



THE EMMAUS ENCOUNTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF EMMAUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

FALMOUTH, ME



Friends in Christ,

I love Lent. I truly do. The contemplation, the solemnness, the reflection, the darkness—I love it all.

Here in Falmouth, the snow has yet to melt. The air still has a bite to it. And yet—the light is shifting. The ground is loosening. Something is waking up. Lent feels like a shedding. A turning. A re-awakening.

It's the season when we intentionally loosen our grip on whatever has become too tight in us. Old habits. Old resentments. Old patterns that no longer give life. Lent offers us an opportunity to begin to let go—one small choice at a time.

When we fast from something, we are practicing freedom. We are reminding ourselves that our deepest life does not depend on the thing we reach for automatically at the end of a long day. We discover we can live with open hands and open hearts.

When we lean into prayer, we turn our faces toward God again. Prayer reorients us. It lifts our gaze. It gently aligns our hearts with the One who is already holding us.

When we give—our time, our resources, our attention—we step more fully into who we already are in Christ. Generous people. Resurrection people. People who trust that there is always enough grace to go around.

Lent is movement. It is a turning toward the heart of things. Toward what matters. Toward love of God and love of neighbor.

And there is joy in that.

Joy in feeling something shift inside you. Joy in sensing new growth where things once felt stuck. Joy in remembering that you are not finished, not static, not defined by yesterday. Resurrection is on the horizon. Easter will be here soon. These forty days prepare the soil of our lives so that when new life breaks through, we are ready to receive it.

I see this re-awakening among our church family.

In the way you show up for one another. In the generosity that quietly flows through the congregation. In the willingness to try new things, to stretch, to grow. In the steady faith that keeps turning back toward Christ.

Lent is an invitation to travel lighter. To trust more deeply. To awaken again to the life God is growing in us. We are being reshaped. Renewed. Readied.

And the promise of resurrection is drawing us forward.

*With you in the turning,
Pastor Gail*

LENT IS HERE!



New Office Administrator

Hello, my name is Kristen! I am the new Office Admin at Emmaus. I am a PK (pastor's kid) and I have been working in a church as an Office and Media Coordinator for the past 3 years. I recently moved to Maine from Minnesota to explore my opportunities and to learn more about myself. I am very excited to not only serve this church but to serve this community. I can't wait to meet everyone and get to know this area. Please don't be shy, come say hi!

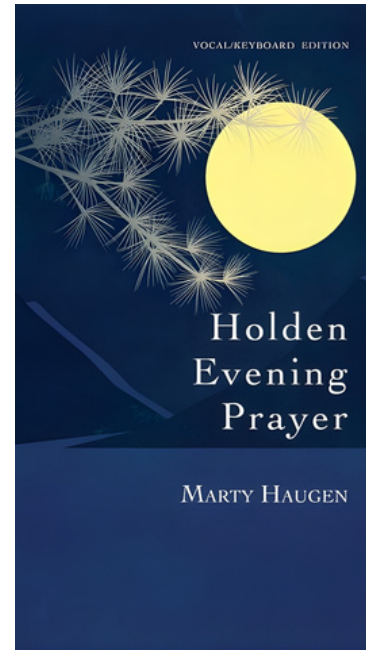
HOLY WEEK

- ✳ **Palm Sunday**
 Sunday, March 29th
 Worship 9:00 a.m.
- ✳ **Maundy Thursday**
 Thursday, April 2nd
 Worship 7:00 p.m.
- ✳ **Good Friday**
 Friday, April 3rd
 Worship 7:00 p.m.
- ✳ **Easter**
 Sunday, April 5th
 Worship 9:00 a.m.
 Brunch after worship

Midweek Lenten Services at Emmaus

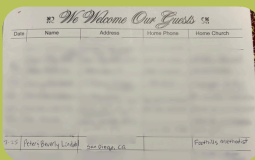
This year, it is Emmaus' turn to host the Community Midweek Lenten Services! You can join your Lutheran community and friends each Wednesday evening during Lent, February 25, March 4, 11, 18, and 25. This Service of Light offers spiritual music, lessons, and prayers from Holden Evening Prayer and will again include Soup Supper. This is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with familiar friends from Trinity, First Lutheran, and Emmaus. Starting at 6:00 p.m. is soup, bread, and dessert with the Evening Prayer Service beginning at 6:45 p.m.

