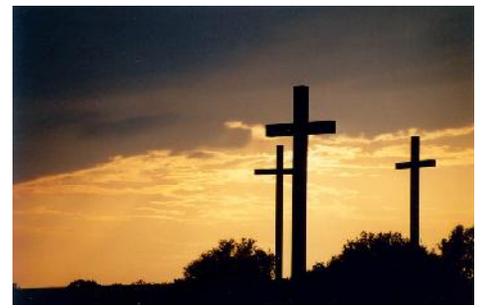


THE CRIER

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 2017



From the Pastor - The devotional booklet available at church this Lent is called Jesus and the Gospels by Frederick Niedner. For the first day of Lent – Ash Wednesday – the devotion is titled “The Journey Begins.” And the Bible passage is Mark 8:34: “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”

I have always appreciated the image of being on a journey, as it applies to our life as followers of Jesus. A journey entails being in motion, heading toward a destination, with a sense of excitement and expectation. While on a journey you can be surprised by things that happen along the way you didn't expect. You can also run into difficulties that you didn't anticipate.

Once, when our kids were pretty young, we were on our way home from a vacation visiting my brother and sister-in-law in Wisconsin. On the drive out, one of our stops had been at Niagara Falls, which we had enjoyed very much. So much, in fact, that our plan was to stop there for another night on the trip home.

As we were approaching our planned stopping point on that day's drive, however, we changed our minds. We had already been on the road for about 10 days, and had had a wonderful time along the way. It was early evening as we approached Niagara Falls, and all three of the kids were sleeping peacefully in the back seats of the van. Barbara and I decided that it would be nice to sleep in our own beds that night, and it would be nice to save some money by not having to pay for another hotel room. It would take another seven hours to reach home, but we figured getting in around one in the morning wouldn't be so bad - so we just kept driving!

There was something exhilarating about being spontaneous in such a way. There was a feeling of being adventurous, taking on a challenge, wondering how far we would get before the kids woke up – and what kind of mood they might be in when they did! We weren't exactly “throwing caution to the wind” in any significant sense, but it still felt like that a little bit. We were, to some degree, taking a risk.

I'm happy to say that in this instance, everything ended up working out fine. I think the kids kept napping for a good long while, and don't remember them being out of sorts upon waking. I'm sure I was feeling pretty tired by the time we finally arrived home, but don't think it was a huge struggle staying awake and alert at the wheel. I do remember, though, that we had a “close call” during that part of the trip, which could have resulted in a different set of memories.

While traveling along a deserted stretch of highway late at night, I glanced down and suddenly noticed that we were nearly out of gas! There were some anxious moments as quite a few miles went by without any sign of civilization, and I think we even passed by a couple of exits with gas stations in view, but they had their lights turned off, being closed for the night. When we did eventually find a place that was still open, and were able to fill up the tank, there was a great sense of relief as we continued our journey toward home.

On our journey of following in the footsteps of Jesus, there is much about which to be excited. It is, indeed, an adventure! We don't always know for sure what the future holds, but we know that along our way we are accompanied by our Lord and Savior. Therefore, even when we hit a bump in the road, or a traffic slow-down, or even a flat tire, we can trust that things will work out in the end. The journey will continue. We will safely reach our ultimate destination.

God speed as you travel this Lent, and beyond!
Pastor Rich

MESSAGE FROM A COUNCIL MEMBER

by Jon Janiak

I have to admit I struggled with a topic for this message from the time I volunteered to write it but God provided a prompt the other day. I read an article by a Pastor down south about how it seems people have become consumers of worship. He used some fancy buzzword for it but that was his point. I started thinking about what he said and realized that might apply to me.

My wife and I have periodic discussions about the monthly single service, about what we like or don't like about it. Things like time, setting and music. This article made me question all those things. Does God care if the music comes from an organ or a tuba? I don't think so. Does God care what time I worship or the setting of the service I attend? Again, I don't think so. I don't think God wants me buying a product called worship. I think he wants me to be part of worship. Actively part of worship. I think when worship is approached as if you're consuming it, it gives you a mentality that if you don't like the product then you don't have to buy it. I don't think worship is a product to consume I think its for you to please God not yourself.

What do you think????

FOCUSING ON HIS GRACE

by Donna Simmons

If we do not focus on the Grace of our Creator, our lives get distracted by news stories and gossip and the busyness of our secular lives. In the past this has led me away from my Lord. I would lose track of the security and protection of my faith in my Creator and Redeemer.

