

THE CRIER

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2017



From the Pastor - Yesterday was the annual meeting of the congregation for Holy Cross. Our once a year gathering to take a look at the 12 months that have just gone by, as well as looking at what lies ahead in the not too distant future. We elect members to serve on Council, Memorial and Trust, the Nominating Committee, and to be voting members at the New England Synod Assembly. We vote on a budget. This year we had decisions to make regarding specific materials to be used in renovating the kitchen and replacing carpet and tile flooring. We also spent some time talking about the different feelings people have with regard to a Sunday morning worship schedule comprised of one service or two services.

There could be the feeling that an annual meeting has to do with taking care of the “business side” of the church – meaning the nuts and bolts of congregational life, the practical matters that require our attention. There could even be the feeling that such matters are less spiritual in nature than other aspects of church life – such as worship, Bible study, Christian education. I can understand how such a feeling could come into play, but at the same time it’s important to be clear such a feeling grows out of a misperception.

EVERYTHING we do as the body of Christ, is firmly grounded in the life of the Spirit. EVERY gathering, EVERY program, EVERY meeting, EVERY decision that takes place at Holy Cross is rooted in our common identity as beloved children of God, and our common mission to be God’s people in the world. Even things that may not seem, on the surface, to be all that “spiritual” in nature, are avenues through which the Holy Spirit is present and at work in our midst. This is true because the presence of the Holy Spirit does not depend on how we feel, but on what Jesus has promised:

“Where two or three gather in my name, there I am with them.” Matt. 18:20

“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” John 14:26

A similar promise comes through in what St. Paul writes, when describing the body of Christ:

“There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.” 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

God created us as human beings, and that includes our emotions. Our feelings are a blessing, and our feelings also come and go, wax and wane. There will be times when we feel especially spiritual, and times when we feel less so. And the more spiritual type feelings may, indeed, be experienced to a greater degree in some circumstances (e.g. worship or Bible study) than in others (e.g. an annual meeting or church clean-up day).

And yet, make no mistake. Whenever we are together, whatever we may be doing, Jesus promises that he is in our midst through the gift of his Holy Spirit. And that puts EVERYTHING about our life together on a firm, spiritual foundation. This is a blessing for which to give thanks! And a reality for us to remember, be formed by, and celebrate.

Yours in (the body of) Christ!

Pastor Rich

MESSAGE FROM A COUNCIL MEMBER

Listening to God

by Julie Clapp

After two years of using “Jesus Calling” by Sarah Young as part of my morning devotions, I decided to use something different. I found “Mornings” by Henri Nouwen and have added that to my devotional time. (I also use “Christ in Our Home” and write in a prayer journal).

On page six of “Mornings”, Father Nouwen speaks about listening to the blessing. He talks about how easy it is to get distracted while praying and that it has to be a discipline. He says: “...if you develop the discipline of spending one half-hour a day listening to the voice of love, you will gradually discover that something is happening of which you were not even conscious.”

To spend time each morning in quiet solitude, reading the Bible, praying and then quietly listening for God’s Voice is a precious habit. God speaks softly, quietly and profoundly. But I have discovered that I have to be willing to listen. I have to be willing to wake up earlier, not to turn on the computer or the TV, to sit quietly and start my day with God. It is a discipline but well worth it.

To hear God’s Voice telling me I am beloved, He is with me, He is taking care of me, He loves me...is something I cherish. To know that others, such as Henri Nouwen, also experience and cherish this helps me to know that I am part of the great cloud of witnesses and a member of the family of God.

Father Nouwen ends the devotion on page six with this: “The movement of God’s Spirit is very gentle, very soft –and hidden. It does not seek attention. But that movement is very persistent, strong and deep. It changes our hearts radically.”

SOUP TASTING



Holy Cross will again be hosting the Soup Contest that is part of Winterfest.

