



THE CRIER

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2016

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 Log 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,
Pastor Rich

MESSAGE FROM A COUNCIL MEMBER

by Julie Clapp

Peace in Your Soul

I have been thinking a great deal about peace lately. More specifically, how to be at peace with so much turmoil all around. Not only in my own life, which just seems to go from one difficult situation to another, but also in our community, our country and in the world.

Peace in the world also seems to be unattainable. People are angry so they lash out in the form of terrorism, shouting, resentment and stubbornness. Self interest seems to reign supreme instead of looking out for other people and their needs.

Election Day just didn't seem to come quickly enough because I thought that, when it was over, there would be a sort of peace in this country. But that hasn't happened and we seem to be at odds and divided as much as ever.

So what are we to do? What can I, as an individual living in one corner of the country, do to bring peace? The answer is simple.

Pray.

Pray for this world that people will be loved and cared for and treated with respect. Pray for this country that it will truly be governed by people who understand that it is of the people, by the people and for the people. Pray for our community that all are fed and sheltered. Pray for our church that we will grow and thrive so others can know the joy we have in our church family. Pray for myself that, despite everything, my soul will be at peace.

A song that is included on Susan Boyle's Christmas CD **The Gift** is "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace", which is adapted from a prayer written by St. Francis. The lyrics are:

*Make me a channel of your peace,
Where there is hatred let me bring your love,
Where there is injury your pardon Lord,
And where there's doubt true faith in you.*

*Make me a channel of your peace,
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope,
Where there is darkness, only light,
And where there's sadness, ever joy.*

*O Master grant that I may never seek,
So much to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love with all my soul.*

*Make me a channel of your peace,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
In giving of ourselves that we receive.
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.*

I pray that, in this Christmas season, and in the coming new year, the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will be with you and fill you with gentleness and joy.



WAITING IN EXPECTATION

by Donna Simmons

Although the retail stores have had Christmas supplies out for months I've been focused on one holiday at a time. Today I saw a lady taking down her Thanksgiving decorations and, as I write this, Thanksgiving is still three days away. I don't want to jump ahead. I want to savor the anticipation. To me that is what Advent is. Henri Nouwen wrote, *Waiting Patiently in Expectation*, in his devotional "*Bread for the Journey*" on November 22nd. It was slightly before the beginning of Advent but it fits what I wanted to say.



Waiting patiently is not always easy. The whirlwind pace of our world especially in December is so frenetic we often feel overwhelmed by added tasks we place on ourselves over and above the routine chores of just living. Seasonal depression sets in for some especially those who have recently lost a loved one. Others who have lost their jobs and/or homes may feel outcast, invisible, melancholy over the holiday crush.

Forget about the holiday bedlam and remember the whole reason for the season. Wait patiently in expectation to celebrate the birth of our precious gift from God, a gift of Hope and Love, in the form of a precious child, born in a manger.

PARENTS' PRAYER GROUP

The Parent's Prayer group meets the first Monday of every month in Lord Street House. From 4:30 to 5:30 we will share prayer concerns and pray together. From 5:30 to 6:00, we will devote time to fellowship and book discussion. (The book we are reading is *The Power of a Praying Parent* and copies are available.) We pray for all children of all ages and all stages - please join us!

YOUNG AT HEART



In December, we will be heading down to Portsmouth to the Seacoast Repertory Theater to see, "IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE", the musical! The date is Sunday, December 4th at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$35 each and we will carpool. We will meet at the church at noon to head down. Please see Mary Keating with any questions.

ADVENT RESOURCES

Advent Resources are available on the stand at the back of the sanctuary: 1) *Peace Hope Light* is a devotional book by Dr. Joel Heck -- reflections on the writing of C.S. Lewis; 2) *What a Wonderful Gift!* is an Advent calendar for people of all ages; and 3) *Look Around the Manger* is a new resource this year for families with children. For this "sticker journey through Advent" you need both the large sheet that gets folded into a stable, along with the smaller book that contains the stickers. May all these ways of marking time during the Advent season serve to prepare us to welcome Jesus this Christmas!

ROGER'S REFLECTIONS: Two Views of Bethlehem **By Roger Rotvig**

Only the Gospels of Matthew and Luke contain the drama of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem. But in reading them both you would almost think they were writing about different events. This is because Matthew is writing to convince Jews that Jesus was the long promised Messiah, while Luke was writing to convince Greeks and Romans that Jesus was a Savior for all.

