

THE CRIER

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2017



From the Pastor - As I write this, I am looking out my office window watching the snow fall. Just yesterday, when I tuned in to the weather report on TV, they said it was going to rain today. Might still happen, eventually, but for now it is snowing quite heavily. I suppose you could say, "Well, that's what the weather is like in New England!" Which to some degree is true. But really? The forecast is that far off, less than a day beforehand?

Maybe, on this cusp of a New Year, there is a lesson to be learned here. In many ways (not just when it comes to the weather!) we would like to have an idea of what the future holds. We would like to be able to look forward, and have a sense of what is coming down the road. Especially when it's something good that is in store, but also if it happens to be something not-so-good.

If we can predict what the future holds, if we can look ahead and see the shape of what is heading our way, we can prepare our selves for it. We can take whatever steps might be necessary, so we are ready to welcome something good with open arms, or ready to protect our selves and mitigate anything bad.

But there is the rub – we don't know what the future holds. At least, not with a high degree of certainty. There may be certain indications one way or the other. Some signs that point in a positive direction (an upcoming promotion, birth, graduation, wedding), or in a negative direction (health problems, a rocky relationship, financial worries, having to relocate). But we never know for sure – until the future is no longer "out there" but actually arrives and becomes the present.

What we do know for sure, though, as we anticipate the new year; what we can count on with an absolute degree of certainty; is WHO will be part of our future. What we need never doubt is the promise that God accompanies us day by day. God has done so throughout the year that has just ended, and God will continue to do so in the new year that is just beginning. This is true for each of us as an individual, and for all of us together as a congregation. This is cause for us to rejoice and give thanks.

By the time you read this, it will be 2017. The clock will have ticked from 11:59 to 12:00 p.m., the ball will have dropped in Times Square, the calendar page will have been turned. Maybe you've made a resolution or two, and are looking forward to doing what you can to help make the New Year a good one. There's nothing wrong with setting goals and then striving to achieve them.

At the same time, though, let's be sure to set our sights ultimately on the One who will not let us down, the One we can count on to give us guidance and direction, the One who does know the future. For it is by putting our trust in the Lord that we are really prepared, really ready, for whatever 2017 brings our way. Holding firmly to our faith in Jesus through prayer, worship, Bible study, Christian fellowship, and serving those in need -- it is in this way that we can move into the future boldly and confidently. Not relying ultimately on our self, but on the One who loves us so much he gave his life for us.

"Happy New Year!" That is, may the awareness of God's presence in your life each and every day bring you happiness, and hope, and joy in all the good things you experience in the months ahead; as well as bringing you strength, and patience, and wisdom in any difficult things you may encounter.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Rich



MESSAGE FROM A COUNCIL MEMBER

by Bobbie Jo Boulay

To take the risk or not. I should not do this especially with my daughter in the car. Driving with my daughter in a snow blizzard. About to get on I-95 South from Freeport, Maine I see a young man with no hat, no boots, and a light jacket. I blurt out to my daughter to never do what I am about to do. I tell her that we are going to give this man standing on the side of the highway a ride. She is shocked. I tell her she has to promise me to never give rides to a stranger or get in the vehicle with someone she does not know. As I get closer to this young man I tell my daughter that she is going to sit in the back seat; so that if need be she will be able to get out of the vehicle. She climbs over the front seat and is still in shock that I am about to give this man a ride. I pull over, roll down the window, and ask the young man where he is going. He tells me Portland. I then tell him if he is going to hurt my daughter, or myself he should not get in the car. He is puzzled. I tell him again that I really should not be giving a stranger a ride with my daughter in the car, so if you plan on hurting us DO NOT get in my car.

The young man tells me that he will not hurt us and that he just needs a ride. I let him in and we are on our way to Portland. He tells us that he travels all over Maine hitchhiking because he does not have a vehicle. He travels in all kinds of weather and only had two bad experiences traveling with strangers. As we get closer to Portland and his home he thanked us for stopping to pick him up. I told him it was a pleasure to visit with him and to take care.

I have not picked anyone up since this experience with my daughter. All I could think of when I saw this young man cold and alone on the road was what if that was one of my children or a friend who needed a ride. I am glad I was able to help this young man but at that same time I knew it was a dangerous thing to do. I thank God for keeping my daughter and me safe but I am also thankful God gave me the opportunity to help another person.

Colossians 4:5-New International Version-

"Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity."



