

THE CRIER

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY 2017



From the Pastor - Elsewhere in this Crier you will find an article from Cheryl Dearman Mills about Safe Families for Children, which includes the fact that we will have a speaker from Safe Families here at Holy Cross for the May 7th adult forum at 9:30 am in Luther Hall. I hope you will read Cheryl's Crier article closely, and I hope you will prayerfully consider taking part in the forum as well. I myself attended a Safe Families "church engagement" presentation recently, which was led by the same person who will be at Holy Cross on May 7th, Kathy Hegarty, and have chosen to share additional information on this same topic here in my pastor's article.

One of the things that stands out for me with the Safe Families approach, is the focus on prevention. The goal is to prevent children from having to enter into a state sponsored foster care system. According to one study (conducted in Illinois) children who spend more than six months in the foster care system have a less than 20% chance of returning home. Safe Families has provided care for over 28,000 children since it was founded in 2003 and more than 95% of those children have been kept out of state care to live, instead, with parents or relatives. This is not to say state foster care is a bad thing, because it is often necessary and helpful to keep kids safe. But for children to be returned to their family is the ideal, and Safe Families has a wonderful track record of helping to achieve that important goal.

Something else that stands out for me is the "team approach" employed by Safe Families. A significant degree of the caretaking that happens through this ministry is provided by the "host family." That is, the individual, couple, or family unit with whom a child or children stay on a day-to-day basis during the time it takes for their own family situation to stabilize. (The **average** length of stay before such stabilization occurs and children return home is 31 days, although any given placement could range from a few days to perhaps many months.) And yet the host family doesn't shoulder **all** of the responsibility. The host family is, instead, surrounded by a whole team of people who provide support for both the host family and for the child or children for whom the host family is caring. To me this aspect is very exciting in terms of how a congregation can be involved: some may be in a position to serve as host family, while others for whom that is not possible can serve as "secondary host family" or "family coach" or "family friend" or "family resource person." There are many different opportunities for people to serve, drawing on the particular gifts people have to give.

A third aspect of this ministry that I find so positive, is that everyone who is involved is likely to grow and benefit from it – not just the family who is being "helped." Obviously the child or children and their parent(s) are of primary importance. Providing a safe place for children while parents do whatever is necessary to create stability, is of the highest priority. But it's also common for members of a congregation to experience how meaningful it is in their own personal and spiritual lives, to enter into relationship with these children and their families. To such a degree, perhaps, that the relationship continues even after the child or children have returned home. Relationships are also established and grow deeper between fellow members of the congregation, as they spend time together providing love and support through the Safe Families ministry.

There is much more to share about how Safe Families for Children operates, and about how Holy Cross might be able to participate. So again, I hope you will make it a point to attend the forum on May 7th. In the meantime you can also go to the Safe Families website for more information: www.safe-families.org

I will close with a few words about what all of the above is founded upon: the biblical concept of hospitality. Not just caring for those whom we know, those with whom we are already in relationship -- such as friends, family members, and fellow church members. But hospitality in a more radical sense – that is, love and care given even to people we don't know, people who are strangers to us. As comes through so powerfully in Luke 10:25-37, with the story of a Samaritan who stopped to bind up the wounds of a stranger he found beaten and bloodied by the side of the road –

Continued on Page 2

going so far as to put the man on his donkey, and take him to an inn to recuperate. As also comes through so powerfully in the life and ministry of Jesus himself, who repeatedly ministered to unnamed people – strangers - who approached him and asked for his help.

Safe Families is a ministry of radical hospitality, of coming alongside strangers. As a result, God uses us to meet the needs of children and their parents, helping to keep families together. At the same time, people who started out as strangers enter into relationship with one another, and from that, too, God can bring about much in the way of personal and spiritual growth.

Yours in (the family of) Christ,
Pastor Rich

MESSAGE FROM A COUNCIL MEMBER **by Barney Rich**

Greetings to my brothers and sisters in Christ our Lord.

As a new member of our church council, and I usually attend the first service, I would like to take this opportunity to let you know a little bit about myself.