Here is a press release giving some of the history of this event, along with something new this year: The Soup Contest was the brain child of Tony Dimakarskos, former owner of Toppings Pizza. It was first held eight years ago, in the vacant store next to Toppings and many of the area restaurants participated. After that space was rented, a search for a suitable venue ended with Holy Cross Lutheran Church being selected, and it has been held there ever since. Festival Committee member Jack Bates said, “The proceeds of the soup contest have helped support the free meals held for the community at the church, which include the Free Bean Supper, held on the first Saturday of the month, a Friendship Lunch held on the second Monday of the month as well as hosting The Harvest Café on the third Thursday of the month. In the past, it has been strictly People’s Choice,” said Bates, “but this year we are excited to announce that there will be three Awards presented. The Chefs’ Choice, The People’s Choice and Kids’ Choice.”

This year’s Guest Chef judges will be Rich Lemoine of The Village Tavern, a past winner of the contest. Alongside Lemoine will be the owners of Academe, Brian and Shanna O’Hea. This year’s soup contest is open to all local eateries and is expected to be the biggest and the best. Chef judging will be from 11:30 – 12:00. Doors will open to the public at noon and the tasting will go until 2:00 PM. Admission is \$5.00 per person \$15.00 max. per family, Children five years and under free.

A sign-up sheet for people to help is posted on the white board in the Narthex (entryway).

ALL ABOUT LOVE

by Donna Simmons

February is the month I think a lot about love from the son I've lost to those with whom I still celebrate life. It is the month we tell those we care about how much we love them, friends and family alike.



But nowhere is love described better than in the passages I cherish below:

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?” And [Jesus] said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

Matthew 22:36-40

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.
I Corinthians 13:1

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Galatians 5:22

If I give away all I have and if I deliver my body to be burned but have not love, I gain nothing. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

I Corinthians 13:3-7

So faith, hope, love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

I Corinthians 13:13

Love never ends.

I Corinthians 13:8



ADULT VALENTINE PARTY

On Saturday, February 11th, starting at 11:30 am, there will be a Valentine's Day party in Luther Hall. A nice lunch will be served followed by fun games and prizes. All adults are invited! Hosted by Deanna Ross and Mary Keating.

COOKIE WALK

The Deacons are sponsoring our second Cookie Walk to benefit the Youth Mission Trip. Please bake your favorite cookies to donate for us to sell for this worthy cause. It will be held on February 12 between services and after the second service. We will have a Valentines theme but you can bake any kind of cookies or (2 - 2 1/2 inch size) bars you like. There will be 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 pjudd@gwi.net



ROGER'S REFLECTIONS: Phones - My Love-Hate Relationship

By Roger Rotvig

Over my 85 years, phones have changed even more than cars. In the late 1940s when I started using a phone, you picked up the handset you got an operator who asked "number please" to which you answered something like "Calumet 2468" or "Melrose 1357". You were also on a "party line" which meant your neighbors could interrupt or listen in on your call. In the next couple of decades, names like Calumet were replaced with 3 more numbers which enabled you to enter all 7 digits on the newfangled dial phone. Private lines were a given, but to go outside that 7 digit area, you still had to rely on a "long distance operator". Even that's covered now with the addition of 4 more digits, like 1-207.

By the mid '80s, cell phones, as we know them, began to take over. The earliest ones, made for auto use, were about the size of a tool kit. Their early use was limited by the need of "cell tower" coverage. It wasn't until the decade of the 2000's arrived that companies like Sprint and Verizon filled that coverage and our present "cell phone" came to replace the "need" for a land line phones for some.

Now I have had a cell phone for years. I use it only when I travel. It rings at home occasionally but by the time I find where in the house might I have left it, or which car it might still be in, the caller has either hung up or left a message, for which I need a password to try to recover, generally with mixed results. I have no added "apps", not even a built-in camera, for similar reasons of complexity. We have a hard-wired phone system with one instrument on each of the three levels of our house (2 on the first floor) and a missed message recorder that I can listen to and delete with no password needed and never a lost call.

By now, you must realize that I don't care much for my cell phone except for emergencies. Thus, I got a real surprise recently when our national magazine, "Living Lutheran" contained a brief article informing readers that Luther's Small Catechism was now available as a cell phone "app". I guess I'll have to affirm their use for the current younger generations, but for me, I've got the catechism memorized. I have had it instantly available for the past 70 years. I also have a fine hard-wired phone system in my house that seldom fails me.

BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL CRAFT DAY

The next craft day is scheduled for February 18th. Please plan on attending this day of creativity and fellowship! There are jobs for everyone, whether you are an experienced sewer or not. Please come join in the fun!



THANK YOU!

A big thank you to all of our members for the generous contributions given for the Christmas arrangements that benefitted a family in need.

Deanna Ross, Alyce Carrera, and Mette Englington.

FRIENDSHIP LUNCH

The next Friendship Lunch will be on Monday, February 13th. We will be having spaghetti and meat balls! Please join us or come and help prepare the meal! Everyone is welcome.

The friendship lunch is always held the second Monday of every month. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Keating.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, EVERY SUNDAY, EVERY DAY

Oh, my goodness, it's almost Lent! Here we are, going into February (it's still January as I write this), we have just celebrated Christmas, and we are talking spring, Lent, Easter! I saw a sign in Arundel this morning as we drove to Church. It said "winter is here, can spring be far behind"? How do we rush the seasons so quickly?

But I do want to reflect on Lent, as it relates to Stewardship, in my mind. Yes, it is the annual beginning of our time leading up to Easter. It is traditionally described as lasting for forty days, in commemoration of the forty days Jesus spent fasting in the desert, according to the Gospels, before the beginning his public ministry. In Lent, many Christians commit to fasting or giving up certain types of luxuries as a form of penance. Many also add a Lenten spiritual discipline, such as reading daily devotions and prayer, to draw them nearer to God. But the Lenten season can be witnessed by doing MORE, not less; more in the way of Christian Stewardship, to celebrate our Christian faith. And instead of just doing this during Lent, it can be carried on past the Easter Season, to become an act of faith and love and generous giving throughout the whole year. Think and look for new ways to act out our faith by looking for different acts of kindness or generosity. Recently we have found the Hospice accepts and trains volunteers to work with patients under their care. We can add a little extra donation to our weekly pledging to Holy Cross. We can seek out how Meals on Wheels works in your town. Take a neighbor to church. Call a friend you have not seen recently and ask how are they doing? You don't just have to give up things you like during Lent, but you can take on the Christian spirit during Lent and let it last all year.

Aristotle said "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence is not an act but a habit"

Carl Graves

SHARE THE BOUNTY



The next free bean supper will be on Saturday, February 4th from 4:00 to 6:00 pm. As always, the menu will be baked beans, cole slaw, hot dogs, a variety of breads and a large selection of pies. Anyone from the community or our church is invited to attend. It is a great time of fellowship and sharing delicious food!



If you would like to volunteer, please see Julie Clapp! Thank you!!

Come Have Some Pie!!

LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICE (LIRS)

Founded in 1939, LIRS has strong ties with three national Lutheran Church bodies: the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, and the Latvian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. LIRS is the second largest refugee resettlement agency in the United States. It is nationally recognized for its leadership advocating with refugees, asylum seekers, unaccompanied children, immigrants in detention, families fractured by migration and other vulnerable populations. Through more than 75 years of service and advocacy, LIRS has helped over 500,000 migrants and refugees rebuild their lives in America. On January 25, 2017 LIRS issued a statement in response to actions taken relative to United States immigration policy. To read and prayerfully consider the statement, please use the following link which will take you to the LIRS website: <http://lirs.org/press-inquiries/press-room/condemns-the-trump-administrations-actions-against-refugees-and-migrants/>



On Sunday February 5th, we will be collecting 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 Church Community Outreach Services (Food Pantry of the Kennebunks). Please join the team to tackle hunger for our neighbors in need.

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!

ALTAR GUILD HELP WANTED

The Altar Guild is in need of a few volunteers. Once we have a response a meeting will be planned to go over the expectations of new members and to hear any thoughts and/or suggestions from those who have been serving so faithfully. Please contact Joy Judd (282-9925); pjjudd@zwi.net or Violet Stephens (499-2428) with any questions or concerns.

