

THE CRIER

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY 2016



From the Pastor -- Over the years in my life as a pastor, I have experienced a certain phenomenon on many occasions. I have been out somewhere during the week -- at the grocery store, or a school event (when my kids were young!), or a restaurant, or wherever -- and I've run into someone from church. If it happened to be someone I hadn't seen in worship for a few weeks, after we greeted one another, the very next thing the person said would likely be an explanation for their absence from church. Whether it was an illness in the family, being away on a trip, a work commitment, or the general "busy-ness" of life, they seemed to want me to understand their reason for not being in worship.

Such experiences have given me the feeling that people assume a certain attitude is in the forefront of my mind -- i.e. "why haven't you been in church?" In case this ever happens to you personally, or has already happened, please be assured that when I run into someone who hasn't been in worship for a while that is not what I'm thinking! What I'm thinking first and foremost is "how nice it is to see you!" And also, "how are you doing?"

I share this with you as a prelude to writing about church attendance. To emphasize that I'm not addressing this topic from a legalistic perspective. I'm not raising it for the purpose of inducing feelings of guilt. If people attend church primarily, or even largely, out of a feeling that they "have to," they "ought to," they "should," its not likely that the experience will be all that positive anyway. If worship is mostly an obligation, mostly something that needs to be checked off one's "to do" list, it isn't likely to result in what it is meant for -- i.e. a meaningful connection with God, and with one's fellow believers.

One of the foundational passages from Scripture pertaining to worship, is what Jesus said when he was asked "of all the commandments, which is the most important?" (Mark 12:28) Jesus answered by saying, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength ... and love your neighbor as yourself." (Mark 12:30-31)

Worship is a key aspect of loving God. Not worshipping because we "have" to, but because we **want** to -- because worship is a way of nourishing our relationship with our heavenly Father, a way of connecting with God in "heart, soul, mind, and strength." Worship reminds us of who we are, who God is, and the many ways our relationship with God makes a difference in our daily life. Is every experience in worship of the "mountain top" variety -- moving us deeply, sweeping us off our feet spiritually? Not likely. But is every experience in worship a sign of our love for God, and part of what keeps us strong in faith? Absolutely!

Along with benefitting each of us personally, being in worship is also a way of living out the "love your neighbor" part of the greatest commandment. There has been much discussion of late, about the changes that are going on in our wider culture when it comes to the Christian faith. Much of it can certainly be discouraging, because the trend is one of fewer people in attendance at religious services. Also potentially discouraging is the big question "what can be done about this trend?" --because what can any of us do in the face of such wide spread, overarching forces at work in our society?

Well, I'll tell you one thing you can do -- keep practicing your faith, including coming to worship. Your being in worship makes a difference not just for you, but for others too! For others who are already part of the body of Christ at Holy Cross. And for newcomers who grace us with their presence. And its not just being in worship, but "putting yourself into worship" that makes a difference both for you and for others. Sing out! Pray fervently! Listen intently! Greet people enthusiastically! Receive communion reverently and with gratitude!

One way of speaking about worship attendance in the past, was to encourage it on a "weekly" basis. Or put differently, "every Sunday." Obviously setting the bar very high indeed. Obviously a standard that leads awfully easily to a legalistic approach -- again, you "ought/should/must" be there all the time. And if not, then the guilt sets in.

Continued on page 2

Other terminology in the past, was to speak of “regular” attendance. Which meant missing occasionally was o.k., as long as it wasn’t very often. Being in church, on average, three out of four Sundays each month or something that like. Again, this tends toward a legalistic approach, where people attend out of a need to “put in their time” often enough, and feeling guilty about it if they don’t.

