

THE CRIER

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 2019



From the Pastor – For my article this month, I'm writing to you about something that can admittedly be rather boring. At the same time, though, it is a matter of significant importance. What might that be, you ask with bated breath? Our church constitution.

On the one hand, our constitution is a document we rarely make use of. Some of its provisions are already very much ingrained in how we conduct ourselves as a church body, and there is no need to look to the constitution for guidance on a regular basis.

Other provisions in the constitution aren't pertinent to our circumstances, and so once again there is no need to consult the document to guide our actions -- this being a definite blessing, for the constitution lays out the process and procedures that are to be followed if a serious problem should arise in congregational life.

And yet even if the constitution isn't a document that we frequently turn to, having one in place that is up-to-date and well written remains important. As a part of the body of Christ, we want to have our affairs in "good order." Although institutional matters of bureaucracy are not at the core of our mission and ministry, they also aren't something to be ignored or dismissed as if they are of no importance whatsoever.

Our current Holy Cross constitution was adopted back in 2005. Over the course of the intervening 14 years, a number of changes have taken place, resulting in our current constitution now being out of date. The changes have taken the form of amendments being made to "The Model Constitution for Congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America."

Amendments have been made on three occasions, each taking place at the national assembly of the ELCA. Broadly speaking, the amendments dealt with the following issues:

2011 -- changes to the procedures involved if a congregation decides to leave the ELCA

2013 -- changes to the procedures involved to address misconduct by a pastor or parishioner

2016 -- changes in language used to refer to ordained clergy ("ministers of word and sacrament") and in language used to refer to non-ordained church staff -- i.e. associate in ministry, or diaconal minister, or deaconess -- ("ministers of word and service")

All of the amendments made to the Model Constitution over the years, fall within sections that are "required" rather than optional. Bringing our Holy Cross constitution up-to-date and into accordance with the Model Constitution, thereby entails incorporating those required sections into the constitution we currently have. The sections of the constitution where the congregation can make choices of its own (things like how many people are on Council, and how church officers are elected) will remain unchanged.

If the constitution of a congregation is being amended with JUST the changes that have taken place in the Model Constitution, all that is needed is a majority vote at one properly called congregational meeting.

If a congregation wants to amend a non-required section of its constitution, however, the procedure is more lengthy and demanding, so-to-speak. Any proposed amendment is first taken up at a properly called congregational meeting, needing a majority vote in order to pass. The very same amendment must then be ratified at the next annual meeting of the congregation by a two-thirds majority in order to take effect.

Sometime this year the Holy Cross Council will be calling a special congregational meeting for the purpose of updating our constitution with JUST the changes that have taken place in the Model Constitution.

Continued on Page 2

Copies of our current Holy Cross constitution, along with copies of the current Model Constitution, will be made available well ahead of the meeting, and there will be an opportunity for any who are interested to meet for discussion ahead of the meeting too. (Actually these materials are available at any time anyone wants to access them. For the Holy Cross document contact Pastor Rich. For the ELCA Model Constitution you can go to elca.org and type into the search box "Model Constitution for Congregations 2016." That document includes all of the amendments from 2011, 2013, and 2016.)

Though this particular pastor's article may not be amongst my most scintillating (at least, I hope not!), as I said earlier it does address an important area of our life together as the body of Christ.

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Rich*

MESSAGE FROM A COUNCIL MEMBER

By Jon Janiak

One year ago, I became a grandfather. I still think I'm too young to be a grandfather but, biology proves otherwise. It's a different experience being a grandparent. You have to be careful what you leave lying around, you have to think about child proofing again, bookshelves that once held your books now hold Dr. Seuss once again, you let them do things you might not have let your own kids do (Grampy gets scolded often, for "letting Henry do that"). It seems you're more amazed by what they can do now than when you were a parent seeing your own kids develop (Maybe my memory of it is tainted by being closer to the situation. Dirty diapers take the novelty out of some things).

Children remind you that the world moves on whether you want it to or not. They remind you that there's renewed hope for a better future. They remind you that it's your responsibility to teach them to put their trust in the Lord. To teach them that people act today like they've always acted and that the Bible has a lot of wisdom about how to live with others and strengthen your trust in the Lord.

Ash
Wednesday 

On Ash Wednesday, March 6th, 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.

