

THE EMMAUS ENCOUNTER

THE NEWSLETTER OF EMMAUS LUTHERAN CHURCH

FALMOUTH, ME

From Pastor Gail

One of the things I love most about the Gospel is that Jesus keeps widening the circle.

Again and again, Jesus crosses boundaries people thought were set in stone. He eats with the wrong people. He speaks with people others avoid. He touches those considered untouchable. He makes room for the outsider, the doubter, the sinner, the person who has been told—by religion or by the world—that they don't belong.



This shows us something essential about God: God's love is for ALL. And all means ALL.

This message is critical for us as the Church to send, especially now. We live in a world that is very good at dividing people into camps and deciding who is worthy of our compassion. The Gospel calls us to something much different. As followers of Jesus, we are called to resist those divisions and to become people who help widen the circle.

That is part of what I hope we continue to practice together at Emmaus this fall.

September means the return of our popular Brunch for All beginning on September 13th. Also, our new Monday Night Zoom Bible Study starts September 14th, and Painting with Presence with artist Chris Reed on September 26. And in October, our Holy Hikers will lace up their boots and head back out!

These are very different gatherings, but they have something important in common: they create places for people to connect—with God, with one another, with Scripture, with creativity, and with the world around us.

And there is room in every one of them for you.

My hope for Emmaus is that we continue becoming a church where people know they are welcome before they ever walk through our doors—a community willing to say clearly and confidently that no one is outside the reach of God's grace.

Because the circle of God's love is always wider than we think.

And there is room for all.

Pastor Gail

September Thankoffering



The September Thankoffering is Hope Squad Maine. Hope Squad Maine is a dedicated volunteer mobile outreach providing love, compassion, and resources to Portland's unhoused community. Guided by a mission to see the invisible and hear the voiceless, they offer a consistent, compassionate presence to reinforce the value and dignity of every person in local shelters and on the streets.



The Emmaus Ship: Help Us Restore Our History **Our Nautical Heritage**

This beautiful model of a tall ship was recently returned to Emmaus. Many years ago, it was handcrafted and gifted to our church by Scandinavian sailors as a heartfelt thank-you for the support Emmaus provided to them and their families.

A Sacred Tradition

In coastal communities, hanging a ship model in a sanctuary is a centuries-old tradition. The boat is an ancient symbol of the Christian faith: just as a vessel carries its crew, the church travels together, guided by

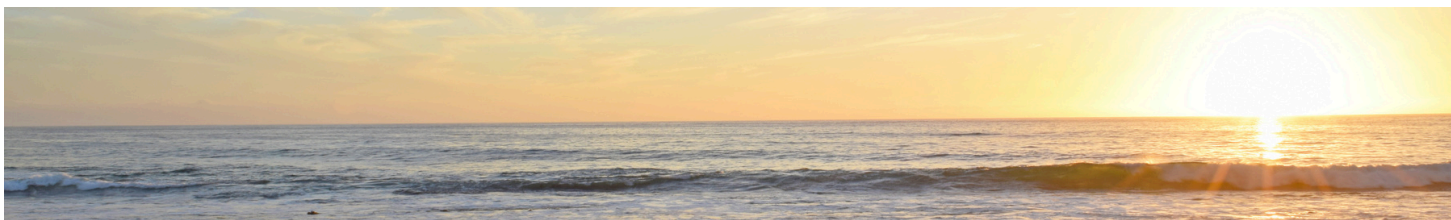
the winds of the Holy Spirit. Since the early days of Christianity, the boat has served as a powerful metaphor for carrying believers safely through the storms of life.

"Restore the Ship" Fundraiser UPDATE!

Thanks to your generous support, we have raised \$2,115.00 toward our \$3,000 goal to professionally restore our vintage Scandinavian ship model! We are keeping the fundraiser open for a few more weeks—likely through the September Council meeting—to reach our target. If you'd like to chip in, the ship and donation box will remain in the narthex. Cash (in a labeled envelope) and checks are gratefully accepted. As a reminder, if we do not reach our goal, all contributions will be returned. A huge thank you to everyone who has donated so far! Please reach out to any council member if you have questions.

Brunch for All

Brunch for All is back after summer break! Our first gathering of the season will be Sunday, September 13th, right after worship. Come enjoy a delicious meal and wonderful fellowship with your church family. All are welcome!



