

The Emmaus Encounter

The Newsletter of Emmaus Lutheran Church November, 2025

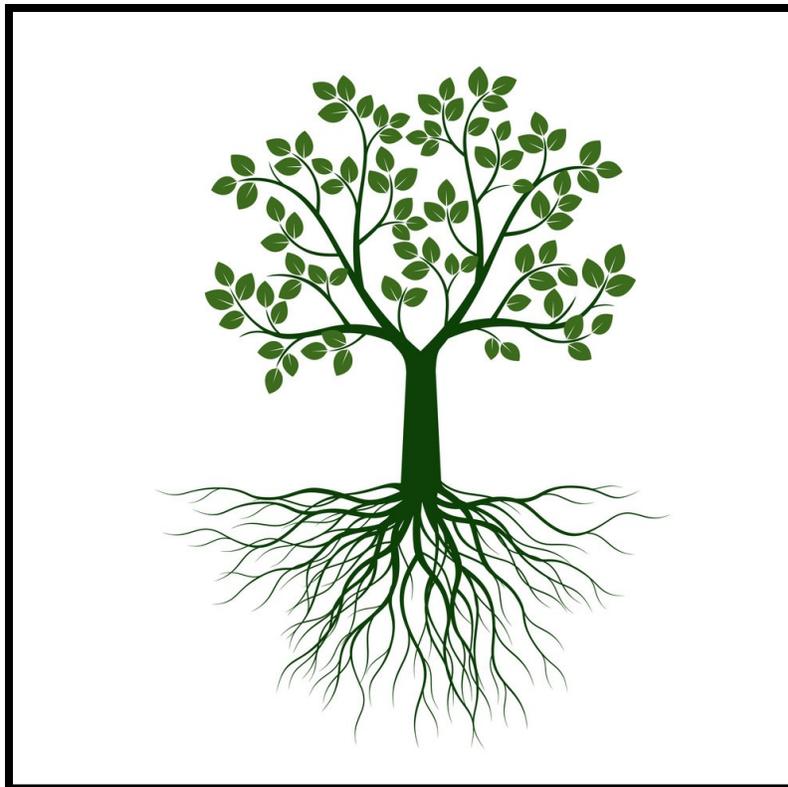
Friends in Christ,

As we enter the month of November—a time of thanksgiving and reflection—we also begin our annual Stewardship Campaign at Emmaus. Our theme this year, “*Rooted in God’s Grace*,” reminds us that everything we are and everything we have begins with God’s generous love.

Stewardship is often thought of in terms of money, but at its heart, it’s really about *response*. How do we respond to the grace that has been freely given to us? How do we live as people rooted in that grace?

This season, I invite you to think about your commitment to Emmaus not only in your financial giving, but in your *presence*—your participation in the life we share together as the Body of Christ. In recent months, our Sunday attendance has dipped. Life is busy, and routines change—but the truth is, we need one another. The Church is not just a building or a livestream; it’s a community where we gather to hear God’s Word, to be fed at the Table, to pray and sing and serve side by side.

When we come together regularly, we are reminded that we are not alone in our faith or in our struggles. We are strengthened by Christ’s presence among us and through one another. The Body cannot thrive when parts are missing.



So this November, I encourage you to *recommit*—to showing up, to inviting others, to being part of something that roots us all more deeply in grace. Maybe there’s a friend, neighbor, or family member who could use a word of hope or simply the warmth of community. Invite them. Bring them. Let’s fill this place with life and laughter and prayer once more.

We are, after all, *rooted in God’s grace*—and what grows from those roots is nothing less than love made visible.

See you in worship.

Pastor Gail



Upcoming Commemorations

Reformation Day-October 31



October 31st we typically think of as Halloween, however it is actually Reformation Day. By the end of the seventeenth century, many Lutheran churches celebrated a festival commemorating Martin Luther's posting of the Ninety-five Theses, a summary of abuses in the church of his time, to the door

of the Castle church in the city of Wittenberg. At the heart of the reform movement was the gospel, the good news that it is by grace through faith that we are justified and set free.