OUR LORD'S LOVE AND COMPASSION

by Donna Simmons

On our walk today, while we were trying to avoid the ice covering 2 inches thick on our gravel road, we noticed in the distance what appeared to be a woman pushing a baby stroller in the middle of the icy road coming toward us.

Now, normally in the warmer seasons, we might see one or two neighbors as we pass their driveway and maybe one, possibly two, vehicles travelling down our road. You see our forest road is gated at the far end most of the year. People who drive down our road are either neighbors coming home or going out, or hikers who've come to hike the forest trails, or those who are lost and will soon turn around and come right back.

But, in the middle of winter with ice on the road and the gate closed, the traffic is almost non-existent. That's why the person pushing a baby carriage in the middle of the road in 30 degree temperature seemed a bit odd.

When the baby carriage got closer our dog Bear looked back at us (she usually takes the point position) asking with her wagging tail and pleading eyes if she could go and say hi. She customarily likes to say hi to everyone we meet. When she was halfway to the carriage I called out, "She just wants to say hi."

The person pushing the carriage shouted she couldn't hear us until we got closer. When we did, I noticed two things: the person pushing the carriage was an elderly man and the occupants of the 3-wheeled carriage were two dogs, one the size and shape of a black and white sheep dog and the smaller one the shape and size of a black and white Pekinese. Both were wearing coats. I finally recognized them from summer walks through the trails. The man told us the big one had gotten cancer and could no longer use her back legs; the little one, who was always snippy before when we met them, this time was calm and loving. They both looked up at us with big brown eyes.

We stopped and paid gentle attention to both dogs and listened to the man as he told us what had happened. As we walked past this trio of love and compassion I remembered that we are all children of God. It's our mission to spread love and compassion to those in need.

This Sunday, bring food for the food pantry, warm clothes for the Kennebunk Clothes Closet, a listening ear for someone who needs to talk, and a hug for someone who needs the touch.

Be an extension of our Lord's love and compassion!

WELCOMING IMMIGRANTS, OUR NEW NEIGHBORS – HELP NEEDED



Welcoming Immigrants, Our New Neighbors is currently supporting 30 newly arrived to Maine families from the Middle East and Africa. Currently there is a great need for the following donations:

Diapers (in all sizes), Gift cards for food (Hannaford, Market Basket, Walmart), Gift cards for winter outdoor clothing (Reny's, TJMaxx, Goodwill, Kohl's, Target). As the families live in Biddeford the above store locations are convenient for them. Any cash contributions can be earmarked for the Pastor's discretionary fund and we will purchase the items. Diapers can be left in the bin located in the Narthex (entryway). Gifts cards can be placed in the offering plate or sent to the church office – please be sure to mark them as

being for "Welcoming New Immigrants." If you have any questions please contact Cheryl Dearman Mills ([641-3837](tel:641-3837)) or pastor. Thank you for your generosity!

ROGER'S REFLECTIONS: HOCUS POCUS

By Roger Rotvig

The earliest known English book on magic, then known as “legerdemain,” was published in 1635 as “Hocus Pocus Junior: The Anatomie of Legerdemain.” A magician, who used the stage name Hocus Pocus, was granted a license to perform magic in England in 1619.

Whether or not he was the author of this work, it certainly affirms the fact that the term, Hocus Pocus was firmly in use as the “magical” words that would bring about a “magical” change to something, a belief that somewhat continues into our day.

The fact that the use of Hocus Pocus began within a century of the Reformation, 1517 -1530, and was strongly associated with non-catholic countries, helps to tie it to a doctrine in the Roman Catholic Mass that Protestantism had rejected, the doctrine of “**Transubstantiation.**” That doctrine had come to mean that the priest had the power to magically “**change the substance**” of the elements of bread and wine into the actual body and blood of Christ. The high point of the mass was then, and still is, when the priest, holding his hands over the bread, intones the Latin words: “**hoc est corpus meum**” , Latin for “this is my body”.

When churches of Reformation times rejected the idea of transubstantiation, it didn't take long for the common man, or maybe the common child, to turn the phrase “Hocus Pocus” into a term of derision for so called religious magic.