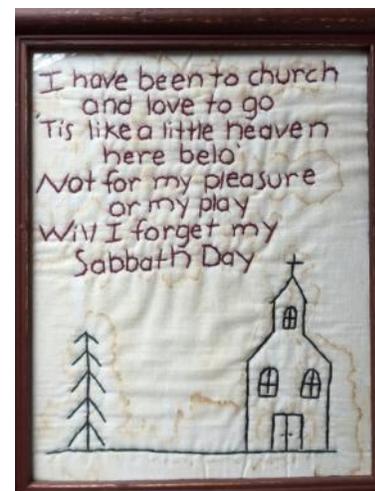
Here is a phrase I heard more recently, that does a better job of capturing the spirit I have been writing about in this Pastor’s article: worship is central. If worship is a central aspect in our life as a follower of Jesus, the specific frequency won’t become our primary focus. If worship is central, we may well be in church every Sunday, or three out of four Sundays each month. But the number of times we attend, won’t be as important as the reason we attend – because it is a central component of our faith, something that is good for us and for others. When worship is central it isn’t treated as unimportant/optional/doesn’t matter one way or the other. Instead we want to be there, strive to be there, make it a priority – again, because it is of benefit personally, and to others, for us to be there.

On the wall in my office I have this plaque. It might be a little idealistic in its sentiment (as I already mentioned, worship may not be experienced as “like a little heaven” every time we attend), but I think it still conveys the message of going to church as something we want to do.

My prayer for each of us as individuals, and for all of us together as the body of Christ at Holy Cross, is that worship will be central in our lives, drawing us closer to each other and to our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Rich



MESSAGE FROM A COUNCIL MEMBER

by Jon Janiak

It’s all about me. Well this article is anyway. Like many Lutherans I’m a wayward Catholic. I learned about religion from the Sister’s of Little Mercy. I grew into a teenager convinced that I was pretty much doomed and stayed away from church. Then life sent me the woman that was to become my wife. She was a dyed in the wool Lutheran and she convinced me (coerced me) to go to a Christmas Eve service when we were dating. I was convinced something bad was going to happen to me. Once again God stepped in and sent me an introduction to my wife’s Aunt Margaret. I might have met her before that day but that day sticks in my mind. Aunt Margaret shook my hand and said she would be sure and pray for me and she did. No matter where life took me to Oklahoma, Alabama, Greece I know I was in her prayers. At her funeral the Pastor called her a prayer warrior. I’d never heard that term before but that was Aunt Margaret.

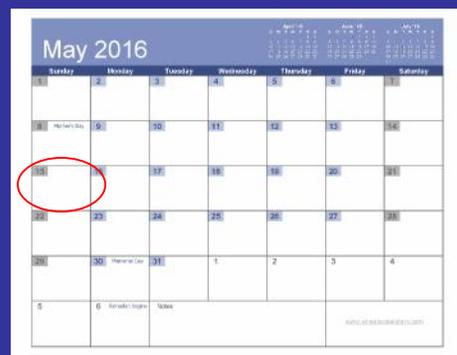
So where does all this go. Well from my wife and her Aunt Margaret I learned that the Sister’s of Little Mercy were probably more interested in us behaving then teaching us that there is a loving God and that if we rely on him and his son Jesus we can manage anything life sends our way. Especially if we have a prayer warrior on our side.

PENTECOST

For Pentecost Sunday, May 15th, the color of the day is red, symbolizing the tongues of fire that rested upon Jesus’ disciples when the Holy Spirit was bestowed upon them. **If you have red in your wardrobe you are encouraged to wear it that day!**



Please mark your calendar for a special congregational meeting to be held on Sunday May 15th, at 9:30 am (i.e. between the two services that day). The purpose of the meeting will be to discuss and vote on the capital campaign recommendations from Pastor LiaBraaten.



SHORT CUTS ***by Donna Simmons***

Lately each afternoon when we take our walk our puppy, Bear, has found a short cut on the end of the first 1/4 mile. She's really the one who is most excited about taking a walk so we were surprised when she stopped fifty feet from the turn around every day for the last week. Totally oblivious to her halt we continued on until our gravel road hit pavement, while we talked over our day as married couples often do.

The first day this happened when we turned around to head in the opposite direction there was Bear, her shiny black coat glistening in the sun, standing fifty feet away from us, just waiting. We don't quite know why she stopped where she did, but we thought it was cute and we praised her for her decision.

The whole rest of the walk that day and every day after, Bear led us, or followed behind, or walked beside us obedient in her trek to hike two miles of forest road and trails, complete with ridges and valleys, bridges and babbling brooks. Every day she has had her one moment of defiance, her short cut.

