

THE CRIER

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY 2018



From the Pastor – It is probably the best known verse in the Bible -- or at least in a close tie for that honor with the 23rd Psalm. Many people know it by heart -- if not the exact wording, then something pretty close. When you hear the biblical reference -- "John 3:16" -- your mind and heart get swept up in the beautiful and cherished language: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him will not perish, but have eternal life."

Despite our familiarity with this passage from Scripture, however, putting our trust in its incredible promise can be challenging. We may know quite well the central theological doctrine of the Lutheran Church, which is consistent with the words of John 3:16. We may know quite well we are "justified by grace through faith." We may know quite well we don't have to earn God's love through our good behavior, but instead God loves us freely and unconditionally. We may know all of that -- and yet such intellectual knowledge doesn't always translate into our day to day living.

Our relationship with God too often gets clouded with worry. Worry that we don't measure up to the standard God expects of us. Worry that because of our failures we are unworthy of God's care and attention. Worry that we need to do something more, be something more, in order to truly be acceptable in God's eyes.

The antidote for such worry is being reminded again and again of how God actually feels toward us. Being reminded again and again that God loves us without any strings attached. Being reminded again and again that God loves us as we are right now.

Does God want us to grow in our faith, and be transformed in how we speak and act? Yes, He does. But only because such growth and transformation will bring joy into our own life and into the lives of others. Not because God doesn't accept and love us in our present condition.

It may seem hard to believe, hard to trust, but God's love for us does not depend on our growing or changing in some way. What leads us to grow and be transformed is not the feeling that God is withholding his love from us until we do so. What leads us to grow in faith and be transformed in how we live, is the assurance that God already loves us as we are right now, no strings attached. It is such unconditional love from God that empowers us, motivates us, and strengthens us to change.

Here is something I read once in a book by Christian author Philip Yancy. The first line of the quote is pretty straight forward, especially for someone like me who grew up in the Lutheran church: "There is nothing you can do, to make God love you more." Yes, I get that! God isn't about works righteousness. We can't earn our way into heaven. God loves us for who we are, not because of the good deeds we accomplish.

But then the next part of the quote took me by surprise. "There is nothing you can do, to make God love you more. And there is nothing you can do, to make God love you less." What? Really? When I do things I shouldn't, when I sin, that doesn't make God love me less? Somehow good deeds not accruing to my benefit seems more understandable, than bad deeds not leading to my detriment. But they really are two sides of the same coin. If God's love for us is based on something other than our merit, then our merit, or lack thereof, doesn't change how God feels about us.

I think the second part of the quote seems more shocking, more radical, because if it is true then no matter what I do, no matter how far short I fall of God's will for my life, God will still love me. And somehow that just seems too good to be true! Doesn't God have standards I am obligated to meet? Doesn't God have rules He requires me to obey? Yes, God has standards and yes God has rules. But to use the word "obligated" or "required" in our relationship is to misunderstand how God relates to us. God wants and desires for us to follow/obey/live in accord with His will –

Continued on page 2

because that is what is GOOD for us! And for those around us. But God wanting obedience because it is good for us and for others, isn't the same as God requiring/obligating us to such behavior OR ELSE. Or else we forfeit God's love.

To say there is nothing we can do to EARN God's love, is the same as saying there is nothing we can do to LOSE God's love. They are two sides of the same coin. Two aspects of the same truth.

We know from reading the parable of the prodigal son, that the son who took his inheritance before his father had even died, and who went off and squandered all that money on wild living, thought to himself "my father's hired hands are better off than I am" as he sat there eyeing the food the pigs were eating. And we know he thought to himself, "I'll go back home and tell my father that I don't deserve to be treated as his son because of what I've done, but could he at least treat me like a hired hand?" In other words, we know the prodigal son had some sense of remorse, and planned to speak words of confession upon his return.

But what did the father do, when he saw the prodigal son off in the distance? What did the father do before his son had said a word? How did the father act without any awareness of his son's repentant attitude? The father "was filled with compassion for his son, ran to him, threw his arms around him, and kissed him." The love of the father for his son was not diminished by what his son had done!

