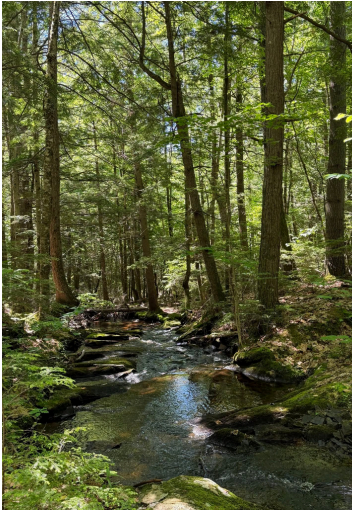
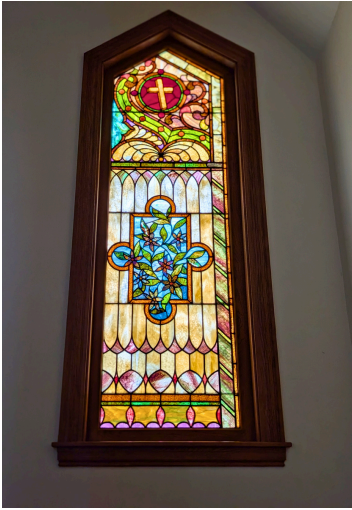


# THE EMMAUS ENCOUNTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF EMMAUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

FALMOUTH, ME



## Emmaus at PRIDE! Portland Parade

On Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, Emmaus participated in the annual PRIDE! Portland Parade. The atmosphere was electric with excitement as members of our community gathered at Monument Square, adorned in vibrant colors and carrying handmade signs that proclaimed messages of love, acceptance, and unity.

It was a day of joy, reflection, and recommitment to the values that bind us as a community. Together, we demonstrated that at Emmaus, love knows no bounds, and everyone is welcome with open arms.



## Falmouth Landtrust Hike

The Holy Hikers, joined by Rick Scala, a board member of the Falmouth Land Trust, embarked on a hike at the Hardy Road Conservation Area on Saturday, June 13th.



## July Thankoffering

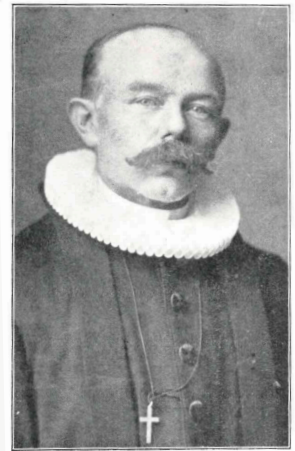


The Thankoffering for the month of July is Vet2Vet Maine. Vet2Vet Maine is committed to alleviating social isolation and loneliness among Maine's veterans and linking them to needed services. They accomplish this by connecting trained veteran volunteers with fellow veterans who need a friend. The volunteers visit at least twice a month and provide companionship, offer assistance with benefits, support independent living, and foster friendships and mentoring among veterans.

## History Spotlight: Rev. P. P. Thoreby

Fortunately, the history of Emmaus has been thoroughly documented. The Women's Aid group was established on October 27, 1891, by K.O. Storlie, the Pastor of the First Lutheran Church of Portland, along with a group of women: Cathrine Anderson, Else Moller, Caroline Moller, Kristine Hansen, Elise Iverson, Anna Smidt, and two young women, Theresa Anderson and Lena Moller. Their mission was to "promote the cause of the Kingdom of God." After gathering for two years, in the summer of 1893, Pastor Storlie invited a young Danish student from Augsburg Seminary to address the spiritual needs of the Lutheran community of Danish descent. In response to the call, Student P. P. Thoreby arrived. Following his ordination in 1894, he began his ministry, serving both the Westbrook and Falmouth congregations.

In its early days, known as Emmaus Danish Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, worshippers convened at the Congregational Church in Falmouth every Sunday. Rev. P. P. Thoreby earned a salary of \$15.00 per month, which is equivalent to about \$550.00 today. It was noted in records that this was considered a significant compensation. In the 35th Anniversary Jubilee Issue of *The Lutheran Lightbearer*, Rev. P. P. Thoreby recounts his first service at Emmaus, stating, "My text was the following: 'But God commendeth his own love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.' Rom. 5:8. The audience in attendance was a mixed multitude. That some appreciated this service more than others was quite evident!"



P. P. THOREBY  
1894 to 1906

He further reflects on his experience serving both Falmouth and Westbrook, noting, "At that time, there was no streetcar connection between Falmouth-Portland-Westbrook, nor did the passenger train run on Sundays. Horse and buggy were the common means of conveyance." To address this challenge, Rev. Thoreby, with assistance from the Emmaus members, purchased a house in Falmouth. Upon his resignation, he sold the property to the church, which later converted it into the parsonage, eventually selling it in subsequent years.



