

THE CRIER

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2016



From the Pastor -

“Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 5:19-20)

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.” (Philippians 4:6)

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Colossians 4:17)

“Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

I could go on. The above represent just a small sample from Scripture of passages that have to do with thanksgiving. Passages that specifically call upon Christians to give thanks frequently, persistently, no matter what is happening in one’s own life, or in the world around you.

As followers of Jesus we are called to give thanks when things are going well, when we are experiencing particular blessings, when the circumstances of our lives are pleasant, joy-filled, lacking in trials and tribulations. Which makes sense, right? If you have all those positive things going on, you have good reason to give thanks. Which is true. But its also true that when things are going well we can end up taking it for granted and/or losing sight of the One to whom we owe our gratitude for the blessings we enjoy. So passages like the ones I’ve quoted are a good reminder of our need not to stray from God when things are going smoothly, but to instead stay strong in our faith by sincerely giving thanks to our Father in heaven from each day to the next – and often from each moment to the next!

As followers of Jesus we are also called to give thanks when things aren’t going so well, when we are worried or afraid, struggling or uncertain, when the circumstances of our lives are far from ideal. To which our initial reaction might be, “Are you kidding?” Which would be a very natural, human reaction. How can we be thankful for such things? Well, to some degree we can be thankful for challenges in our life because they can be occasions for spiritual growth. Such times can lead us to a fuller, deeper dependence upon God, as we turn to God for guidance, strength, empowerment, and hope.

But it’s also true that thanksgiving isn’t necessarily for the difficulties we are experiencing, but rather for God’s presence and power in the midst of those difficulties. This goes to the heart of why and how Christians can truly give thanks in all circumstances. Because in all circumstances, no matter what is going on in our own life or in the world around us, we are joined to Christ in our baptism, we are the recipients of God’s steadfast love, we have confidence that God is ultimately in control. And all of that is good reason for giving thanks! Today, tomorrow, every day!

What can you give thanks for when it comes to particular blessings in your life? What is happening right now that is joyful and pleasant, to be celebrated and rejoiced over? Think about it, pray about, praise God for those things that are going well and are positive aspects of your life.

What difficulties or challenges are you experiencing? What are you worried about, afraid of, concerned over? Pray about those things too, also with a spirit of thanksgiving. Give thanks that God is there for you and with you – always.

Continued on Page 2

Give thanks that God provides you with strength and wisdom – always. Give thanks that with God by your side you can live in hope, trusting that God will bring you safely through.

“In every situation”... “in all circumstances” ... “give thanks” ... “for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

Thankfully in Christ,
Pastor Rich

MESSAGE FROM A COUNCIL MEMBER **by Valerie Reid**

Dog Psalms is the name of a book my brother gave me just this week. It was written by a man named Herbert Brokering who was an author, poet, playwright, hymn writer, and Lutheran pastor. He died in 2009 of congestive heart failure at his home in Bloomington, Minnesota, at the age of 83.

He introduces his *Dog Psalms* by saying that dogs have taught him to pray. “Dogs have shown me the spirit of being loyal, glad, overwhelmed, protective, committed, vigilant, patient, kind, energetic, discerning, forgiving. Unfolding these attributes of dog life opens my own spiritual being. My relationship with dogs mirrors my relationship with God.” He writes, “like a dog, I, too, watch and wait.”

The title on the first page is Trust, and begins: “I am a dog. I am loyal.” The prayer for this page is –

“Dear God, You have given me your trust. Loyalty is in me. I am yours as you are mine. In a storm, I lean on you and you hold me. You are my anchor; in doubt you are my hope. There is no clear line between us to keep us apart. You surround me and are inside me. You are above and below and beside me. Your faithfulness gives me faith.”

The book *Dog Psalms* was a perfect gift for me and very well could be for you and many on your Christmas list. Look into it, and while you're at it, look up Herbert Brokering. He was a gift to our world and a man to remember.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS NEEDED

There is a wonderful and fulfilling way for people to help during worship each week. It involves reading, praying and helping to serve communion. There is a nice white robe to wear provided by the church which includes a nifty rope belt and a wooden cross to wear around your neck. This is a fulfilling position as it gives one an opportunity to help others worship and praise God while also leading them in prayers. What is this position? Worship Assistant!! We could use a few more people to add to the ranks and training will be provided. You don't want to read in front of the congregation? Well, you can be a Second Worship Assistant and just assist with communion. For more information, please see Sharon McGary or Pastor Rich. Please give this a try! It will enhance your church life and bring joy to other people.