GIFT-GIVING TREE

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

HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS

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



I PROMISE MYSELF

by Donna Simmons

Periodically, I promise myself to slow down and find a better balance to my life. Usually this thought shows up when I'm feeling overloaded with not enough time to stop and smell the roses or in the case of this winter smell the ocean salt spray from my deck chair.

My husband and I both came to that conclusion several months ago when we found that it now takes all day to do one or two things that we used to do in a couple hours. My To Do List for the day usually remains mostly undone.

The top of my list is connecting with my Lord. Then there is taking care of my geriatric body with some form of exercise. Then we have to feed that body. I use the word "we" here because I don't cook. Then I check into the internet or do something intellectual to exercise my brain. Then before I know it, it is lunch time and the cycle begins again. By the time I get to dinner I might have done one task on my To Do List. I now use a smaller calendar with room for just one task per day.

This is my plan for 2017, just one task per day. And, if that task takes too long to complete, I will break it down to two or three mini-tasks spread over several days. It might take a whole week just to dust the house. Good thing my husband cooks the meals. I hope he doesn't forget how when we finally get back from our cruise.



ANNUAL REPORT

All chairs of Boards and Committees are asked to submit a report on the activity of your group during the 2016 year. Reports are due in the church office no later than Wednesday, January 17th so that the report can be available on Sunday, January 22nd for people to pick up and look over prior to the annual meeting on Sunday January 29th. Reports can be sent to info@kennebunklutheran.org. Thank you!

DAY OF EPIPHANY

On Friday *January 6th*, you are invited to a potluck dinner at the church at 6 pm. Following dinner there will be a short, informal worship service. Please add your name to the sign up sheet posted in the Narthex (entryway).



ROGER'S REFLECTIONS: Three Men Named John

By Roger Rotvig

The Biblical name John is probably the most popular name in western society. I had a grandfather, an uncle and two cousin Johns. Helen's family name was Johnson, in the Scandinavian tradition.

The New Testament has three persons identified as John. Each was very important but completely different in the roles they played in that period. It is important to keep them separated in our minds.

The first person named John in the New Testament, was John the Baptist. Three of the Gospels record his work, calling the Hebrew people to repentance as the time of the Messiah, promised in the Prophets, had arrived. As Jesus entered Jerusalem to begin his public ministry, John identified Jesus as Messiah and baptized Him. John had little more to do with Jesus' ministry but obviously kept his repentance call active which led to his beheading by King Herod.

The next and most important John, was one of Jesus' 12 disciples, called by Jesus, "the beloved". It is unnecessary to recount all of John's activity that warranted this title, but at the cross of crucifixion, Jesus commended his mother, Mary into the care of John. Strongly held tradition says that John, with Mary, moved eastward after Paul's planting of the church in Asia-Minor, settling around Ephesus. The 4th Gospel, bearing the name John, was clearly written by him and differs from the other Gospels in that its style contains strong elements of Greek philosophy, as witness its opening lines: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God". No Bethlehem story was necessary.

The third Biblical John was most likely not a contemporary of Jesus. He is the author of three Epistles (letters) to the young Christian churches that were struggling to survive in the Roman Empire. These letters were first found in the 4th century AD and added to the Bible by the Council of Carthage in 397AD. Being authentic scripture is not in question, only the authorship. The general problem with authorship by John, the writer of the Gospel, is that it clearly writes about events that did not begin to happen until the year 100AD. The Gospel writer of John, would have to have been in his 90s+ to have known of the events and other than his Gospel, written in about 80AD, no other contact by him with other Christian communities exist.

There may be a 4th person named John as a Biblical writer. The Book of Revelations is officially named The Revelation of John, but the style and content of the book preclude ascribing it to the Gospel or Epistle writing Johns. The authorship and content of Revelations is far too complex to be covered in this Reflection.

BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL CRAFT DAY

The next craft day is scheduled for January 21st. 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!



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday January 29, 2017, following the single service that day at 10 a.m. and lunch which will be served after worship. This is a particularly important annual meeting, as we will be voting to authorize the expenditure of funds being collected through the Restoring + Renewing + Rejoicing capital campaign. The congregation originally authorized a campaign to raise funds for the purpose of replacing carpeting and tile, refurbishing the kitchen, paying off the mortgage, and engaging the services of a social media consultant. At the meeting on January 29th the Congregation Council will present a spending plan for the congregation's approval. Final decisions will also need to be made as to the specific carpet, tile, cabinet, and countertop materials to be used. Your participation and input will be especially helpful, so please make it a priority to attend. Thank you!