This year, the three churches are spreading out the tasks of preaching, music, and hosting the meal each Wednesday. We specifically need help to provide the meal on March 11 & 25. If you can help, please sign-up in the narthex or call the church office at (207) 781-4820. The Emmaus Roadies will provide the beautiful music of Holden Evening Prayer on Feb. 25, March 11 & March 25.



Farewell!

After more than a decade of dedicated service, it is time for us to bid a fond farewell to our wonderful secretary, Beverly. For over 10 years, Beverly has been the heart of our office—the friendly voice on the phone and the steady hand behind the scenes. We are forever grateful for the kindness, grace, and hard work she brought to Emmaus every single day. While we will miss her dearly, we wish her nothing but joy and relaxation as she begins this well-deserved retirement.



A look back at our guest book shows Beverly's name warmly written on the very first page back in 2010, a sweet reminder of how long she has been part of our church family.

The Newsletter Looks Different!

Following the discontinuation of our previous publishing platform, we've taken the opportunity to refresh our production process. We are excited to introduce a new format for our newsletter that ensures a more streamlined experience for our readers.

Property Committee

Building Updates

Property committee is taking advantage of the cold, wintry weather and tackling some long overdue indoor projects. We are freshening up both the church sanctuary choir/roadies area and fellowship hall with some general cleanup/organization and painting of walls, trim and ceilings.



In the sanctuary, we are in the process of:

- Removal of the old organ speakers and amplifier
- Dismantling and disposal of the organ and foot pedal
- Relocation of one pew and removal of folding chairs
- Picking up and delivery of a new armoire for instrument and sheet music storage
- Patching the walls
- Painting the ceiling and walls
- Updating/upgrading the ceiling light fixtures
- Building and installing shelves in the new armoire

We're anticipating that the majority of this work will be done by the end of February.

In fellowship hall, we are planning to:

- Paint the walls
- Paint the window/door trim
- Update the window treatments

We plan on starting this project in March and finishing in April. The property committee is planning on setting up a few "painting day" events for folks to participate in. It is a big job, and we really would love to get help from the congregation to get this done by end of April at the latest. We will post a signup sheet in the narthex once we set the dates. The events will likely be scheduled on Saturday mornings. Coffee and light breakfast will be provided.

Special thanks to Pastor Gail and Kelly Chadbourne for picking out the paint colors, Jim Mueller for taking the lead on dismantling the organ in such an organized fashion, Gerry Breton for use of his (new) truck to pick up the armoire, Mary Beaudet (in Roadies) and her son for donating the armoire, and Scott Wiemer for patching the walls, picking up all the supplies and for the use of his trailer to haul the organ pieces to the transfer station.

Property Committee is...

Gerry Breton, Bob Gerwig, Jim Mueller, Scott Wiemer, and Wayne Chadbourne.

If anyone is interested in joining our committee, please let one of us know!! We are always looking for more folks.



Community Effort

In February, Emmaus focused our monetary donations towards food programs. We participated in Souper Bowl of Caring to help tackle hunger in Maine. Proceeds went to Wayside Food Programs of Maine. Wayside Food Programs is a local food program with a mission to fight hunger and strengthen community by reusing food and feeding people.





A Message from Beverly

Thank you Emmaus! Your send-off reception for me last month was much appreciated and I was deeply moved by your outpouring of love and generosity. Particularly during worship, I was quite overwhelmed with emotion when Pastor Gail gave a blessing and everyone came forward to lay hands on me. More tissue please! Again, I was overwhelmed downstairs with the beautiful cake, flowers, food, cards, and well wishes.

Thank you all especially for your gifts of chocolates and gift cards. The gift cards will sure come in handy when it comes time to furnish a whole house in Florida. Also, Pastor Gail made a beautiful painting for me of Littlejohn Island - I've never had anyone paint a picture for me before! Thank you all for everything. I will not forget you, Emmaus.

I am excited for my new chapter in Florida, and part of that process will be finding a new church home. I think it will be fun "church shopping"! I will definitely let you know my new address once the closing takes place. I'll be in Bradenton (on the gulf side) where I have several friends. My daughter Kelly and her new husband may eventually end up in Orlando, so that would be perfect.

The church is good hands with your new Administrator, Kristen...she is very talented and enthusiastic and she will bring new ideas and creativity to the job. Kristen and I got to laughing last week when I had to show her how to use an electric typewriter (she had never seen one before)! HaHaHa!

Thank you again Emmaus for your many blessings...it has been an honor to serve you. I promise to keep in touch.

~Beverly

Social Ministry

Social Ministry Corner

There are a few ways you can help our neighbors in March. The Social Ministry Team is offering a few opportunities:



Florence House

The Thankoffering in March will support this low-barrier shelter and permanent housing facility in Portland for women, offering support and services to help reach stability.



