

THE CRIER

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2018



From the Pastor – There is an announcement elsewhere in this edition of *The Crier* about a devotional booklet called *Finding Peace in Lent*. But I'm also writing about it here, to give some additional background as to how what we are trying this Lent is a little different.

In the past it has been a regular practice during Lent to have copies of a booklet available, for people to take home and use for their individual times of devotion throughout the 40-day period from Ash Wednesday to Easter. And people have certainly done that. The 30 or 35 copies we have typically ordered are usually gone by the time the first Sunday in Lent rolls around. And that has always been a good thing!

This year, though, the Council studied together a book called “The Practicing Congregation” by Diana Butler-Bass. The sub-title of the book is “Imagining a New Old Church.” In a nutshell, from her research into churches of many denominations, many sizes, many locations the author concludes that certain “practices” are often associated with higher levels of spiritual vitality and meaning experienced by people in the congregation. The “new old” reference has to do with the fact that many of the “practices” identified by the author are ones that have been around for a long time – and yet they are being employed and experienced in newly engaging ways.

After reading and discussing the book, Council was also interested in how we might “put into practice” what we had been thinking about and reflecting upon. One thing that came to mind was to try doing something we've already been doing, but in a somewhat new and expanded manner. Part of the emphasis in the book is on practices that are corporate in nature – i.e. spiritual disciplines in which a whole group of people participate.

So we decided to invite EVERYONE in the Holy Cross community to be part of a spiritual journey centered around the booklet *Finding Peace in Lent*. Reading, on a daily basis, the same bible passage, with its accompanying devotion and prayer, as everyone else in the congregation. Also having the chance to share with brothers and sisters in Christ what that experience is like – talking about questions or “aha moments” that come to mind, or a renewed commitment one might be inspired to make in the living out of one's Christian faith, or to what degree one might, in fact, be “finding peace.” These opportunities for sharing will be available during the Adult Forum sessions on Sunday mornings in Lent, as well as during the mid-week services on Wednesdays in Lent.

We pray for God's blessing upon us, during our spiritual journey together over the 40 days that begin on Ash Wednesday, and conclude on Easter Sunday! Yours in Christ, *Pastor Rich*

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;

where there is injury, pardon;

where there is doubt, faith;

where there is darkness, light;

and where there is sadness, joy.

Divine Master,

grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;

to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;

it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;

and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

A MESSAGE FROM A COUNCIL MEMBER

By Julie Clapp

I have been thinking about time a great deal lately. I recently read **The Time Keeper** by Mitch Albom. If you haven't read it, please do! I highly recommend it. It is about the person who invented clocks. The story travels from the time of the Tower of Babel to present day. It is fiction, of course, but it has been interesting to think about who did invent clocks and time keeping. After all, someone had to do it. It doesn't say in the Bible that God created the animals, birds, trees, flowers, *and clocks*. Granted, he put the sun in the sky to guide us but that isn't a timepiece per se.

Last night, I was driving home and thinking about The Crier, since I needed to work on it the next morning. Which led me to think about when I was going to get it e-mailed out the next week. Which led me to think about how long we have been e-mailing The Crier. Part of the password to get into the program to e-mail The Crier is the date. October of 2011. We have been sending it electronically for over seven years.

Then there are the power points at church. How long have we been doing those? Since 2008! I think it was April or May of 2008. So we have been presenting the service up on the screen for almost 10 years.

We have been doing the Bean Supper for over 12 years. The Friendship Lunch has been done for over seven years. Pastor has served our church for over 20 years. Gregg has been providing music at church for over six years. Chhom faithfully cleaned our church over 20 years.

I'm sure there are many more examples of how time has passed but the point is that time does seem to move on. One week leads to the next. One season leads to the next. One year leads to the next. We are born, we live our lives and then we die and go to heaven.

But through all these passages of time, through all the seconds of every day, there is one constant. God. He is always there. The same as yesterday, today, and forever. Never changing. The Alpha and the Omega.

So, when time seems to get out of hand, when life seems to be rushing by and it seems like we can't get everything done, stop, pause, and pray to the One who time does not affect. Pray for peace. Pray for calmness. Pray for help. And time will slow and time will become manageable.

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:16 (NIV)

VALENTINE LUNCHEON AND TEA

A Valentine Luncheon and Tea will take place on Saturday February 10th at 12 noon in Luther Hall. Following lunch there will be bingo and prizes! Please add your name to the list posted on the white board in the Narthex (entryway).



FLOWER CHART

The Flower Chart for 2018 is now posted on the white board in the Narthex. Please feel free to add your name to one of the dates listed there, and look below the chart for the instructions as to providing the necessary information when the date you have selected draws near. Thank you for the beauty and color that flowers add to our worship environment!