Matthew spends his first 17 verses documenting that Jesus lineage can be traced back to Abraham through King David. He then takes time to briefly describe the immaculate conception, the birth in Bethlehem, the visit of the Magi, the flight to Egypt and the return after the death of Herod. Matthew also records the atrocity reeked by Herod on all Bethlehem's male children 2 years or under, in an effort to find and kill this feared "new king of the Jews". In no time, Matthew moves into the adult ministry of Jesus with his baptism by John.

Luke writes four verses of introduction before launching into a detailed description of the persons involved with Mary and Joseph before the birth of Jesus. After 80 verses on this, he gets into the decree from Caesar that all the world should be enrolled and the trip to Bethlehem, Joseph's home by lineage.

Then follow all the Christmas scenes that we have come to focus upon: the birth in a humble manger because there was no room in the inn; the shepherds in a field being told by an angel and the accompanying angelic host that the savior had been born in nearby Bethlehem; the worshipful visit of the shepherds and the impact this had on Joseph and especially Mary as to what this all meant. Eight days and a mere 20 verses later, Luke writes of baby Jesus' presentation in the temple in Jerusalem. We also note that Luke later, in 3:23-38, traces Jesus' lineage backwards, not just to Abraham but all the way to Adam.

What is important to recognize, is that both Evangelists agree on the two essentials of the early life of Jesus. First is that he was uniquely sent by his Father by immaculate conception, not the standard for all other of God's creation. Then, that he was properly raised in the faith, and he increased "in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man". Luke 2:52. He prepared himself in Nazareth, to assume his divine roll as Savior of mankind.



BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL CRAFT DAY

Blueberry Festival Craft Days are currently on hiatus. They will resume in January. Please plan on attending one (or more) of these days of creativity and fellowship! There are jobs for everyone, whether you are an experienced sewer or not. Please come join in the fun!



SCHEDULING

To Schedule Meeting Space (in Luther Hall, Lord Street House, sanctuary, etc.) please be sure to contact Faith Gillman -- faithgillman@yahoo.com – to avoid any conflicts on the Church Calendar.

Please note that Faith is the only person who will actually make changes to the calendar, and you must still contact Faith to get an event added to the calendar.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, EVERY SUNDAY, EVERY DAY

The Bible talks about three different ways of giving: OFFERINGS, TITHING AND ALMS. In addition, while they may not be specific, TIME AND TALENT are very important attributes in being generous. Offerings are like the business as usual type of giving, sort of taking care of the day to day needs of paying the mortgage or rent and buying groceries. Tithing goes beyond the usual needs to extend to special commitments of the person or congregation, like specific causes and local benevolences. However, while we must never forget any of these ways of giving, the holy season of Christmas seems to focus on Alms. We give at Christmas time in almost no other way when we celebrate the birth of our Christ Jesus. Alms are our compassionate, heartfelt response to people who were mentioned in Matthew 25: those "least" of our sisters and brothers who are less than we are in circumstance only, and always our equal in their humanity. This is the most personal and spontaneous kind of giving in response to people in need.



Christmas time is the time we focus on our families, of course, and also our extended family, which can and should include friends as well as strangers who we know are in need. And also, giving at Christmas goes beyond monetary giving, because we love to celebrate God's gift with decoration and songs and special worship, and we can also give with our time and talent. When we share our Holy Season celebration, caring for others who are in special need, like the elderly, the homeless and the children who are with much less than the basic needs, we give much more than just money. We can make people happy. And when we give from our heart we also become more happy ourselves in the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

I think this year Christmas is a much needed Holy Day for most of us. I cannot remember at any time in my life when our world needs the Spirit of Giving more than now. Taking care of so many who need our help has never been greater. Never before have we needed to reflect, appreciate and spread the blessings and mercies in our lives which have been given to us through God's gift to us in Christ. The need for wisdom, tolerance, compassion and patience are all great gifts for us to practice and give in this Christmas time.

May the Spirit of this Christmas giving touch everyone, as we carry this celebration of Christ's birth throughout the coming year.

Carl Graves

ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARDS

Thanks to all who have already turned in an estimate of giving card for 2017! There are extra copies available on the stand at the back of the church if you need one. Returning an estimate of giving card is of great help as we plan for the ministry of Holy Cross in the coming year! It would be greatly appreciated if your card can be turned in as soon as possible. Cards can be put in the offering plate on Sunday morning, or mailed to the church office. Thank you!

SHARE THE BOUNTY

The next free bean supper will be on Saturday, December 3rd from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. As always, the menu will be baked beans, cole slaw, hot dogs, a variety of breads and a large selection of pies. Anyone from the community or our church is invited to attend. It is a great time of fellowship and sharing delicious food!

If you would like to volunteer, please see Julie Clapp! Thank you!!

Come Have Some Pie!!