All Saints Sunday-November 2

The custom of commemorating all of the saints of the church on a single day goes back at least to the third century. All Saints Day celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who make up the body of Christ. In Holy Baptism God makes saints out of sinners. In Holy Communion God forgives the sins of all the saints.



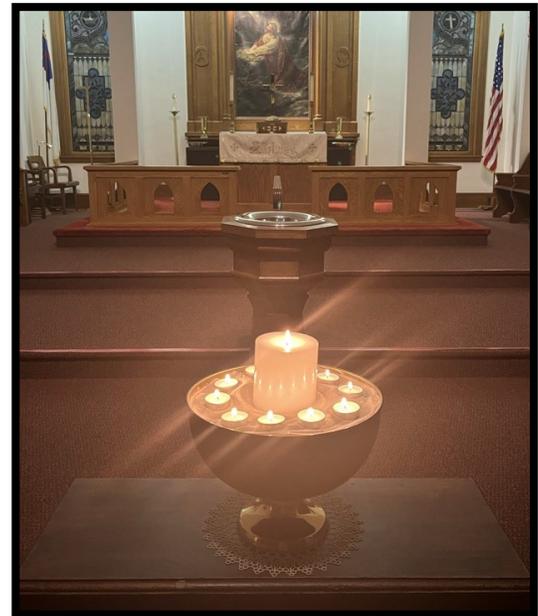
On All Saints Sunday, November 2nd, our congregation will remember the faithful members of Emmaus who have died during the past year. These saints are Karin Gil, Stephen Crafts, David Backman, and Rodney Harrington. We give thanks for the promise of the resurrection in which these saints now rest.

Christ the King Sunday-November 23

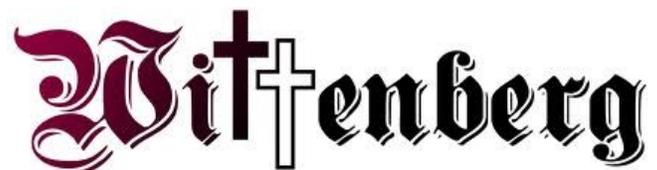
The Church Year began with Advent and the joyful hope and expectation of Jesus' coming to save the world through His incarnation. On the Last Sunday after Pentecost, or Christ the King Sunday (November 23rd), the church gives voice to



the joyful hope of the second coming of Jesus for the resurrection of the dead and the last judgment. The end-times focus of the Last Sunday of the Church Year bears themes of hope and preparation that are similar to those of Advent, which soon follows this year beginning November 30th. We wait for the season of Advent and the beginning of the new church year!

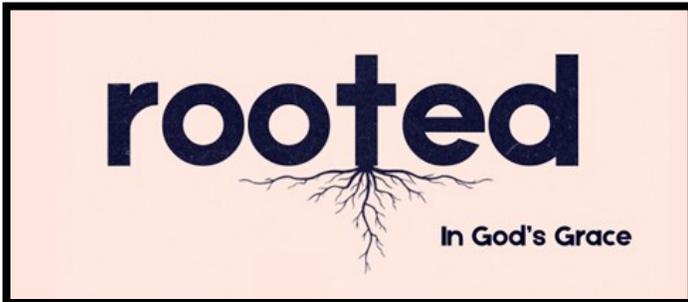


November 2nd also marks the end of Daylight Saving Time. Be sure to set your clocks back one hour before bedtime on Saturday!



www.emmausfalmouth.org

Fall Stewardship Campaign Begins



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

Luke 15:31

Thank you for your part in our life together in Christ and thank you for sharing the gifts that God has given you for the up-building of the body of Christ at Emmaus Lutheran Church.

As the older son in the parable of the Prodigal reminds us, we often fail to recognize the abundance of blessings that surround us. The cares of the world, the distractions of our lives, and a perspective of scarcity that permeates our culture, makes it easy to forget what the father promises the older son: You are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.

Such is the promise for each one of us by God in Christ. The truth that we confess is the economy of God: there is enough and enough for everyone. The truth of abundance bubbles up in the waters of our baptism, where God lovingly claims us, often before we have anything to say about it. The truth of abundance is weekly embodied as bread and wine are shared around Christ's table. All are welcome. All are fed. And there are leftovers to spare. The truth of abundance is also present in your life. God calls you into this life, equips you with gifts and talents, and invites you to share them with a world sore in need of grace, mercy, and compassion.