I was born and raised in San Bernadino, CA. After graduating from high school I enlisted in the United States Air Force. I spent four years in Grand Forks, ND then on to Pease AFB in NH. Here is where I met and married my wife Debora. Six months later we were off to Dyess AFB in Texas. Our sons Corey and Codey were born there. I retired in 1994 and we moved back to Wells where we started our new life outside of the military. For the past eleven years I have managed Mike's Fishmarket in Wells, a job I really enjoy.

Deb and I have been members of Holy Cross for seventeen years. We have worked with the youth, the LOGOS dinners for the youth and other dinners when needed. I look forward to the next year and the challenges we face here at Holy Cross. I ask for your prayers for the counsel and myself as we do God's work here at Holy Cross. See you all on Sunday!

MISSION TRIP BRUNCH

On Sunday June 4th the senior high youth who are attending the work camp mission trip will be serving brunch as a fund raiser for the work they will be doing in July when they travel to Woonsocket Rhode Island, to paint and do light carpentry repairs on the homes of people in need. By June we will have started the summer schedule, so there will be a single service at 9:30 am, with the brunch following immediately after worship. Please mark the date on your calendar! There will also be a surprise of sorts in terms of entertainment that day, so don't miss out on a fun time, in support of a very worthy cause!



SAFE FAMILIES

Adult Forum May 7th - Join Safe Families staffer Kathy Hegarty and Holy Cross member Cheryl Dearman Mills as they share the work of Safe Families in Maine. Founded in 2003, Safe Families is now an international faith-based non-profit volunteer movement that gives hope and support to families in crisis. Safe Families hosts vulnerable children and creates extended-family-like supports for desperate families through a community of devoted volunteers who are motivated by faith to keep children safe and to reunite families. Learn how you and Holy Cross can participate in this movement providing biblical hospitality. Cheryl has been approved as a Host Family and will be building a support team of Family and Resource Friends. Here is a link for more information: <http://safe-families.org/openyourheart/>

OUR NEIGHBORS ARE BACK *by Donna Simmons*

The snow is finally gone. Spring came late but my flower beds are blooming. Mr. and Mrs. Cowbird have been hanging out in our door yard. They were thrilled with the bird feeder but had a heated discussion on a branch of one of our oak trees. He was feeling romantic but she wanted to feather her nest first.

Mr. and Mrs. Flycatcher were having a similar conversation on the little shelf where they've nested every year. He was into building their summer home. She wanted to decorate it. Every now and then she would perch in the middle of the construction zone planning out the space and the comfort factor.

Mr. Mourning Dove was into romance. The sweet young thing he was chasing had developed a headache or maybe he just wasn't her type.

The robins showed up in a large flock a week too soon. I wonder whose plan that was. By the time the ground thawed and the worms woke up, the robins had flown away.

This got me thinking about the similarities between our feathered friends and us. We all have hopes and dreams about who we want to live with and where we want to live. Some of us build or buy a home; some of us rent a place. We plan the space and how we will furnish and decorate it. If we have a partner, spouse, or friend who will share these plans and decisions, we learn to listen and to compromise.

Those listening and compromise skills don't end when we move in together. They continue throughout our lives even with our friends and families outside our homes. Our Lord taught us to love one another and to share our ups and downs with forgiveness and compromise, peace and joy. I hope I remember that when I get grumpy again and fail to listen to the needs of others.

PORTLAND SEA DOGS DAY

A group from Holy Cross will be going to Hadlock Field in Portland to enjoy an afternoon at the ball park! We currently have a block of 50 tickets reserved for the 1:00 pm game on Sunday June 11th. We reserved that many on the basis of how many people signed up on a preliminary basis, which totaled 28 "pretty sures" and an additional 10 "maybes." That was a great response for so far ahead of time! Now we need to move toward finalizing those numbers. A new sign up sheet has been posted in the Narthex that is now just for "yes we are definitely going" purposes! Hopefully all, or at least most, of the "pretty sures" will again sign up, as well as having some of the "maybes" included. And of course we would love to have people who didn't sign up previously at all, add their names too. The tickets are \$8 each, for reserved seating, all together in the same section of the park. Another special part of the experience is that choir members and musicians from Holy Cross will be leading the crowd in singing the National Anthem at the beginning of the game, and in singing God Bless America during the 7th inning stretch. Please sign up on the sheet posted in the Narthex, and feel free to invite a friend! (You can also call (985-4803) or email (pastor@kennebunklutheran.org) to have your name added to the list.) **Please note: sign up deadline is May 21st.**



THE HOLY CROSS CHOIR

ROGER'S REFLECTIONS: Two Versions of the Creation of Man ***By Roger Rotvig***

It should come as no shock to you by now to realize that there are two version of creation in the first three chapters of Genesis. Chapter 1 through 2:3 are generally thought of as the Priestly version with its almost liturgical sound after each day of creation: And God said, "let us and God saw that it was good...and there was evening and morning, the 1st... 2nd ...3rd... 4th.... 5th... 6th day".

