

From the Pastor – There’s an old saying that encourages people not to discuss religion or politics. In the church, such an admonition with regard to religion obviously doesn’t apply. But when it comes to politics? I suspect many people would agree it is a subject that is best avoided. I doubt there has ever been a time when having a political discussion in church was *easy*. But I also have little doubt that in today’s environment engaging in such a conversation is especially challenging.

If there is one thing, politically speaking, that meets with near universal agreement, it might be a statement along these lines: a deep divide exists in our country, deeper even than in previous generations, between people at different ends of the political spectrum. In fact, the term “political spectrum” might not even seem to be an accurate description. It may seem that virtually everyone is aligned at one end or the other of a continuum, with very few arrayed anywhere along the middle. It may seem that virtually everyone is strongly Republican or strongly Democrat, strongly conservative or strongly liberal, hard right or hard left.

Gone seems to be the sense that we all have something in common, as citizens of the United States. Gone seems to be the sense that democracy involves working together toward a common goal. Gone seems to be the sense that people who disagree politically not only can, but indeed should, treat each other with respect. I know that many instances could be given of politicians themselves failing to act in accordance with such principles. But do we, as Christians, take our cues from politicians, or from a much higher authority? Do we model our behavior after those who hold elected office, or do we strive for our actions to reflect the life of Jesus?

I certainly don’t have any magic solution to the divisive political atmosphere in which we live. One that is likely to become more so over the next two months. But at the very least, I want to speak a word of caution. It is one thing to think and feel passionately about one’s political positions. It is one thing to advocate for this or that candidate, or for this or that piece of legislation. It is one thing to take exception to a person or candidate who supports policies you believe to be misguided, or even harmful.

But it is another thing entirely, to act as if your position cannot be questioned. It is another entirely, to be closed off to the idea of better understanding where other people are coming from and why they think/feel the way they do. It is another thing entirely, to ridicule or vilify those with whom you disagree.

Unfortunately, in this last instance, what can happen sometimes goes even beyond ridicule or vilification. Unfortunately, what can happen is feeling *justified* in doing so. People on the other side of a political issue can be judged so harshly, judged to be so patently, irrefutably *wrong*, that one might feel it is a virtuous thing to do, a righteous thing to do, to denigrate, belittle, and disparage them.

Spirited political dialogue, and respectful sharing of one’s political positions is, indeed, virtuous. Tearing other people down, even over something you feel passionate about, is not virtuous. Not for those who follow Jesus. Not toward those outside the church. Not toward brothers and sisters in Christ.

If we can’t engage in political discussion without being kind and respectful toward others, it would indeed be best to avoid the topic. What would be even better, though, would be to prayerfully ask for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to empower our participation in the political process in ways that are consistent with, and grounded in, our Christian faith.

On that note, if you have an interest in experimenting with such an approach to politics, please let me know. If there were a group of people at Holy Cross who wanted to give it a try, I’d be happy to convene such a group. Where the stated purpose would be to talk about political issues honestly from one’s own perspective, to listen carefully as others

Continued on Page 2



express their (perhaps very different) political positions, and to surround it all with prayer and with mutual respect. The goal **not** being to convince or persuade others to change their positions, (though in listening carefully to what is said, a person might decide of his or her own accord to alter/refine their personal stance). But with the goal of learning and practicing how to engage politically in a way that is less divisive and more beneficial for all who take part.

In John 17:20-21 Jesus declares: “My prayer is not for them [his original disciples] alone, but for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one” The oneness for which Jesus prayed wasn’t that all his followers down through the centuries would be perfectly in sync with one another, never thinking or feeling differently about anything. But a oneness that would supersede the differences that would certainly exist. A oneness where differences could be acknowledged, but without disrupting the more important, most important, thing believers have in common: their faith in the love, grace, and forgiveness of Jesus. May the spirit of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, guide us in **all** that we do, including our political words and actions.

