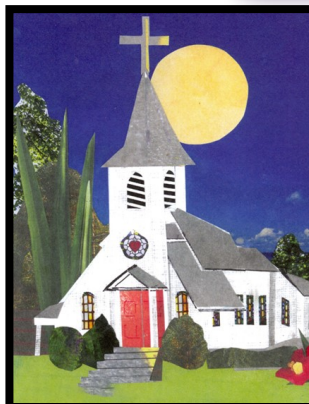


Pastor—Rev. Gail Angellis
Church Musician—David Hansen
Secretary—Beverly Lindahl

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



	April	Year-to-Date
Regular Income	\$23,281	\$59,880
Expense	(\$18,453)	(\$67,013)
Net	\$4,827	(\$7,134)

For the first month of the second quarter the deficit was reduced substantially. Last month, Emmaus opened a 9-month Certificate of Deposit for \$416,985 at an interest rate of 3.8%. This was a result of Carol Carlton's generous gift to Emmaus through her estate. A new committee has been formed to discuss how to best honor Carol and how to best generate maximum returns on this investment. Although the committee has not yet had a chance to meet, they welcome input from the congregation, council members, and all of our committee members.

"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.