Social Ministry

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:

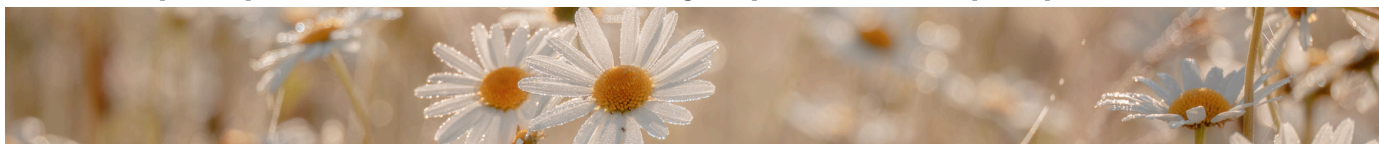
- **When:** Thursday, October 22nd, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- **Where:** Falmouth Congregational Church
- **What:** A completely FREE delicious dinner featuring roast turkey with all the fixings, veggies, and —of course—homemade apple crisp with ice cream!

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.

How can YOU help?

- Emmaus has historically provided Apple Crisp to this Community Supper! We invite you to sign-up to help make Apple Crisp. The Recipe is provided.
- There are volunteer opportunities available the day/evening of the event.

Please keep an eye out for when both of these sign-up sheets will be put up in the Narthex.



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.**



Through our acts of service, we bear witness to the love and concern God's people have for one another. Our congregations do this every day, accompanying their neighbors and addressing community needs. We are connected through this shared work. These ministries belong to all of us in the ELCA.

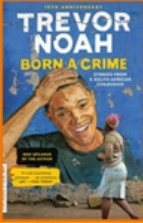
The Rev. Yehiel Curry
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Scan QR code to
watch video from
Bishop Yehiel Curry



Community Events

Read & Zoom — SEPT 21 630 PM or SEPT 22 930 AM



Join people of faith for a Zoom meet-up to discuss & share thoughts about the great book **"Born a Crime"** by Trevor Noah. Are you wondering about the power of racism and the way systems can oppress? Consider carving out time to read & zoom ... and learn!

Visit: www.letsreadandzoom.org

*Sponsored by the
New England
Synod's
Anti-Racism
Collaborative*

*Scan below
to register!*



Invitation from First Lutheran

A pizza/meal night with FLCP is planned for Thursday, October 8th, and the Adult Bible Study will begin its next series on September 16th, running through early-to-mid November, with the topic to be chosen at a September 4th meeting. Emmaus and Trinity Churches will be invited to join and we will be invited to join their studies.

thrivent

Do you know the five phases of your retirement?

Your tax-deferred savings could lead to big tax bills.



Attend this event if you're about to shift from saving and investing to spending your money in retirement – and paying taxes on it. It takes planning to grow, spend and give more of your wealth. At Five Phases of an IRA you will discover strategies for reducing the taxes you and your heirs could pay.

During the workshop, you will discover how to develop healthy money habits while including your faith and values in every financial decision you make.

This session is hosted by The Groleau Financial Group.

Sunday, September 20, 2026

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. ET
First Lutheran Church
132 Auburn Street
Portland, ME

Register today.

Please call Ann Brown at 207-712-4440 or email abrown03@maine.rr.com.



Scan to learn more

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 September 12th at 5:00 p.m. as Sarah Hallen shares valuable insights on memory loss. We hope to see you there for our monthly catch-up! If you would like to bring a salad, dessert, or bread, see the sign up sheet in the narthex.

Congregational Meeting

Join us immediately following worship on **Sunday, September 20th**, for a special **Congregational Meeting** to vote on **installing a rooftop solar panel system**. The system will cover 100% of our annual electricity needs and save money long-term, with an initial investment funded through our investment account. Please plan to attend and share your vote! Questions can be directed to Tom Duchesneau or any Council member.

September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Worship & Music Mtg 6:30pm	2	3	4	5
6 Worship 9am	7	8 Finance Mtg Council Mtg 6pm	9	10 Social Ministry Mtg 5pm	11	12 Run Thru Outside Service 4pm Bean Supper 5pm
13 Outside Worship 9am Brunch for All	14 Bible Study Zoom 6pm	15	16 EOAT Mtg 5pm	17	18	19
20 Worship 9am Congregational Mtg	21 Bible Study Zoom 6pm	22	23	24	25	26 Painting with Presence 2pm
27 Worship 9am	28 Bible Study Zoom 6pm	29	30			

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



EMMAUSFALMOUTH.ORG



@EMMAUSLUTHERANCHURCH



265 MIDDLE ROAD, FALMOUTH, ME 04105