Sincerely in Christ,
Pastor Rich



**“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him,
so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”**

Romans 15:13

Thanks to all who prepared for and attended the Restoring + Renewing + Rejoicing brunch on August 28th! It was a wonderful to have Pastor LiaBraaten with us to share God’s Word during worship, and it was wonderful to share fellowship around the table following the service, while enjoying a very tasty meal! Capital Campaign packets for each member/family of the Holy Cross community were distributed to those in attendance, and the remaining packets are ready to be picked up on Sunday September 4th. Any packets left after that date will be mailed, so please make a point of picking yours up if you haven’t already done so – thank you!

Prayer Cards are available on the stand at the back of the sanctuary if you did not already get one. We are asking all members of the Holy Cross community to keep in prayer the Restoring + Renewing + Rejoicing capital campaign upon which we are embarking. Please take home a prayer card and place it on your dining room table or near where you have devotions, as a helpful reminder to pray each day for God to be present in our midst and directing us along our way!

MESSAGE FROM A COUNCIL MEMBER

by Bruce Cook

The Gift of Forgiveness

As a life long Lutheran I have always enjoyed the richness of our church service. The Order of Confession and Forgiveness, the liturgy, the Bible readings, the beautiful forms of music, the instructional benefits of a well prepared and delivered sermon, the prayers we offer that are so meaningful to our church, as well as the inner joy and peace experienced upon taking part in the Lord's Supper. We are fortunate to participate in a weekly worship experience that influences how we live our lives.

In recent years the Order of Confession and Forgiveness has become the mainstay of my personal religious experience. For years I failed to truly appreciate the meaning of the words spoken and the magnificent action taken. Sincerely accepting the fact that our lives are an open book to God and despite our best efforts we are unable to free ourselves from sin, is a humbling revelation. Not only am I vulnerable to wrong doing, I am at times, a willing participant, experiencing a world that makes meaningful change considerably difficult and less attractive.

The Order of Confession and Forgiveness helps to alter the dynamics of this seemingly hopeless condition. God promises that if we willingly and sincerely confess our failings that He will provide us with limitless, unblemished, mercy. Mercy is defined as a kind or forgiving treatment of someone who could be treated harshly. The mercy of God is something more, with a unique quality that lightens the human soul and leads to a feeling of deep peace. God's special form of mercy is reflected in the words of William Shakespeare: ***"The quality of mercy is not strained; It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath."*** God's mercy is not watered down; it is offered completely and repeatedly, with deep love and great joy. This gift renews me each week and instills a desire to live my life in a way that is more acceptable to our Lord.

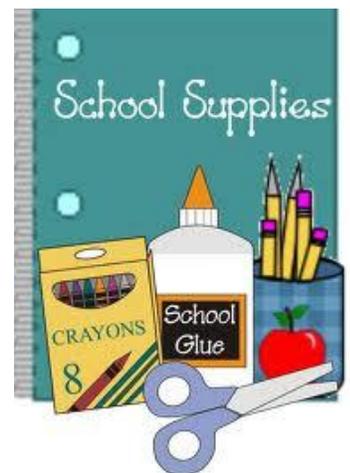
I am also obliged to wonder about my own willingness to not only accept forgiveness but to offer it as well. Why is it that the mercy we passionately desire and readily accept can be so difficult to grant to others? We need to remember that as the recipients of Gods grace we are expected to render the same to our brothers and sisters. By so doing we receive and share a unique and beautiful gift. William Shakespeare completed his thoughts about the quality of mercy by writing; ***"The quality of mercy is not strained; It droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven upon the place beneath. It is twice blest; It blesseth him that gives and him that takes."*** Let us be both recipients and distributors of the blessings of God. Forgiveness and mercy are gifts that truly keep on giving.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Please note that our 9:30 am single service will continue through Labor Day Weekend. Then on Sunday September 11 we return to our program year schedule, WITH ONE CHANGE. The program year schedule is modern worship at 8:15 am and traditional worship at 10:45 am, except for the last Sunday of the month which is a single service. **Normally the single service is at 10 am, but on September 25 the single service will be at 9:30 am.** Please make a note on your calendar. Thanks!

