

The Emmaus Encounter

The Newsletter of Emmaus Lutheran Church September, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ,

September always feels like a hinge month to me—one door closing on the long, golden days of summer, and another opening to the crisp air and new beginnings of fall. Here in Maine, we hold on to those last warm afternoons even as we pull the sweaters out of the closet for cool evenings.

At church, we've got a full and joyful month ahead. We'll gather for our *Outdoor Worship Service* on **Sunday, September 14th at 9am**, surrounded by the beauty of God's creation. There's something about hearing

the Word proclaimed under an open sky, feeling the breeze as we sing, and seeing the faces of our church family lit by the morning sun. We will have chairs but bring a blanket—it may be crisp! Invite a friend and come ready to worship with the birds and trees and your Emmaus family.

We're also excited to welcome **Betty Balderston**, our Associate to the Bishop, for a special visit on **Sunday, September 21st**. She'll bring greetings from the wider church and share in worship and fel-

lowship with us. It's a reminder that we are part of something much bigger—connected to congregations all across Maine and the ELCA.

And of course, we can't forget one of the most important "fall flavors" here at church—beans! We'll be hosting a *Bean Supper* in honor of **Vicar Amy**, on **September 20th**, as she steps into her new role

as Pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kennebunk. This is our chance to celebrate her ministry among us, send her with love, and make sure she 's fortified with plenty of Emmaus fixins' for the road ahead.



As we turn the calendar page, I'm grateful for the ways God calls us into both continuity and change. The seasons shift, but God's love remains steady. We keep gathering, singing, serving, and encouraging one another in faith—whether under the summer sun, autumn leaves, or winter snow.

See you in worship,

Pastor Gail+

Pride of the Parade!

Emmaus in Action!



Members from Emmaus, along with their neighbors from First Lutheran in Portland and Good Shepherd in Brunswick, spent an afternoon in May marching along the streets of Portland in the Pride Parade. The community gave the area churches a loud and boisterous welcome as our leadership displayed a loving message. This is the beginning of a new tradition! Special thanks to Judy Katzel for designing and making the new banner possible. We're starting to see this new design throughout our church as it appears to be becoming a new logo!

Lay Ministry Training

A collaboration between the NE Synod and Faith Lutheran Church in Andover, MA, is offering specialized training for lay people called upon to assist the pastor. On September 26-27 there will be a Kickoff Retreat at Calumet, then the program will continue with monthly lectures on Zoom. Cost is \$100 if you apply by Sept. 1. Worship Assistants require no formal training however, and are a big help to the presiding minister. Let Pastor Gail know if you can help in this important ministry.



New Bishop of the ELCA

Yehiel Curry was elected July 30 as Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, taking the place of Rev. Elizabeth Eaton. Formerly the Bishop of the Metropolitan Chicago Synod, Rev. Curry has been elected the fifth presiding Bishop of the ELCA and the first of African descent. He will serve a six-year term. You can read how Bishop Curry is casting a vision for the church by clicking on the link to this recent article written in "Living Lutheran" magazine:



<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2025/07/casting-a-vision-for-the-church/>

Pictured Below—A large contingent of Lutherans from Emmaus, First, and Good Shepherd gather before stepping off at the Portland Pride Parade in May

www.emmausfalmouth.org

Outdoor Service September 14



We will be stepping out into the Great Outdoors for worship on Sunday, September 14th. Bring a sweater! Chairs will be provided. Before worship, the Men's Group will be cooking up a delicious breakfast so plan to arrive around 8:15 a.m. and stay for a special outdoor worship service and special music with *The Roadies*.

Breakfast for All!
Sunday, Sept. 14 at 8:15am

Karen, Pastor Gail, Vicar Amy, and David who in this photo appear to be wearing halos!



Celebrating Amy! September 20



A special evening is planned for Saturday, September 20 where Emmaus will hold a fabulous Bean Supper and celebrate with Vicar Amy Dunkelmann as she graduates from seminary and concludes her Internship at Emmaus. We will miss you, Amy! And there's much to celebrate as Vicar Amy recently was voted the new Pastor at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kennebunk. Congratulations Amy! Amy will be formally ordained and installed at Holy Cross on September 14 at 4:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend this special event. So join the Bean Supper

on September 20 at 5:00 p.m. and spend some time with Amy wishing her blessings in her new ministry.

