

# THE CRIER

## HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

### JANUARY 2018



*From the Pastor* – As I began to write this article for the Crier on my computer, I had to assign it a file name, so I typed in "Pastors article, January 2018." That is officially the first time I've made reference to the New Year. It always takes me a while to get used to doing so. January is typically a time when I write the wrong year on a check or on a letter, before catching my mistake and correcting it. Eventually I get it through my head that the old year is over, and the new one is in progress. I guess this shouldn't be all that surprising, since a whole year of writing and thinking "2017" tends to form a well-developed habit that isn't easily broken – despite what the calendar says.

I don't know about you, but in many ways I tend to be a creature of habit. I find a certain comfort in things staying the same (and not just what year it is). I'm not a big fan of rearranging the furniture in our house. When we go out to dinner I prefer somewhere we've already been, rather than trying an unknown restaurant. I always drive the same car for years on end, until it is pretty much falling apart. When I go for a walk to get some exercise I travel a familiar circuit time and again. For me personally "sameness" doesn't tend to be boring or dull, but calming and reassuring.

I suspect many of us tend to view our faith through that type of lens. We look to our faith as a source of stability, in the midst of a world where so much seems to be constantly changing – and not always for the better. The sameness of our faith provides comfort – a firm foundation from which to try and cope with the fast-paced, often chaotic nature of modern day living.

Well, Scripture does say "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8) So it's true that being in relationship with Christ -- trusting Him as Lord and Savior – puts us on very solid ground. The steadfast love of the Lord won't ever disappoint us or let us down. We can always, without fail, depend upon His forgiveness, guidance, and strength.

At the same time, though, Scripture says "So if anyone is in Christ there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new." (2 Cor 5:17) So it's clear that the Christian faith also has to do with change and growth. Not that the basic, core components of our faith will be different down the road, but our relationship with the Lord is meant to deepen and expand over time, as He draws us closer to Himself and we respond with greater obedience and devotion.

Staying the same, yet also changing – that is a paradox of the Christian faith. May God bless you richly as you live in the midst of that dynamic tension during 2018. May God bless you with the richness of our Christian heritage – with things that are "old" but nevertheless meaningful and vibrant. And may God bless you with the richness of new things yet to come – new expressions of His greatness, love, and mercy.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Rich*

## **MESSAGE FROM A COUNCIL MEMBER**

*By Jon Janiak*

By the time you read this I will soon be or will be a grandfather. I've had difficulty with this realization since my son and daughter-in-law announced this to my wife and me. I think like most people I always think of myself as much younger than I am. In my head I'm 30 and too young for a grandchild, even though I'm chronologically old enough to probably be a great grandfather. So once I become a grandfather what are my religious responsibilities? I'm not sure. I want my grandchild to have a relationship with God. I think that's important. I guess I'll just have to listen for God's guidance on my responsibilities. I know if I listen carefully the guidance will be there. Till then I'm gonna have to get used to the idea that I'm a grandfather.

### ***THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!***



### ***HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS***

THANK YOU to everyone who has contributed food and/or money to the Holiday Food Basket program this year. Your support of this community tradition will give comfort and happiness to many of our neighbors this Christmas!



### ***GIFT-GIVING TREE***

THANK YOU to everyone who has supported the gift giving outreach this year! All the presents have been delivered to the Alfred Shelter to bring some Christmas cheer to the residents.



### ***SAFE FAMILIES***

Thanks to everyone who purchased items from and/or gave a donation to the Safe Families fundraiser this month. A check for \$503 was sent to Safe Families for Children of Maine this week! Your support of this organization and the children we host is greatly appreciated. If you would like more information about Safe Families feel free to contact Cheryl Dearman Mills at 641-3837 or visit [safe-families.org](http://safe-families.org).

## ***EPIPHANY***

*by Donna Simmons*

On January 6th, we celebrate the day of Epiphany. It is a Christian festival commemorating the manifestation of Christ to the gentiles in the persons of the Magi (the three wise men). It is also known as Twelfth Day. We are all familiar with the holiday song, The Twelve Days of Christmas.

I bring this up because there is also another definition of the word epiphany. It is a sudden, intuitive perception of, or insight into, the reality or essential meaning of something, usually initiated by some simple or commonplace occurrence or experience, often a moment of revelation and insight.

January is notoriously a month when a lot of us make promises to ourselves, promises that are often discarded before the end of February. Most popular among them are the promises to lose weight, get fit, organize our lives, our homes, etc. Ironically the same promises show up and fail each year.

This year I've been thinking of why these good intentions fail over and over again. Yes, I'd like to lose some weight and I would like to get more serious with getting my body back into shape. I've also been known to procrastinate which is why my good intentions fall away on or about mid-February.