So, if we don't believe in a magical change of the elements of communion, what do we believe? Luther taught that Christ is “really present” in the elements of bread and wine. The more we try to explain in what manner he is present, the more we err in following man's need to understand in order to believe. Luther used the term **Real Presence** to describe that mystery. He would say that Christ is present “in, with and under” the signs of bread and wine as they are received by the Christian. There was no effort to explain how Christ being “really” present in the elements, bread and wine, can be. We simply rely on the Biblical pronouncements in five or six places, that this is a fact.

This means that we do not fret if a crumb of the bread is lost between the hand of the Pastor and the recipient's hand or mouth. Likewise, the spilling of the wine is not a horrific event. By the same token, the elements of bread and wine have had a holy use. The remainder, after the service, should not be treated as just some garbage. A fitting disposal of bread and crumbs of bread is simple to effect. What to do with the wine remainder is a little more complicated. An early practice by only a few, was that the celebrant was required to drink all of the remaining wine. This, unfortunately, could lead to other social and religious concerns.

The current solution to the problem of the remaining wine, was to empty the wine onto the ground in a clean, garden like setting. This is obviously harder to do in a crowded metropolitan setting. The appropriate alternative is to have a small drain from the church sacristy, directly to the ground, into which the remainder wine can be poured. This addition is known as a Piscina. Holy Cross has a Piscina for the proper disposal of the communion wine.

One additional response to the rejection of Transubstantiation by the reformers of Luther's day is the resonance of the so called “Reformed Churches.” Led by the Swiss theologian Ulrich Zwingli, it taught that the re-enactment of the Lord's Supper is essentially a “memorial” re-enactment of the event. It maintained that the verb “**is**” as in “this **is** my body” means “**signifies**” as in “This **signifies** my body.”

While the Reformers could not agree completely on how to describe the meaning of the continued re-enactment of the Lord's Supper, it clearly was to them, no “Hocus Pocus”!

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!

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, EVERY SUNDAY, EVERY DAY

Last month the theme of this note was the different faces of our Church, Holy Cross. We saw all the parts that make up the stewardship of the church, the programs and people who make stewardship happen. We have found that stewardship is more than just financial contributions to pay for the building we worship in or the music we hear or the visual picture we see at the front of the church that reminds us of the Christ we pray to. We also saw the outreach we make to our community to care for people who need our help, and our prayers for our own in need, and those we do not know who are in need. Yes, Stewardship is ongoing and wide spread here at Holy Cross.

Our ELCA gives us lots of themes to rely on when it comes to Stewardship. One such publication starts out with the title “Biblical Advice for Cheerful Givers” It points out how we have been told since our days in Sunday School we want to give, and we need to give gladly. The spirit of generosity isn’t enough to guide us in our decisions to give: The Scriptures have much to say about giving. They say there are three kinds of financial giving mentioned in the Bible: offerings, tithes, and alms.

1 Corinthians 16:2 says “on the first day of every week, each of us is to put aside and save whatever extra you earn, so that collections need not be taken when I come.” This is based in the “first fruits” philosophy. These are “Offerings and Tithing”. You might think of this giving as “business as usual”. You pay the mortgage, you buy groceries and you contribute regularly to help carry our God’s mission. This is not an afterthought; it is part of your day in and day out joyful response as a Christian. These are your offerings and tithing. These offerings help support local ministries, outreach, and more. They also support missions, with the synod and national church. The ELCA encourages this support but is never in place of the commitment to your regular congregational offering.

In Matthew 25: “those least of our sisters and brothers who are less than we in circumstance only and always our equal in their humanity.” Alms are our compassionate, heartfelt response to the people Jesus has mentioned. These are the people we see today, the homeless vet, and the displaced or disenfranchised family, the children without family, or just the sick and lonely.

Reflecting back on last month’s note, Holy Cross is a congregation who aspires to do their very best in all of these situations. We do not participate in financial generosity alone, we are kind, we are compassionate, we are giving of our time and talent and treasure. I think we do live up to all the definitions of a “cheerful giver”, and we should pray every day for our generosity to continue.

Carl Graves

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN: “FEEDING BODY & SOUL!”

SHARE THE BOUNTY

After last month’s supper was canceled due to icy weather, we have high hopes that we can serve the meal in February. So Saturday, February 2nd, 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 held the second Monday of each month. We serve the meal at noon. Everyone is welcome! If you’d like to volunteer and help with the meal, please contact Mary Keating.