COLLECTION OF SCHOOL SUPPLIES

THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to the collection of school supplies this year! Your generous donations have been picked up and are being distributed to children in need through Caring Unlimited — York County's domestic violence shelter. You have shared God's love and made a positive difference in the lives of these young people!



HIGH MAINTENANCE

by Donna Simmons

Whenever my husband and I are away my daughter and her family take care of our dog, Bear. We in turn take care of their dog, Buddy, when they are away. My daughter says our dog is high maintenance when she is with them. Now that's funny. We always see her dog as high maintenance when he is here.



This is one of those weeks when we have Buddy while my daughter and her family are camping. And yes he is high maintenance. It's not that he is a bad dog, he's not. It's just that he is used to his first family and the way things are done in his city home. He gets along real well with our Bear. When one barks the other one barks in support of whatever cause set off the first one. It doesn't matter if it's logical or not, they support each other. They even share a food bowl and water, and on occasion the same bone or rawhide chewy. They've been working on a T-bone all week.

When we take the two dogs for a walk on one of our forest trails, off lead (without a leash), Bear listens when we call her name, generally comes back to us when we ask her to come. Buddy does not even acknowledge our calling his name. He has to inspect every suspected chipmunk hole, every leaf with another animal's scent and seek out prospective mud baths. This year with the drought we don't have to be concerned with mud bathing or puddle jumping. If we ask Bear to take the point, like we did today, she walks ahead of us about twenty-five feet. She occasionally turns to the left or to the right to see if we are still behind her, or as my husband and I like to say: she does a 'Crazy Ivan' and either turns to the 'port side' or 'to the starboard' (A phrase we stole from the movie, *The Hunt For Red October*). At any rate, we very often have to go back to wherever Buddy has gotten sidetracked and nudge him to move forward, sometimes we end up picking him up or clipping on his lead.

My daughter says Bear barks a lot when she is with them, whines for snacks all day long, and insists on sleeping on a comfortable bed up against a warm human body at night. Okay, so we spoil her a little, well maybe a lot.

The point is: we all have to have patience with new people both four-legged and two. What is high maintenance to us must be very confusing to those who don't ordinarily live here. I think about the problems with refugees. The news media would have us believe they are trouble makers. How scary is it to be someplace new, to not know the simplest rules, the language, the customs, and still try to fit in? Life is high maintenance for those who are not sure of their surroundings or their welcome. We need to have patience and compassion and find the joy in the little things. We have so much to learn from each other. Let us lead with open hearts and the love of our Lord, Jesus.



PARENTS' PRAYER GROUP

The Parent's Prayer group meets the first Monday of every month in Lord Street House. Beginning with our June 6th gathering, we will meet at 4:30 pm. 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!

ROGERS REFLECTIONS: The Nature of God

By Roger Rotvig

I don't know where I first read this article, but I have come back to it time and again for guidance and help. Its only lack is the reference to God's greatest outreach to man through the death and resurrection of His only Son, Jesus, the Christ our Lord. That omission in the article was probably to make it more applicable to readers other than Christian. If you read the fifteen sections with that in mind, it may add greatly to your attempt to fathom the complicated relationship between the One God and his creation.

- **God already knows what's in our hearts.
So get right to the point when you pray to him.**
- **Remember God values you for who you are.
Not the good works you do.**
- **True faith in God involves doing all you can
and letting God take care of the rest.**
- **God is more likely to speak to you with a
gentle whisper than with a loud voice.**
- **God won't take away a sin until you give it over to Him.**
- **The times when you need God the most are the times
when you don't think you need him.**
- **Don't worry about proving God's existence,
because no one can disprove it.**
- **You can't sweet-talk or strong-arm your way into heaven.
Your faith is all that counts.**
- **Religion is man's attempt to find God.
The Gospel is God's plan to reach man.
Don't let religion stand in the way of YOUR salvation.**
- **Thank God that your salvation does not depend on you.**
- **The way YOU think about God does not define Him.**
- **Faith is not emotion. It is objective trust
placed in a very real God.**
- **One quality of God's nature that should make
us tremble is His justice.**
- **One quality of God's nature that should give
us comfort is His love.**
- **Just feeling good about God does not bring you
closer to him.**