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, EVERY SUNDAY, EVERY DAY

Happy New Year, everyone! We at Holy Cross Lutheran Church have just finished a wonderful year of joyful fulfillment with faith, spiritual energy and blessed commitment! We have been energized by the Holy Spirit of Christ in our lives!! Happy New Year, everyone!

Finishing the year for me has always been rejoicing in the tradition of Christmas. The days leading up to Christmas thru Advent has grown in me over the years in many different ways. Early on as a kid in a wonderful Christian family it was filled with a youngster's wonder and excitement, and later as I grew more to understand the meaning of Christ's birth on our lives, tradition began to take a different meaning. First in my own family, as it grew, and then my original family, my parents and my sister, all entered my memory of the early tradition. And now, the tradition of the Christmas Season extends beyond these memories and moves out into the whole world we are in now. There is so much potential and need for peace, for prosperity and for enduring happiness, but it also is overshadowed by the great needs for so many and a trend for secular distrust. With faith, tradition will win out.

I just watched a Christmas Special on PBS, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir's concert. They performed Handel's Messiah in a way I had never seen. They depicted the first twenty years after it was written as performed only for charity: raising money for those in debtors prison and to build orphan hospitals. Before it became a staple in the Christmas season, the work was performed for charity! What a truly magnificent beginning, and a significant start to celebrate the birth of Christ for charity.

Today our Christian faith comes from the gift our God gave us in Christ's birth. Charity begins at home, in our hearts, but Christian charity extends to our family, into our church, our community and our world where our actions can make a difference. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Carl Graves

ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARDS

Thanks to all who have already turned in an estimate of giving card for 2017! There are extra copies available on the stand at the back of the church if you need one. Returning an estimate of giving card is of great help as we plan for the ministry of Holy Cross in the coming year! It would be greatly appreciated if your card can be turned in as soon as possible. Cards can be put in the offering plate on Sunday morning, or mailed to the church office. Thank you!

SHARE THE BOUNTY



The next free bean supper will be on Saturday, January 7th 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!

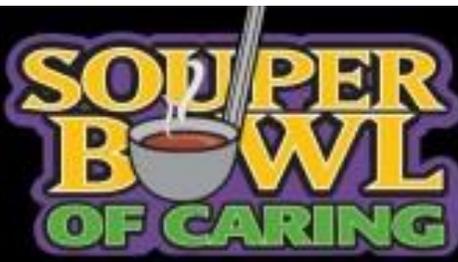


If you would like to volunteer, please see Julie Clapp! Thank you!!

Come Have Some Pie!!

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!



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.

FRIENDSHIP LUNCH

January’s Friendship Lunch will be held on Monday, January 9th at noon. We will be serving homemade pork pies, applesauce and dessert. 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.

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@gwi.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

Short Reading from the Bible

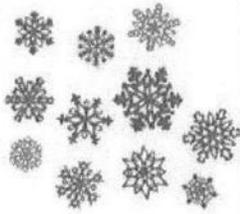
From Genesis: “And God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the earth.” Then he made the earth round and He laughed and laughed and laughed.

New Year’s Advice by Albert Einstein

There are only two ways to live your life.
One is as though nothing is a miracle.
The other is as though everything is a miracle.

Coloring Page for Kids!





January 2017

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



FAMILY & FRIENDS WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS:

Aliza
Anna
Jerry Averill
Patti Berg Anderson
Robert Arnold
Becky
Jessie Boria
Kenneth Bower
Peter Chadborn
Karin Cole
Cyndi
David
Rusty England
Carolyn Essel

Karen Fischer
Frank Gagne
Jim Harding
Peter Judd
Jim Keating
Jayce Kierney
Marissa Laskey
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
Mary Lou & Jack Reinholz
Barbara Stratton
Barbara Warner
Noah Warner
Bob Westerman

A prayer of thanksgiving for God’s healing power in the life of: Rolf Bandle, Barbara Stratton, Amanda, Sean Hanson, Mike Robb

We commend into God’s care the spirit of those who have died recently: Will Fulford (son of Marueen and Bill Fulford who are friends of several members of Holy Cross)

SERVING US IN JANUARY

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Jan. 8, 15 & 22 -
8:15 am
Bruce Cook
Sharon McGary