This got me thinking of the short cuts we often take in life. I'm thinking of forty-five minute exercise routines started in earnest and cut to thirty five minutes, then thirty minutes in laziness and then skipping days or oversleeping and just squeezing it in. Then there is the planned spring cleaning that if I knuckled down would be top to bottom with each room, but because the enthusiasm for the task wanes it's reduced to windows and vacuuming and maybe a little dusting.

But the worst short cut is cutting back on the time we spend talking with our Lord. Keeping our Lord in our every day life was our intention but life gets busy and the next thing we know we've forgotten morning devotions, and then evening prayers. Then life gets real busy and events get scheduled on Sunday morning. Before we know it it's been a month and we haven't let the Lord into our lives once. Negativity filters into our thinking, it's easier to argue, and we have trouble sleeping.

Let's not short cut our Lord out with our busyness. Nothing else is as important as keeping the Lord in our lives. The sermon last Sunday says it all. The Lord is our shepherd. When we remember that, we shall not want.

PARENTS' PRAYER GROUP

The Parents' Prayer Group meets the first Monday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Lord Street house. All parents are welcome whether your child is 6 months or sixty!

A new format begins January 4th : prayer needs and prayers will be shared and offered from 6:30 - 7:30, followed by a half hour of fellowship/book discussion, for those who wish to stay. (The book we are reading is *The Power of a Praying Parent*. Copies are available.) Please join us!

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.

ROGER'S REFLECTIONS: Little Bo Peep Got It Wrong ***By Roger Rotvig***

The first stanza of this well-known nursery rhyme goes: "Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep and can't tell where to find them. Leave them alone, and they'll come home, wagging their tails behind them".

There are four more stanzas which hardly anyone admits to having heard, but they contain the beginnings of the truth that need to be learned by persons of every age and needs to be understood. The sheep didn't come home on their own. She had to go find them. When she found them and brought them home, they were not the same as the had been. Their tails were gone. She searched again and found their tails, but they could never be re-attached.

Some say that old nursery rhymes are coded messages by which people told the facts of the powerful or royalty misdeeds that they could not safely talk about. Bo Peep doesn't seem to fit this pattern. No one presumes to know what was behind that story.

So, I am going to be bold enough to say that it was probably a parental message to their children that there are severe consequences for one's not doing what one is supposed to do. No matter how hard you try to undue the mistake, it will never be as it should be.

That's not too bad for a story moral, is it? No hiding of bad historical events. Just a simple facing of "a fact of life" that we all must recognize.

But, Bo Peep was told the wrong message. Our Scriptures are full of references to us as being the sheep of the Lord and of Him being a Good Shepherd, good enough to forgive our most awful deeds. Things can be back as they should be.

We do not "come home" to the shepherd on our own, but "God calls us through the gospel, enlightens us with His Gifts and sanctifies and preserves us in the one true faith." (Luther's 3rd article of the Apostle's Creed) And, ultimately, the Good Shepherd lays down His life for His sheep. (John 10:11)

Bo Peep, and all who claim the name of Jesus: that's the true message of a shepherd and wayward sheep.

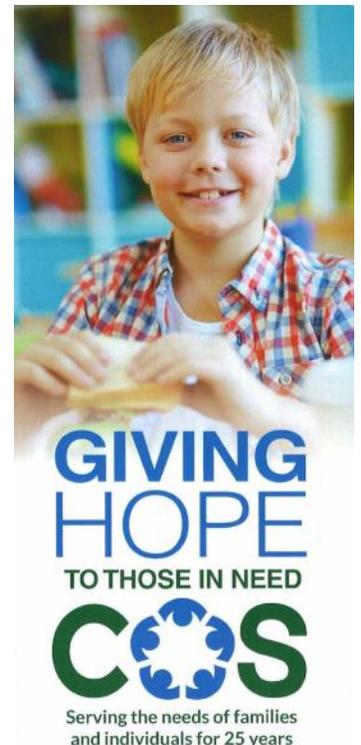
COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICES, INC.

Community Outreach Services, Inc. (COS) has two events this month to learn first hand about Holy Cross Lutheran Church's partnership with a dynamic, evolving organization directly serving emergency requests for food, home heating assistance and other specific needs of Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and Arundel. Neighbors who may otherwise "fall through the cracks" of shrinking government resources and **HOW YOU CAN HELP**. Whether it's making sandwiches one weekday this summer to feed a child lunch, being a Board of Directors advisor representing our Holy Cross congregation at a meeting 10x/year or continuing generous monetary and food donations; your participation, interest and prayers are welcome! Thank you!