GIFTS FROM GOD

by Donna Simmons

As I write this, the rain has melted most of the snow and the ice dam on my roof. Just as I got used to a little bit of green surrounding the snow piles left from the first couple of weeks in January, winter is back. Looks like 3 inches of new snow on the ground and the storm is expected to continue throughout the day.



8143770 freeart.com ©

The juncos have come out from their protected nests in my hydrangea bush. There are maybe a dozen of them, tiny gray birds with white bellies. For the moment, they have top dog position on the bird feeder and the ground. They are so tiny they walk on the white puffy snow without sinking.

Soon the woodpeckers, both the downy and hairy versions, will show up to help themselves to the suet bag hanging in front of my picture window. There is a male hairy who I call Squeaks as he always announces his arrival by squeaking so loud I can hear him inside my house. Once he's made it known that he has arrived he proceeds to stab his long beak into the suet bag and eat by the chunk full. This year he has a mate. I call her Mrs. Squeak. None of the other woodpeckers announce their arrival like these two.



I thought we were blessed to have Mr. & Mrs. Cardinal the last couple of years. Just the other day I realized that there were two pair. Maybe it's a two generation family. What a treat!

I suspect by the end of the day all the birds including the blue jays, mourning doves, cardinals, chickadees, woodpeckers, and juncos will have eaten their fill at the Simmons Diner and Bill will have to climb through the snow to replenish the seed again.

It isn't all fun and games with the birds we feed. When there is a flock of mourning doves feeding from the seed Bill has scattered on the driveway, the hawk sometimes shows up and nails one. Philosophically I know that the hawk needs to eat, too. I don't have to like it, but I understand it.



Thank you, Lord, for the gift of the birds and our ability to feed them. Amen

PS These photos were from a free photo online service. I'm still learning my new camera.

SOUPER SUNDAY

The Super Bowl will be played in Minnesota this year on February 4th. At Holy Cross, we will be collecting that day for the Souper Bowl of Caring, as we have for the past 19 years. There will be a table in the narthex and all donations will be gratefully accepted for Community Outreach Services (Food Pantry of the Kennebunks). Please join the team to tackle hunger for our neighbors in need. Thank you!



ROGER'S REFLECTIONS: End of the Line

By Roger Rotvig

I was born and raised in Duluth, Minnesota, a city then of about 100,000 people, situated in a city jokingly described as 30 miles long and 1 mile wide as it hugs the western end of Lake Superior, the largest of the five Great Lakes.

At the extreme western end of Duluth was a section known as Fond Du Lac, (bottom of the Lake in French). It had been an Ojibwa Indian settlement and was incorporated into Duluth in 1895. In the last decade before the start of WWII, it was our family's favorite place to go for a picnic or to show off to our visitors with its wooden "frontier" stockade and its vast picnic and play grounds.

The primary method of transportation in this long, narrow lakeside city was the electric street car, the type you still find in a few trolley museums today. It ran on rails like a train and was powered by a single, spring loaded cable to the permanent power line overhead.

When the westbound street car got to Fond Du Lac, the conductor would call out, "End of the Line!" When all the passengers got off, he would go from the old front of the car, changing the flexible backs of all the passenger seats and the settle down at duplicate controls in the new front of the car. After tying down the old spring-loaded power source, he attached a similar one in the rear of the car.

Sadly, this highly efficient transportation method was changed in the early 1940s when the tracks were torn up for scrap steel in the "War Effort".

The lives of too many people also seem to come to the "end of the line". The trials and tribulations of life seem to have overwhelmed them. For the Christian believer, however, there is an answer: If we confess our sins and shortcomings to God, He will forgive us and renew us because of what His Only Begotten Son has done for us in His innocent death and resurrection. Amen!!

SHARE THE BOUNTY

Saturday, February 3rd, 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!



SAFE FAMILIES SUNDAY



Safe Families Sunday will be February 11th – a time to learn more about our involvement at Holy Cross with this important ministry of providing temporary care for children, for parents who need support that isn't otherwise available to them. Hear from members of our congregation who are already taking part, and learn of the many different ways people can be involved.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, EVERY SUNDAY, EVERY DAY

Does our Church tithe? Does Holy Cross Lutheran Church tithe? Do you think it should tithe?

Those are questions that came to my mind last week, after we had seen the preliminary budget figures that Barbara Weldon-Morin so dutifully keeps track for us. Thanks to a wonderful and generous congregation, you have helped fulfill the expectation of the Council when they put last year's budget together and it was approved by you at the annual meeting in January 2017. You have truly been Christian in your word and deed. We all thank you, and I especially thank you because it has been my pleasure to write about Stewardship all year.

