



The Emmaus Encounter

The Newsletter of Emmaus Lutheran Church

July, 2022

Dear Emmaus,

Happy Independence Day!

The Declaration of Independence was adopted on the 4th of July in 1776, and Americans observe and celebrate the holiday each year with picnics and fireworks on the 4th of July. I am grateful to our forefathers (and the wives and families that supported them) for giving us the liberty we have today. I have shared this story with you before, so bear with me in my repetitiveness.

I was 13-years old when this nation celebrated its bicentennial in 1976—Gerald Ford was President, gas was .59 cents a gallon, a first class stamp cost .13 cents, and mortgage interest rates were almost 10%. My family attended a Methodist Church in Southern California and our church had a big picnic that day. My mom hand-made my sister and I matching outfits made from material with flags printed all over it. We looked silly, but we didn't care. We played games and ate BBQ and even buried a time capsule. That day held particular excitement because



that day was the 200th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, a declaration signed by representatives of 13 colonies regarding themselves as 13 independent sovereign states, no longer under British rule. It was the beginnings of the making of the United States of America! The Declaration was drafted to create equal rights for all people who, by the grace of God, could live and be free and happy. Today, 246 years later, that one-page document is just as relevant to America as it was the day in 1776 our forefathers signed it and the signatures were still wet with ink. So, as we come together this 4th of July to worship and give thanks to God, celebrate and watch the fireworks, remember the many blessings that abound our homes, community, state, and nation.

*Let Freedom
Ring!*
Beverly

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COMMON TIME

The Growing Season



The season of Summer is here, and there are signs of new growth all around. It is the season of Pentecost and the church is decorated in green, the color of growing plants. In the present day church, this season is also known as Common Time.

During Common Time here at Emmaus, we will be using a slightly different liturgy as found in the new bulletin. You may have noticed some changes like sharing poetry readings each week. We will follow this Common Time format until Labor Day (September 4th).

For about a month now the Maine CDC Community Infection Level has remained on low (or green) and parishioners have been able to return to in-person worship including Holy Communion at the rail. Average in-person attendance runs around 32 on Sunday along with average attendance on Zoom around 23 (for total average Sunday attendance around 55).

Here is a reminder of the protocols adopted by the Congregation Council pursuant to CDC infection levels:

High=Orange; No in-person worship; virtual only

Medium=Yellow; in-person worship with masks encouraged, no Coffee Hour, no social events

Low=Green; in-person worship with masks optional

- Attending church virtually (via Zoom) will always be an option regardless of Community Infection Level.
- If there is a down grade in the level of infection (i.e. going from High to Low), the church will reflect those changes the following week (10 days after the announcement).
- If there is an increase in the infection rate (i.e. going from Low to High), restrictions will be in place that Sunday (3 days after the announcement).

Youth Group and Social Ministry Working Together

Members of our Youth Group and the Social Ministry Team came together last month to assemble twenty-six Mother's Kits for *Maine Needs*. They turned out beautifully with hand-made bags and soaps, and all things any mother would love to pamper herself! This joint effort was funded by the April Thankoffering in addition to a Thrivent grant. Special thanks to Sarah Hallen's own mother for helping make the bags.



The Emmaus Roadies on Youth Sunday



Common Time

Congratulations to our Grads



Last Sunday we celebrated the recent graduates of our congregation by acknowledging them in church, and of course,

eating cake after church! These young adults are Katie Carlson who will be attending Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA with a concentration in math, Mason Hollauer-Villacci who will be attending Southern Maine Community College majoring in Auto Technology, Megan Koren who will be attending St. Michaels in Vermont majoring in English, and Harry Marcus who will be attending the University of Denver and looking forward to skiing out west. Congratulations graduates!

Don't Panic!