This year procrastination set in way before Christmas. I've slid way past the deadline for writing my article for the January edition of *The Crier*. I'm sorry, Julie, that this is so late in coming to your desk. But you see I was waiting for that epiphany moment when I knew what I wanted to write. As I sat here at my desk, I looked up past my computer monitor and there with a myriad of pictures of family and friends, memories of people and animals that I've loved and memories of travels and random acts of kindness, I realized that the New Year's resolution shouldn't be about me. It should be about giving. There on my wall, almost buried in memorabilia is a quote by I don't remember who.

My Epiphany and New Year's Resolution is:

*Live simply.  
Love generously.  
Care deeply.  
Speak kindly.  
Leave the rest to God.*



## ***EPIPHANY POTLUCK & SERVICE***

An Epiphany Potluck and Service will take place on *Friday January 5th*, (the day before Epiphany itself since the Bean Supper takes place on the 6<sup>th</sup>). Dinner will take place at 6 pm, followed by a short, informal worship service – both will be in Luther Hall. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet posted on the white board in the Narthex (entryway) of the church.

## ***ROGER'S REFLECTIONS: Lutherans on a National Historic Landmark***

*By Roger Rotvig*

Brook Farm, located in W. Roxbury, MA just west of Boston, was owned by New England Lutherans from 1849 through 1974. Its place in history is due to the attempt to establish it as the first experiment with utopian, communal ownership and living. Nathaniel Hawthorne was a founding member of this 1841 community and later fictionalized in his novel, *The Blithedale Romance*.

When the community failed, the land and buildings were purchased by a beer tycoon from R.I., Gottlieb Burkhardt, in 1849. He gave the property to a newly established social service agency, for their use as an orphanage. Known in the social service community as Brook Farm, it operated in this setting with a few added services until 1972 when it merged with Lutheran Social Services of New England to form the current "LSS of NE".

Because of the fire danger of housing children in an aged wood frame multistory building, it caused the new agency to start at once to establish group homes for the children's care in normal residences, more appropriate settings for this type of care. Group homes for children with special needs began in mid-1972 and became a vital part of the mission of the new agency. More than 40 group homes were established in all parts of New England.

The Brook Farm land was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1965 and purchased from the Lutheran agency by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in 1986. The aged building, then empty, did in fact burn to the ground in the late 1970s with no loss of life.

### ***SHARE THE BOUNTY***

Saturday, January 6th, is the day for the next bean supper!

There will be the usual menu of beans, cole slaw, hot dogs, various breads and, of course, PIE!

Everyone is welcome, both from within the church and the wider community. If you are a regular volunteer, please check with Julie if you can or cannot help.

***COME HAVE SOME PIE!***



### ***KENNEBUNK CARES CLOSET***

The Kennebunk Cares Closet provides free clothing for children and adults to social service agencies and individuals in a wide variety of communities. There are no eligibility requirements for the Closet's services. The space for the Closet and the clothing is provided free of charge by generous community donors. Closet clothing orders are received at the Closet's e-mail request site and are processed by a small cadre of devoted volunteers. Volunteers also pick up donations from the Closet's donation sites and transport, sort, size and shelve the donations. The fall and winter seasons have seen a dramatic increase in clothing requests with several record weekly order highs.

## ***STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, EVERY SUNDAY, EVERY DAY***

Happy New Year! After the Holy Days of Advent and Christmas it is good to say “Happy New Year”. Why? After celebrating the joy and love and peace of the Christmas celebration we can now move on to the new year with resolve. We can always reflect on what Christmas means to us as we celebrated the birth of Jesus and why that is important to us as Christians, but we can carry that forward into the New Year so we can resolve to be better Christians, better human beings.

I think I spoke of “resolution” in one of my previous Stewardship notes. I mentioned that with the New Year we make New Year’s Resolutions to help us be better Christians and help our families and neighbors and friends (known or unknown). But there are two parts about resolution in the dictionary. One is a noun, “resolution”, “the act or process of resolving something”. And the other part of the word is a verb, “to change or transform”, among other things. This year I would like to use the verb, to change or transform me. With the New Year I would like to do more to be a good Christian. I would like to learn to pray more to ask God for the insight to do better; to understand and be more aware of my short comings and try to change them; to see where there is a need I can change for the better; to be a better and more productive church council member; to be more generous and help family and others with not only money but with time and effort.

Another resolve I think about is to try to better understand and be grateful for the good in our world, our country, and our community. To pray for the leaders to make it a better place for all people. Some may think this is “tilting at windmills” but I hope that everyone who feels this way and prays for those things that are good in the world can make some things just happen to make it better, if not for all, but of at least for a few! And few are better than none!