The events of the 6th day, in Gen. 1:26-28 are what we want to focus upon. They begin: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over... (everything)." Then the next sentence in verse 27 reads: "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them". Notice that man has become a plural word akin to what we might call humankind. Male and female are parts of God's "humankind".

This "first" version of creation recorded in Genesis ends at chapter 2:3, which reads: "So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it ... God rested from all his work which He had done in creation."

The second version of creation begins at Gen. 2:4. Creation is condensed and in verse 7, God creates man out of the dust of the earth and creates a garden, Eden, for man to occupy. Believing that "it is not good that man should be alone, God decided to make "a helper fit for him". God tried to fill this need by sending him "every beast of the field and every bird of the air". When none of them supplied man's needs, God caused a deep sleep to come upon Adam and removed a rib from him out of which He formed woman and made her Adam's companion.

The difference between these accounts is immense. In the first, God creates man in two forms, male and female. In the second account, God takes the lonely man, apparently male, and creates out of him a companion, woman, (out of man).

I wonder what the plight of females throughout history would have been like if the first story of creation had been emphasized, equal to males in God's creation as opposed to the second story of having been created out of the male man, and thus always a little "lower".

LAND OF LAKES CHOIRBOYS



On Thursday, June 22, 2017, at 7:30 pm the Land of Lakes Choirboys will be performing a concert at Holy Cross. This is part of a tour the group will be on, and we are very happy to be one of the sites where they will be singing. Please mark the date on your calendar and plan to attend! We already have most of the host families that are needed, but could still use two or three more. Each host family houses two of the boys for the nights of June 22nd and 23rd, provides their two boys with breakfast in the morning and a bag lunch for the day, and provides transportation for their boys to and from the church each evening and each morning after breakfast.

If you would be able to serve as a host family, or if you would like more information about the possibility of doing so, would you please contact Pastor Rich at your earliest convenience? Thanks!

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, EVERY SUNDAY, EVERY DAY

Over the years I have found that I have lived my life mostly by discovering opportunities. We start out early, as kids, finding that we all encounter opportunities. It is defined as a combination of circumstances favorable for a purpose. Also, it is a good chance or occasion to advance oneself. Those encountered opportunities, when they are taken, build a direction in our lives. We get educated, we meet people who help us, or love us or show us direction. When we take all the opportunities we can we tend to have pretty successful, happy and prosperous lives: "Catching the brass ring" so to speak.

I have to admit that most of the opportunities I have encountered in my life I have taken. I feel very lucky that I have taken most of them and they have turned out to be the right opportunities to take. Aside from family, that is a given, I have met people who advised me, taught me, and inspired me.

In this latter encounter, I count Holy Cross Lutheran Church and its people an opportunity. And this brings me to the point of this article: STEWARDSHIP! I have found that an opportunity given in church is understanding Stewardship. I have found that in the beginnings of American Stewardship, late 1800's- early 1900's, it was a law in the church that tithes supported the Church. Later in the mid 1900's time and talent joined the definition of Stewardship, and now it goes well past the local church; it is global. Now the definition of Stewardship includes a lifestyle of working for the environment, for justice and for peace that is well past just working for the church.

Just as we have lived through the Easter Season and learned Christian Stewardship is based in God's gift of Jesus Christ to us, we can create the opportunity to give to others this gift, by sharing it with others. Stewardship has to do with every aspect of living out personal faith through lifestyle, gifts, finances and acceptance of spirituality in our lives. In other words, taking the opportunity we have been given and making it work in our lives and in the lives of others. *Carl Graves*

TAG SALE

The date is Saturday May 20th! And we are looking forward to receiving your generous donations! (though please note we cannot take large electronics or upholstered furniture).