On Saturday November 19th (rain date November 26th) from 9am to noon we will be gathering to ready our buildings and grounds for the winter season. This is a time to not only get these much needed chores done but to also enjoy some fellowship, fresh air and refreshments. Please mark your calendars and join the trustees for some or all of the morning! As it is said "many hands make light work" and your help will be greatly appreciated!

A SYMBOL OF GOD'S LOVE

by Donna Simmons

While walking through my autumn forest with sunlight filtering through the trees, I enjoy the leaves turning yellow, red, and orange giving a kaleidoscope of brilliance mixed with yellow needles cascading down from 80-foot pines that mark the path I walk.

A snow storm affect, only in autumn, highlights my path like the yellow brick road. One might think I was off to see the wizard. But, this is not the wonderful wizard of Oz.

This is God's world, His forest, a patchwork quilt of autumn color, the end of a cycle of rebirth, renewal, new seed, and the glory of reproduction. It is the ending of a life cycle, dormancy, regrouping, and waiting for spring to start again.

Leo Buscaglia wrote a book, *The Fall of Freddie the Leaf*, to explain death to children. As a children's librarian I acquired the book and thought it a wonderful analogy of life, death, and rebirth. When the autumn leaves fall I see the hope of Freddie the Leaf in each one.

For me this is a symbol of God's love as in the birth of hope, the growth of love, and the gift of grace. It is the anticipation of rebirth and the gift of peace. It is the ending of one year and the anticipation of another.

As the leaves drop in glorious color, remember God's gift of hope and the rebirth to come.

ELECTION DAY PRAYERS

An Election Day Prayer Meeting will be held in the sanctuary here at Holy Cross at 10 am on November 8th. This is an outgrowth of a meeting held recently amongst a small group of people who responded to the invitation Pastor Horner extended in his September Crier article. The group spent some time in conversation about what is happening currently in American politics, without entering into any rancor or divisiveness. While being honest about one's own thoughts/feelings/opinions the primary emphasis was upon listening to each other with care and respect. At the end of the meeting the group decided to meet again, and invite others to join in, for a time of prayer. Together we will lift up our country and the election process, again doing so in a spirit of mutual respect. The meeting will be brief – 15-20 minutes – and all are invited to attend!

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. There are seven tickets available, so sign up quickly if you'd like to go! Please see Mary Keating with any questions.

ROGER'S REFLECTIONS: Science Helps Build My Faith

By Roger Rotvig

Psalm 8 opens our eyes to a proper understanding of man, the earth and the universe. Verse 3 gives us a beginning point: "When I look up at thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars set in their places by thee, what is man that thou art mind-full of him." In a few words, we are invited to see God as creator of our sun, moon and earth as well as other galaxies with their suns (stars).

To put our earth, sun and moon into a context that can help us understand its size and distance, think of the earth as being about the size of a rather large grape. Now think of the moon, an inch away and about the size of a pea. Finally, think of our sun as an oversized beach ball with a diameter of about six feet and about a city block away from earth. The next nearest star (galaxy) will be 25,000 miles away. Man, on this scale, is only the size of an atom.



As we have sent telescopes out into space where they can send back information on our galaxy and others, earth is described as the "blue planet". This is in reference to the vast amount of water that covers the face of our planet. Some seem to get excited about a discovery of another planet in some galaxy that "may have the potential for a trace of water". How can that ever be compared with our "blue water" planet? The sun's heat, water and vegetation are responsible for the oxygen needed for animal and human development.

Water is only one of the factors that make our planet survivable. Our moon is just the right size and distance from earth to have its gravitational pull produce rising and lowering tides. Such tides have little but romantic influence on man, but they are completely necessary for the continued richness of life on our shorelines.

The size of earth and its resulting gravity is just right to keep nitrogen and oxygen where we need it and to allow harmful gasses, such as hydrogen and helium to escape into the upper atmosphere. If the size of earth and its gravity was just a bit less or a bit more, this important balance that sustains life would not exist.

Our earth's spin time around the sun, and its slightly off center rotation allow for the near 24 hours of day and night that we need for heat, coolness, and the changing of seasons over what we now call a year.

Given the unique manner in which in which our universe is held together with just the right influence on earth to allow life to develop and be sustained, I am driven to believe that it did not come into this delicate balance by random chance, but was intended by some "First Cause" that we have been led to call God.

While I reject the thought of six 24-hour days of such a creation, there certainly were several such stages that had to come together to allow the creation and sustainment of the living beings that we are. I believe that to be the handiwork of what I am willing to call the self-revealing "God" of Genesis.

BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL CRAFT DAY

On Saturday, November 19th, there will be a craft day from 8:30 until 12:30 in order to make items to sell at next years Blueberry Festival. There are jobs for everyone, whether you are an experienced sewer or not. Please come join in the fun!



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, EVERY SUNDAY, EVERY DAY



Carl & Dottie Graves' backyard

The season of Fall has always been to me the last reminder of what the year has brought us. After the Winter, the Spring has its profusion of newness and beginnings of color. Then Summer is the full bloom of the year. It is when the crops are growing, the air is light and warm and we begin to enjoy the early harvest of crops and the color of nature. But the fall is when we can enjoy and be thankful for the final harvest, the coolness of air and, of course, in our neck of the woods, the trees in their last final splendor before winter.

Perhaps that is why we can all give Thanks to what God has given us throughout the whole year. We can look forward to the Holiday of Thanksgiving when we enjoy the bounty of the harvest. Thanksgiving, to me, has been one of my favorite Holidays because it has almost always been a family time. From when I was just a kid, the Thanksgiving dinner usually was with my Grandparents. I can even remember (can you?) when we had TWO Thanksgivings. For some reason, I think

in the 1930's, the President ordered an extra Holiday. I don't remember why, but I remember having Thanksgiving Dinner twice, one at each Grandparents house. Turkey dinner twice!! All the trimmings, twice. Giving thanks twice!!

Now Thanksgiving for me begins the thoughts of not only that Holiday, but the Holy days of Advent and Christmas. Giving thanks for all our blessings over the entire year, our life, our families, and our bounty that we can enjoy and that we have these comforts in our life. But we can also try to extend those blessings to others, who are not as blessed as we are, through our charity of gifts of time, talent and treasure. Being aware that God wants us to extend those blessings, wherever we can, wherever they are needed in our time of abundance, makes us truly God's Stewards.

When Thanksgiving first was celebrated in our country, the principle of sharing was at the basis for the Holiday. The Puritans shared their harvest with the Indians who had taught them much of what they needed to know to live here. The picture of sharing is the portrait we see so often depicting Thanksgiving. And now as we move closer to the Holy days of the year, and we are keeping the theme of Stewardship and Thanksgiving in our hearts and minds, we can celebrate our faith in God to the fullest.

Carl Graves

HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS

As we approach the 2016 holiday season, 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 in the Thanksgiving and Christmas programs. Your support of this community tradition will give comfort and happiness to many of our neighbors throughout the holidays. 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 for Thanksgiving are due the Sunday before Thanksgiving.



Monetary donations 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.

REFORMATION SUNDAY

There will be a single service at 10 am, followed by a potluck lunch. You are invited to wear **red**, the color of the day. Even if you haven't signed up for the potluck, please come, eat and join in the festivities!

This Reformation marks the beginning of a year long celebration around the world of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, which was sparked by Martin Luther posting his 95 theses on the church door in Wittenberg in 1517. Ecumenical events will take place throughout the year, including a prayer service in Lund Cathedral in Sweden, on October 31, 2016. The prayer service will be led by Pope Francis, Lutheran World Federation (LWF), President Bishop Munib Younan and LWF General Secretary Rev. Martin Junge, based on a shared liturgical guide and the joint report entitled, 'From Conflict to Communion'. For more information you can visit www.lund2016.net.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

All Saints Sunday is November 6th. In addition to lighting candles in memory of all our loved ones who have gone before us into life eternal, we will also be creating a powerpoint presentation in the form we used for the first time last year. This will be a powerpoint of "saints" who have died in the past year, along with pictures of new "saints" – i.e. children who have been born or adopted over the course of the last year. If you have family members or close friends who have died or who have had or adopted a child since November 1st of 2015 and would like to have their picture displayed in the All Saints powerpoint this year, please submit it to Julie Clapp in JPEG format at juliane@julianemarie.com. If you don't have a computer or a way to scan a photo, you can deliver the picture itself to the church office (any such photo will be returned). For all photo submissions, please put the name of the person (or persons) in the photo, what their relationship is to you, and your name, along with the date they died or the date they were born and/or adopted. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Clapp at 459-4768 or at her e-mail listed above. The deadline to send in pictures is Sunday, October 30th. Thank you!

THANKSGIVING ECUMENICAL SERVICE

An Ecumenical Thanksgiving service will be hosted at the Church on the Cape this year, at 7:00 pm on Tuesday, November 22. Everyone is invited to attend!

