

THE CRIER



HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH DECEMBER 2011



From the Pastor...

Christ as the “light of the world” (John 9:5) is such a wonderful metaphor. Can you think of some different ways in which that imagery might be applied?

Sunlight probably comes to mind quite readily. After all, the sun is tremendously powerful, sending its rays to Earth through thousands of miles of cold, dark, dead space. Sunlight makes it possible for trees and plants to grow. Sunlight warms our body and does our spirit good too.

How about candlelight? The flame from a candle is no where near as powerful as that produced by the sun, but the glow from a candle can be quite cozy. The heat put out by a candle isn't all that great either, but candlelight often evokes a feeling of intimacy and closeness. When the electricity goes out, the light from even a single candle is very reassuring, very comforting. And even during the daytime, the candles we light on the Advent wreath are so meaningful in their signaling of Christ coming into the world.

Firelight is similar, but also different. A fire often produces a glow not unlike that of a candle, but the heat is greater and the flames less controlled (even inside of a fireplace). When it comes to a fire that has been built outdoors, a campfire, the warmth it provides often wards off the otherwise cool night air. The glowing embers might also be used in a way that is quite fun: toasting marshmallows! And if you happen to truly be out in the woods, firelight can function as a safety mechanism, keeping wild animals at bay.

In comparison to the above, the light from a lamp might seem pretty tame, pretty “ordinary,” but it serves an important purpose too. Just think of sitting by a lamp reading a good book, writing a letter, putting together a puzzle, or doing some sewing. Lamplight enables us to see clearly what we're doing. Having a good lamp means not having to squint or strain our eyes, but instead being able to concentrate on and enjoy the task at hand.

Then there are Christmas lights – the kind many people are putting on the outside of their houses this time of year, hanging them from the eaves, draping them over bushes, stringing them along fences. Christmas lights often serve as a kind of beacon, welcoming people when they return home on a dark winter's night.

Yes, Christ as the “light of the world” has many pertinent meanings, much to commend itself symbolically, in terms of the living out of our faith. During this Advent season, and in the Christmas season that follows, thanks be to God for Christ shining in all of His glory in my life and in yours!

God's peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Rich Hezner".

Pastor Rich

MESSAGE FROM A COUNCIL MEMBER A GIFT FOR OUR LORD



In the 21st century, more than two thousand years after our Lord's birth, we still anticipate the anniversary of his birth with great expectation through the Advent season, into Christmas Eve.

For me, the Advent season is the re-enactment of what the gospel tells us are the details of our Lord's birth and life, the miracle of God's son born to a virgin in a humble manger.

As a mother and grandmother I remember celebrating my own children's and grandchildren's births and the expectation of those blessed moments. I relive that excitement and anticipation of each event. I celebrate their birthdays with gifts, special meals, and birthday parties. Today I still celebrate birthdays in much the same way even though some of them have gone on to live with our Lord.

As we near the end of Advent, and the commercial world we live in speeds into hyper-drive, I anticipate the anniversary of our Lord's birth and the annual re-enactment of this moment with the presentation of the Sunday school pageant here at Holy Cross and throughout our country in churches big and small.

We've come a long way in two thousand years from a baby born in a humble stable a half a world away to millions of people worldwide who take time to celebrate his birth each year.

As part of this celebration, I can't think of a better gift for our Lord Jesus than to reach out to people in need, to feed those who are hungry, to provide warm coats and gloves to those who are cold, and to visit with those who are lonely. It is my sincere hope that we *all* share our *Lord's Peace, Joy, and Love* with *all* those we meet in this season of anticipation, of expectation, and of His many blessings. ***This is a gift for our Lord.***

Donna Simmons
Council President

GIVING TREE

There are 110 beautiful ornaments made by the children of Holy Cross hanging on the Gift-Giving tree in Luther Hall. Each ornament has a small tag attached describing a "wish-gift" that the York County Shelter provided. If you would like to participate, please choose an ornament describing the item you wish to buy and place the purchased item under the tree with the ornament with tag attached to the store (or other) bag. Holy Cross elves will deliver the gifts to the Shelter no later than December 19 to allow York County Shelter staff and volunteers sufficient time to sort and wrap all gifts in time for Christmas.



NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER

Come spend New Year's Eve with your friends at Holy Cross where a lovely reasonably priced dinner from soup to nuts will be served. You can reserve a table for any number of your friends. Dinner will be early so you can be home safe and sound to watch the ball drop. Watch for more details and if you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help call Jack Bates at 985-4300.

***“And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude
of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,
'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.'”
Luke 2:13-14 (KJV)***

LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITY: "KIDS CARE MEALS OF HOPE"

Are you looking for a way to minister in our local community? Do you want to have a meaningful impact on hunger in our local area? Don't have a lot of time available and looking for something that would require only a few hours.

Holy Cross will be joining with United Baptist in Saco (Beverly Lowell's church) for a food packaging event through an organization called Kids Care: Meals of Hope. Kids Care is part of "Outreach", a non profit 501 c(3) corporation located in Union, Iowa. Outreach was formed in 2004 in response to the famine, suffering, and grinding poverty witnessed by Kathy and Floyd Hammer when they traveled to Tanzania. Today, this ministry provides food, water, education, health care, and employment opportunities to thousands in Tanzania, and through its innovative "Kids Care: Meals of Hope" project, Outreach now helps local organizations to package and deliver over 100 million nutritious meals each year for the hungry in the US and around the world.

The Kids Care event will take place at United Baptist Church on **Saturday, January 28, 2012**. Volunteers will be organized into small group assembly lines, preparing meals from bins of ingredients. Currently, Outreach offers three nutritious meals – a rice-vegetable casserole; rice and beans; and pasta and cheese – all fortified with soy protein, nutrients, and vitamins. Each meal will be carefully heat-sealed and then is ready for local distribution.

How can you be involved?

1. Money Each meal costs 25 cents, and our goal is to provide 4,000 meals to be given to our local area food source agencies. That means we need to raise \$1,000.00 for 4,000 meals. That's 25 cents for a meal!! Money in any amount is welcome towards reaching our goal. Just make a check out to Holy Cross with "Kids Care" in the memo line, or place cash in an envelope marked "Kids Care" and place it in the offering plate. The deadline for donations is Sunday, December 25th. Why not consider making a donation in honor of someone as a Christmas gift to them?

2. Volunteers We have been told that a volunteer on average can put together 160 meals in one hour. We want this to be a fun, easily managed effort, so we are looking for a minimum of 30 volunteers to help set up for the event, package the meals, and then help deliver them to area community outreach agencies. The total time needed to pack the meals would be two hours. We will be having our event on Saturday, January 28th beginning at 10:00, though we will be asking some of those who volunteer to come in earlier to help set up. We also will need three or four people to deliver the meals the following week to the agencies when they are open. Anyone age 8 and up is welcome to help, and you do not have to belong to Holy Cross to take part. This is a great way to warm the heart of others in the middle of our snow bound winter! If you are interested in taking part, or would like more information, there is a display table in the Narthex (entryway) at the church. You can also call the church office at 985-4803, or contact Pastor Rich at pastor@kennebunklutheran.org.

With two churches working together, we are confident that we will be able to reach our goal of \$1,000.00 and 30 volunteers to package 4,000 meals!!

It is possible that this could be done several times through out the year. What a wonderful opportunity to make a real difference in the issue of hunger in Maine!

SHARE THE BOUNTY



Our free monthly bean supper for December is on the 3rd and the one for January will be on the 7th. Set up begins at 3:00 (sometimes 2:45) since people start arriving for the supper by 3:45. Serving begins at 4:00 and we serve up until 6:00. Clean up usually is done by 6:30 or so since we have become quite efficient about it. If you have never volunteered before, come join in the fun! It's a great opportunity to spend time with fellow church members and to serve the community. If you would like to contribute a home-made pie for the dinner, please sign up so we know how many pies to expect and what varieties will be arriving.

Please see Julie Clapp if you have any questions. Sign up will be on the board in the Narthex at least one week before the dinner.

We would like to encourage everyone to come to our bean supper. We always have plenty of food and it is a great time to spend with friends! Please come and bring a friend!!