Here is the schedule for dropping off items during the week leading up to the yard sale: Monday the 15th: 1-3 pm; Tuesday and Wednesday the 16th and 17th: 9 am to noon; Thursday the 18th: 9 am to noon and 6-8 pm; Friday the 19th: noon to 8 pm.

Dropping off earlier in the week is appreciated (!) as that gives more time to do the pricing. If it happens that you will be away for this particular week and need to discuss a time to drop off items earlier please contact Barbara Horner. People to help set up, run, and clean up after the yard sales are also needed. Thanks to those who have already signed up on the sheet posted on the white board at church, and any others who can add their name would be most appreciated!

LISTEN UP!

Did you hear the sermon last Sunday? Was your mind wandering and then you heard everyone laughing but missed the joke? Did you miss church because you couldn't make it? Are you unable to attend church and miss hearing Pastor Rich's wonderful sermons?

Well, don't despair because the sermon is available on-line each week! Henry Perkins records the sermon and, after working his magic, uploads it to the church website. They are listed with the most recent sermon first and go back for six months. You can listen to it here: <http://www.kennebunklutheran.org/worship-with-us/link-to-sermon/>

Many thanks to Henry for this wonderful service he provides. He does a great job making sure the sound system runs smoothly and is diligent in recording it all for posterity. His hard work is very much appreciated!



SUMMER SCHEDULE

LOOKING AHEAD – THE LAST SUNDAY IN MAY (I.E. THE 28TH) IS WHEN OUR SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE WILL BEGIN, WITH A SINGLE SERVICE EVERY WEEK, AT 9:30 A.M. THIS SCHEDULE WILL RUN THROUGH THE FIRST SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER.

SPRING CLEAN UP!

It's that time of year again! The trustees invite everyone to lend a hand in sprucing up our buildings and grounds. The date is set for Saturday, May 6th from 9:00 to Noon. Please join in for a little time or the whole morning enjoying some fellowship and helping get some much needed tasks done.



BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL CRAFT DAY

The next craft day is scheduled for May 13th. 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!

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!

SHARE THE BOUNTY

The kitchen renovations are continuing therefore the May Bean Supper will also be canceled. We are hopeful we will be serving the June Bean Supper on June 3rd! Please keep this project in your prayers!

FRIENDSHIP LUNCH

The Friendship Lunch for May will also be canceled. We are hoping to resume again on Monday, June 12th!

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Jack Bates

A Wordy Accident

Did you hear about the delivery van loaded with thesauruses that crashed into a bus?