Christmas Eve Worship

Saturday, December 24th

Service at 5:00 pm:

***Special Music
Children's Sermon
Candlelight Communion Service***

Service at 9:00 pm:

***Special Music
Candlelight Communion Service***

Christmas Day Worship

Sunday, December 25th

Single Service at 10:00 am:

Informal service featuring Christmas carols and a time of sharing!



Christmas Poinsettias for Our Sanctuary



Each Christmas Eve in celebration of Christ's birth, we decorate the altar area with a beautiful floral display of plants given in celebration or in memory of people who are important to you. If you would like to take part in this, you can **place your flower order no later than Sunday, December 18th.**

Pot Size	Plant	Price	Quantity ordered	Total
6"	Poinsettia 1 plant, 6-8 blooms	\$12.50	_____	_____
7"	Poinsettia, 2 plants, 9-12 blooms	\$21.	_____	_____
8"	Poinsettia, 3 plants, 12-15 blooms	\$31.	_____	_____
Grand Total				_____

Dedication (Please check one or more and print 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 order due NO LATER than Sunday, December 18th ~~



WOMEN'S YANKEE SWAP

Sunday, December 4th at 5 p.m. will be the annual Women's Yankee Swap! It will be held this year at Barbara Horner's house. All women are invited for a fun time of food, fellowship and Yankee swap exchange. If you've never been to a Yankee swap, what happens is you bring a dish to share and a gift (usually a \$15-20 value) to swap. It's a lot of fun so please come on out and join the party! A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex and directions to the Horner home are available if needed.



HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS

We are again reaching out to our neighbors and friends through the Holiday Food Baskets Programs to ensure that those in need, and those who want to give, have the opportunity to participate. Your support of this community tradition will give comfort and happiness to many of our neighbors this Christmas. Items most needed for food baskets: potatoes, pudding, canned green beans, evaporated milk, onions, Jell-O, canned peas, pie crust mix, boxed stuffing, canned fruit, gravy, and other non-perishables. Please place all food items in the baskets located in the Narthex. Items are due the Sunday before Christmas. Monetary donations – which enable the purchase of turkeys, chickens and additional food items -- should be made out to Community Outreach Services, Inc., with Holiday Food Baskets on the memo line of the check, and mailed to P.O. Box 1175, Kennebunk, ME 04043. COS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization, and all donations are tax deductible.



GIFT-GIVING TREE

Our traditional gift-giving tree in Luther Hall is decorated with ornaments that have a little tag attached to each ornament. Each tag describes a suggested gift based on a "wish list" provided by the York County Shelter.

If you would like to participate, please take an ornament with a tag describing the gift you wish to purchase and place your unwrapped gift under the tree with the tag attached to it. The staff and volunteers at York County Shelter will wrap all gifts.

The **FINAL DEADLINE** for placing gifts under the tree will be **Sunday, December the 18th** so that all the presents can be delivered to the shelter on that day after the second service. This will give the shelter the needed time to sort and wrap the gifts in time for Christmas!

If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Gallo or Cathy Norwood at (207) 967-4733.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING AND GIFT BASKET GIVING

Saturday, December 17th at 2 p.m. the Deacons are sponsoring the annual Christmas caroling event. We meet at the church at 2 and then carpool to three different homes to sing and bring a basket of treats for them. Everyone is invited to join in the fun! We will also be meeting on Wednesday, December 14th at 10:00 a.m. to assemble these baskets. If you have anything you would like to donate, please contact Mary Keating or come on that Wednesday. Things you can bring are homemade baked goods, jams, puzzle books, stationary, DVDs, teas, hot chocolate or anything else you'd like to bring! It just needs to fit in a basket!



There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex and please note if you're able to drive!

FRIENDSHIP LUNCH

December's friendship lunch will be held on Monday, December 12th at noon. We will be serving homemade pork pies, applesauce and dessert. Please join us or come and help prepare the meal! Everyone is welcome.

The friendship lunch is always held the second Monday of every month. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Keating.

BUDGET HEARING/KITCHEN INPUT

On Sunday December 11th two meetings will take place. The first will be our traditional budget hearing, from 9:30 – 10 am in Luther Hall. The first draft of the proposed Holy Cross operating budget for 2017 will be presented for people's review, comments, and questions. Then from 10 – 10:30 am, also in Luther Hall, people are invited to share ideas that might be used to refine the kitchen remodeling project. Some carpet, tile, and cabinet samples will likely be available for viewing as well. We would love to have your input!