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, EVERY SUNDAY, EVERY DAY

Every four years when the Olympics are put on I never cease to be amazed at the total commitment the athletes put out in their individual sport or team sport. The dedication to training over the years, just to make the country's team, all over the world, reflects a desire to be the very best in the whole world. Originally the Olympics were just for an individual sport, such as track and field, gymnastics or swimming. However, over time, the concept of team sports evolved. However, this did not preclude the individual's dedication to be part of a team. The basketball player, soccer player, field hockey player or even the relay race runners were required all, as individuals, to perform up to their best, for the team.

So too do we practice our stewardship on just such a disciplined, and dedicated way? Are we not all individuals, practicing our faith in our Lord Jesus, with as much dedication as an Olympic athlete trains and practices for his or her sport? Yes, we are all, in God's eyes, part of that team who puts our faith in His love.

Of course it is intended, in this essay, to talk about the current team effort that is now moving forward at Holy Cross! Our current Capital Campaign of RESTORING + RENEWING + REJOICING is to support our commitment of improving the physical appearance of our church home, especially our kitchen, and reducing our current overhead expense by reducing our mortgage. Many of our team members have dedicated many hours of time and talent to prepare for our Commitment Sunday on September 28th. During this period many Holy Cross folks are and will continue to spread the word of the importance of this Commitment. Meetings have been and will be held in some homes, to prayerfully reflect on what can be given as a faith filled response to God's grace. Packets of information on the importance of the RESTORING + RENEWING + REJOICING Campaign have been sent to everyone, as we move to renew and extend the Christian tradition that Holy Cross has been so meaningful to so many over the years. A great deal of the information shows how many different ways a gift can be made to the Campaign. Many of the questions you may have about the Campaign are answered in the material. Also, a Guide for Giving and Commitment is included, for you to prayerfully consider a commitment. As the theme verse that was chosen for our campaign states, "May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace", as we embark together on this challenge. The Holy Cross Team wants you on THE TEAM.

I want to thank everyone who has worked so hard to make this important part of God's work here at Holy Cross. The dedication of so many in our Church family is heartwarming and truly a blessing. And I personally want to thank all of you who will prayerfully decide what your commitment can be over the next three years.

Carl Graves

P.S. It has been said by many that "for where your treasure is, there your heart will also be".

PRAYER CARDS

Prayer cards are in a basket in the Narthex with a prayer for the refugees of the world. Please take one to use as a reminder there are those who need our prayers for well-being and safety.

SHARE THE BOUNTY

The next free bean supper will be on Saturday, September 3rd 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!!



SCHEDULING

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.

FRIENDSHIP LUNCH

Friendship lunch is always held on the second Monday of each month. In September, the luncheon will be Monday, September 12th at noon.

We will be serving a picnic style meal of hot dogs, potato salad and dessert so come and join us!

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Keating.



BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL

The ninth annual Blueberry Festival was held on August 13th starting at 9:00 am.

The day before the festival, a dedicated group of volunteers set up and made 140 pies in excessive summer heat. Those pies, plus a whole table of other baked goods, were sold in a little over two hours on Saturday morning! Vi Stephens and Sandie Hamel fried a large number of donuts and those also went exceedingly fast. By 12:30, the doors were closed and the festival was declared a success!

All proceeds from the festival are benefitting "In a Pinch," a nonprofit that provides essential items not covered by Food Stamps for those in need in the local community.

The total amount raised this year was: \$3,373!!

Thank you to all the volunteers and for the members of Holy Cross for making the Blueberry Festival a wonderful event in the life of our church!

MONDAY MORNING GROUP

The Monday morning group will not start meeting again until October 17th at 10:00 am. All are welcome to come and share some coffee, treats and fellowship while knitting, crocheting or just being together. We meet until 11:30 or noon!

