



THE EMMAUS ENCOUNTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF EMMAUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

FALMOUTH, ME

From Pastor Gail

Always Reforming!

On October 31, 1517, a German monk named Martin Luther challenged the Church by posting his Ninety-Five Theses, questioning practices that he believed had strayed from the heart of the Gospel. Luther had no intention of starting a new denomination. He wanted the Church he loved to rediscover its purpose and return to the good news of God's grace, freely given through Jesus Christ.

And so began the Protestant Reformation.

More than 500 years later, we Lutherans continue to celebrate the Reformation each October. We wear red, sing A Mighty Fortress Is Our

God, and remember the courage of those who challenged the Church to examine itself and change.

But the Reformation is much more than an event in our history. It is an ongoing invitation.

There is a phrase often associated with the Reformation: *Ecclesia semper reformanda* — the Church must always be reforming. The Church is a living body, continually being shaped by the Holy Spirit and called to respond to the world around it. Our traditions ground us in faith, while the Gospel calls us to remain open to new ways of sharing God's love.

This is true for us as well.

How often do we cling to familiar ways of thinking, believing, and doing simply because they are comfortable? How willing are we to examine our assumptions, reconsider long-held convictions, or allow ourselves to be changed by an encounter with someone whose experience differs from our own?

Reformation requires courage. It asks us to recognize that we still have much to learn, and that God is still at work in us.

Here at Emmaus, we are part of that ongoing story. As we look toward the future of our congregation, we have an opportunity to ask some important questions: What is God calling us to become? How might we share the Gospel in ways that speak to our neighbors today? What might we need to release in order to make room for something new?

These are questions worth asking, both as a congregation and as individuals.

Luther's great discovery was that our relationship with God rests upon grace. We are loved before we accomplish anything, even when we resist the changes God is calling us to make. That grace gives us the freedom to grow, to question, to risk, and to begin again.

The Reformation continues whenever we allow the Gospel to change us.

This October, as we celebrate our Lutheran heritage, I invite you to consider where God might be inviting a little reformation in your own life.

After all, God isn't finished with any of us yet.

In Christ,

Pastor Gail



Questions from Pastor!

Email contact@emmausfalmouth.org with your answers!

The Church is Always Being Reformed

What do you love about being Lutheran?

What is one thing you hope for the future of Emmaus?

Outreach

Bible Study

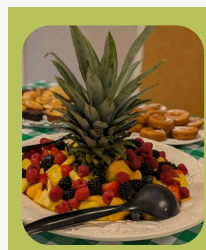
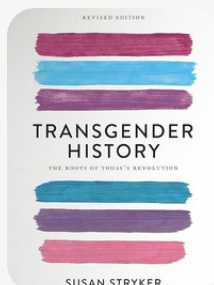
Beginning Monday, September 14, join Pastor Gail every Monday from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Zoom for a new Monday Night Zoom Bible Study. If you want to spend a little more time with Sunday's Scripture, this is a welcoming space to explore the lectionary readings for the coming Sunday—no Bible expertise necessary! Together, we will read the texts, ask questions, share insights, and discover how these ancient stories continue to shape our lives today, whether you have been studying the Bible for years or are just beginning. Zoom link will be emailed before each session. Come when you can, invite a friend, and prepare for Sunday in a thoughtful and meaningful way—we hope you can join us!

**Bean Supper**

Bean Supper is back every month! Grab a hot plate of beans and hot dogs with us on October 17th at 5:00 p.m. as our very own Holy Hikers shares information about the group. There will be a free will offering to offset the cost to the church.

Book Study

The Emmaus Open Arms Team invites you to a Book Study on Tuesday nights starting October 20 through November 17 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Join us on Zoom to discuss your thoughts and questions. The book selected is Transgender History by Susan Stryker. This book study aims to enhance our understanding of transgender history and the ongoing struggles that transgender individuals face in our country. RSVP by emailing contact@emmausfalmouth.org by October 6.

**Brunch for All**

The next Brunch for All will be Sunday, October 4th after worship. Come enjoy a delicious meal and wonderful fellowship with your church family. There will be a free will offering to offset the cost to the church. All are welcome!

Adult Bible Study at First Lutheran

First Lutheran Church has invited us to join them for their Adult Bible Study starting on Wednesday, September 16, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. on Google Meet. Google Meet link as follows; Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/csk-prhj-waz> Or dial: (US) +1 561-990-2672 PIN: 952 163 757#

Urgent Need!