From the words by Samuel Medley in one of my favorite hymns:

I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives. *(from verse 1)*

He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart. *(from verse 4)*

He lives my kind, wise, heavenly friend;
He lives and loves me to the end. *(from verse 6)*

What joy this blest assurance gives;
I know that my Redeemer lives! *(from verse 8)*

He lives in my life and in yours. We only need to spend time each day sharing our lives with Him. I once read that Billy Graham's wife, Ruth, always started each day taking a walk with the Lord. That led me to try it myself. In this season of Lent let us spend more time walking with our Lord, talking with Him as our best friend, focusing on His Grace.

SOUP TASTING

THANK YOU! - A heartfelt thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who made the 2017 Winterfest Soup Tasting Contest a success: Bob Brady, who supplied the generators. We could not have done it without him. Linda Gaidimas, our cashier. Abby Nolette, spoon giver out. The Kennebunk Festival Committee for allowing us to use the church hall and donating the proceeds to the church. To our soup servers, Pastor and Barb Horner, Dottie and Carl Graves, Karen Kupp, Carol Heller, Sandie Hamel, Arlene Casey, Dot Bois, Spencer Nolette, Marilyn Anderson, Mary Keating. And Mary Bates, at the voter table. Again, **A BIG THANK YOU!!**



ROGER'S REFLECTIONS: Gowns and Godparents

By Roger Rotvig

We recently had another baptism in our family, this one for our sixth great grandchild. Baptisms are big events in our family. They call for gatherings at least as big as Christmas and weddings.

Along with the obvious religious significance of the sacrament of baptism, they are a time for the family to renew our common heritage, check on the physical and spiritual wellbeing of all our members, and to commit each of us anew to keep the family together in each succeeding generation.

We use two resources to aid us in this endeavor, a baptismal gown and the selection of god parents. Let me begin with the gown.

Our first child, Susan, was born in Illinois a few months before my ordination. Helen and I had spent our first year of married life in Saskatchewan where I served a year of internship from the seminary. Now, five months before ordination, our first child was born. Helen, a fine seamstress, crafted a two-piece baptismal gown and slip for our daughter to wear for her baptism. Her name and birth-date were embroidered on the slip. We used the same garment for the baptisms of our next children, one born in Maine and two in Rhode Island.

Twenty some years later, when we first became grandparents, we dug out the baptismal gown, did the embroidery, used it and then put it away for the next family event. With our four children, five grand-children and now the sixth great grand-child, the baptismal gown has 15 family names and dates on it.

The choice of godparents or sponsors is just as important to us. A baptismal sponsor certificate we have, reads: "My responsibility will involve praying regularly and caring for ___ and by my life and example, being an encouragement for growth in the Christian faith and life." I will site three excellent examples of this.

God parents for our first born were our close friend from college and seminary and his new wife. They moved to California and we to Maine after ordination. After California, they came east to Massachusetts and the closeness was continued. Later in life they returned to the mid-west where they had both been raised, but our mutual trips to visit one another never ceased. They came to Connecticut where he officiated at their god-daughter's wedding.

The godparents of our youngest daughter are a couple very close to us in our six years in Newport, RI. When they moved to Florida in retirement, we still exchanged regular visits and later, when they return to their family homes in Keene, NH, they served as supplements to us for the four years that our daughter went to Keene State College.

The last example I will cite is that of our oldest grandson. One of his godparents was related to us only as the college room-mate of his father. He was always with us for gatherings such as holidays, weddings and the like. When this grandson, as a teenager, lost his father, the godparent filled in fully. He became the needed male model in his life. He was also present at our most recent baptism, the first-born daughter of his godson. He was very well received and honored.

Chamber of Commerce

Holy Cross is now a member of our local Chamber of Commerce! Though we are fairly well known in our community already, membership in the Chamber provides another way of connecting with people beyond the walls of our congregation. We will be listed in the Chamber's annual guidebook, which is available online and also in print form (80,000 copies). Limited to a 15 word description of our organization, this is what will appear for Holy Cross: "A caring congregation dedicated to serving Jesus by serving others. Community meals are our specialty!" In addition to being listed in the guidebook, we will be able to post pictures and additional information on a page dedicated to Holy Cross as part of the Chamber's website. Yet another benefit is the display of Holy Cross "Welcome" pamphlets at the Chamber's main office on Water Street, and at their seasonal kiosk in Lower Village. The Chamber is a great resource both for those who come to our area for a visit, and for those who live locally year round.