LAWN MOWING

The summer — i.e. lawn mowing — season is drawing to a close and we'd like to thank all the volunteers who helped keep the grass around the church trimmed and looking nice! The gift of your time and energy in this way has been much appreciated.



YOUNG AT HEART

On Sunday, October 23rd at 2:00p.m., the Young at heart group will be making a trip to the Biddeford City Theater to see **“Over the River and through the Woods”**.

A COMEDY BY JOE DIPIETRO. NICK IS A SINGLE, ITALIAN-AMERICAN GUY FROM NEW JERSEY. HIS PARENTS RETIRED AND MOVED TO FLORIDA. THAT DOESN'T MEAN HIS FAMILY ISN'T STILL IN JERSEY. IN FACT, HE SEES BOTH SETS OF HIS GRANDPARENTS EVERY SUNDAY FOR DINNER. THIS IS ROUTINE UNTIL HE HAS TO TELL THEM THAT HE'S BEEN OFFERED A DREAM JOB THAT WOULD TAKE HIM AWAY TO SEATTLE. THUS BEGINS A SERIES OF SCHEMES TO KEEP NICK AROUND. FRANK, AIDA, NUNZIO AND EMMA DO THEIR LEVEL BEST TO KEEP NICK AROUND, AND THAT INCLUDES BRINGING TO DINNER THE LOVELY—AND SINGLE—CAITLIN O'HARE AS BAIT.

Tickets are \$22 each and please sign up in the Narthex by Sunday, October 9th if you'd like to attend!
If you have any questions, please ask Mary Keating

HOLY CROSS WEB SITE

If you haven't logged on to the church web site recently, please make a point of checking it out soon! The web site has been updated with new graphics, additional photos on the home page, a welcome video by Pastor Rich, a Google map for directions, and an online church calendar (the calendar is found under the “ways to connect” tab). The web site address is kennebunklutheran.org. Many thanks to the Internet Presence Team (Julie Clapp, Barbara Weldon-Morin, Faith Gillman, Donna Simmons, and Vicky Cherry) for all of their work in getting these changes accomplished!



JOKE OF THE MONTH

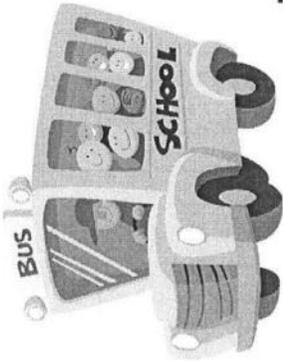
Submitted by Jack Bates

INFIDEL

An infidel sneered. “So many things in the world are made wrong. Look at that little acorn on that big tree and that big pumpkin on that little vine! People talk about an all-wise God at the head of this universe. Now if I had been doing it I would have put that acorn on the vine, and the pumpkin on the oak.

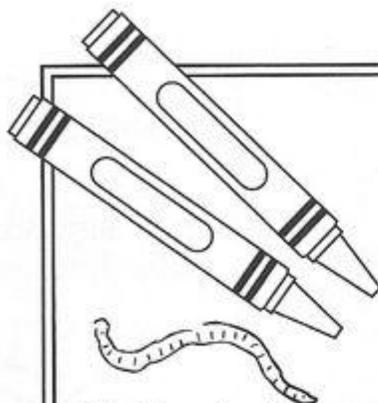
Just then an acorn fell and hit him on the head. A listener was heard to remark, “What if it had been a pumpkin.”

The smaller we are the more room we have for God.