ADULT FORUM

"Together by Grace: Introducing the Lutherans" is the book we are studying during the adult forum hour on Sundays. This study is meaningful for life long Lutherans, brand new Lutherans, and everyone in between! Books are available on the welcome table in the Narthex (if you can help defray the \$12 cost great, if not that's fine too.) Please note that the adult forum schedule is as follows: Oct. 30th @ 9:00 am, Nov. 6th @ 9:30 am, Nov. 13th @ 9:30 am.

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.

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!

SHARE THE BOUNTY

The next free bean supper will be on Saturday, November 5th 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!!



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.

FRIENDSHIP LUNCH

November's luncheon will be held on Monday, November 14th at noon. Everyone is welcome to join whether you're volunteering to help with the meal or to eat! If you have any questions, please contact Mary Keating.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Jack Bates

A Smile and A Poem

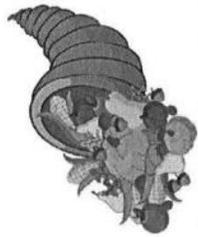
An ad for one church has a picture of two hands holding stone tablets on which the Ten Commandments are inscribed and a headline that reads, "For fast, fast relief, take two tablets".

Give Lavishly! Live Abundantly!

The more you give, the more you get
The more you laugh, the less you fret.
The more you do unselfishly,
The more you live abundantly....

The more of everything you share,
The more you'll always have to spare,
The more you love, the more you'll find,
That life is good, and friends are kind....

For only what we give away,
Enriches us from day to day.



November 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7 pm Worship Cmte (LSH)	2 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	3 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	4	5 4 pm Bean Supper (LH)
6 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 6 Sea Glass	7 4:30 pm Parents Prayer Grp (LSH)	8 9:30 am Prayer Shawls at Eglinton home 7 pm Congregational Council (LH)	9 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	10 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30 pm Men's Grp (LH)	11 7:00 am COS Produce Pantry (LH)	12
13 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 6 Sea Glass	14 Noon Friendship Lunch (LH)	15	16 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	17 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 5:30 Harvest Cafe 6:30 pm Men's Grp (LH)	18	19 8:30 am Craft Day 9:00 am Fall Cleanup
20 <i>Holiday Food Basket Items Due</i> 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 6 Sea Glass	21	22 7:00 pm Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at the Church on the Cape	23 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	24 Thanksgiving Day!	25	26 9 am Evergreen Quilters (LH)
27 10:00 Worship 6 Sea Glass	28	29	30 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)			



FAMILY & FRIENDS WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS:

Aliza
Patti-Berg
Amanda
Robert Arnold
Becky
Rolf Bandle
Jessie Boria
Kenneth Bower
Peter Chadborn
Cyndi
David
Rusty England
Carolyn Essel
Karen Fischer
Frank Gagne

Sean Hanson
Jim Harding
Jenny
Peter Judd
Jim Keating
Jayce Kierney
Marissa Laskey
Family of Wayne Lear
Liz Lienhard
Jennifer Moyer
Jonathan Nile
Marion Noble
Bertha Nollman
Pat Parnell
Howard Phillips

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

A prayer of thanksgiving for God’s healing power in the life of: Arlene Casey, Margaret, Elaine Simmons

A prayer of thanksgiving for the birth of Marcus Everett Fazio – parents: Jackie and Andrew Fazio, grandmother: Alyce Carerra

We commend into God’s care the spirit of those who have died recently: Nancy England (Donna Simmons’ cousin), Dr. Wesley Mills (friend of Faith Gillman), Mitchell Descoteaux (father of friend of Karyn Stetson), Wayne Lear (brother of Dale Lear)

SERVING US IN NOVEMBER

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

8:15 am
Barbara Weldon-Morin
Bobbie Jo Boulay
11/27 – 10:00 am
Barbara Weldon-Morin
Bobbie Jo Boulay

10:45 am
Donna Simmons
Vicky Cherry or Dot Bois

ALTAR GUILD

Joy Judd

USHERS

8:15 am 10:45 am
Ed Morin Robert White

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 December is Sunday, November 20th.*

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

THE CRIER

NOVEMBER 2016

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
2 Lord Street
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Reverend Richard A. Horner, Pastor

www.kennebunklutheran.org

Worship Schedule

November 6th, 13th and 20th

8:15 am: Modern Lutheran Liturgy*

10:45 am: Traditional Lutheran Liturgy*

November 27th

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

*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***