What does this all mean in the world that we are in? What do our stewardship efforts really do in our church and our community and our synod? Aside from the maintaining and running our church, which gives us our church home, as a place to worship every Sunday and on those days and evenings during the week, and the music we so enjoy, it gives us a base to do outreach to our friends in the community with our Bean Suppers, our Friendship Lunches, our Soup Contests, our Blueberry Festivals, and our tag sales. What our church base does, with all these happenings, is provide BENEVOLENCES. And these community benevolences help the needy, help the folks who are hungry, help people who need assistance in their lives. In other words they help our friends and neighbors and even people we do not know. Also, it helps our kids to see and understand helping others is a good thing, by giving them the opportunity at work camp in the summer. Yes, helping others!

But also, benevolence goes way out from our own community, to our New England region and even well beyond. It goes to Africa, it goes to the Caribbean, and it goes to the Far East and the Pacific region. It helps send missionaries to spread the Christian Gospel. It sends teachers to places in the world that have no teachers, to give these children an education so they may help themselves. It helps people help themselves. This is where some of our benevolence dollars go, well beyond the reach of just our community.

I have written about the Macedonian Project that speaks of tithing. You know 10% to the church, 10% to save and 80% to live on. That principle is dealing with us as individuals. But my opening lines raised the question, should our Church tithe? Should our Church give 10% of its income to charity? Let's look. Our regular offering in 2017 was about \$190,000. If we look at 10%, that would be \$19,000. Ok, we did send \$9,250 to the synod and local benevolences last year. But we also did raise a lot of money for our community. What about the Christmas presents for the York County Shelter? What about the funds raised by the Blueberry Festival and bake sales for the youth work camp mission trip? What about the money given and special offerings for our local food pantry? What about the \$7,745 donated for the Pastor's discretionary fund? What about the time and talent to help feed the community with the Bean Suppers or Friendship Lunches? What about the Souper Bowl Fund Drive that raised over \$6,800 and contributed many hundreds of food and nonperishable items in our state over the past ten years? Without the numbers for all these items I cannot be certain, but I'll bet we tithe! Frankly, I think we should all be very happy to continue to do the community things that we do, as well as make our contribution to the synod, because we are Christians and all these special benevolences are in our hearts.

Carl Graves

FRIENDSHIP LUNCH

February's Friendship Lunch will be Monday, February 12th at noon. 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.

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!

HOW DO I KNOW HIM?

This was originally published in the May 2001 Crier. Betty Kreie found it and asked that it be run again. Thank you for sharing it, Betty!

I'd like to share an "Ahah" experience. It is interesting that it came during Epiphany, the season of light.

I had felt the need for small group Bible study. A customer shared about a small group study she had been doing. I knew God was confirming His call to study. One of the lessons of the study referenced Deuteronomy 4:24: *For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.*" What could that mean? Could He really want my attention and time? And yet, the words to an old and meaningful song buzzed around me. *"To know, know, know Him is to love, love, love Him and I do, and I do, and I do..."*

How do I know Him? Is one hour a week enough? Is one hour a week enough for any relationship? I thought of my marriage relationship and a truth came to me. In a sense, God wants that kind of relationship. He wants time, affirmation, acceptance, and attention. How can He really desire my time? Doesn't He have enough to do taking care of everyone worse off than me? Why a closer relationship with me?

The question continued. One evening while attempting to build a fire with my daughter-in-law, the care and time it took to get the fire really going struck me. It seemed like it would only take a spark to get a fire going. We started the effort with crumpled paper, sparks and a log. WRONG! After several attempts, we decided to rid the base of old ashes. Now a good foundation – small crumpled paper, kindling wood, air to breath, patience, space, and prodding. NOW, a log...something solid to continue feeding the flame. The essence, the purpose of the fire would come forth through the tending.

Ahah! Is there a comparison here to our relationship to Christ? The body of Christ needs tending as does the marriage or the fire. There is one who would love to stomp out the spark. He does not need to wear a red suit and horns to be recognized. It is a war of power and principalities. Our armor must be polished and ready. How do we accomplish that? Worship, Bible study, music, prayer, service to others...these all build relationship with the One who desires an intimate relationship with each one of us...Deuteronomy 4:24: *For the Lord your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.*"

I am thankful for our faithful shepherd. He is risen indeed! His word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

A grateful sheep,
Betty Kreie

COOKIE WALK

The Deacons are sponsoring our third annual Cookie Walk to benefit the Youth Mission Trip Work Camp. In addition to cookies baked by the youth, we are inviting members of the congregation to bake your favorite cookies as well. We will have a Valentine theme but you can bake any kind of cookies or (2 – 2 1/2-inch size) bars you like. The Cookie Walk will be held on Sunday February 11th between services and after the second service. For those who will be purchasing cookies, you just walk down the tables and pick out however many of each variety you prefer! There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex with details and information about drop off times. You may contact Joy Judd with any questions. (207) 282-9925 pjjudd56@gmail.com



MEET AND GREET

The Deacons will host a "Meet and Greet" event on Sunday February 28th following the 10:00 a.m. single service that day. Salad, pasta with meatballs, and dessert will be served, all prepared for you by your deacons! Pastor Rich will lead a few table games. And it will be an all-round fun time of being together and building relationships within our church community. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the white board in the Narthex (entryway), so please add your name to help give us a ball park idea of how many will be attending. If it turns out you can attend at the last minute, please come along even if you haven't signed up as we will plan to have plenty of food for everyone to enjoy!