CANCELLATION NOTIFICATION

If there is inclement weather and church services have to be cancelled, please watch for the notification on the three major TV stations (Channel 6, 8, or 13) or check the church website. E-mail notifications will no longer be sent if church is cancelled. Hopefully a cancellation won't happen this winter but if it does, we want everyone to be safe. Thank you!

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Jack Bates

A Special Day

Over breakfast one morning, a woman said to her husband, "I bet you don't know what day this is."

"Of course I do," he indignantly answered, going out the door on his way to the office.

At 10 am, the doorbell rang, and when the woman opened the door, she was handed a box containing a dozen long-stemmed red roses. At 1 pm, a foil-wrapped, two-pound box of her favorite chocolates arrived. Later, a boutique delivered a designer dress.

The woman couldn't wait for her husband to come home. "First the flowers, then the candy, and then the dress!" she exclaimed, "I've never spent a more wonderful Groundhog Day in my whole life!"



February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 6:00 pm Seaglass	6 4:30 pm Parents Prayer Grp (LSH)	7	8 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs)	9 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	10 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	11
12 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 6:00 pm Seaglass	13 Noon Friendship Lunch (LH)	14 7 pm Congregational Council (LH)	15 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs)	16 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 5:30 Harvest Cafe	17	18 8:30 am Blueberry Festival Craft Day
19 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 6:00 pm Seaglass	20	21	22 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs)	23 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	24	25 9:00 am Evergreen Quilters
26 10:00 Worship 6:00 pm Seaglass	27	28				

JOHN 3:16

Word Search Puzzle

C L S L M N R
L A H Q O A F V
A D H A E N E C L N
H I T S P L E D T
A F K A P A M R
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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:

Aliza
Anna
Aruda
Jerry Averill
Patti-Berg
Robert Arnold
Becky
Jessie Boria
Kenneth Bower
Peter Chadborn
Karin Cole
Cyndi
David
Cheryl Dearman-Mills
Rusty England

Carolyn Essel
Karen Fischer
Mike Fogarty
Marc Frappier
Frank Gagne
Peter Judd
Jim Keating
Jayce Kierney
Marissa Laskey
Lauren
Liz Lienhard
Linda, Doug, Haddie, Clayton
Jonathan Nile
Marion Noble
Bertha Nollman

Pat Parnell
Howard Phillips
Richard
Ken Roberts
Rick
Margaret Schwally
Heather Slayton
Richard Smith
Tom and Brenda
Barbara Stratton
Barbara Warner
Noah Warner
Bob Westerman
Carolyn Wortman

A prayer of thanksgiving for God’s healing power in the life of: Mary Lou and Jack Reinholz,

We commend into God’s care the spirit of those who have died recently: Kenneth Bower (Mary Cook’s nephew), Bertha Nollman (Carl Graves’ sister), Ruth Sheldon (Julie Clapp’s aunt), Ken Steiner (Julie Clapp’s cousin)

SERVING US IN FEBRUARY

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Jan. 8, 15 & 22 -
8:15 am
Bruce Cook (2/5), Barbara Weldon-Morin (2/12), Julie Clapp (2/19)
Mary Bates

February 26 – 10:00 am
Julie Clapp
Mary Bates

USHERS

8:15 am 10:45 am
Bob Brady Richard and Sayoko Wrage (2/5, 2/19); Mike and Julie Maloy (2/12, 2/26)

ALTAR GUILD

Joy Judd
10:45 am
Chris Cherry (2/5, 2/12), Frank Stetson (2/19)
Vicky Cherry (2/5, 2/12), Dot Bois (2/19)

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 March is Sunday, February 19th.*

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

THE CRIER

FEBRUARY 2017

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
2 Lord Street
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Reverend Richard A. Horner, Pastor

www.kennebunklutheran.org

Worship Schedule

February 5, 12, 19:

8:15 am: Modern Lutheran Liturgy*

10:45 am: Traditional Lutheran Liturgy*

February 26:

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

*Holy Communion served at all services

For God so
loved the world
that He gave
His only
begotten Son,
that whoever
believes in Him
should not
perish
but have
everlasting life.

John 3:16 (NKJV)