Maine Needs

Donations of Diapers and Feminine Products - These items are expensive for many! Your donations will be given to Maine Needs for distribution.



Blankets!!

- **Project Linus** - Do you knit, crochet, or sew? Consider making a blanket for this wonderful organization in southern Maine that gives handmade blankets to children experiencing trauma. It's like giving a warm, loving hug! For more information and patterns, see the table in the back of the Sanctuary or go to ProjectLinus.org.
- **Blanket Sunday on March 15** - Would you like to make a "No-Sew" blanket for Project Linus? Anyone can do it! Join the Social Ministry Team after worship to make a few blankets to donate. Supplies will be provided.
- No time to make a blanket? That's OK. If you'd like to **donate a store-bought blanket** or a slightly used blanket, we'll gladly bring donations to Maine Needs! They are the distribution center for most household items, personal items, and clothing.

Thank you for your kind and loving generosity! If you have ideas you'd like to suggest to Social Ministry, please reach out to one of our team: Jencie G., Sarah H., Deb B., Kelly C., Sandy H., Gisela J., and Pastor Gail.

March Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 9am Brunch	2	3	4 Holden Evening Prayer 6:45 pm	5	6	7
8 Worship 9am	9	10 Council Meeting 6pm	11 Holden Evening Prayer 6:45 pm	12	13	14
15 Worship 9am Blankets	16	17	18 Holden Evening Prayer 6:45 pm	19	20	21 Bean Supper 5pm
22 Worship 9am	23	24	25 Holden Evening Prayer 6:45 pm	26	27	28 Run thru for Palm Sunday 10am
29 Palm Sunday 9am	30	31				

Tech for Worship: Join the Team!

We are looking for additional help with our A/V operations for our Sunday Worship. Don't let the name scare you! You don't need to be an expert or a "techie" to help out. If you can use a tablet, you already have the skills we need. If you are interested, let Pastor Gail know!

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



Special Thanks to Dick Miller for creating a wooden box for our flower money!

Please note that after Easter, Tammy Buchanan will be taking over the responsibility of Flower Ministry. Make your checks out to Tammy Buchanan.

Thank you to Phyllis and Sandy Johnson for their dedication over the years for Flower Ministry.

Ushers Needed!

The Worship and Music Team is looking for volunteers to serve as Ushers! You'll partner with a Safety Usher each Sunday to be a friendly face for our community—greeting guests and assisting where needed. Ready to help? Sign up in the Narthex today. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Sandy Halverson directly via email or text.

Brunch for All

BRUNCH FOR ALL will be served on the first Sunday of the month, March 1st. We have decided to switch from serving breakfast before worship to serving brunch after worship in order to bolster the attendance. Plan to stay for Coffee Hour and brunch and enjoy a hot breakfast in fellowship and thanksgiving.



March Bean Supper

This month at Bean Supper on March 21st at 5:00 p.m., we will hear about Bob and Jencie's train adventure! Whether you're a train enthusiast or simply enjoy a good tale, this is an event you won't want to miss. Bring your appetite and your curiosity for an unforgettable night of fellowship and fun!

Valentines at Emmaus

We enjoyed a wonderful Valentine's Day celebration this February, thanks to the thoughtful planning of Julie Davidson. During our coffee hour, we had the chance to exchange cards and share a moment of fellowship with one another. It was a lovely way to celebrate our church community and make sure everyone felt a little extra appreciation during the season of love.



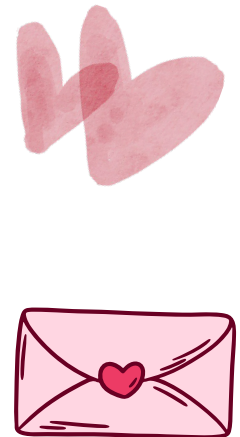
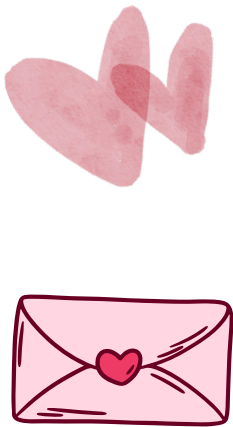
Julie and Don Davidson



Ron and Carole Thompson



Bob and Jencie Gerwig



Kelly Chadbourne, David Hansen, Jencie Gerwig, Sandy Halverson, Gisela Jones, and Mary Beth Morris