COOKIE WALK



The Deacons are sponsoring our fourth 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 10th, 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

SOUPER SUNDAY

The Super Bowl will be played in Atlanta this year on February 3rd. At Holy Cross, we will be collecting that day for the Souper Bowl of Caring, as we have for the past 20 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!



JACK'S CORNER: When the "Tithe" Comes In Submitted by Jack Bates

Two men were shipwrecked on a desert island. One was a churchgoer and the other wasn't. The minute they arrived on the island, the non-churchgoer began screaming and yelling, "We're going to die! There's no food! No water! We're going to die!"

The other man was calmly propped against a palm tree, which drove the other guy crazy. "Don't you understand? We're going to die! What's wrong with you?"

"You don't understand," said the churchgoer, "I make one hundred thousand dollars a week."

"What difference does that make?" asked the non-churchgoer. "We're on a desert island. We're going to die."

The churchgoer smiled, "You just don't get it. I make one hundred thousand dollars a week, and I tithe. My pastor will find me!"

Many people want to serve God, but only as advisors.



February 2019

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
3 8:15 Worship 9:30 Sunday School/ Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 5 pm Al-Anaon	4 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet 4:30 pm Parents Prayer Grp (LSH)	5 10 am Ladies by the Sea Quilters	6 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs) 7 pm Worship Cmte	7 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	8 9 8 am Blueberry Festival Craft Day Noon LSH office in use	2 4 pm Bean Supper (LH)
10 8:15 Worship 9:15 & 11 Cookie Walk 9:30 Sunday School/Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 5:30 Sea Glass	11 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet Noon Friendship Lunch (LH)	12 7 pm Congregational Council (LH) 1 pm Ladies by the Sea Quilters	13 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	14 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	15 16 8 am LSH office in use 9 am Sea Glass	
17 8:15 Worship 9:30 Sunday School/ Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 5:30 Sea Glass	18 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet	19 1 pm Ladies by the Sea Quilters	20 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	21 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 5:30 pm Harvest Cafe	22 23 8 am LSH office in use 9 am Sea Glass	
24 8:15 Worship 9:30 Sunday School/ Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 5:30 Sea Glass	25 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet	26 1 pm Ladies by the Sea Quilters	27 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	28		

JOHN 3:16

Word Search Puzzle

R B H L M R D B D E O A P G I B F O R J S W R H E E L N G K
N U S I I G O D R L D H M N E S I U K A H T R E V E I L E B Z
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L Q E N E P P A
M O A E C L E D
N F V L N T M R

JOHN 3:16

FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE EVERLASTING LIFE.

FAMILY & FRIENDS WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS:



Jim Keating
Diana Breitenfield
Rolf Bandle
Patti Berg-Anderson
Becky
Liz Lienhard
Konrad
Brady Provencher
Brenda & Tom
Dottie Graves

Ed Fox
David Donald
Jake
Kari Moncrief
Lenny and Vicky Lambert
Elaine Simmons
Dick Lord
Bill and Polly Janiak
Baby Myka
Earl

Joe Hakanson
Laurie Morin
Nicole Muniz
David
Dan Fisher
Barbara
Missy Cheaver
Beth Hoffman
Herb
Susan

A prayer of thanksgiving for God's healing power in the life of: Frank Heller, Joanne Schmitt

We commend into God's care the spirit of those who have died recently: Irene Chretien

SERVING US IN FEBRUARY

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

8:15 am
Cheryl Mills or Julie Clapp
Cathy Bansmer

10:45 am
Irene Eaton
Roger Anderson

ALTAR GUILD

Joy Judd

USHERS

8:15
Bruce Anderson

10:45
Jon Janiak

CRIER PUBLICATION INFO:

The deadline for the March Crier is Friday, February 15th.

The Crier will be assembled and edited on Saturday morning, February 16th.

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

THE CRIER

FEBRUARY 2019

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
2 Lord Street
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Reverend Richard A. Horner, Pastor

www.kennebunklutheran.org

Worship Schedule

February 3, 10, 17

8:15 am Modern Lutheran Liturgy*

10:45 pm Traditional Lutheran Liturgy*

February 24

10:00 Single Service: Modern and Traditional Lutheran Liturgy*

*Holy Communion served at all services

Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.

Philippians 4:6-7 (Message Bible)