At the meeting of the Congregation Council on June 14th, members discussed adding several security measures including installing telephones in the narthex, installing panic buttons in the altar and narthex areas, and adding security cameras both inside the building and outside. Recently our security partner, Cunningham Security, put together a proposal to install a wireless security system with cell and wifi reporting to provide Panic Button coverage. Council unanimously approved the spending of \$995 plus \$37/month monitoring expense.

Property Committee Chimes-In Too

The Property Committee has recommended that the Council also consider another security feature by approving expense to change the lock on the front entry doors. These doors are very old and present some challenges., and the Property Committee has been considering an upgrade to these doors since last year. Recently Pastor Andy and Wayne Chadbourne met with Freedom Locksmith to consider the various ways to change the lock and add a panic bar (all the entry doors already have a panic bar). Council unanimously approved the spending of \$1,142 and installation will take place within a month.



Painting in Progress

Last month's Saturday Painting Party was lightly attended, although productive! The back egress stairs at the rear of the church were sanded and sealed (photo on page 5). A new concrete landing step will be poured later this summer. The front entry stairs (shown at right) were sanded and primed, and work continues on some repairs to the floorboards. The stairs will be painted the same gray as they were before. Thank you to Wayne Chadbourne, Tom Duchesneau, Bob Gerwig, and Beverly Lindahl. More work is needed at the front entry so painting will continue after installation of a new lock on the door. Also needed is painting the exterior window trim above the new window aluminum enclosures and under the roof line, all of which needs to get done this summer. If you missed your chance to help, look for future events planned to finish these jobs.



Parking Lot & Driveway Reseal



The parking lot was recently resealed and restriped just in time for summer! Work was also done on the parsonage driveway. MPM will return for some touch-up work shortly.

These entry doors will receive a new lock system which includes an interior panic bar and slide bolt, plus pull bars on each door on the outside for that welcoming look!



Two Exciting Announcements!

The Boiler Fund

If you missed this announcement recently in church, the Boiler Fund is now fully funded thanks to a couple of anonymous donors who paid the remaining balance on the Boiler Fund project. If you recall, the cost of the new boiler and new chimney installed two years ago was \$45,100. Funds were raised through a two-year capital campaign. The Congregation Council paid for the unpledged portion of the project to the vendor, Mechanical Services, utilizing the Maintenance Reserve Fund (in essence, borrowing the money from ourselves) and those funds needed to be repaid. The last \$350 was repaid and the project is now fully funded! Well done, Emmaus!



Sound System Improvements

At the Special Meeting of the Congregation on June 5th, the members voted to spend up to \$13,000 from the Memorial Fund to purchase a new sound system in the sanctuary. The proposal from Canfield Systems came in lower at \$11,550. Private donations for the project came in at \$12,530. Wow! Well done, Emmaus!

Flower Chart Openings

There are a few slots open on the Flower Chart. If you would like to sponsor flowers and dedicate them in honor or memory of someone, open dates are July 17 & 24, August 14 & 28, and September 4 & 18. Flowers are still only \$20, and can be brought home right after worship. Please pay in advance by sending a check to Phyllis Johnson.

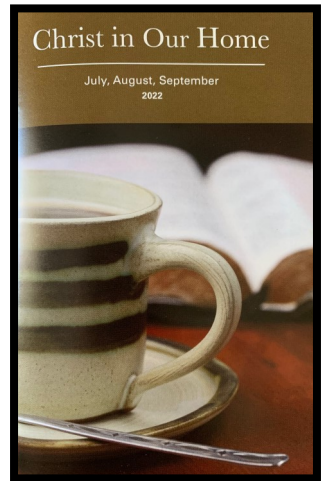
By the way, **HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Phyllis, born July 17th!**

Happy Birthday!



Christ in Our Home

The July-August-September edition of *Christ in Our Home* is now available in the narthex for you to take home. It consists of daily prayer, scripture readings and devotions written by several past and present ELCA pastors. Large print editions are also available. Make these short devotions part of your daily routine!