Ash Wednesday



On Ash Wednesday, February 14th at 7:00 p.m. there will be a service with Holy Communion and the opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes on one's forehead. This is a somber service, but not one that is maudlin in nature. Though we are told "remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" during the imposition of ashes, the significance of such a reminder is simply that we are human beings, and as such our ultimate hope and security rest not with our self, but with God.

FINDING PEACE IN LENT

Finding Peace in Lent is a devotional booklet containing reflections of the Saint Francis Peace Prayer: "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith;...." For Lent 2018 the Congregation Council is inviting EVERYONE who is part of the Holy Cross community to use this devotional booklet for the 40 days of preparation from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. For all of us to engage in such a spiritual discipline together, is bound to be a very meaningful experience. Along with reading and praying as a corporate body on a daily basis, there will be opportunities to join one another in discussing the Bible passages, reflections, and prayers contained in this devotional resource. The Adult Forum will be one such opportunity each Sunday during Lent, and the mid-week services on Wednesdays during Lent will be another. Please pick up a copy of *Finding Peace in Lent* and join your brothers and sisters in Christ on this spiritual journey!

LENTEN WEDNESDAY MEAL AND SERVICE

Beginning Wednesday, February 21st, a simple meal of bread and soup will be served in Luther Hall at 6:00 pm followed by a worship service from 6:30 to 7:00 pm, also in Luther Hall. The services are a time of prayers, hymns, readings, reflection and sharing. These times to gather are encouraged as a part of one's Lenten preparation leading up to Holy Week and Easter. Indicating your intention to attend by adding your name to the list in the Narthex is appreciated, though not required. Signing up to bring a soup or bread is also appreciated. Thank you!

JOKE OF THE MONTH

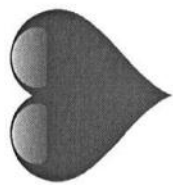
Submitted by Jack Bates

Happy Valentine's Day

Country singer Barbara Mandrell said that when her son Nathan was born, she always sang three songs to him: "Jesus Loves Me," "This is the Day the Lord Has Made," and "Jesus Loves the Little Children." She said: "I wondered which of these would be the first song that Nathan would sing on his own. It was none of those three. The first song he sang was "All My Ex's Live in Texas. "

Try to be a Rainbow in Someone's Cloud.

~ Maya Angelou



February 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
4 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 1 pm Seaglass	5 4:30 pm Parents Prayer Grp (LSH)	6	7 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	8 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 7 pm Worship Cmte	9	10 9 am Seaglass Noon Valentine's Day Party (for adults)
11 8:15 Worship 10 am Cookie Walk 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 12 pm Cookie Walk	12 Noon Friendship Lunch (LH)	13 7 pm Congregational Council (LH)	14 Ash Wednesday 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs) 7 pm Ash Wed. Service	15 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 5:30 Harvest Café	16	17 9 am Seaglass 8:30 am Blueberry Festival Craft Day
18 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 5:30 Seaglass	19	20	21 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs) 6 pm Lenten Bread & Soup & Service	22 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	23	24 9 am Evergreen Quilters 9 am Seaglass 10:30 Private Func- tion (Luther Hall)
25 10:00 Worship 11:30 Deacon's Meet & Greet Lunch 5:30 Seaglass	26	27	28 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs) 6 pm Lenten Bread & Soup & Service			

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

SERVING US IN FEBRUARY

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

8:15 am

Julie Clapp (2/4), Val Reid (2/11 & 2/18)
Sharon McGary

10:45 am

Frank Stetson
Robert White

Single Service, Sunday 2/24, 10:00 am

Julie Clapp
Sharon McGary

ALTAR GUILD

Arlene Casey & Joy Judd

USHERS

8:15 am

Bob Brady

10:45 am

Richard & Sayoko Wrage

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, February 18th.***

The Crier will be compiled and edited the next Saturday morning (February 24th) – at the latest!

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

THE CRIER

FEBRUARY 2018

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
2 Lord Street
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Reverend Richard A. Horner, Pastor

www.kennebunklutheran.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday, February 4, 11, 18 :

8:15 am Modern Lutheran Liturgy*

10:45 am Traditional Lutheran Liturgy*

Sunday, February 24:

10 am Single service: Modern and Traditional Lutheran Liturgy*

*Holy Communion served at all services

***Love is patient, love is kind.
It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.
~1 Corinthians 13:4***

***And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.
~1 Corinthians 13:13***