CHRISTMAS EVE

Last January the Worship Committee spent some time evaluating the worship schedule following the Christmas season, while the experience was still fresh in our minds. Then, in the February Crier, the following information was shared:

“For many years the worship times on Christmas Eve have been at 7 pm and 11 pm. If you go quite a ways back, historically the late service was the more heavily attended. But over the last 8-10 years that pattern has changed dramatically, with the 7 pm service packed to capacity and the 11 pm service attendance in the 35-45 range. The sense of the Worship Committee is that the 7 pm service isn't early enough for families with young children, while the 11 pm service is too late for a strong majority of people. For Christmas Eve 2011 the Committee feels that services at 5 pm and 9 pm would better meet the needs of the congregation, as well as the wider community in which we are located.”

Please take note of the **new worship times** for Christmas Eve: **5 pm and 9 pm**. The 5 pm service will have several opportunities for children to actively participate -- by waving ribbons and ringing bells while carols are being sung, and by taking an active part in the children's message. The 9 pm service will be lessons and carols, and will include special music. Both 5 pm and 9 pm will be candlelight communion services. The Worship Committee welcomes any feedback you may have regarding this change, which will be helpful when we do our evaluation for this year.

ADDITIONAL WORSHIP NEWS

Since Christmas Day and New Year's Day each fall on a Sunday this year, there will be **just one service, at 10:00 am**, on both December 25th and January 1st. The service on Christmas Day will be informal in nature (plenty of carols, a time of sharing, simplified communion), while the service on New Year's Day will be a regular liturgical service such as we normally have each Sunday.

FRIENDSHIP LUNCH

Friendship Lunch is a free meal held the second Monday of each month. **December's meal will be Monday, the 12th at noon**. Each month a group of volunteers from Holy Cross help set the tables, prepare a variety of foods, greet people, serve food and help clean up. Many also bake dessert items to serve too!

If you have never been to the Friendship lunch, think about joining us. Whether you'd like to help out or just come for lunch, we would love to see you. Come see what I'm talking about! Just call me or email me if you have any questions.

God's peace and love to all,

Mary Keating

richmary@roadrunner.com

985-3006

YOUNG AT HEART CHRISTMAS TEA PARTY AND YANKEE SWAP



All the “Young at Hearters” are invited to the annual Christmas tea party at Mary Keating's house on **Friday, December 9th at Noon**. Please bring your favorite Christmas sweet treat to share! There will also be a Yankee swap after lunch so bring a gift (about \$10. value) that has something to do with “tea” or “tea party” theme. Please wrap gift too! Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please contact Mary. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex by mid November so look for it!

HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS

As we approach the holiday season with our economy under such a strain, many of our neighbors are struggling. The Holiday Baskets are one way to help. Checks for monetary donations can be made out to “The Holiday Food Baskets” or to “Holy Cross” with the memo line “Holiday Food Baskets”. Food donations to Christmas Holiday Baskets may be brought in through December 13th. Baskets will be packed at Christ Church and delivered on December 21st. If you would like to help with this, please call Donna Patterson 651-1997.



Christmas Flowers



In celebration of Christ's birth, let's adorn the church with a multitude of blooms!

Pot size	Flower in foil-covered pot	Price	Quantity	Total
6"	Poinsettia 1 plant, 6-10 blooms	\$12.		
	Amaryllis 1 bulb, 4-12 large blooms	\$12.		
	Paperwhite Narcissus approx. 6 bulbs, 6-18 scented blooms	\$12.		
7"	Poinsettia 2 plants, 9-12 blooms	\$20.		
8"	Poinsettia 3 plants, 12-15 blooms	\$25.		
Total Christmas Flower Donation				

Amaryllis may be red, white, or both (no choice) large long lasting lily-shaped blooms on sturdy tall stems. The large tropical bulbs can be maintained indoors to bloom again next winter.

Paperwhite narcissus are a perennial bulb with numerous star-shaped sweet-scented white flowers on medium to tall stems. The bulbs can be planted in the garden to naturalize for Spring blooms in coming years.