CHURCH OF THE COVERED DISH by Thom Tapp



"Now that the Deacons have locked all the doors, my sermon topic today is tithing..."



Yankee Doodle Dandy

Happy Birthday to Ron Thompson, Emmaus' very own Yankee Doodle Dandy, having been born on the Fourth of July. Carole Thompson was also born in July on the 13th!

Also, Elsie Moreau was born on July 1st and Sarah Jacobs was also born on July 1st! (Sarah also is a twin!)

Elizabeth C.'s birthday is also in July!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL!

Our July Thankoffering



The Thankoffering for the month of July is Good Shepherd Food Bank of Maine. Good Shepherd is the largest hunger relief organization in Maine, providing surplus and purchased food to more than 600 non-profit organizations throughout the state. Last year, Good Shepherd distributed more than 31 million meals to Mainers experiencing hunger—up from an average of 25 million meals annually pre-pandemic—coming closer to closing the meal gap and ending hunger in Maine. To find out more, visit their website:

www.gsfb.org

You can use your specially marked Giving Envelope or just write “Thankoffering” in the memo line of your check.

Emmaus Sponsors Camperships



The Campership Fund got a huge boost in May with the proceeds from the Annual Yard Sale of over \$2,700. Also, the Thankofferings for March and May contributed over \$600 to the fund. With a healthy balance sheet, the

Social Ministry Team decided to sponsor 7 kids attending summer camp with \$570 each to help offset the cost, which includes some additional funds to sponsor a Councilor-in-Training. We can’t say it enough...a heartfelt thanks go to Jencie and Bob Gerwig who make this ministry successfully happen each year.

Give ‘Em a Break

Committees and Teams will be taking a well-deserved break in the month of July. These members truly are the heart-and-soul of the inner-workings of Emmaus, and we thank each and every one of them for volunteering their time and sharing their talents with the church, and growing together through Jesus Christ. Be sure to thank them the next time you see a member of the leadership.

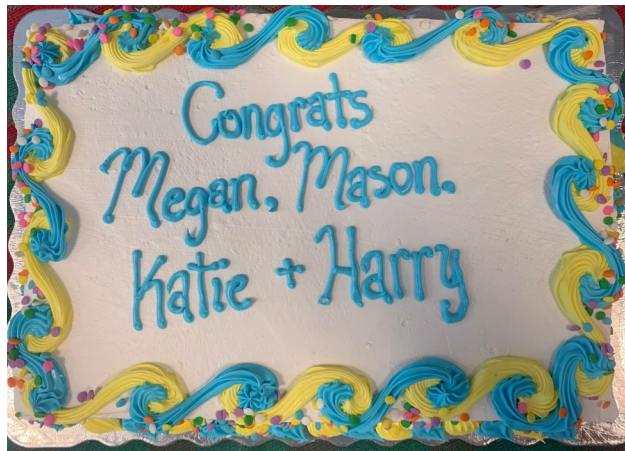
**Class of 2022
Congratulations!**



Emergency egress stairs sanded & sealed at last month’s Painting Party



Picnic Anyone?



*Worship is over...
Now let the service begin!*

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.

For pastoral care concerns, Pastor Andy can be reached at (207) 781-4820.



EMMAUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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www.emmausfalmouth.org

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



	<u>May</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Regular Income	\$9,771	\$65,585
Expense	(\$11,777)	(\$70,468)
Net	(\$2,006)	(\$4,883)

The Finance Committee reported that expenses for May exceeded income by just over \$2,000. The negative cash flow for the month, along with April's negative, continues to pull Emmaus negative to date in 2022. Ron Thompson of the Finance Committee indicates this deficit is typical for this time of year. Private donations however (as noted on page 4) have been very, very generous!



You can give electronically anytime (a one-time donation or even repeating donations!) by clicking the Online Giving button below (note: you will need your routing number and account number—be sure to include any zeros that may begin your sequence of numbers). It's so easy!