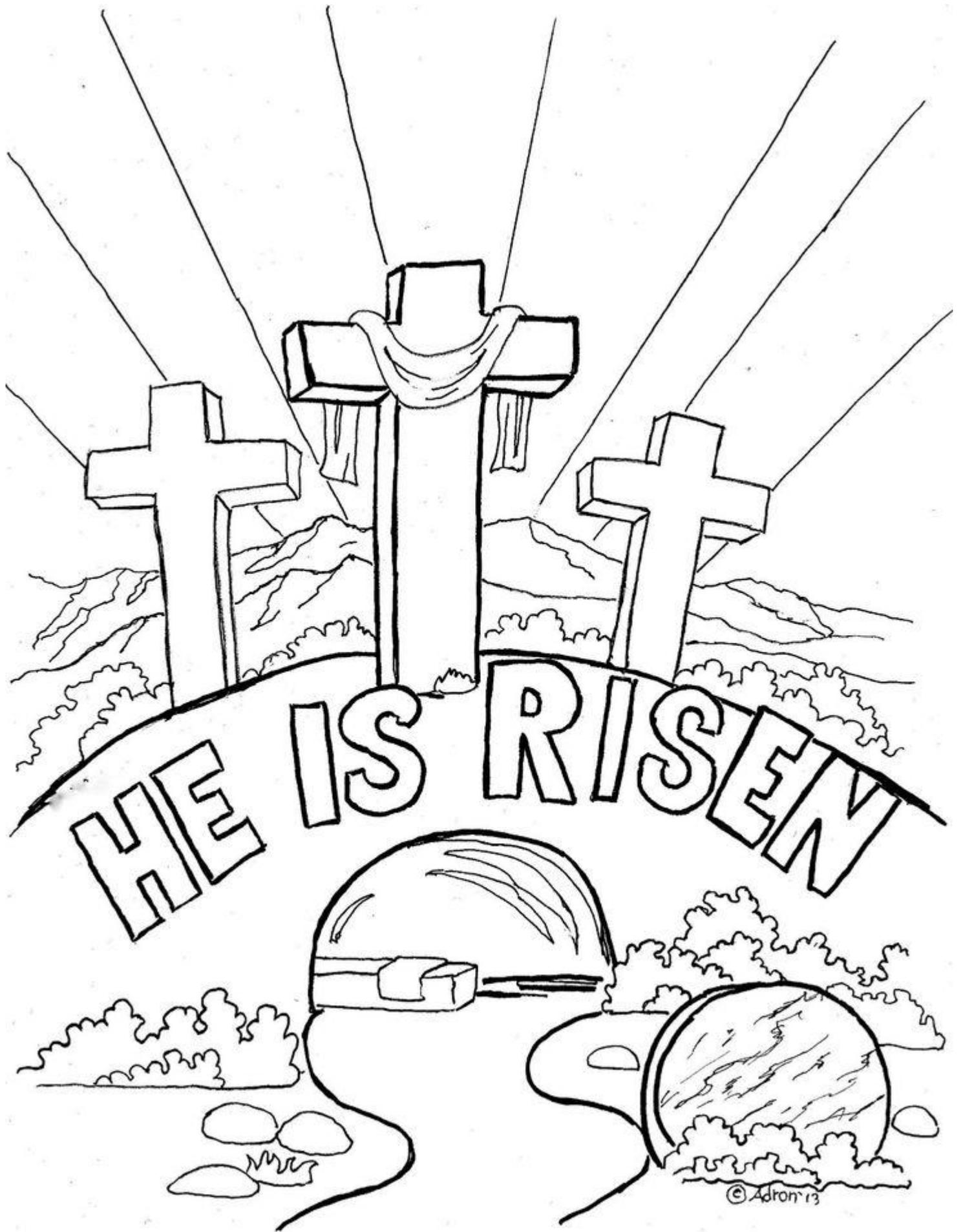
Witnesses were shocked, astounded, surprised, taken aback, dumfounded, thunderstruck, startled, caught unaware...

It is pleasing to God whenever you rejoice or laugh from the bottom of your heart. by Martin Luther.



May 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	5	6 9 am Seaglass
7 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship	8 4:30 pm Parents Prayer Grp (LSH)	9 7 pm Worship Cmte (LSH)	10 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs)	11 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30 pm Men's Grp (LH)	12	13 8:00 am Blueberry Festival Craft Day 9 am Seaglass
14 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship	15	16 7 pm Congregational Council (LH)	17 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs)	18 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30 pm Men's Grp (LH)	19	20 YARD SALE!
21 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship	22	23	24 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs)	25 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	26	27 9:00 am Evergreen Quilters 9:00 am Seaglass 3:00 pm Anna Youngman Wedding
28 10:00 Worship	29	30	31 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs)			



FAMILY & FRIENDS WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS:



Jim Keating
Matthew
Lauren
Michael Griffin
Dean Smith
Jolene
Barb Warner
Jan Conway
Lisa
Trey and Gianna
Daniel and Gordon
Devon
Lori Gagnon
Alice Lailer
Bill Kenney

We commend into God’s care the spirit of those who have died recently: John Darling (Arlene Casey’s brother)

SERVING US IN MAY

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

May 7, 14, 21

8:15 am

Barbara Weldon Morin

Sharon McGary (5/7, 5/14), Mary Bates (5/21)

10:45 am

Frank Stetson

Dot Bois

ALTAR GUILD

TBA

May 28 – 10:00 am

Frank Stetson

Dot Bois & Mary Bates (if needed)

USHERS

8:15 am

Ed Morin

10:45 am

Simon Hamalainen

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 Summer Crier is Sunday, May 21st.*

The next Crier will be the Summer Crier covering June and July!