When we recognize the gifts of God that reside within the people of God, we have an opportunity to expand a bit more of God's love in Christ here at Emmaus Lutheran Church in Falmouth, and in the larger world. Indeed, our hands are very much engaged with God's work through helping local families, our music ministry, camperships for Camp Calumet, Lutheran World Relief, Linus Blankets, Maine Council of Churches, Falmouth Food Pantry, Maine Needs, the Travis

Mills Foundation, and Friendship House.

Over the coming weeks, we invite you to consider a pledge for our ministry together in 2026. We deeply appreciate your consideration and generosity. Every gift helps to further the ministry of God at Emmaus. In a world that continues to seed uncertainty and fear in many sectors, we have the chance to offer an alternative vision for the world. Rather than fear, there is love. Rather than isolation, there is community. Rather than uncertainty, there is the rootedness of God's grace. Rather than scarcity, there is abundance. Let us abide in God's graciousness, sharing with us the abundance of God's creation, and let us share in kind the gifts God gives to us for the building up of God's presence in and for the world.

In Christ, Carl Carlson III, Wayne Chadbourne, Pastor Marian Marks, Beverly Lindahl, Pat Sonnenberg, Ron Thompson, and Pastor Gail Angellis

Rooted in Grace, Growing in Generosity

Grounded in faith and blessed by God, we respond to share our faith and the blessings we have received. Here's a peek of upcoming stewardship events:

- Nov. 3rd—Stewardship Letter and Pledge Cards Mailed
- Nov. 9th—Campaign Kickoff in Worship
- Nov. 16th—Tree of Gratitude
- Nov. 23rd—Commitment Sunday & Celebration Brunch



New Pictorial Church Directory

Photography sessions for our new pictorial church directory are planned at Emmaus for Saturday, November 8th from 10-12 and Sunday, November 9th from 10:30-1. To make this as efficient as possible, please sign-up for a specific day and time slot. This will be the perfect opportunity to update names, mailing addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses for each member/family. After working with John, our photographer, and Judy for layout, design, and printing, the new directories should be available for distribution around January. Smile for the camera!



Emmaus T-Shirts Are Here



Those bright red Emmaus T-shirts with Luther's seal have arrived! If you pre-ordered a T-shirt, you can pick them up in the Conference Room. If you missed the pre-order, there are extra shirts available for purchase (\$20). Emmaus strong!

Go Take a Hike



Holy Hikers? 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 Range Road Trail in Cumberland on Saturday, November 22nd. We'll meet in the parking lot at Emmaus at 1:00 p.m. and carpool to Cumberland. We'll hike this easy-to-moderately-

easy trail which takes about an hour. Bring your hiking shoes, poles, and bottled water for this beautiful nature hike in God's creation. If there's interest in sharing in God's beauty, this might be regular thing!

Heidi Duchesneau, Bev Lindahl, Julie & Don Davidson, Karen Oster, Pastor Gail, Sandy Halverson, and Sarah Hallen (dog, Lucy, present but not shown).

Community Outreach Harvest Meal

Emmaus' Social Ministry Team is planning a community outreach event on Thanksgiving Day for the residents of a local apartment complex at Blackstone. Turkey and all the trimmings will be prepared at Emmaus, boxed up, and delivered to the residents there, many of whom have no place to go this holiday. But wait, there's more...YOU and your friends and family are invited to Thanksgiving dinner at Emmaus starting at around 1 o'clock. Arrive before 1:00 and you can lend a hand with boxing up the meals.



This is a community outreach project that most everyone can participate in. Sign up sheets include donating your time or your donations of food (potatoes, yams, cooked butternut squash, stuffing, apple crisps, all things Thanksgiving) are in the narthex. You can always call the church office (781-4820) and leave a message on how you would like to help.

Ending Hunger in Maine



Our Thankoffering for November is *Preble Street Resource Center*. The mission of Preble Street is to provide accessible barrier-free services to empower people experiencing problems with homelessness, housing, hunger, and poverty and to advocate for solutions to those problems. From a nutritious meal to crisis intervention, from clean clothes to health care, from showers to a permanent home, Preble Street programs not only meet urgent needs but also create solutions to homelessness and hunger. Make your check out to Emmaus and note "Thankoffering" in the memo line.





~MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS~

Nov. 2—Breakfast For All

The monthly Breakfast-for-All will be Sunday, November 2nd starting at around 8:15 a.m. This is also All Saints Sunday and the end of Daylight Saving Time (you'll have an extra hour!). Plan your breakfast in fellowship and thanksgiving.

Nov. 8 & 9—Photography Sessions

Sign up for one of the photography sessions for the new church directory (see page 4). This will move quickly and only take about 15 minutes of your time.

Nov. 15—Monthly Bean Supper

Join us at Emmaus on Saturday, November 15th at 5:00 p.m. for a traditional, homemade Bean Supper. After 'suppah', Dr. Sarah Hallen will be discussing ways to avoid falls in the home. Come and enjoy a delicious meal for everyone and good advice from Sarah.

Nov. 22—Holy Hikers

This month we will be hiking on the Range Road Trail in Cumberland. We'll meet in the parking lot at Emmaus on November 22nd at 1 o'clock, or directly at the trailhead at around 1:15.

Nov. 23—Celebration Brunch

Let's celebrate Commitment Sunday together right after worship on Sunday, November 23rd. This special brunch is compliments of Thrivent and the Thompsons, and is sure to include bacon!

Nov. 27—Thanksgiving Day Outreach

Turkey and all the trimmings are being offered for anyone at Emmaus on Thanksgiving Day at 1:00 p.m. Didn't sign up? No problem! Just come hungry and we'll give thanks together.

Pastor Gail will be on vacation from November 10 through 16. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please leave a message for Pastor Marian Marks in the church office.

Here Comes the Angel Tree

Tis the Season! The Angel Tree will be up on November 9th decorated with cards for you to take and purchase gifts for the kiddos at *The Root Cellar*. The cards will be fairly specific for what to buy. Please return the items by the end of November, UNWRAPPED, along with the card to identify its recipient. Ho, Ho, Ho!



Fall Workday Shout-Out!

The cleanup crew made quick work out of the Fall Workday last month, and the grounds look great. Special thanks to those who helped... Wayne Chadbourne,

Tom & Heidi Duchesneau, Debbie & Gerry Breton, Lauren Jordy, Stephanie Martin and sons Riley & Jackson, Bob Gerwig, Scott Wiemer, and Pr. Gail. Thank you, all!



Jackson makes good use of the rake during Fall Workday!

Celebration Brunch



Commitment Sunday, sometimes referred to as Consecration Sunday, is also Celebration Sunday! On Sunday, November 23rd, we will offer our 2026 pledge cards to God

and give thanks together after worship for a genuine celebration of God's grace and the gifts that God has given us in life. Plan to come downstairs after worship for fellowship and brunch (come hungry!). Then we will hear the initial results of our Fall Stewardship Campaign. ALL ARE WELCOME!

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

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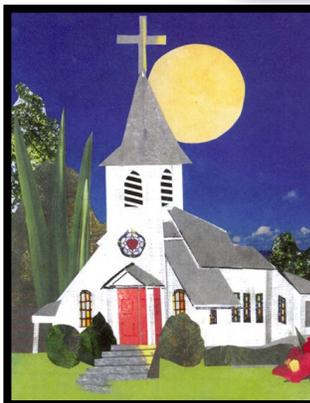


Pastor—Rev. Gail Angellis
Church Musician – David Hansen
Secretary – Beverly Lindahl

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



<u>September</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	
Regular Income	\$15,482	\$158,085
Expense	(\$15,155)	(\$138,025)
Net	\$327	\$20,060

Our Treasurer reports that September was a steady, slightly positive, month. No real outliers in the expenses. The parking lot project is now complete and the last reimbursement to Emmaus of \$33,718 is expected shortly. Our surplus for the year is the result of one generous gift of \$25K in July for which we are grateful. **Our work is not done however with two more months to go in 2025! Please take a moment to review your Contribution Statement and pledge for 2025 and make sure your giving is on track.**

"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.