Join us in supporting Homeless Action in Bangor! On October 17th, Pastor Gail, Gisela, Jencie, and Debbie will represent Emmaus at the Maine Conference Meeting, where churches are joining forces to assemble 100 women's hygiene kits. Emmaus has been asked to collect 100 packages of sanitary pads for this conference-wide outreach project. Please bring your donations to the church by October 17th to help us reach our goal!

Restore the Ship Campaign Update:

Thanks to your generous support, we have raised over our goal of \$3,000 to professionally restore our vintage Scandinavian ship model! More information to come on the history of the ship.

Community Supper

Falmouth Community Supper is back! On October 22nd at 5:00 pm, Emmaus, alongside other churches in the area are hosting the **12th Annual Community Supper!** This community supper will be at Falmouth Congregational Church. Emmaus has been asked to bring the Apple Crisp as we have done in years past. A sign-up sheet is located in the Narthex. If you would like to volunteer in other ways, there is an additional sign-up sheet in the Narthex.

October Thankoffering

The Thankoffering for October is Falmouth Food Pantry. For over 25 years the Falmouth Food Pantry has been serving the needs of citizens in Falmouth and surrounding communities. Make your check out to Emmaus and mark "Thankoffering" in the memo line.



Community Events

COURAGE
is
Contagious

An Evening with
Bishop Mariann
Budde

October 8, 2026 7:00 pm
Merrill Auditorium
Portland, Maine

all proceeds to benefit

Maine Council of Churches




Christopher Reed
Fine Artist & Teacher

Student Art Show

Maine Center for Sacred Arts
302 Stevens Ave.
Portland, ME 04103

October 4th, 2-5 pm




207-939-8946
chrisfineart@gmail.com
christopherreed.com

mainecenterforsacredarts.org



Holy Hikers

The Holy Hikers will be back on the trails starting Saturday, **October 24th at Knight's Pond at 9:00 a.m.**

Scan the QR Code to view the location!



From the Maine Conference

Together as a conference let us make a difference for those in need through a shared outreach project on **Saturday, October 17th**



Project:

- Create women's hygiene kits, which will be distributed to Homeless Action in Bangor, a Maine based non-profit addressing homelessness through community response.
- Each church will be assigned an item to collect for the kit.
- Our goal is to create and deliver 100 kits!

Event Details:

- **Kits will be assembled** by those who gather on October 17th.
- **Redeemer Lutheran, Bangor** will host the event from 9:30 am-1:30 pm.
- As part of the day, **Assistant to the Bishop for Maine, Betty Balderston**, will lead a guided discussion on the hopes and challenges we see for our congregations.
- **Noontime prayer** will be held, and **lunch will be provided.**

Celebration Reformation Sunday!



Join us on Sunday, October 25 as we celebrate Reformation Sunday with a special worship service! We are delighted to welcome Betty Balderston, Associate to the Bishop, who will be joining us for the morning. Worship will include special music, and everyone is invited to wear **RED** to celebrate the day! Following worship, we'll have a German-inspired

Fellowship Hour, along with a hymn-sing around the piano featuring some of our favorite Lutheran hymns.

Wear your red, bring your singing voice and your appetite, and come celebrate with us!





Emmaus is in Living Lutheran article! Scan the QR Code to read the article!

Co-chairs of the New England Synod's ELCA World Hunger team David and Doreen Rinas deliver bedding donations from Emmaus Lutheran of Falmouth, Maine to Michelle Lamm, executive director of Greater Portland Family Promise. Emmaus participated in the Rinases' "Accompaniment Near and Far" workshop.



Creative Contemplation Watercolor Workshop

On Saturday, September 26th Emmaus hosted a Creative Contemplation Watercolor Workshop. Chris Reed, an artist and teacher, lead us in an amazing time exploring our true creativity. Thank you to Chris for his generosity and knowledge. We hope to be able to host something similar in the future! Check out his website using this link <https://www.christopherdreed.com/>



October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Worship 9am Brunch for All	5	6 Worship & Music Mtg 6:30pm	7	8 Social Ministry Mtg 5pm	9	10
11 Worship 9am	12 Bible Study Zoom 6pm	13 Finance Mtg Council Mtg 6pm	14 EOAT Mtg 5pm	15	16	17 Bean Supper 5pm
18 Worship 9am	19 Bible Study Zoom 6pm	20 Book Study 7pm	21	22 Community Meal 5-7pm	23	24
25 Reformation Sunday 9am	26 Bible Study Zoom 6pm	27 Book Study 7pm	28	29	30 HAPPY HALLOWEEN	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



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