Dedication (please check one or more and fill in names as applicable)

- In Memory of _____
- In Honor of _____
- To the Glory of God

Donor Name and Phone # _____

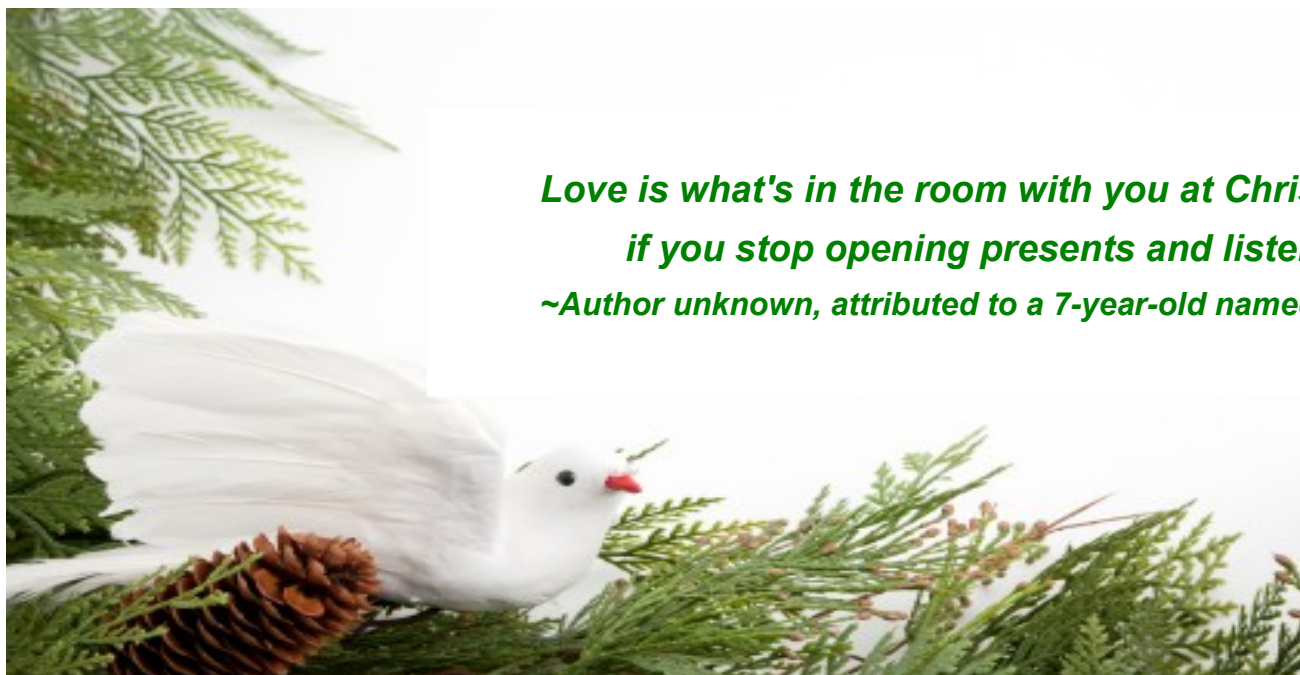
Place order form with payment, in collection plate; note "Christmas Flowers" on the check memo line.

If you are paying with cash, please check here.

** Flower orders due NO LATER than Thursday, December 15th. **

GREENING OF THE CHURCH

Instead of greening the church (decorating for Christmas) being done on one Sunday after the 2nd service, this year the decorating is being done throughout Advent and it is being done mostly by the Sunday School children. Please look for the gradual changes as we prepare for Christ to come on Christmas Day!



**Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas
if you stop opening presents and listen.**

~Author unknown, attributed to a 7-year-old named Bobby



December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 8:15 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Budget Hearing 10:45 Worship	5 10:00 Morning Group 4:30 SMMC Cancer Support Group 5:00-7:15 Girl Scouts 7:00 Trustees	6	7 8:30 Bible Study	8 4-6 Girl Scouts 6:30 Men's Fellowship 7:30 Choir Rehearsal	9 <i>Noon Young at Heart Christmas Tea</i>	10
11 8:15 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship	12 10:00 Morning Group Noon Friendship Lunch 4:30 SMMC Cancer Support Group	13 7:00 Church Council	14 8:30 Bible Study	15 5:30 Harvest Café 6:30 Men's Fellowship 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	16	17
18 8:15 Worship 9:30 Sunday School 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship	19 Giving Tree gifts due back 10:00 Morning Group 4:30 SMMC Cancer Support Group 5:00-7:15 Girl Scouts	20 Crier Deadline	21 8:30 Bible Study	22	23	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 5:00 Worship 9:00 Worship
25 <i>Christmas</i> 10:00 Worship	26	27	28 8:30 Bible Study	29	30	31 <i>5:30 New Year's Eve dinner</i>

Christmas Treasure from Trash

You can make pretty Christmas ornaments from old Christmas cards.

