



The Emmaus Encounter

The Newsletter of Emmaus Lutheran Church

October, 2023

Emmaus Faith Community,

Happy (early) Reformation Day! Reformation Day is memorialized on October 31st every year and will be commemorated during worship on Sunday, October 29th. As Lutherans, this is an important day in our church calendar because it marks the onset of the Reformation. The core contention Luther makes which in part sparks the reformation is that the word of God is in fact God. Meaning that the Bible is the word of God because in it, Jesus, who is the word incarnate, comes to us.

What was so shocking about Luther's assertions at the time and those who held the same convictions, was that it challenged not only the conventional thinking, but also the power structure of the prevailing

Roman Catholic church. Every theological position Luther took from his 95 theses and forward only served to add kindling to that friction that stoked the reformation and the passion for those who wanted religious change. Luther's theology took away any go between needed between us (humans) and God because he held the priesthood of all believers as truth. Additionally, communion ultimately became one of the most debated

parts of Luther's theology, departing from the Catholic belief in transubstantiation. Luther believed Jesus is among the elements and that the laity can handle and consume them because Luther asserts that communion is something God does for us.



The reformation could not have gained as much traction if Luther and like-minded theologians of the time did not work to document, argue over, and defend the theological ideas initially put forward by Luther. They were revolutionary for the time. The confessions, catechisms, creeds, were all created to assert, clarify and defend the Lutheran faith. All of these early doctrines are combined into the Book of Concord so that there would be an established authoritative record for other Lutherans to refer to and follow.

So, this Reformation Day, remember it is our privilege to be Lutheran. We can worship openly and freely because of those brave theologians who came before us. The liturgical color of Reformation Day is red representing fire and spirit (scholars also say for martyrdom). Remember to wear red on Reformation Sunday, October 29th to show your Lutheran pride!

In Christ, Amy

Road Map to Our Call Process



Update on the Call Process

Council has put together a timeline of how long it should be before we introduce our next pastor to the congregation.

We have already completed the Church Assessment Tool (or CAT). Over 50 surveys were completed!

Late September/early October, the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) committee will be formed and initial work on the profile will begin.

Early October the results of the CAT survey will be interpreted at an online meeting **on October 4th at 6:30 p.m.** via Zoom. The Rev. Sara Anderson, a NE Synod representative, will lead the meeting and all are welcome to attend. Please call the church office if you would like the Zoom link at (207) 781-4820.

The next meeting of the Congregation Council is October 10th and a Call Committee will be finalized. If you know someone who you would like to recommend or if you would like to be on the Call Committee, please let any one of the council members know, or contact Tom Duchesneau, (207) 781-4820.

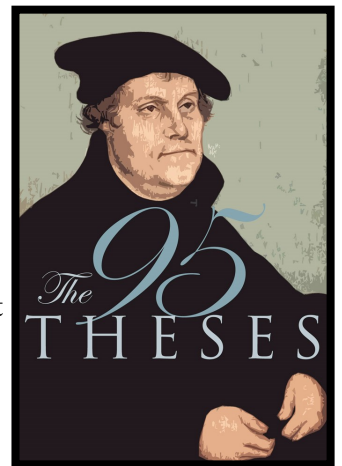
Saturday, November 4th, there will be a luncheon meeting of the congregation from 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. where we will have our own discussion about the CAT results. Here you will be able to give your opinion of what we are doing right at our church, and what needs improvement. We can talk about the future of our church, and who you want our next pastor to be. This meeting is your chance to speak up about our church and our next pastor. And the best part will be the food!

Mid to late November, the MSP Committee finalizes the Ministry Site Profile. In late November, the Council approves the Ministry Site Profile which is then forwarded to the Synod.

This is a busy and aggressive schedule, but our congregation has always come together when the real work needs to be done. And hopefully our kickoff of the Call Committee in December will yield early results!

Fun Facts

There are 8 more Sundays left in the Season of Pentecost which officially brings a close to the church year. Reformation Sunday this year is October 29th, a day to commemorate when Martin Luther nailed his 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in the city of Wittenberg over 500 years ago. Martin Luther was eight years old when Christopher Columbus set sail from Europe and landed in the Western Hemisphere. Luther was a young monk and priest when Michealangelo was painting the Sistine Chapel in Rome. A few years later, he was a junior faculty member at a new university in small-town Germany, intently studying the Scriptures.



Reformation Sunday this year is October 29th where we commemorate Martin Luther. Don't forget to wear red to church!