PRAYER REQUESTS

Holy Cross has a wonderful prayer ministry called Prayer Partners. Who is on the list of people who pray is confidential but it is a large group of people who unite in prayer whenever a prayer request is sent out. The prayer requests are also confidential in that they aren't supposed to be discussed unless the person being prayed for brings it up. Everyone is encouraged to offer prayers to the Prayer Partners when they feel led whether the prayer is for illness, families, jobs, school, or any other need. Prayers can be sent to prayer@kennebunklutheran.org or you can call Julie Clapp at 459-4768. If you would just like a person placed on the prayer list in The Crier, please contact Pastor Rich at pastor@kennebunklutheran.org or at 985-4803. Thank you!

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Jack Bates

Merry Christmas

“For Christmas,” a woman remarked to her friend, “I was visited by a jolly, bearded fellow with a big bag over his shoulder. My son came home from college with his laundry.”

Christmas began in the heart of God. It is complete only when it reaches the heart of man.



December 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 2:00 Play 5:00 Women's Yankee Swap Party	5 4:30 pm Parents Prayer Grp (LSH)	6 7 pm Worship Cmte (LSH)	7 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs)	8 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30 pm Men's Grp (LH)	9 7:30 pm Tim's Jazz Class	10 7:30 pm Tim's Jazz Class
11 8:15 Worship 9:30 Budget Hearing 10:00 Kitchen Input Mtg. 10:45 Worship	12 Noon Friendship Lunch (LH)	13 7 pm Congregational Council (LH)	14 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs)	15 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 5:30 Harvest Cafe 6:30 pm Men's Grp (LH)	16 Pastor's Office Hours 5:30 Harvest Cafe 6:30 pm Men's Grp (LH)	17 2 pm Christmas Caroling
18 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship	19 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship	20 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs)	21 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs)	22 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	23 Pastor's Office Hours	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> 5:00 pm Service 9:00 pm Service
25 <i>Christmas Day</i> 10:00 Worship 	26 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs)	27 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs)	28 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs)	29 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	30 Pastor's Office Hours	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>



FAMILY & FRIENDS WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS:

Aliza
Patti Berg-Anderson
Amanda
Robert Arnold
Becky
Rolf Bandle
Jessie Boria
Kenneth Bower
Peter Chadborn
Karin Cole
Cyndi
David
Rusty England
Carolyn Essel
Karen Fischer
Fred & Mary

Frank Gagne
Kaleigh Guay
Sean Hanson
Jim Harding
Jenny
Peter Judd
Jim Keating
Jayce Kierney
Marissa Laskey
Liz Lienhard
Linda, Doug, Haddie, Clayton
Jennifer Moyer
Jonathan Nile
Marion Noble
Bertha Nollman
Pat Parnell

Howard Phillips
Richard
Mike Robb
Ken Roberts
Rylan
Margaret Schwally
Gwen Shibles
Heather Slayton
Richard Smith
Tom and Brenda
Mary Lou & Jack Reinholz
Barbara Stratton
Barbara Warner
Bob Westerman
Landon Wilson

A prayer of thanksgiving for God’s healing power in the life of: Ted

We commend into God’s care the spirit of those who have died recently: Helen Collamati (former member of Holy Cross), Ruby Rodda (Barney Rich’s mother), Jim Stewart (friend of Donna Simmons), April Robinson (neighbor of Donna Simmons), Joe Barbarino Jr. (son of neighbors of Donna Simmons)

SERVING US IN DECEMBER

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

8:15 am
Linda Gaidimas, Julie Clapp
Cathy Bansmer
12/25 – 10:00 am
TBA

10:45 am
Irene Eaton
Dot Bois

ALTAR GUILD

Violet Stephens

USHERS

8:15 am 10:45 am
Jack Bates Peter Judd

CRIER PUBLICATION INFO:

To get pertinent information out to our members and friends in a more timely fashion, The Crier will now be published the last full week of each month. In order for us to use this publishing schedule, we need to set a firm deadline for submissions. *The firm deadline for the January is Sunday, December 18th.*

Please send all articles to Julie Clapp at juliane@julianemarie.com or leave them in the church office.

THE CRIER

DECEMBER 2016

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
2 Lord Street
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Reverend Richard A. Horner, Pastor

www.kennebunklutheran.org

Worship Schedule

December 4th, 11th and 18th

8:15 am: Modern Lutheran Liturgy*

10:45 am: Traditional Lutheran Liturgy*

December 25th

10:00 am: Single Service with combined Modern/Traditional Liturgies*

*Holy Communion served at all services



***For unto us a child is
born, unto us a son is
given: and the
government shall be
upon his shoulder: and
his name shall be
called Wonderful,
Counsellor,
The mighty God,
The everlasting
Father,
The Prince of Peace
(Isaiah 9:6 KJV)***