You will need:

- ✿ old Christmas cards
- ✿ scissors
- ✿ glue
- ✿ 3" or 4" circle pattern (cut from cardboard or just trace a coffee cup)
- ✿ hole punch
- ✿ yarn and ribbon
- ✿ glitter
- ✿ trims — rick-rack, ribbon, sequins, beads

How to do:

Trace the circle on two cards. Cut out and glue the backs of the cards together.

Decorate the edges of the cards with glue and glitter or scraps of ribbon.

Punch a hole in the top.

Insert a piece of yarn or ribbon.

You may also make small ones for gift tags.

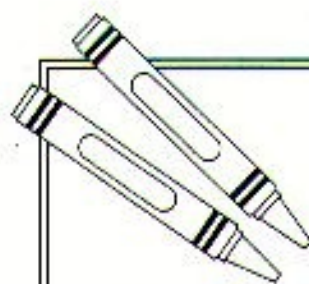
Just cut your circles smaller.

Leave the back white

and write

"To:" and

"From:" on it.



Just for KIDS

Telling the Christmas Story

These words are all part of the Christmas story. First, find them in the puzzle below. Circle them. You may find them → ← ↙ ↘ ↗ ↖ ↕ ↔. There will be 12 letters that remain uncircled. Write them in the order found on the lines below. You will find a special Christmas message! Then use the words from the list to tell the story to someone!

- | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|----------|---------|
| joy | hay | men | inn | wise |
| Lord | star | baby | king | east |
| Mary | gold | angel | taxes | Jesus |
| sheep | myrrh | three | manger | Savior |
| donkey | Caesar | Joseph | birthday | Messiah |
| shepherds | frankincense | Bethlehem | Augustus | |

B	E	T	H	L	E	H	E	M	P	S	M	A	R	Y
I	A	N	G	E	L	E	G	O	L	D	E	C	A	E
R	C	B	J	S	M	Y	R	R	H	R	S	A	E	K
T	J	O	Y	E	H	E	T	S	A	E	S	E	M	N
H	T	A	X	E	S	E	N	O	I	H	I	S	A	O
D	A	G	N	I	K	U	E	N	N	P	A	A	N	D
A	E	Y	W	R	A	T	S	P	N	E	H	R	G	R
Y	A	U	G	U	S	T	U	S	T	H	R	E	E	O
F	R	A	N	K	I	N	C	E	N	S	E	A	R	L
R	O	I	V	A	S	R	T	H	J	O	S	E	P	H

“ _____ ”

Answer: Peace on Earth

THANK YOU

Sister and Brothers at Holy Cross,

Thanks you for the expressions of caring and support during my dad's last weeks and in the time since his death.

As a church body, you opened your hearts to my father and welcomed him. So many of you made an extra effort during and after worship to greet him and share with him. Your affirmation and support of my dad cared for him and strengthened me.

For all of this and much more, I thank you.

Cheryl Dearman Mills

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

Autumn is upon us and winter is not far behind, and the use of the food pantry increases, thereby increasing our need for food supplies. The Kennebunk Community Food Pantry needs the following non-perishable items for the month of November: juice (especially non-frozen concentrate), canned fruit, Ramen noodles, mayonnaise, spaghetti sauce.



JOKE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Jack Bates

Wedding Memories

When Ashley was planning her upcoming wedding, she asked to wear her mother's wedding dress. She went to try it on and the gown was a perfect fit on her petite frame. As her mother's eyes welled up with tears, Ashley put an arm around her. "You're not losing a daughter", she reminded her mother in time-honored fashion, "you're gaining a son."