-- "*May Day Festival*" *Saturday, May 7*, 8am – 3 pm: COS will staff an information booth located on Kennebunk Free Library's lawn and offer locally donated driftwood art for sale to raise money for COS programs.

-- "*Annual COS Volunteer Luncheon*" *Thursday, May 12* at Noon: St. Martha's Parish hall, Kennebunk, come for lunch, leave with knowledge how Christians across town partner together bringing hope and God's love to individuals and families.

For more information, speak with Holy Cross representatives Henry Perkins, in his eighteenth year of service and COS Food Pantry statistician, or Patti Berg Anderson, in her fifth year as Board member and Monday Food Pantry phone dispatcher, or visit www.coskennebunks.org or call (207) 604-0445.



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, EVERY SUNDAY, EVERY DAY

My favorite season in the year is Spring-Summer-Fall-Winter! Right, every season has something to be grateful for and to love. Now it's spring. Newness of life is coming out all around us. Flowers, birds, and leaves on the trees and warm(er) breezes. Certainly it's time to get the grill out (if you haven't tried grilling in the winter, try it, it works fine) and the smell of mowed grass!! Oh, and the fishing season! Summer, yes local crops in the store, and some right from your own garden. Warm breezes and walking the beach! Yes. In the autumn, the fall, the color change, fresh tomatoes from the garden, and apples fresh with clear blue skies while looking at the mountains. Winter, ok, time for deep breaths with the cold nights and snow at Christmas and that makes the shorter days all worthwhile.

Recently I had written that "nothing is as constant as change". Change is good. It keeps us on our toes, ready for anything. But I also said that the "more things change, the more they stay the same". We see change but we also see cycles in change that repeat over time. Some are long cycles, such as climate change (once we did have palm trees and dinosaurs in Northern Canada), or shorter cycles (economic and market cycles) or cycles in our faith and beliefs, as health or personal tragedy or presence of difficulty confront us. But, as in all cycles, we know the difficult periods are temporary. And what a joy it is when our faith pulls us out of those darker periods. So, when I say my favorite season is all the seasons, I know the change can come, pulled up by a strong faith for good.

Each year, here at Holy Cross Evangelical Lutheran Church, we run through cycles too. Early every year we plan for the year with programs for the spirit, worship and study and community Stewardship events. We set budgets for our treasure resources and decide where those funds will go and for what good they will be used. We plan events to help raise those funds and in the fall we plan for how we, as a congregation, will fund these programs through our personal contributions. But, we do all this with a spirit of Stewardship to help our church, build our faith and especially help those who are in need. So the cycle of Stewardship is Every Sunday, Every Day.

Carl Graves

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.

SHARE THE BOUNTY

The next free bean supper will be on Saturday, May 7th 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!!



FRIENDSHIP LUNCH

The May luncheon will be held on Monday, May 9th at noon. All are welcome and if you'd like to volunteer and help us out, please contact Mary Keating.

The Friendship Lunch is always held the second Monday of every month.



GENERATING GENEROUS GIVING

3G: Generating Generous Giving is an event that will be happening on Saturday May 14th at First Lutheran Church in Portland, from 9 am to 3:30 pm. New England Synod Bishop James Hazelwood and Pastor Renee LiaBraaten will be leading the event, which will explore important aspects of Christian stewardship/generosity. Pastor Rich and several others from Holy Cross are planning to attend, and would love to have others join us. Please speak with Pastor Rich if you have questions or would like to be part of the group! A flyer is also posted on the white board in the Narthex (entryway), with the day's agenda.

USHERS NEEDED

Some Additional People to Serve as Ushers would be most appreciated, especially at the late (10:45 a.m.) service. Generally ushers serve for four to eight Sundays during the year, though if you can serve for any number of Sundays it would be appreciated. For more information, or to offer to serve and arrange to be trained, please contact the head usher, Tom Moyer -- trmoyerphd@roadrunner.com or 967-0777.