September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 9:30 Worship	5 LABOR DAY 4:30 Parent's Prayer Group (LSH)	6 10 am Prayer Shawls at Krele home	7 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs)	8 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30 pm Men's Grp (LH) 7 pm Worship Cmte (LSH)	9 1:00 pm Tim's Jazz Camp (LH)	10 4 pm Bean Supper (LH)
11 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 6 Sea Glass	12 Noon Friendship Lunch (LH) 4:30 Healthy Steps (LH)	13 7 pm Congregational Council (LH)	14 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs)	15 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 5:30 Harvest Café (LH) 6:30 pm Men's Grp (LSH)	16	17
18 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 6 Sea Glass	19 4:30 Healthy Steps (LH)	20	21 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs)	22 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30 pm Men's Grp (LSH)	23	24 9 am Evergreen Quilters (LH)
25 9:30 Worship 6 Sea Glass	26 4:30 Healthy Steps (LH)	27	28 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 AI-Anon (downstairs)	29 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30 pm Men's Grp (LSH)	30	



Just for KIDS

Bugs in the Bible



Whether at a picnic, on the beach or playing outdoors, it seems like we're always joined by uninvited guests – bugs!

Bugs and other little creatures are mentioned in the Bible.



*Fill in the blanks with the little creatures mentioned in each verse.
Circle them in the puzzle below.*

Proverbs 6:6 _____ Exodus 16:20 _____

Psalms 78:45 _____ 1 Sam. 24:14 _____

Matt. 23:24 _____ Isaiah 50:9 _____

Judges 14:8 _____ Isaiah 59:5 _____

Acts 12:23 _____ Leviticus 11:22 _____

Leviticus 11:22 _____ Leviticus 11:22 _____

Leviticus 11:22 _____

Deuteronomy 7:20 _____



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

Answer: ant, flies, gnat, bees, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet, maggots, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket



FAMILY & FRIENDS WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS:

Aliza
Amanda
Robert Arnold
Becky
Jessie Boria
Kenneth Bower
Trisha Bumby
Arlene Casey
Peter Chadborn
Tina & Tommy Ciasullo
Cyndi
David
Robert Desjardins
Nancy England
Rusty England
Carolyn Essel
Karen Fischer
Fred & Mary
Frank Gagne

Jerry Gostanian
Greer
Kaleigh Guay
Sean Hanson
Jim Harding
Jimmy Henri
Alberta Holden
Joe & Laurel
Jenny
Peter Judd
Jim Keating
Jayce Kierney
Gerry Lallier
Marissa Laskey
Liz Lienhard
Margaret
Nina and Paul
Jonathan Nile

Marion Noble
Bertha Nollman
Pat Parnell
Howard Phillips
Richard
Mike Robb
Ken Roberts
Rylan
Margaret Schwally
Gwen Shibles
Richard Smith
Tom and Brenda
Mary Lou & Jack Reinholz
Elaine Simmons
Barbara Stratton
Ted
Barbara Warner
Bob Westerman
Landon Wilson

A prayer of thanksgiving for God’s healing power in the life of: Dottie Graves

SERVING US IN SEPTEMBER

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

9:30 am (9/4 & 9/25)	8:15 am (9/11 & 9/18)	10:45 am (9/11 & 9/18)
Patti Berg-Anderson	Carl Graves	Chris Cherry
Sharon McGary	Sharon McGary	Dot Bois

ALTAR GUILD

TBA

USHERS

8:15 am	10:45 am
Mary Keating	Peter Judd

CRIER PUBLICATION INFO:

To get pertinent information out to our members and friends in a more timely fashion, The Crier will now be published the last full week of each month. In order for us to use this publishing schedule, we need to set a firm deadline for submissions. *The firm deadline for the October is Sunday, September 18th.*

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

THE CRIER

SEPTEMBER 2016

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
2 Lord Street
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Reverend Richard A. Horner, Pastor

www.kennebunklutheran.org

Worship Schedule

Sept. 4th & Sept. 25th

9:30 am: Single Service with combined Modern/Traditional Liturgies*

Sept. 11th & Sept. 18th

8:15 am: Modern Lutheran Liturgy*

10:45 am: Traditional Lutheran Liturgy*

*Holy Communion served at all services



Purpose Statement:

*Receive, trust, live,
share God's Word
with love and peace,
empowered by the
Holy Spirit!*

Guiding Principles:

*Pray always
Step out in courage
Listen to and empower others
Work together
Be humble and generous*