

The Emmaus Encounter

The Newsletter of Emmaus Lutheran Church October, 2025

Friends in Christ,

There's something about October in Maine that is simply magical! Maybe it's the morning mist rising off the bay, or the way the sunlight catches a blaze of red on a maple tree. Maybe it's the comfort of pulling out the fall clothes for 'sweatah weathah' or the smell of a fire pit drifting through the neighborhood. These simple moments remind me that sacred time with God doesn't always have to be carved out of a busy schedule—it can meet us right where we are, in the beauty and ordinariness of life.

Sacred time doesn't always mean long hours of silence or formal prayer (though those are beautiful, too). Sacred time can be found in laughter shared over pizza and beer. Or while walking your dog (or cat!). I find plenty of sacred time in nature; walking a trail, gazing at the waves at Two Lights, or just picking the last cherry tomatoes in my garden. The wonder of God's creation is all around us, and when we take time to pause, we notice that God is here with us.

At Emmaus this October, we have some special ways to share that sacred time together:

- **Spaghetti Supper & Cottage Meeting – Friday, October 4 at 5:00 pm**
Come enjoy good food and even better conversation. We'll gather and talk about ways to engage more families and children at Emmaus—and how sharing fellowship itself is sacred time.



- **Blessing of the Animals – Saturday, October 5 at 3:00 pm**
In the church parking lot, bring your pets (real or stuffed!) for a special blessing. God calls all creation “good,” and in honor of St. Francis Day, we'll celebrate the gift of our animals who bless us with unconditional love. Invite your neighbors and friends—this is truly a community celebration!

- **Emmaus Outdoors – Saturday, October 18 at 1:00 pm**

Join us for a RELAXED hike on local trails, open to all ages. Fall in Maine is breathtaking, and worshipping God in creation opens our eyes to the sacred beauty all around us. This may even become a monthly tradition! Our own “Hiker Extraordinaire”, Heidi Duchesneau will be our guide and take very good care of us.

So, my question to you is, how do you spend sacred time with God? (email me at pastor.gail@emmausfalmouth.org)

Whether it's in worship, in fellowship, in caring for God's creatures, or in the great outdoors, may this October draw you closer to the One who promises, “*I am with you always.*”

See you on the trail, at the table, or in worship—may God meet you there.

Peace, Pastor Gail

Fall vs. Autumn? See Page 5

Maine Council of Churches



Founded in 1938, the Maine Council of Churches is a nonprofit, ecumenical coalition of seven mainline

Protestant member denominations, all of whom have their roots in Hebrew and Christian scripture. Our seven members have 435 congregations in Maine with more than 55,000 members in their care. MCC's mission is to inspire people within, through and beyond the church to unite in building a culture of justice, compassion, and peace. They accomplish this by offering resources and programs, doing faith-based advocacy for social, economic and environmental justice, with a focus on public policy at the state level, and speaking in the public square with a prophetic voice of faith for justice, equity, inclusion, compassion, and peace. They are supported by a combination of annual donations from individuals and local congregations, grants, and income from assets that are invested socially responsibly. Their board of directors consists of seven representatives appointed by the member denominations and seven at-large Directors elected by the members. They are a true "working Board" that the Council would not have the capacity or impact it has without them.

Join us in worship on October 5th when Ed Rea, Treasurer of the Maine Council of Churches, will be preaching at Emmaus. Also, our Thankoffering for October will benefit Maine Council of Churches and their outreach. Please make your check out to Emmaus and mark "Thankoffering" in the memo line.

<https://mainecouncilofchurches.org/>

Congratulations to Pastor Amy

Our seminary intern, Vicar Amy Dunckelmann, has now been officially ordained and is now Pastor Amy Dunckelmann! Congratulations to Pastor Amy. She was ordained by Bishop Nathan Piphon on September 14th, and she was also officially installed as the rostered pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kennebunk, fulfilling her first call to ministry.



Last month Emmaus spent some precious time in fellowship and celebration with Pastor Amy at the Bean Supper. Pastor Amy shared her appreciation of new words she learned during her seminary study and internship. Well, here's one to add to that list...the mitre! The mitre (or miter) is a type of headgear now known as the traditional, cere-

monial headdress of bishops and certain abbots in traditional Christianity. Who knew! Good thing Pastor Bob Gustavson (Ret.) took a step to his left before this photo (shown below) was taken, otherwise he'd be lost behind the Bishop's mitre!



Left to right: Pastor Pam Brouker, Pastor Kurt Saenger-Heyl, Pastor Gail Angellis, Pastor Mary Beth Morris, Pastor Mark Glazener, Pastor John Corgan, Pastor Karen Indorf, Pastor Susan Gaeta, Pastor Bob Gustavson, Pastor Bill Barter, Pastor Carolyn Lambert, and Pastor Anne Roser. Forefront: Pastor Amy Dunckelmann and Bishop Nathan Piphon

www.emmausfalmouth.org

The Emmaus Roadies Return



Back (left to right): David Sturdevant, Rob Anderson, David Hansen, and Mary Beudet. Front: Judy Katzel, Julie Mueller, and Karen Oster.