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, EVERY SUNDAY, EVERY DAY

The ELCA has a website on Stewardship providing insightful information on building a stewardship plan in your church. I peek at it now and again when I need some inspiration in doing these monthly notes. This week I have been searching for a “hook”, as I call it, for the March topic in the Crier. Permit me to take up space by quoting the following from that web site:

“Worship as the highest form of Stewardship: The implications of a broad and deep understanding of stewardship lead us to describe our response to God in a variety of ways. The act of worship, adoration of God, is the highest form of stewardship. In the Old Testament, Exodus 20:3, God says ‘You shall have no other Gods before me.’ Jesus said, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment’”. (Matthew 22:37-38)

“Whenever we talk about stewardship or being a steward after the model of Jesus, we must begin by recognizing that worship of God is the highest form of stewardship. We do not mean a particular ritual or liturgy, we do not mean a particular form of service, we mean a stance, an attitude, a response to God who has revealed God’s plan of grace. We mean praise and honor. We mean obedience and faithfulness. We mean a desire to seek the teachings and intentions (the plan) of God.”

We can all worship in lots of different ways without being in church. You know what I mean. But worship in a church service is a way of expanding our worship. It is a way of participating with our friends and neighbors outwardly. It is a way of expanding our understanding of God’s word, so we can increase our love and ability to reach out in living God’s word. Personally, I go to church worship to increase my understanding of what the Bible teaches us on how to live that “greatest commandment”. I hear the hymns, I hear the Bible scriptures, I hear the meaning of the Gospel in a straight forward and understanding way through the sermon, and I feel good about making a monetary contribution to the church as thanks for giving me these values.

Yes, attending worship at church is an act of stewardship, by helping us live the teachings and intentions of the plan of God.

Carl Graves



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING HELPED CHANGE THE GAME -- Reports are still being tallied, and over \$6.3 million in cash and food items has already been reported. Thanks to you, the Souper Bowl of Caring movement continues to #ChangeTheGame.

\$408 and 75 food items were collected at Holy Cross.

Ash Wednesday



Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the holy season of Lent, the 40 days of preparation leading up to Easter. A service with Holy Communion and the opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes on one's forehead will be held *Wednesday, March 1st at 7:00 pm*. This is a somber service, but not one that is maudlin in nature. Though we are told "remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" during the imposition of ashes, the significance of such a reminder is simply that we are human beings, and as such our ultimate hope and security lies not with our self, but with God.

LENTEN WEDNESDAY MEAL AND SERVICE

Beginning Wednesday, March 8th, a simple meal of bread and soup will be served in Luther Hall at 6:00 pm followed by a worship service from 6:30 to 7:00 pm, also in Luther Hall. The services are a time of prayers, hymns, readings, reflection and sharing. These times to gather are encouraged as a part of one's Lenten preparation leading up to Holy Week and Easter. Indicating your intention to attend by adding your name to the list in the Narthex is appreciated, though not required.

Signing up to bring a soup or bread is also appreciated – and please note that due to work being done on the kitchen we need soups to be brought already warm and in crock pots since we won't have the use of a stove. Thank you!



COOKIE WALK



The Cookie Walk was a great success! Thanks to everyone who provided and bought cookies, and thanks to Joy Judd for overseeing the event. A total of \$335 was raised to benefit the senior high youth work camp mission trip this summer to Woonsocket, R.I.

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!

KITCHEN RENOVATIONS



The Kitchen Renovation Project is set to begin on March 13th! The contractor will do demolition work first, then the cabinet manufacturer will need to do final measurements. The cabinets will be 3-4 weeks to manufacture and deliver. Once the cabinets are installed it will take 2 more weeks to measure, fabricate, and install the countertops. The whole process will be about seven weeks from start to finish.

SHARE THE BOUNTY



The next free bean supper will be on Saturday, March 4th 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!!

Due to the kitchen renovations, the April Bean Supper will not be held. We will, hopefully, resume with the May Bean Supper.

BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL CRAFT DAY

The next craft day is scheduled for March 18th. Please plan on attending this day of creativity and fellowship! There are jobs for everyone, whether you are an experienced sewer or not. Please come join in the fun!