As I think more about this, the more it seems like a lot to do, maybe too much to try to do all at once. But, if I think about these things every day of the new year, maybe one thing at a time, and concentrate on that thing just for the day, maybe it will not seem so daunting. Maybe one thing at a time, one day at a time, will turn out to be one week at a time, one month at a time, for the whole year.

Peace, love, and blessings to all for the New Year.

*Carl Graves*

## ***FRIENDSHIP LUNCH***

January’s Friendship Lunch will be Monday, January 8th at noon and we will be serving soup and rolls. Everyone is welcome! The luncheon is always served on the second Monday of each month. If you would like to volunteer to help out at the luncheon, please contact Mary Keating.

## ***GOT A QUESTION?***

About who to contact with regard to a certain event? About when a certain activity will be happening? About how to get something into the weekly bulletin or the monthly newsletter? Whatever your question might be about things happening at Holy Cross, if you don’t know who to contact directly please be sure to call the church office (985-1681) or send an email to [pastor@kennebunklutheran.org](mailto:pastor@kennebunklutheran.org). If you call the office and don’t get an answer, just leave a message and Pastor Rich will get back to you soon.

## ***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!

**VALENTINE LUNCHEON AND TEA  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10<sup>TH</sup> AT  
NOON**



**COME FOR LUNCH AND TEA AND THEN BINGO  
AND PRIZES!**



**PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX!**



On Sunday, January 28, 2018 following the single service at 10 a.m. there will be a light lunch and our Annual Meeting. Please plan to be there for this day of celebrating our unity and our mission as a congregation, while having some fun and fellowship in the process!!

All chairs of Boards and Committees are asked to submit a report on the activity of your group during the 2017 year. Reports are due in the church office *no later than Wednesday, January 17, 2018* so that the report can be available on Sunday, January 21, 2018 for people to pick up and look over prior to the annual meeting on Sunday January 28, 2018. Reports can be sent to [info@kennebunklutheran.org](mailto:info@kennebunklutheran.org). Thank you!



### **COFFEE CLEAN-UP**

Would you be able to take an occasional turn at cleaning up after coffee on Sunday mornings? A list of available Sundays will be posted in the Narthex for you to add your name. Early service worshippers who would like to help could sign up for a Single Service Sunday. Any help would be appreciated! Thank you!

### **USHERS**

More ushers are needed for all services. It's an easy way to serve and a valuable part of the worship service. You will receive training on all components. This can be done by an individual or you can grab an old friend (or make a new one) and work together. Please see Peter Judd to sign up. Thank you!!

### **JOKE OF THE MONTH**

*Submitted by Jack Bates*

A Seniors Perspective of Facebook

For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists:

I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passersby what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog, and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them the "thumbs up" and tell them I like them.

And it works just like Facebook.

I already have four people following me: two police officers, a private investigator, and a psychiatrist.

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"Kindness lasts forever! The world is not lost, just temporarily confused in its direction. Each of us can make a difference."

J. M. Moses



# January 2018

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.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 7 pm Worship Cmte (LSH)	3 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	4 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	5 6 pm Epiphany Pot Luck and Service	6 4 pm Bean Supper (LH)
7 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship	8 Noon Friendship Lunch (LH) 4:30 pm Parents Prayer Grp (LSH)	9 10 am Ladies by the Sea Quilters 7 pm Congregational Council (LH)	10 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	11 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30 pm Men's Grp (LH)	12	13
14 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 5:30 Seaglass	15	16 1pm Ladies by the Sea Quilting Group	17 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	18 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 5:30 Harvest Cafe 6:30 pm Men's Grp (LH)	19	20 9 am Seaglass
21 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 5:30 Seaglass	22	23 1pm Ladies by the Sea Quilting Group	24 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	25 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	26	27 9 am Evergreen Quilters 9 am Seaglass
28 10:00 Worship Annual Meeting after worship 5:30 Seaglass	29	30	31			



***FAMILY & FRIENDS WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS:***



Jim Keating  
Alice Lailer  
Diana Breitenfield  
John Kreie  
Rolf Bandle  
Paul  
Tyler  
Jolene  
Ken Roberts

Becky  
Sandy  
Roger  
Ray  
Dick  
Kim Najariean  
Tony Ciampa  
Faith Follum  
Betty  
Dea Cleveland

A prayer of thanksgiving for God's healing power in the life of: Kurt

***SERVING US IN JANUARY***

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

**8:15 am**

Carl Graves  
Cathy Bansmer

**10:45 am**

Irene Eaton  
Michelle Stivaletta-Noble

**ALTAR GUILD**

Mary Bates

**USHERS**

8:15 am  
Bruce Anderson  
10: 45 am  
Robert White

***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 February Crier is Sunday, January 21st.***

***The Crier will be compiled and edited the next Saturday morning (January 27<sup>th</sup>) – at the latest !***

Please send all articles to Julie Clapp at [juliane@julianemarie.com](mailto:juliane@julianemarie.com) or leave them in the church office.