Visit from the NE Synod September 21



Ms. Betty Balderston, the new assistant to Bishop Nathan Piphon, will visit Emmaus and worship with us on Sunday, September 21st. Ms. Balderston provides congregational support for the Maine Conference and took over for the retiring Pastor Bill Barter. Let's introduce ourselves with a warm Emmaus welcome!

David Hansen, right, wraps himself in love before the parade!



Lauren Jordy and mom Cynthia Mahoney

Mission: Falmouth—Sept. 27, 28, 29

Project Mission Falmouth – Our Falmouth area churches are teaming up on an effort to support a local family that has suffered a long season of setbacks and challenges including having four children, two of whom are special needs kids. Their biggest setback came when their first-floor kitchen flooded causing sheetrock damage, floors destroyed, along with cabinet and countertops destroyed. The Congregation Council voted to join this effort, but we still need volunteers with a variety of skills to help with repairs at the house on Sept. 27, 28, and/or 29th. If you can paint, hang sheetrock, nail a piece of trim, or cook a meal, please let Pastor Gail or Tom know how you can help.

For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Parking Lot Lighting Project



If you live in Falmouth you may have noticed recent road work on the bridge close to Emmaus. Groovey baby! Road work on the parking lot of Emmaus will begin soon too, and the Property Committee will be doing excavation/trenching work for 4 new light pole bases and new electrical conduits on September 12 and 13. This project also includes new lighting on the 3 existing

poles. Our electrical contractor, Mancini, will install the poles, lights, and electrical lines. The Property Committee will do the backfilling after that and the parking lot sealing work will take place in late September.

This project is being funded by grant funds through MEMA. Energy efficient lamps will greatly improve lighting for evening events and wintertime. The lights will remain on throughout most of the night for enhanced security.

One of the existing light poles shown



Restriping and Resealing



After the new light poles are installed, repair, reseal, and restriping the parking lot will be done. This work was initially estimated at about \$6,000 (based on work performed over 2 years ago) however a revised estimate for the work is now \$8,005. The cost includes resealing the driveway at the parsonage too. Council unanimously voted to

approve the expense from Maintenance Reserve. The repairing, resealing, and restriping will (hopefully!) take place at the end of September.

Shown above is work done in 2020



We've noticed these funny looking things in the parking lot...what are they? New pre-cast light pole bases which will be installed in September!

Friendship House Thankoffering

"To express the love of God through Christ to the poor and disadvantaged, by providing a safe home where hope and healing are extended to those who are broken spiritually, emotionally or physically."

That's the mission of *Friendship House*. *Friendship House* is a sober Christian living environment for the men of greater Portland working towards changing their lives. The Thankoffering for September will go to *Friendship House* to use where it's needed most.

God's Work, Our Hands



The Thankoffering last month was the effort to "Fill Those Backpacks!" Very soon there will be enough school supplies to fill the packs creating School Kits for Lutheran World

Relief. The School Kits will eventually be boxed and shipped to the LWR central warehouse then distributed to communities in crisis all over the world. We'll need all our hands to fill the packs! Stay tuned in September for more details.

Calumet Obstacle & Trail Challenge

A 5K trail run/walk with the challenge of a dozen obstacles along the way is taking place at Calumet's beautiful property on Friday, September 12th. You can participate yourself or just sponsor a participant. Donations are always welcome. Registration fee is \$100. Let Pastor Gail know and she can provide you with the QR code to register.

Ushers, Tech, and Worship Assistants



We need **Ushers!** Ushers help greet first-time visitors, provide them with a Welcome Bag, and ask them to sign our guest registry. We also need Security Ushers to check the doors and the parking lot while worship is taking place. Additional ushers are needed to greet people, find lectors, take attendance, and pass out bulletins. Two ushers are needed at every service. If you're interested in helping with this important ministry, please let Tom or Pastor Gail know.