"Oh forget about that!" said her mother with a sob, "I used to fit into that dress!"

SNOW CANCELLATION



As we experienced in October, sometimes very bad weather comes at a very inconvenient time. In the interest of keeping everyone safe, there will be times that church services and/or Sunday school will have to be canceled. As soon as a decision is made, the TV stations will be notified (Channel 6, Channel 8 and Channel 13) and a notice will be placed on the home page of the church website (www.kennebunklutheran.org). An e-mail will also be sent to everyone who has submitted their e-mails to receive the electronic version of The Crier. This e-mail will be from TheNewseletter@kennebunklutheran.org. The subject line will contain information regarding the cancellation with more information contained in the message. It is hoped this won't happen very often but, since it just happened on October 30th, it is possible. Thank you and please stay safe this winter!



FAMILY & FRIENDS WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS:

Robert Arnold
Roger Anderson
Becky
Mark & Cindy Anderson
Ashley
Matthew Blomster
George Blomster
Mildred Bansmer
Marilyn Berg
Jessica
Jessica Boria
Pastor Norm Bumby
Trish Bumby
Craig Cunningham
Cynthia
Dale
Kay Dorn
Tammy Eppert
Michael Behrens-Miller
Debbie Collamati
Kristie Day

Tara Euler
Karen Fischer
Marlys Fremstad
Merrilyn and Ray Green
Sam Hamalainen
Kenny Hauge
Jimmy Henri
Bengt & Ingela Gullberg
Jim Keating
Jenn Kohn
Gerry Lallier
Bill LaCroix
J. Lee
Linda
Kerry Lorenzat
Nina Karin Monsen
Paul Oddvar Monsen
Meg Mason
Jean Nichols
Deborah Kohn
Marisa
Bill McGary
Connie

Barb Nurnberger
Larry O'Toole
Pat Parnell
Howard Phillips
Ong Pot
Richard
Nancy Roberts
Margaret Schwally
Lonnie Schroeder
Ashley Sevigny
Bob Simmons
David Simmons
Jim Stewart
Sarah
Christina Thomas
Miriam Thomas
Isaac Tucker
Rachel Morrisette
Nancy England
Noah Warner
Lauren
Claudia
Marshall McCollum

A prayer of thanksgiving for God's healing power in the life of: April Ricciardone

SERVING US IN DECEMBER

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

8:15 AM
Bruce Cook
Mary Bates

10:45 AM
Vi Stephens
Dot Bois

ALTAR GUILD

Vi Stephens

ACOLYTES

USHERS

8:15 AM
Jack Bates

10:45 AM
Bob Kreie

	8:15 AM	10:45 AM
12/4	Sarah Strange	Tim Moyer
12/11		
12/18	Natalie Gustafson	Joy Landolfi
12/25		

Crier Publication Info:

The deadline for the **January Crier will be Tuesday, December 20th**. Please send articles to Julie Clapp at juliane@julianemarie.com or leave in her box at Lord Street House. If you leave an article in her box, please call her (284-9808) and let her know that it is there. Thank you!

Also, if e-mailing items, please submit everything as an attached Word document in Arial 10-point font (please do not put your article in the body of an e-mail). Thank you!

Since we are using an electronic version of The Crier, the deadline each month will be on the third Tuesday of the month instead of the second.

THE CRIER

DECEMBER 2011

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
2 Lord Street
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Reverend Richard A. Horner, Pastor
www.kennebunklutheran.org

Sunday

8:15 A.M. Modern Lutheran Liturgy*
9:15 A.M. Sunday School/Adult Forum
10:45 A.M. Traditional Lutheran Liturgy*

Christmas Eve

5:00 & 9:00 P.M. Candlelight Service*

Christmas Day

10:00 A.M. Informal Service*

New Year's Day

10:00 A.M. Liturgical Service*

*Holy Communion served at all services

Our purpose is to live under the leadership of Jesus Christ, as a community of miraculous expectation. As individuals and as a congregation, we rely upon the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. We are dedicated to living out the Great Commandment and the Great Commission: loving God and our neighbor (Mark 12:30-31), and making disciples by baptizing and teaching in Jesus' name (Matthew 28:16-20).