Confirmation Sunday

There's another special event taking place on Reformation Sunday. Emmaus will witness the Rite of Confirmation for two of our teens. These dedicated youth have participated in confirmation classes over the last several years and will affirm their baptism on Sunday, October 29th. You'll want to bear witness to their testament of faith!



www.emmausfalmouth.org

Your Feedback Encouraged



Especially during this time of transition, the Congregation Council wants to be sure that there are ways the congregation can let us know what your thoughts, concerns, wishes, etc. are. Please place your questions, comments, recognition,

or whatever in the blue box located in the Narthex. If you personally want a response back be sure to add your name. If you can't drop it off in person, you can mail your comments to us care of the Church with the heading FEEDBACK on it. We will read them before every Council meeting and get back to the Congregation regarding what we're hearing. We look forward to your feedback!"

Fall Stewardship Campaign



Thus says the Lord, the one who created you, O Israel, who formed you, O Jacob: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine." – Isaiah 43:1

God does wondrous things! God creates each of us with unique gifts and each faith community with unique combinations of gifts. And God lovingly calls us, both individual and as a faith community, to use those gifts for the sake of the world. Isaiah's words spoken to people afraid they have lost forever the traditions that held them together in the past. And yet the promise is sure, even then – especially then – **"I have called you by name, you are mine."**

We, too, live in a time in which traditions and foundations are often changing and coming into question in both wonderful

and difficult ways. Our congregation is full of gifts to speak and act into this moment. We will soon be inviting financial giving estimates for the coming year, we will be inviting you to consider the gifts you have individually and collectively and ask the question, "How is God calling us to use them for this moment and this place?" Look for further details about the Fall Stewardship Campaign in the upcoming weeks.

Security Grant Awarded to Emmaus

If you recall last September, the congregation voted to approve the installation of upgraded security lighting in the parking lot, along with the installation of several security cameras. Funds for these projects were contingent upon receiving a grant through the Department of Homeland Security and the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA).

Wayne Chadbourne recently let us know that our grant application had been approved in the amount of \$53,867. God be praised! These projects will improve preparedness and response capabilities not only for Emmaus but for homeland security related incidents in the State of Maine.

Hopefully by the end of the year, we may be able to start coordination for these large projects. The grant funding is available through August 31, 2026. This winter we should be able to address needed door replacement at the rear entrance of the building, and the new lighting and security cameras may be slated for spring/summer, 2024.



Community Harvest Supper Invitation



Give thanks! The Annual Community Supper at Falmouth Congregational Church is back! This free turkey dinner for all Falmouth residents is

held each year at FCC (267 Falmouth Road) and is hosted by Falmouth's churches and faith communities. This year it will be held on Thursday, October 26th from 5:00-7:00. Several members of Emmaus have been volunteering at this event for many years. Emmaus has been asked to provide the apple crisps again this year. There is a sign-up display in the narthex. If you can prepare an apple crisp (or two!) and deliver them to Emmaus, we will ensure that they are all delivered that day to FCC. A free -will offering at this event will go to the Falmouth Food Pantry.

Breakfast-for-All! October 1st



The first Sunday in October is October 1st so Breakfast-for-All will be served! Beginning around 8:15 a.m., come join the breakfast crew downstairs for eggs, sausage, home fries, toast, juice and coffee. Spend some time in fellowship with a warm breakfast, then come up to the sanctuary to fill your

heart and soul in worship!

New Christ in Our Home

The new quarterly edition of *Christ in Our Home* is available which offers daily devotionals and commentary. This convenient booklet also lists the upcoming festivals and commemorations as we move toward the end of the church year and the beginning of Advent. If you would like one mailed to your home, call the church office (781-4820). Large print editions are also available.



Fall Workday Set for October 21st

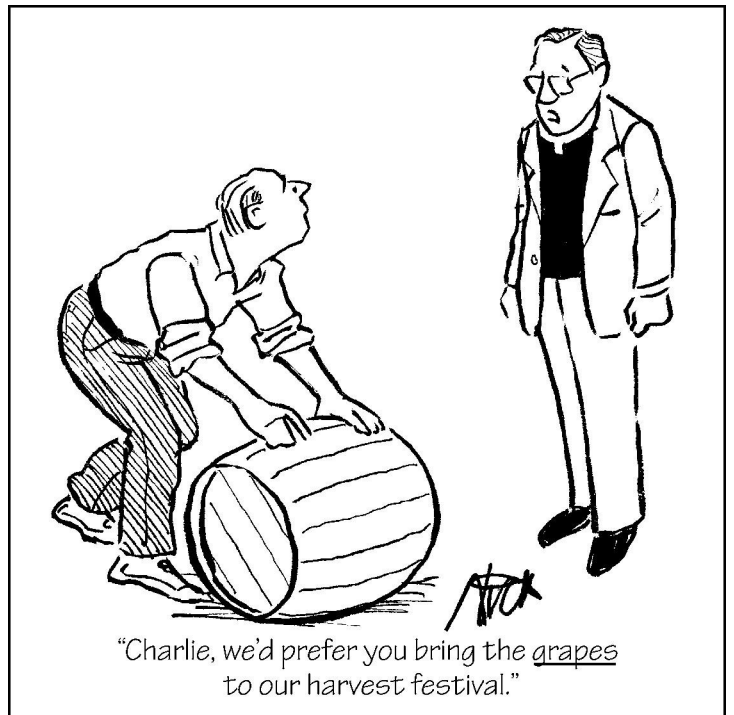
The Property Committee met last month to go over the list of things to do now that the parsonage is vacant. That's why this coming's Fall Workday on October 21st is so important. Many