The love of the father for the older brother in the story, the one who had done so many good things, was the SAME as the father's love for the younger son who had done so many bad things. "There is nothing you can do to make God love you more. And there is nothing you can do to make God love you less."

The Gospel message of the Father's unchanging love for us can seem too good to be true. It might not make sense to us, and might be hard to fathom. But it is nevertheless the way God feels about His sons and daughters, whom God has created in His own image. This incredible promise is one for us to accept with deep gratitude, cling to in all circumstances, and share with those around us!

In Christ, *Pastor Rich*



MEET YOUR DEACON: DEB RICH

I grew up in Wells. Spending summers at the beach were the best. I still enjoy time there in the late afternoons, walking from Moody beach to Ogunquit beach and back. In the spring, fall, and nice days in the winter, Marginal Way is my serenity walk. When I'm there I always say to Barney "we live in a beautiful place by the sea. We are so blessed." Barney is my husband; this year we will be married 33 years. I am a mother and now a grandmother. Barney was in the Air Force when we met, and soon after we married. In 1986 we got orders to Texas. A bit of a culture shock for me but I ended up loving it. The people we met were amazing and we made life long friends. We joined a Lutheran Church there and became very involved with the youth group, Sunday school and my favorite, the Ladies Ensemble. There were six women and we sang every week and had special music during Christmas and Easter.

When Barney retired in '94 we moved back to our beautiful place by the sea and raised our family. Holy Cross ended up being our church home. When our boys were young we were again involved with the youth and Logos. We loved making the meals and coming up with a theme. Now I really enjoy serving at the bean suppers.

I have always gone to church and been involved but really started knowing Jesus and having a relationship the last 7 years. He has really pulled me close. I look forward to my quiet time with him daily.

For 35 years I have been a hairstylist. I have fun all day making people beautiful. I have been asked many times, "don't you get tired of doing hair?" My answer is always no. God blessed me with a gift and it makes me happy.

While growing up, and until I was 50 when she passed, I was very close to my grandmother. We had a lot of fun together. She taught me how to sew, knit, crochet, or anything to do with a needle. I still knit and crochet. I also like to read historical fiction when I have time or when I don't fall asleep.

I look forward to serving as a deacon. Blessings to all in His name.

HOMES *by Donna Simmons*

When we were taking our daily walk down our forest road the other day I saw a chipmunk perched on his hind legs in the middle of the dirt road. As we got closer he pivoted his head, saw the three of us (my husband, my dog Bear, and me) and dove for cover. When I say dove I mean he literally dove through the surface of the road into his home. We came closer and realized there was a hole in the road about the size of a silver dollar. Then he popped back up, just his head, and looked to see if these giant beings were still heading his way. That's when Bear noticed him for the first time. The chipmunk dove deep into his protective home and Bear stuck her nose into the hole. Bear proceeded to dig; but we convinced her to leave the little critter alone.

That got me thinking of all the different kinds of homes there are in this world. For most birds they are nests hanging or wedged in trees. Woodpeckers actually make high rise apartments out of dead trees. For the most part in our yard the chipmunks have created whole villages in our rock walls. Now we realize that some of those holes in our gardens and our yard may not be mole villages but might be more chipmunk villages.

Then there are bears who sleep in caves, porcupines who nap 50 feet up wedged between two branches in our oak trees. Frogs who dig into the mud walls of our frog pit for a long winter's nap. Kangaroo babies who live in pouches.

That brought me around to people homes, from big mansions to rooms for rent to tents in the forest, to cardboard shelters in an alley, to boats and refugee camps. All of us trying to survive the best way we know how with what we have or have not. All of us need shelter of some kind. All of us need help every now and then. All of us need love. All of us are children of God.

Peace and Love to you all, no matter where you live.



SPRING CLEAN-UP

Saturday, May 12th, 9:00 - Noon

Spring is here to stay (we hope) and that means it's time to tidy up our buildings and grounds. Please join us for some great fellowship as we join together to complete these tasks. Rain Date Saturday May 26th. Thank you!

BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL CRAFT DAY

The next craft day to prepare items for the Blueberry Festival is Saturday, May 12th from 9:00 am to noon. Please join us as we make lovely items to sell in August at the Blueberry Festival. We welcome crafters of all skill levels, from the most experienced sewers to those who have no experience at all. There is something for everyone to do! Great conversation, coffee, donuts and crafts! The perfect Saturday morning!



ROGER'S REFLECTIONS: The Eleventh Commandment

By Roger Rotvig

Ever since Moses received the Ten Commandments from the hand of God on Mt Sinai, they became the foundation that both Jew and Christian believed God requires of them in acknowledgment that He is Creator and Ruler of all. The fact that almost all of them have a "thou shall not" character to them does not lessen their importance for us.

But the scriptures also contain a number of references to the fact that God said, "A new commandment I give unto you". It first appears in the book of Leviticus, 19:18. This book of the Bible is foundational in how God directed His chosen people to carry out their mission. It reads in part; "but you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

This phrase then comes from the lips of Jesus, Himself, as He was preparing the disciples for His death and resurrection. It reads as follows: "A new commandment I give to you. That you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another..." This phrase appears twice in the Gospel of John, 13:34 and 15:12, as well as in I Peter 1:22, I John 4:1, John 5 and I Peter 1:33,

Beside these exact statements of the phrase, "a new commandment I give you", the concept of loving one another as you love yourself is found repeatedly in both the Old and New Testaments.

I wonder what our world would be like today if this eleventh commandment had been given as much importance in the Judeo-Christian tradition as the Ten Commandments from Mt Sinai?

MONTHLY FOOD BOX

A Monthly Food Box is available to anyone 60 years and older who could use some help. This assistance is offered by the USDA, and is called the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. There are some suggested income guidelines listed on the application form, but the help is available to anyone who feels they need it. Application forms are available on the table in the Narthex, and there is a flyer on the white board with a listing of "What's in the Box?" Boxes are distributed on the 4th Tuesday of each month from 10:30 am to 12 noon at St. David's Episcopal Church on Route 1 in Kennebunk. (St. David's also offers a complimentary lunch during that time for anyone who would like a good meal!) Please feel free to take one or more of the applications to share with anyone you know for whom this might be a help. If you have any questions please contact Pastor Rich.

TAG SALE

The Church Tag Sale is scheduled for Saturday May 19th! It would be greatly appreciated if you could start setting aside your good quality used items to donate – though no large electronics or upholstered furniture please. You will be able to drop items throughout the week leading up to May 19th, and getting things earlier in the week will actually be appreciated as it will make the pricing and set up for the sale easier! People to help set up and run the sale are also needed, so please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the white board. Thank you!



YOUR PROPERTY

We no longer have a large storage closet in the kitchen and when items are left behind after an event at church, they tend to sit out or are moved from one location to the next because they are in the way. If you have brought something to church and left it behind, please take it back home. Items that are left will be put on a table in Luther Hall on Sunday mornings for a couple of weeks. After that, they will be stored for the next yard sale and we will graciously thank you for your donation!

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, EVERY SUNDAY, EVERY DAY

One of my favorite television programs is on New Hampshire PBS. "Windows to the Wild" is hosted by a 70-something gentleman named Willum Lang. Willum has wandered around New England mountains and rivers and parks for a long time and his programs are centered on his hikes and exploring God's good green earth. Recently "Windows" was about a trip down the Connecticut River with a group of parishioners and friends of the Church of the Woods. I am not sure where this church is located, except that it is probably in New Hampshire. The Pastor is in his 50s and only went to divinity school after he had led a life basically without God in it. He changed his life and became a minister because he became filled with nature, recognizing it as God's gift. The services are held out of doors on Sundays and, as I mentioned, once a year he leads a trip to bring his faithful and friends closer to God by seeing it up close and personal, so to speak.