The First Parsonage

In 1895, the members of Emmaus raised funds to construct the church building we worship in today. They chose to build it themselves to save costs, with the total expenditure amounting to \$900.00, or roughly

\$35,680.00 today. In later years, the congregation expressed a desire to add a tower to the building, but Rev. Thoreby preferred that the funds and energy be directed toward expanding the membership. The congregation agreed to postpone the construction of the tower until 1928.

Towards the end of his tenure as Pastor at Emmaus, Rev. Thoreby took a vacation to Denmark. On September 13, 1905, he wrote a letter addressed to the Emmaus Congregation. The letter reads:

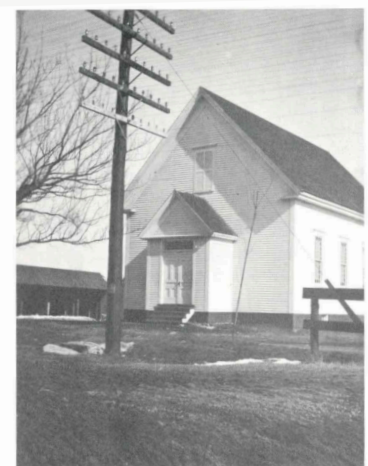
"Sløsse, September 13, 1905

To the Emmanuel Congregation,  
God's Grace and Peace!

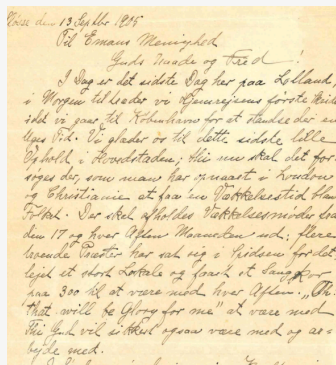
Today is the last day here on Lolland; tomorrow we travel to the first meeting of the General Assembly, then we go to Copenhagen for a stay of about a week. We look forward to this last small stay in the capital; but now it must be said, as many have experienced in Christiania [now Oslo], to bring about a time of revival among the people.

There will be revival meetings held from the 17th and every evening for the rest of the month; multiple local pastors have taken a lead in this, rented a large hall, and expect a long queue of 300 to be gathered every evening. 'Oh, that will be Glory for me' to be present. God will surely also be with us and work with us."

Regarding my state of health, I am now a good deal better. Last Sunday, I was even able to extend my hand to my friends to hold the hymnal while I sang; that was the first time I could do it myself since a couple of weeks



The Early Church Before Steeple Was Added



before I left Maine. But I must still keep it in a glove, and lift or carry anything it cannot do. It is also with great difficulty that it can hold a fork, but there is progress for each time I write to you.

I have also been silent here for almost the whole time, both in the East and West, when people have called on me, and similarly there has been a scarcity of words in my daily surroundings. There is a time to keep silent, says the wise Solomon, and that time was for me.

But if God so wills, I may well be among you by November 8th and speak to you again that old blessed message that sinners must come to Jesus and be saved, believe in Him, live for and work for Him, die and be blessed in His blessed Kingdom.

Pray for us, brothers and sisters, when we on the 24th (that is indeed a Sunday) sail out onto the ocean again! Pray for us while day and night bring us closer and closer, until we can greet each other again on America's shores. And should that not be reached, then we await you all on the heavenly shore.

Greetings from my wife & Your Brother P. P. Thoreby.

(My wife asks me to send a special greeting to the children who sent 50 Øre)."

Rev. P. P. Thoreby completed his service to Emmaus Lutheran Church in 1906.

In 1920, news spread of the current pastor's resignation, prompting the congregation to reach out to Rev. P. P. Thoreby, requesting him to return as a temporary pastor until a new one could be appointed. Rev. Thoreby wrote to Emmaus on September 13, 1920, expressing his thoughts on this new chapter. The letter reads:

"Eugene, Oregon, 9 March 1920

Dear Mr. Lund!

The Lord's Peace!

Thank you for your letter. It pleased us very much, and we look forward to coming and being among you for a little while before we head to our final resting place here on Earth.

Tell Emmaus Congregation that we will aim to be there as soon as we can after your pastor has left, so I can serve the congregation a little when you are without a pastor. I am not at all rusty yet when it comes to preaching the Word in Danish. I am more fit than I ever was in Falmouth.