We also need **Tech help** for our AV team! Streaming our service is essential for our homebound and is another vital part of

Emmaus' ministry. If you are tech-savvy or want to learn, please let Brandon Hallen or Pastor Gail know. We will provide training. Come, join our team!

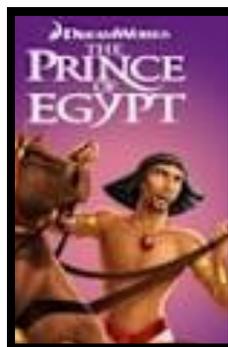
Another important role at Emmaus is a **Worship Assistant**. No formal training is required, just a desire to assist the Pastor during worship. Being a Worship Assistant is a wonderful way to deepen your spiritual practice and serve God. Please let Pastor Gail know if you are interested.

New Council Members



Our Annual Meeting is not that far off, and we will soon be voting on new council members! Because the term is 3-years (with a 6-year limit), we will have three vacancies. The Congregation Council has general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the ELCA. This committee meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m., and the meetings last about an hour or so. Please prayerfully consider if you would like to be part of this essential function of Emmaus.

Family Movie Event September 20



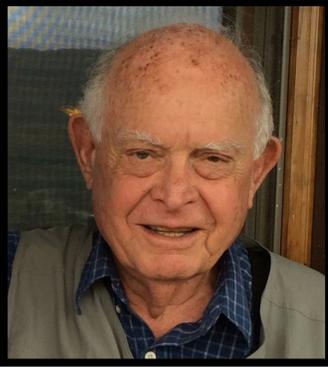
Christian Education is planning a Family Movie event for families and kids of all ages featuring a showing of "The Prince of Egypt." The movie will be shown on Saturday, September 20th from 3-5 in Fellowship Hall. In this animated retelling of the Book of Exodus, Egyptian Prince Moses, upon discovering his roots as a Jewish slave, embarks on a quest to free his people from bondage. If you are interested in joining the Christian Education team, please let Sarah Hallen or Pastor Gail know. We'd love for you to join us!

The special Bean Supper feast to celebrate our time with Vicar Amy will follow the movie, September 20th at 5:00 p.m. Spend some time wishing Amy farewell and good luck!

We hope to "clean up" our Prayer List this fall. If you would like a name to re-main on the Prayer List in the near future, please contact Pastor Gail.



Rod Harrington Celebration of Life



Our beloved Rod Harrington passed away on July 18, 2025. A Celebration of the Resurrection for Rod will be held at Emmaus on Saturday, September 6, at 11:00 a.m. All are welcome to attend. A luncheon will be served in Fellowship Hall following the service. We

give thanks for the resurrection in which Rod now rests, and continue to pray for his wife, Ilga, and daughter, Jennifer, for God's comfort in this difficult time.

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 phone at (207) 781-4820.



EMMAUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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(207) 781-4820
www.emmausfalmouth.org

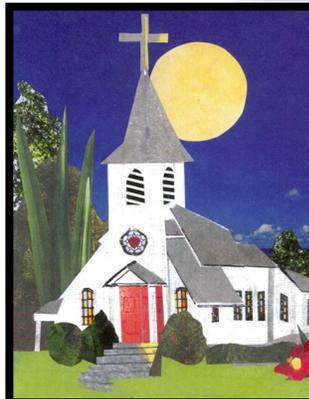


Pastor—Rev. Gail Angellis
Church Musician – David Hansen
Secretary – Beverly Lindahl

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



	July	Year-to-Date
Regular Income	\$44,992	\$129,234
Expense	(\$12,302)	(\$108,536)
Net	\$32,690	\$20,698

Good news! Expenses in July were \$2K under budget. In addition, income was up due to one generous gift of \$25K. This resulted in a net gain of \$32,690 for July, putting Emmaus back in the black and on the road for 2025. Year-to-date income exceeds expenses by \$20,698. What a blessing to have such a generous membership!



"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.