# ***THE CRIER***

## ***JANUARY 2018***

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
2 Lord Street  
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Reverend Richard A. Horner, Pastor

[www.kennebunklutheran.org](http://www.kennebunklutheran.org)

### **Worship Schedule**

*Sunday, January 7, 14, 21:*

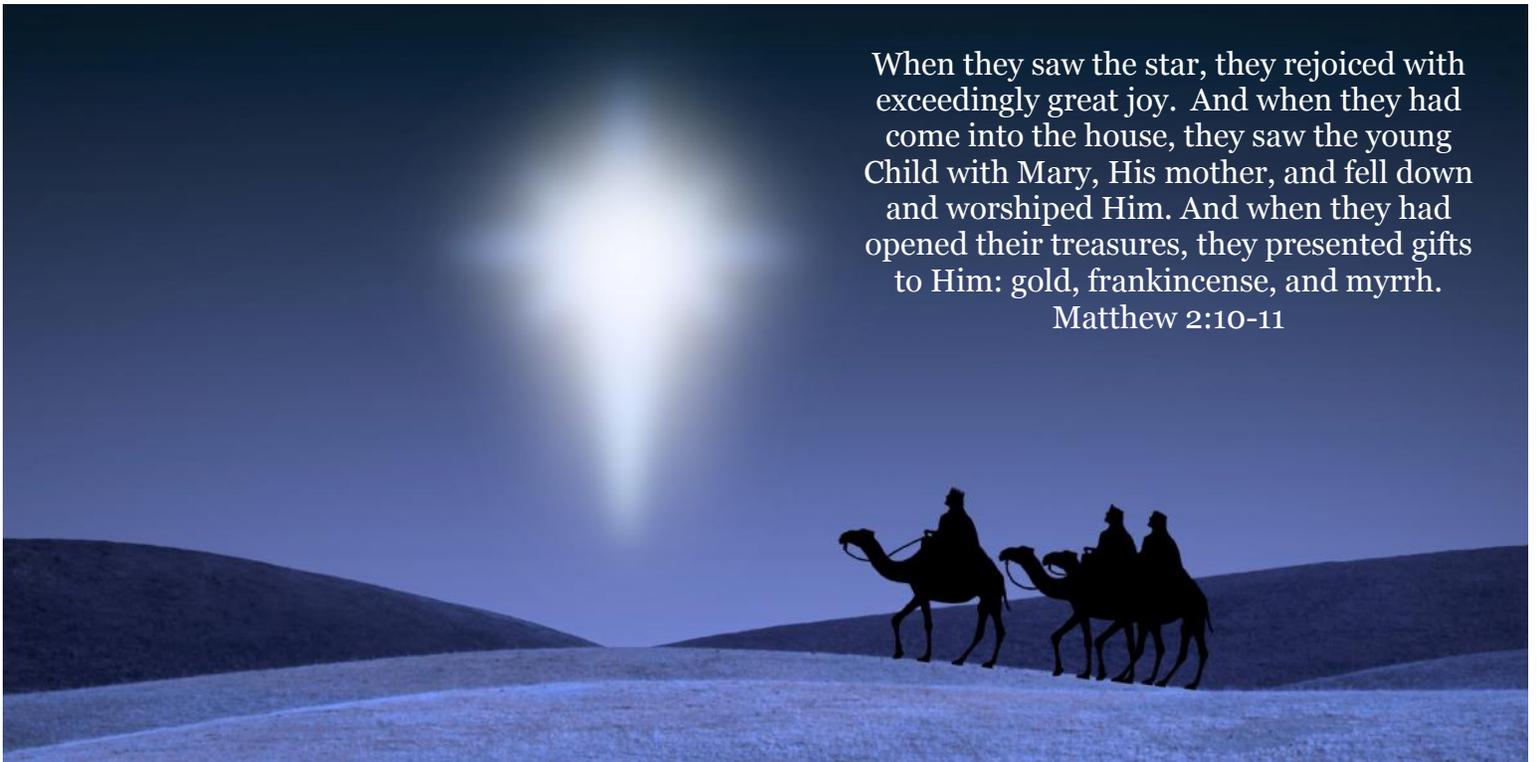
8:15 am Modern Lutheran Liturgy\*

10:45 am Traditional Lutheran Liturgy\*

*Sunday, January 28:*

10 am Single service: Modern and Traditional Lutheran Liturgy\*

\*Holy Communion served at all services



When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary, His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:10-11