Having now been through two assessment surveys within the last 7 years, one thing is clear for Emmaus –music is highly valued. And our music is rooted in *The Emmaus Roadies*. This month we welcomed back *The Roadies* to regular worship following a well deserved summer break. These dedicated musicians volunteer their time and talents to make our Sunday worship experience special and holy. A special musical event last month was our worship experience that took place outdoors under the trees and blue sky. Someone in the congregation even said “Can we do this every Sunday?” Setting up all that equipment took



some practice and coordination, but *The Roadies* made it happen, and the sun came out that morning right on queue! Several new visitors joined the service as well. Special thanks that morning to the Men’s Group, Tom, Wayne, Bob, and Brandon for serving up a delicious Breakfast-for-All. We came hungry, and we left fulfilled!

Outdoor Altar for Worship (shown at right)

Emmaus T-Shirts Coming Soon

Why didn’t we think of this sooner? Emmaus is about to have our own T-shirts that we can wear “*en masse*.” That’s a fancy way of saying we can all wear our Emmaus T-shirts at the same time and at the same events, showing Emmaus’ strength and harmony. The T-shirts are in production now, and feature Luther’s seal. If you missed the sign-ups, extra T-shirts may soon be available for purchase.



New Edition of ‘Christ in Our Home’



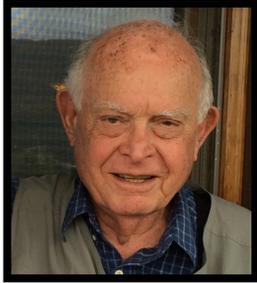
The October-November-December edition of *Christ in Our Home* is now available in the narthex for you to take home. It consists of daily prayer, scripture readings and devotions written by several past and present ELCA pastors. Large print editions are also available. Make these short devotions part of you daily routine. If you would like to have this booklet mailed to your home, just call the church office at 781-4820.

Fall Clean Up Day Coming Soon

Twice each year (Spring and Fall) the Property Committee works together with parish members to clean up our grounds and also clean our building interior. This year’s Fall Clean Up Day will be scheduled later in the month as we await the “*fall of the leaf*.” Please lend the Property Committee a hand on a Saturday morning to rake, prune, blow, and generally get our grounds ready for winter. Date is TBD, but likely will take place the last Saturday of October. We’ll keep you posted!



From Ilga Harrington...



“My heartfelt ‘thank you’ to all those members of Emmaus for their kind prayers, cards and support on the passing of my husband Rod Harrington on July 18, 2025. Special thanks to Pr. Gail and everyone who made his Celebration of Life Service on September 6th truly memorable. In the last few

years Rod and I were mostly participants on the internet, but at the service and luncheon it felt like coming home. All of my family felt welcome and thanks to all those who provided the bountiful and tasty luncheon, a true display of our truly caring and welcoming congregation.

Thanks, Ilga”

New Church Pictorial Directory



This is exciting! A new pictorial church directory is planned for this fall. A photographer will be on-site in November to take photos of our congregation’s members/families. With the help of the photographer and Judy Katzel, we will then be able to do a lay-out and print the directory in house. This will be a substantial savings opposed to having it printed elsewhere. We will be updating

names, mailing addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses for each member/family. The goal is to get the vast majority of people photographed on either Saturday, November 8 from 9am to 12 noon, or on Sunday, November 9 from 10:30 am to 1 pm. So mark your calendars! More details to follow.

Update on Parking Lot Improvement

Pardon our dust! The trenching and backfill are now complete as four new light poles were recently set in ground. The electrical work is wrapping up. With the consent of the Congregation Council, our electrical contractor will see if it’s possible to repair at the same time ground uplighting on both sides of the front door (the old lighting canisters were uncov-



ered when we removed the large shrubs last year, shown left). In addition, new lighting for the steeple is being considered as the existing electrical socket for this is obsolete. The new outdoor lighting will run on timers that will turn on each

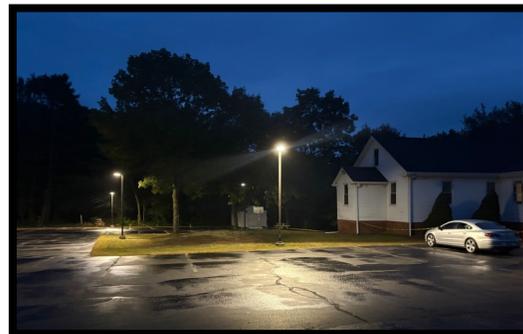
night from dusk to dawn, adding a great deal more security and certainly more visibility to the community. This is the last phase of our grant security project. Next month the Property Committee should be able to report on the final costs.