But English must be used everywhere now, and therefore I decided to travel home when this congregation could get a pastor. And that has now succeeded, as your former Pastor Iversen gave a promise to become my replacement. But well, for a little while, I can probably help you out over there with my Danish preaching.

I am also glad to hear through your letter that people have not forgotten their old friend. I likewise never forget my old coworkers from where I began my pastoral ministry. I have always followed along in the years that have passed since.

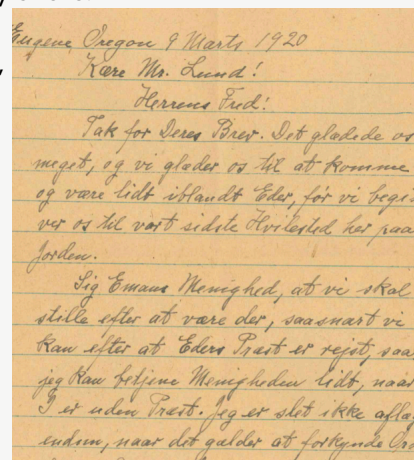
And when I, so to speak, never wrote to anyone—perhaps did not even reply when someone wrote to me—it was because I believe it is not good for the sake of the ministry of the pastor who is currently in the work when the former pastor maintains a connection with some in the congregation. I wrote once to the congregation's secretary when it was without a pastor, but I did not get an answer. Perhaps they didn't receive it. I was admittedly granted a vacation at that time for 3 months, which I thought to spend in the East, and I had calls [job offers] from two congregations, Warren, Pa. and Worcester, Mass., which I thought a bit about perhaps taking one of. But then it all came to nothing, because the congregation here could not get any service if I traveled. My vacation then became only a trip to the Annual Convention.

Now you must also greet the pastor. I got to know him at the Annual Convention in 1918. I have also understood that you were well satisfied and well served with him.

With heartfelt greetings to you and your wife,

Yours in Christ,

P. P. Thoreby"



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True to his word, Rev. Thoreby returned to Maine later that year, bridging the gap between Emmaus's early Danish roots and its unfolding future. Though his second stay was temporary, his willingness to travel across the country at an advanced age demonstrated the unbreakable bond between the pastor and the community he helped build. Today, the church structure standing on Middle Road stands as a physical testament to that early dedication, a monument to a handful of immigrants who gave everything to create a lasting spiritual home.



The Emmaus Church and it's Congregation  
Circa 1895-1906

#### **A Message from Kristen,**

As Emmaus was a Danish congregation in its early years, the historical letters referenced here are originally in Danish. These letters have been translated into English, so please keep in mind that the translation may not be entirely accurate.

I eagerly anticipate delving deeper into Emmaus' history and documenting my findings as I work through the various documents.

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## **Exciting News: The Community Supper is Back!**

We are thrilled to announce that Emmaus is joining together with Falmouth's churches and faith communities to host the 12th Annual Community Supper! After being on hold since the pandemic, this wonderful tradition is finally returning.

Mark your calendars:

- When: Thursday, October 22nd, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Where: Falmouth Congregational Church
- What: A completely FREE delicious dinner featuring roast turkey with all the fixings, veggies, and—of course—homemade apple crisp with ice cream!

While the supper is free, we will be collecting free-will donations to fully support the Falmouth Food Pantry. It's a beautiful opportunity to break bread with our neighbors and give back to our community.

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## Summer Music Opportunities at Emmaus

### Attention All Musicians and Singers!



This summer, we warmly invite everyone to contribute to Sunday Worship by showcasing your talents. Whether you sing or play an instrument, we would be thrilled to hear from you! If you're interested in participating, please reach out to Pastor Gail or David Hansen.



### Hymn Lotto is Back!

Hymn Lotto is making a comeback this summer due to popular demand! Choose your favorite hymn from the ELW hymnal located in the pews, write it down, and place it in the blue box found in the Narthex. Every Sunday during worship, a hymn will be drawn from the box and played. Join in the fun!



## July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Worship 9am	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Worship 9am	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Worship 9am	20	21	22 EOAT Mtg 5pm	23	24	25
26 Worship 9am	27	28	29	30	31	

**Did you know we have a Facebook page?**

It's a great way to stay connected and informed about everything happening in our congregation. From event photos to special announcements, our page is filled with engaging content that celebrates our vibrant community. Join us online and be a part of our digital family!

@emmauslutheranchurch

(207) 781-4820



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@EMMAUSLUTHERANCHURCH



265 MIDDLE ROAD, FALMOUTH, ME 04105