As of this date, the craft day will be held despite the renovations in the kitchen. Please check with Linda as the date gets closer to see if this plan has changed.



FRIENDSHIP LUNCH

The Friendship Lunch for March and April will not be held due to the kitchen renovations. We will, hopefully, resume in May.

CANCELLATION NOTIFICATION

If there is inclement weather and church services have to be cancelled, please watch for the notification on the three major TV stations (Channel 6, 8, or 13) or check the church website. E-mail notifications will no longer be sent if church is cancelled. Hopefully a cancellation won't happen this winter but if it does, we want everyone to be safe. Thank you!



FLOWER CHART

The Flower Chart for 2017 is now posted on the white board in the Narthex. Please feel free to add your name to one of the dates listed there, and look below the chart for the instructions as to providing the necessary information when the date you have selected draws near. Thank you for the beauty and color flowers add to our worship environment!

PRAYER CARDS

Prayer cards are in a basket in the narthex with a prayer for the refugees of the world. Please take one to use as a reminder there are those who need our prayers for well-being and safety.

CLYNK BAGS

There are Clynk bags available on the table in the Narthex (entryway) for anyone who would like to donate the deposit money from their returnable cans and bottles to the general fund of Holy Cross.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Jack Bates

Honk If You Agree

One day a father was driving with his five-year-old daughter when he honked his car horn by mistake.

“I did that by accident,” he said.

“I know that, Daddy,” she replied.

“How did you know that?”

“Because you didn’t holler at the other driver after you honked it.”

“Very little is needed to make a happy life; it is all within yourself, in your way of thinking.”

By Marcus Aurelius

† March 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<i>1 Ash Wednesday</i> 7:00 pm Service	2 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	3	4 4 pm Bean Supper (LH)
5 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 6:00 pm Seaglass	6 4:30 pm Parents Prayer Grp (LSH)	7 7 pm Worship Cmte (LSH)	8 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs) 6:00 pm Bread & Soup 6:30 pm Lenten Service	9 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	10	11
12 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 6:00 pm Seaglass	13	14 7 pm Congregational Council (LH)	15 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs) 6:00 pm Bread & Soup 6:30 pm Lenten Service	16 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	17 5 PM Coastal Cruisers	18 8:30 am Blueberry Festi- val Craft Day
19 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 6:00 pm Seaglass	20	21	22 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs) 6:00 pm Bread & Soup 6:30 pm Lenten Service	23 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	24	25 9:00 am Evergreen Quilters
26 10:00 Worship 6:00 pm Seaglass	27	28	29 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs) 6:00 pm Bread & Soup 6:30 pm Lenten Service	30 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	31	

SUNDAY PRAYER LIST

In addition to our very active Prayer Partner ministry, prayers are also offered on Sunday mornings for members of Holy Cross, friends, family members, and those in our wider community. Due to a computer glitch, Pastor Rich needs to rebuild the Sunday morning prayer list and needs your help to do so. If you have a name you would like included, please email it to pastor@kennebunklutheran.org (or you can call the church office at 985-4803). Although only the name is included in the Sunday prayers, if you could share with Pastor Rich a little about the person's condition/situation that would also be helpful. Finally, please be sure to indicate what your relation is to the person. Along with being named during the prayers each Sunday, these names also appear on the Prayer List published in the newsletter (again, without any information being shared other than the name).

SERVING US IN MARCH

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

March 5, 12 19
8:15 am
Linda Gaidimas
Cathy Bansmer

10:45 am
Irene Eaton (3/5 & 3/19), Chris Cherry (3/19)
Roger Anderson (3/5, 3/19), Vicky Cherry (3/19)

ALTAR GUILD

Sandie Hamel

March 26 – 10:00 am
Irene Eaton
Roger Anderson

USHERS

8:15 am
Mary Keating

10:45 am
Richard and Sayoko Wrage (3/5, 3/19); Jon Janiak (3/12, 3/26)

CRIER PUBLICATION INFO:

To get pertinent information out to our members and friends in a timely fashion, The Crier is published the last full week of each month. In order for us to use this publishing schedule, we have a firm deadline for submissions. *The firm deadline for the March is Sunday, March 19th.*

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

THE CRIER

MARCH 2017

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
2 Lord Street
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Reverend Richard A. Horner, Pastor

www.kennebunklutheran.org

Worship Schedule

March 5, 12, 19:

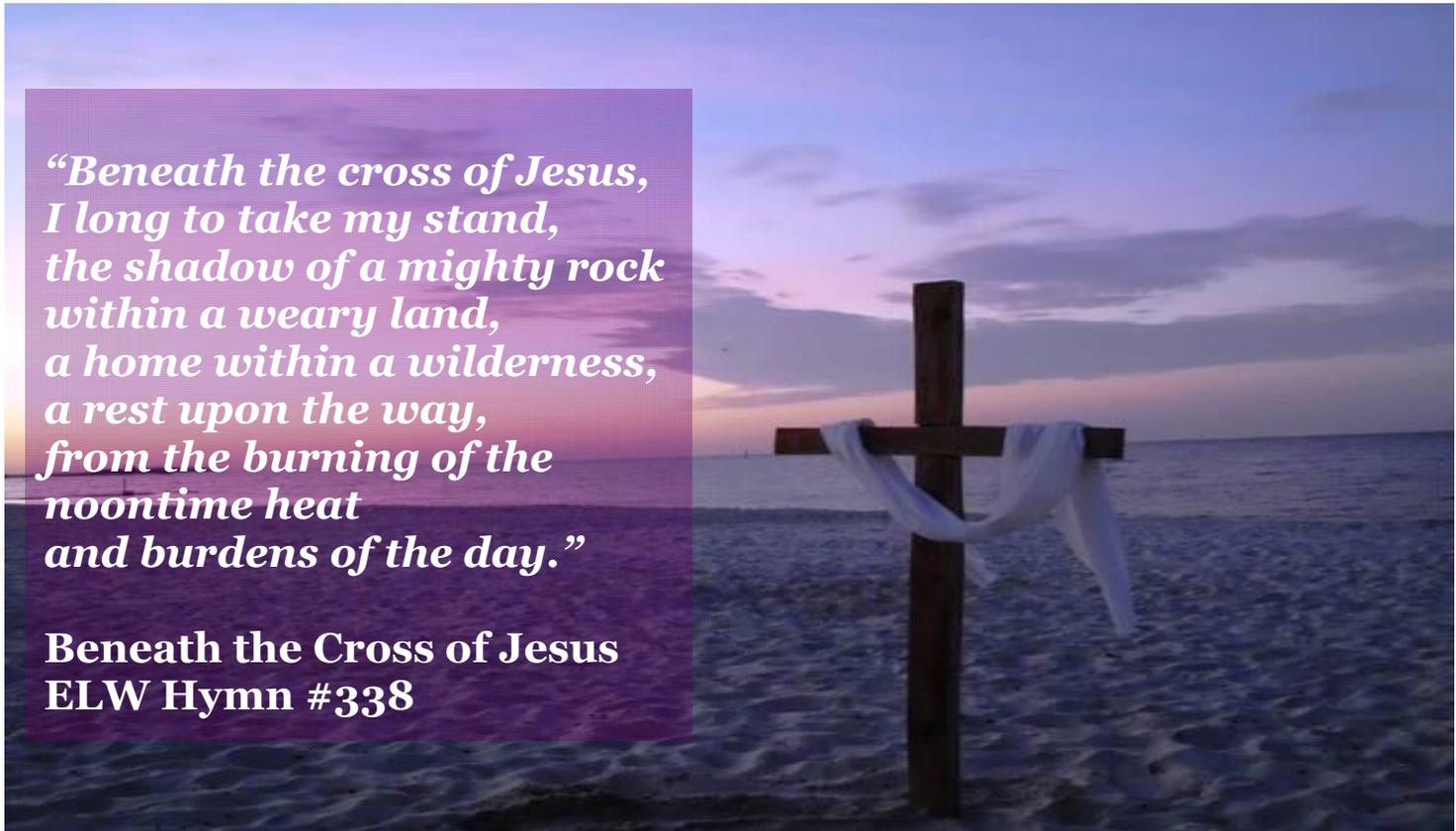
8:15 am: Modern Lutheran Liturgy*

10:45 am: Traditional Lutheran Liturgy*

March 26:

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

*Holy Communion served at all services



*“Beneath the cross of Jesus,
I long to take my stand,
the shadow of a mighty rock
within a weary land,
a home within a wilderness,
a rest upon the way,
from the burning of the
noontime heat
and burdens of the day.”*

**Beneath the Cross of Jesus
ELW Hymn #338**