With the professional excavator on site, Wayne, Bob, Jim, and Scott were able to dig a new drainage system off the rain gutters nearest the offices. These drains and runoff have been above ground for several years, but now the pipes are buried underground and tie directly into the main drain system. This will keep roof water away from the foundation and greatly deter water seepage into Fellowship Hall.

Now that messy work is done, the parking lot repair, reseal, and restripe is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 29th. The entire lot, as well as the driveway at the parsonage, will need to be cordoned off for a few days while the seal sets, so plan your trips to church accordingly.



Wow! Let There Be Light!



Rooted in God's Grace



"Then the father said to him, 'You are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.'"

Luke 15:31

Grounded in faith and blessed by God, we respond to share our faith and the blessings we

have received. That's the mantra of this year's Fall Stewardship Campaign. This campaign invites members to reflect on God's grace and the gifts that God has given us in life and how we may respond with generosity that nurtures the church, our larger community, and the world. We'll be sharing ways how you can respond, and there are many, throughout our upcoming campaign Rooted in God's Grace. Stay tuned.

Spaghetti Supper—Oct. 4



Join us on October 4th at 5:00 p.m. for a festive Spaghetti Supper. We will be discussing creative ways, cottage style,

to encourage more families and children to come to church. We'd greatly appreciate your children's involvement in the process, after all, they are the Church's future! Come and enjoy a delicious meal and fun conversation. We hope you and your family will attend. This meal is for EVERYONE!

Blessing of the Animals—Oct. 5

Celebrate St. Francis Day and the gift of our pets on Sunday, October 5th at 3:00 p.m. by bringing your pets to the church parking lot for a special blessing. This is a community-wide event, and everyone is welcome. You can even bring a stuffed animal!



Ron with Lucy

Breakfast for All—Oct. 5

The monthly Breakfast-for-All will be Sunday, October 5th starting at around 8:15 a.m. It is also on this Sunday that Ed Rea from The Maine Council of Churches will be preaching. Plan your breakfast in fellowship and thanksgiving.

Let's Hit the Trail—Oct. 18



Like to hike? Our resident pro on hiking the trails of Maine is Heidi Duchesneau. Heidi will be leading all those interested in a relaxed hike on the local Elmwood Trail in Pownal on Saturday, October 18th. We'll meet in

the parking lot at Emmaus at 1:00 p.m. and carpool to Pownal. We'll hike this easy-to-moderately-easy trail which takes about an hour. Bring your hiking shoes and bottled water for this beautiful nature hike in God's creation. If there's regular interest in sharing in God's beauty, a new club might be formed!

Cynthia Mohoney with Tom Duchesneau and Betty Balderston in the background



Why Do Some Say Fall and Others Say Autumn?

Fall vs Autumn	
Fall	Autumn
The word Fall originates from the 1600s with the phrase "the fall of the leaf", in reference to the time of year when deciduous trees shed their leaves.	Latin meaning end of harvest or season. The older of the two words ("Fall" & "Autumn"), which first came into English in the 1300s from the Latin word Autumnus.

Time to Review

Our Staff Support Committee will soon be engaging in the annual review process for staff members (Pastor Gail, Secretary Beverly, and Church Musician David). So they are asking for your feedback to address 5 specific questions:

1. What are their greatest accomplishments/successes?
2. Does their work facilitate good relationships?
3. Any areas of improvement?
4. Do you have any particular notations?
5. Suggestions for the next year?

Please feel free to drop your comments in the box located in the narthex. If you'd rather speak to someone directly, you can call Suanne Williams-Lindgren, Ellen Wills, or Debbie Breton to share your thoughts.

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 at (207) 781-4820.



EMMAUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

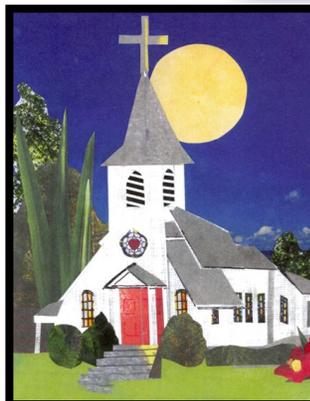


Pastor—Rev. Gail Angellis
Church Musician – David Hansen
Secretary – Beverly Lindahl

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



	August	Year-to-Date
Regular Income	\$13,369	\$142,603
Expense	(\$14,334)	(\$122,870)
Net	\$(965)	\$19,733

Expenses to budget in August looked good and we had a pretty even month overall. The maintenance was high for the month due to service call / inspection / annual testing on the lift. Our surplus for the year is the result of one generous gift of \$25K in July. Emmaus has been blessed in so many ways! **Our work is not done however with three more months to go in 2025. Please take a moment to review your pledge for 2025 and making sure it is up-to-date.** Quarterly Contribution Statements will be available mid-month.

"I want to express my 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.