This program traced the canoe and kayaking faithful down the 406 miles of the Connecticut River, from the Connecticut Lakes near the Canadian border all the way to Essex, Connecticut and the Long Island Sound. Now I am pretty familiar with the Connecticut River. I have fished the upper reaches near the Connecticut Lakes for trout, below the dam at Brattleboro, Vermont for bass, and at the Enfield Dam in Connecticut for shad, and my home river in Connecticut was the Farmington which is a major stream flowing into the Connecticut. There I know the trout and have seen salmon that were planted by Trout Unlimited. During the program Willum stayed with the group to the Massachusetts line, but he rejoined them at the Long Island Sound. Overhead shots of the group showed the river and its shores, where farms and woods bordered the waters. Many of the scenes showed the wildlife at the water's edge and the beauty of flowers, shrubs and trees at water's edge. To me this program made me think that this was God's Stewardship River, most likely similar to lots of other rivers in our world, carrying these travelers, flowing through our spiritual world that God has given us to see and enjoy.

For us at Holy Cross Lutheran, we also have a Spiritual River flowing through it. Every Sunday we celebrate what God has given us and made us realize these bounties are with us always. We see the flowers on the altar, we see the visual Alpha and Omega light shining on our chancel walls, we enjoy the wonderful fellowship in Luther Hall before services, sharing coffee and goodies; Share the Bounty, our monthly bean suppers, and Friendship Lunch, for the community; and we contribute to our benevolences to help those in need. We may not be paddling our canoe each Sunday to enjoy God's Spiritual River, but we always are part of it with our time and talent and treasure. The Stewardship River takes many shapes, and we are all most grateful for it. Thanks be to God.

Carl Graves



WELCOMING NEW IMMIGRANTS – OUR NEW NEIGHBORS

Welcoming New Immigrants - Our New Neighbors is a ministry begun by local residents Judy and Dick Cadmus and supported by their home church, Christ Church. A year ago Dick and Judy reached out to the larger community for assistance. In the past 25 months, Welcoming New Immigrants has served 22 families, comprising 102 people. Currently, it is actively assisting nine families.

Welcoming New Immigrants seeks to assist newly arrived individuals and families in several ways:

- 1.) Providing household items such as furniture, bedding and kitchen utensils.
- 2.) Helping families communicate with landlords and navigate community resources.
- 3.) Providing friendship and understanding of Maine and American culture.

Cheryl Dearman-Mills has been active in Welcoming New Immigrants and the Holy Cross Council voted unanimously to support this new ministry by inviting our membership into participation. If you are interested in learning more, you may speak to or contact Cheryl Dearman Mills at 641-3837 or cadmills32@gmail.com.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

On May 6th and 13th the service times will be 8:15 am and 10:45 am, with the Adult Forum at 9:30 am.

On May 20th we will begin our summer schedule of one service at 9:30 am every Sunday through Labor Day. On May 20th the Adult Forum will be meeting at 8:30 am.

PENTECOST SUNDAY

May 20th is Pentecost Sunday. The color for the day is red, so please wear red if you have it in your wardrobe!



SHARE THE BOUNTY

Saturday, May 5th, 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!

FRIENDSHIP LUNCH

The Friendship Lunch is always the second Monday of each month ***EXCEPT*** May's Friendship Lunch is cancelled due to preparation for our church yard sale. We will see you all in June!

If you are interested in helping out with the lunch, please contact Mary Keating.

DEACON'S APPEAL

The Deacons are preparing a new and revised list of people who are willing to help out other members in our church family who may be in need of a prepared meal, a ride to an appointment or errand, pet sitting, child care, etc. Please add your name to the list if you are able to help out in some way. If a need arises you will be contacted (by the coordinating deacon or the pastor) either by e-mail or a phone call.

Remember as the saying goes... "Many hands make light work".

You can return this sheet by mail to the church office (2 Lord St. Kennebunk) or you can place it in the designated box on the table in the Narthex. Thank-you so much for your consideration!



Name _____

E-mail _____

Phone number _____

I can help with meal preparation _____

I can help with providing rides _____

I can help with pet sitting _____

I can help with child care _____

Other _____

SUMMER MUSIC HELP

Beginning on Sunday May 27th the wonderful Holy Cross Choir will be taking a well-deserved break for the summer. We will miss them during these upcoming months, but this also presents an opportunity for others in our church community to share their musical talents! If you sing and/or play an instrument we would love for you to take part in the special music program this summer. Betty Kreie will be coordinating the program so please be in touch with any questions and to sign up for a particular Sunday! 646-8611 or bettykreie@gmail.com

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!