initial items on the list have already been done like cleaning the rain gutters (thanks Bob and Wayne!). Bob Gerwig has been diligently weeding, pruning, and removing the firewood. Gerry cut down some shrubbery that was

overgrown. Given the timeline for a new pastor, there's much to do and we need your help. Please plan to spend the morning of October 21st (or even an hour or two) helping with raking, sweeping, weeding, blowing, pruning, and clearing the drainage pipe. Interior projects will be identified shortly. Look for recruitment for help in this regard shortly.

For the next few months, there will be no Bean Suppers at Emmaus. This decision was made in order to focus all our attention on Call Process activities. The suppers will resume soon!



Thankoffering for October



“For I was a stranger and you made me welcome....” —Matthew 25

Maine Catholic Charities is helping refugees and political asylees build new lives here in Maine. Maine’s longest-serving refugee resettlement program, Catholic Charities Maine Refugee and Immigration Services (RIS) is dedicated to helping those seeking a new life in America become independent, productive members of our community.

From cultural orientation and referrals to case management and ongoing support, Catholic Charities is committed to providing the highest quality professional resettlement, orientation, employment, and cultural adjustment services to those refugees assigned to their care.

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

Acolytes Lighting the Way

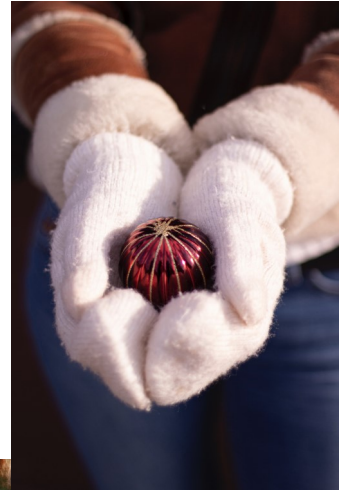


Fall is a busy time for the kids with school starting and soccer activities. This has made it difficult to put together a new acolyte schedule. But we need help on Sundays bringing the light into the sanctuary! Kids grades 4th and up are invited to take part in the service helping the pastors with acolyting and Holy Communion. If you are new to acolyting, Amy Dunckelmann will train you. Please arrive 15 minutes early prior to worship.

All effort will be made to put together a schedule for the upcoming months. Please let Beverly in the office know of your availability at beverly@emmausfalmouth.org.

Mittens, Mittens...

Each year Emmaus provides knitted hats, mittens and scarves by way of the “Mitten Tree” at Christmastime for *The Root Cellar*. Although store-bought items are always welcome, the best ones are handmade! So pull out your yarn and your knitting needles now and start stitching those hats, gloves and scarves for the December Mitten Tree.



New lighting for the parking lot in 2024 will be covered by the Security Grant awarded by MEMA





The Call Road Map to Emmaus (shown at right is a display in the narthex) provides an overview of our specific timeline for calling a new Pastor. Be sure to mark your calendar for **Saturday, November 4th**, where Emmaus will host a Call Town Hall Luncheon from 10-2. We will review the CAT and the

MSP, and have an opportunity to discuss a vision for Emmaus including what we are looking for in our next pastor.

Pastoral Concerns

Emmaus Lutheran Church is affiliated with the New England Synod of the ELCA and also a Reconciling in Christ congregation. Here we believe there is a place for EVERYONE. For pastoral care concerns, please contact Pastor Marian Marks at the church office at (207) 781-4820.



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

Contact Pastor—Rev. Marian Marks
 Church Musician – David Hansen
 Secretary – Beverly Lindahl



	August	Year-to-Date*
Regular Income	\$10,854	\$122,008
Expense	(\$11,609)	(\$112,316)
Net	(\$754)	\$9,692

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

Expenses in August came in under budget by \$2,145. The year-to-date income vs. expenses is holding strong at just about \$9,900.



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.