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

THE CRIER

MAY 2017

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
2 Lord Street
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Reverend Richard A. Horner, Pastor

www.kennebunklutheran.org

Worship Schedule

May 7, 14, 21:

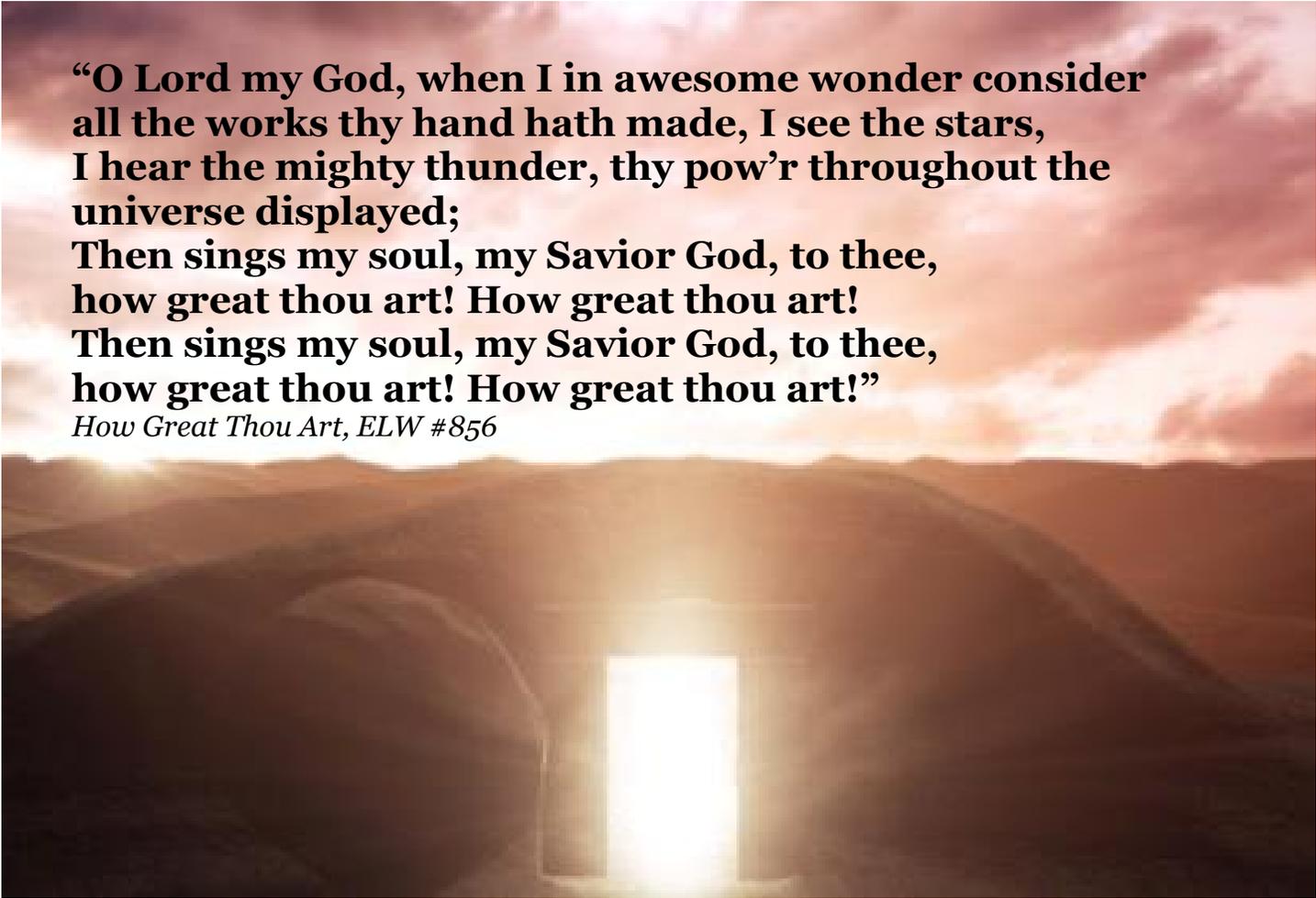
8:15 am: Modern Lutheran Liturgy*

10:45 am: Traditional Lutheran Liturgy*

May 28:

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

*Holy Communion served at all services



**“O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder consider
all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars,
I hear the mighty thunder, thy pow’r throughout the
universe displayed;
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!”**

How Great Thou Art, ELW #856