10:45 am
Chris Cherry
Michele Stivaletta Noble

Jan. 1 – 10:00 am
Frank Stetson
Michele Stivaletta Noble

Jan. 29 - 10:00 am
Bruce Cook
Sharon McGary

USHERS

8:15 am
Bruce Anderson

10:45 am
Robert White

ALTAR GUILD

Mary Bates

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 is Sunday, January 22nd.*

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

THE CRIER

JANUARY 2017

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
2 Lord Street
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Reverend Richard A. Horner, Pastor

www.kennebunklutheran.org

Worship Schedule

January 8, 15, 22:

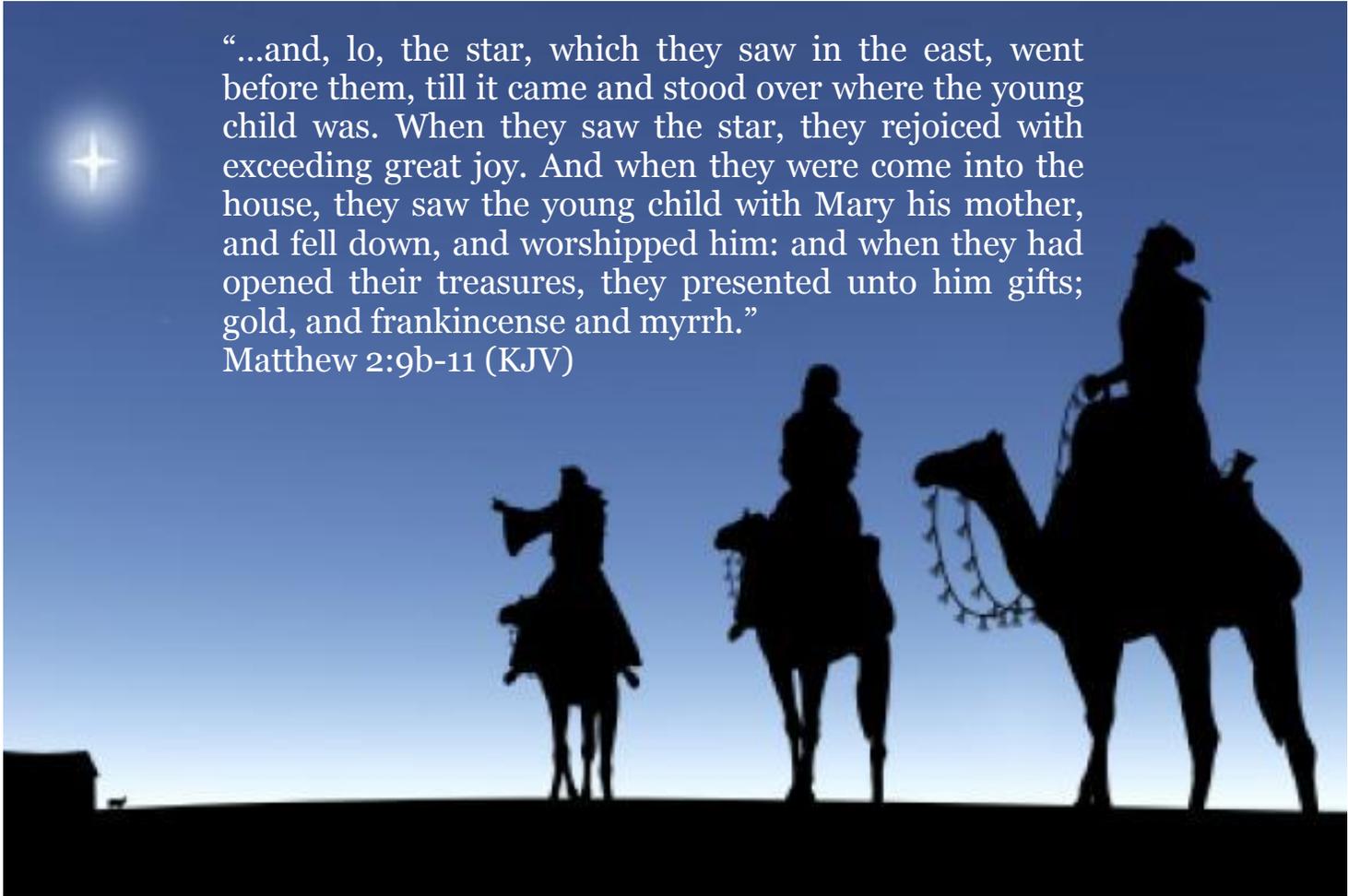
8:15 am: Modern Lutheran Liturgy*

10:45 am: Traditional Lutheran Liturgy*

January 1 and 29:

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

*Holy Communion served at all services



“...and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.”

Matthew 2:9b-11 (KJV)