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Jack Bates

Sermon Preparation

A minister was having difficulty preparing a particular sermon. He said to himself, "Maybe the Holy Spirit will tell me what to say on Sunday morning."

When at last he stood silently before his congregation, he turned to the Holy Spirit for guidance. A celestial voice said to him, "Tell the people you are un-prepared!"

Ron Birk

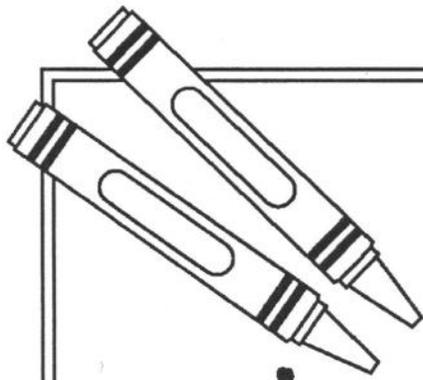
A Pastor's Prayer

Lord, fill my mouth
With worthwhile stuff
And nudge me
When I've said enough.

Rev. Jack E. Musick

***The day the Lord created hope
was probably the same day he created Spring.***

~Bern Williams



Just for **KIDS**

God made the seasons

Warmer weather means summer has arrived! God's beautiful creation is always changing, and we can praise God for every season.



Use this code to finish Genesis 8:22, NIV.

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| A =  | I =  | T =  | S =  |
| E =  | O =  | R =  | N =  |
| | U =  | D =  | |

“   I   g   h       h

       ’

      m     h   v    ’

c  l     h    ’

  mm      w      ’

  y      gh  

w  ll  v    c     .”

Genesis 8:22, NIV



May 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 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 5:30 pm Seaglass	7 4:30 pm Parents Prayer Grp (LSH)	8 7 pm Congregational Council (LH)	9 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	10 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	11	12 9-noon-Spring Clean-up 9-noon-Blueberry Festival Craft Day 9 am Seaglass
13 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship	14 Church Yard Sale Setup (all week)	15	16 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	17 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	18	19 Church Yard Sale! 9 am Seaglass
20 8:30 Adult Forum 9:30 Worship 5:30 Seaglass	21	22	23 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	24 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	25	26 9 am Seaglass
27 9:30 Worship	28	29	30 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	31		

FAMILY & FRIENDS WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS:



Jim Keating
Alice Lailer
Diana Breitenfield
John Kreie
Rolf Bandle
Patti Berg-Anderson
Ken Roberts
Becky
Sandy
Roger

Ray
Dick Lord
Kim Najariean
Faith Follum
Betty
John
Liz Lienhard
Tammy
Jamie
Konrad

Dick
Ruth & Heather
Brady Provencher
Brenda & Tom
Janet Miller
Dottie Graves
John Pendleton
Ed Fox
Chris Rodgers

We commend into God’s care the spirit of those who have died recently: Jolene (Donna Simmons’ niece), Pat Parnell (Donna Simmons’ friend), Jean Nichols (Ted Nichols’ mother, Connie Nichols’ mother-in-law)

SERVING US IN MAY

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

**May 6th & 13th
8:15 am**

Carl Graves or Cheryl Mills
Sharon McGary

10:45 am

Frank Stetson
Robert White

**May 20th & 27th
9:30 am**

Frank Stetson or Carl Graves
Robert White and Sharon McGary

ALTAR GUILD

Cathy Norwood
Jenny Gallo

USHERS

8:15 am

TBA

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 20th.***

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

THE CRIER

MAY 2018

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
2 Lord Street
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Reverend Richard A. Horner, Pastor

www.kennebunklutheran.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday, May 6th and 13th:

8:15 am Modern Lutheran Liturgy*

10:45 am Traditional Lutheran Liturgy*

Sunday, May 20th and 27th:

9:30 am Single service: Modern and Traditional Lutheran Liturgy*

*Holy Communion served at all services



**I will sing the LORD's praise,
for he has been good to me.
Psalm 13:6**