AUCTION FUNDRAISER

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to and participated in the auction and bake sale on Friday, April 9th, in support of the senior high youth work camp mission trip this summer! We raised a total of \$3,315!! The generosity of the Holy Cross community has provided the resources needed for the group of 5 youth and 3 adults to make the trip to Schenectady NY to help repair and paint the homes of people in need this summer!



JOKE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Jack Bates

Prayer Request

A nearsighted minister glanced at the note that Mrs. Edwards had sent to him by an usher.

The note read: "Phil Edwards having gone to sea, his wife desires the prayers of the congregation for his safety."

The minister failed to observe the punctuation, however, and surprised the congregation when he read aloud, "Phil Edwards, having gone to see his wife, desires the prayers of the congregation for his safety."



May 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship	2 10 am Morning Grp (LH) 6:30 pm Parents Prayer (LSH)	3 10 am Prayer Shawls at Krele home 7 pm Worship Cmte (LSH)	4 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs)	5 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30 pm Men's Grp (LSH)	6 6:30 pm Tim's music grp (LH)	7 4 pm Bean Supper (LH)
8 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship <i>Mother's Day</i>	9 10 am Morning Grp (LH) Noon Friendship Lunch (LH)	10 7 pm Congregational Council (LH)	11 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs)	12 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30 pm Men's Grp (LSH)	13 6:30 pm Tim's music grp (LH)	14 8:30 am Blueberry Festival workday (LH)
15 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship	16 10 am Morning Grp (LH)	17	18 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs)	19 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30 pm Men's Grp (LSH)	20 6:30 pm Tim's music grp (LH)	21
22 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship	23 10 am Morning Grp (LH)	24	25 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs)	26 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30 pm Men's Grp (LSH)	27 6:30 pm Tim's music grp (LH)	28 9am Evergreen (LH)
29 10 am Worship	30 10 am Morning Grp (LH)	31				



FAMILY & FRIENDS WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS:

Aliza
Amanda
Robert Arnold
Becky
Jessie Boria
Kenneth Bower
Trisha Bumby
Arlene Casey
Peter Chadborn
Melissa Costa
Robert Desjardins
Nancy England
Joan & Bob Westerman
Karen Fischer
Fred & Mary
Frank Gagne
Jerry Gostanian
Dottie Graves

Greer
Kaleigh Guay
Sean Hanson
Jim Harding
Liv Hauge
Joe & Laurel
Peter Judd
Jim Keating
Jayce Kierney
Gerry Lallier
Marissa Laskey
Liz
Margaret
Nina and Paul
David Nile
Jonathan Nile
Marion Noble
Jolene Navatta

Ed & Bertha Nollman
Pat Parnell
Howard Phillips
Richard
Mike Robb
Ken Roberts
Rylan
Margaret Schwally
Gwen Shibles
Richard Smith
Terry
Tom and Brenda
Mary Lou & Jack Reinholz
Elaine Simmons
Barbara Stratton
Tim
Barbara Warner
Landon Wilson

A prayer of thanksgiving for God’s healing power in the life of: Clint Maloy, Roy, Pastor Ken Hauge

We commend into God’s care the spirit of those who have died recently: Ellis Travis (Jenn Moyer’s father), Adam Ogden (friend of Mary Bates)

SERVING US IN MAY

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

8:15 am
Barbara Weldon-Morin
Sharon McGary

10:45 am
Chris Cherry
Vicky Cherry

ALTAR GUILD

TBA

USHERS

8:15 am 10:45 am
Ed Morin Richard & Sayoko Wrage (May 1 and 15), TBA (May 8 and 22)

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 Summer Crier is Sunday, May 22nd.*

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

THE CRIER

MAY 2016

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
2 Lord Street
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Reverend Richard A. Horner, Pastor

www.kennebunklutheran.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday, April 3rd, 10th, and 17th:

8:15 am Modern Lutheran Liturgy*

9:30 am Adult Forum

10:45 am Traditional Lutheran Liturgy*

Sunday, April 24th:

9:00 am Adult Forum

10:00 am Modern and Traditional Lutheran Liturgy*

11:00 am Pot Luck

*Holy Communion served at all services

Purpose Statement:

***Receive, trust, live,
share God's Word
with love and peace,
empowered by the
Holy Spirit!***



Guiding Principles:

***Pray always
Step out in courage
Listen to and empower others
Work together
Be humble and generous***