

THE CRIER

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2017



From the Pastor – A book I bought, recommended by our New England Synod Bishop Jim Hazelwood, has to do with the topic of stewardship. Now please don't stop reading! I know the word "stewardship" can have certain negative connotations. I know the word can be associated with unpleasant experiences people may have had when it comes to the church and money. But such connections can be resisted, and pushed back against, by talking about stewardship in a more holistic sense. Something that actually happens on a regular basis in the pages of our Holy Cross Crier, with an excellent article written each month by Carl Graves focusing on the giving of our self – our whole self -- to God. Stewardship in the broadest sense is being in a relationship with God that is marked by love, thanksgiving, generosity, and trust. A relationship that is also marked by freedom, joy, purpose, and hope. Why would we want to avoid thinking and talking about stewardship, when it has to do with living out and experiencing such wonderful things?

Well, it might be because we have, indeed, had a bad experience in the past. A past experience most likely having to do specifically with the financial aspect of stewardship. Hearing a message that conveyed a sense of guilt and/or came across as putting pressure on you to give. There do exist what are sometimes referred to as "high demand" or "high expectation" churches. Congregations that tell their members they are supposed to give "x" amount or "y" percent in support of the church. Perhaps going so far as to say, or to imply, that doing so is part of what it means to be a "good" or "faithful" Christian. I don't doubt that such an approach leads to some church budgets being fully funded. At the same time, I don't doubt that people whose giving occurs under such duress are not experiencing stewardship the way God intends.

The financial part of stewardship (which tends to be a focus this time of year) does involve money, and so can raise the specter of feeling guilty or pressured. But neither is inherently part of the picture. They don't have to be included in the content or tone of the message being communicated. What is an inherent part of the picture, though, is talking about finances – one's own finances and the finances of the church. And this brings me back to the book I mentioned at the outset. The title of which conveys in a very helpful and succinct fashion how the book envisions stewardship ministry taking place in a congregation: *Ask, Thank, Tell*.

The *Ask* part is pretty self-explanatory. The congregation asks those who are a part of the church community to give financially in support of the ministries being carried out. The way you are asked can certainly make a difference (guilt and pressure language versus joy and gratitude language), but there is certainly an action you are being asked to take – i.e. giving of your financial resources. At Holy Cross we ask people to 1) pray about your level of giving, 2) consider turning in a commitment card to help us plan more accurately, 3) give out of a spirit of willingness (2 Corinthians 8:12), 4) give in proportion to what you have (also 2 Corinthians 8:12).

The *Thank* part is also pretty self-explanatory. The congregation expresses its appreciation for the gifts that are given to provide the necessary funds to carry out the church's ministry. Each month when the Congregation Council meets, part of its responsibility is to look at how we are doing in terms of income and expenses. When the Council reports a few highlights from the meeting on the following Sunday morning, a word of thanks is periodically spoken for all that people are doing to help keep those income and expenses in balance. A thank you also goes out at times in the form of a financial update in the newsletter (as was the case just last month), along with bulletin announcements. Along with regular offering gifts, gifts that are given to special fund raising appeals (like the Restoring+Renewing+Rejoicing Campaign, or the Blueberry Festival, or the Youth Work Camp Mission Trip) are also acknowledged regularly with words of thanks and appreciation.

The *Tell* part might be the area in which we are the weakest. This has to do with telling the story of how the financial gifts we are so thankful to receive, result in wonderful ministry taking place. Yes, some such stories are told, but many more could be added. Stories about the positive impact our community meals make – both in the lives of members

Continued on page 2

who work to prepare and serve the delicious food, as well as in the lives of those who come to be fed, both in body and in soul. Stories about the positive impact of making our building available for use by community support groups, sewing groups, singing groups, service groups. Stories about the positive impact of our prayer ministry, our worship life, our Bible study groups, our participation in the local food pantry, Seeds of Hope Neighborhood Center, Kennebunk Cares Clothing closet ... and more. Some of the stories we do tell, but there are more that could be shared to communicate the wide scope of what people's freely given financial gifts make possible.

Ask, Thank, Tell is a pretty simple guideline, when it comes to thinking and talking about stewardship. May God bless us as we do all three, and help us to grow in each of those areas.

May we also *Ask* for God's guidance, *Thank* God for his presence, and *Tell* of the goodness of God, in our own life as an individual, and in our life together as the people of Holy Cross.

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Rich*

MESSAGE FROM A COUNCIL MEMBER

By Lynne Gaudette

As an active youth at St. John's Lutheran Church of Highland in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, I continued spiritual life with the Lutheran ministry at college.

As an adult I have been an active member at Lutheran or Episcopal churches wherever I lived.... a number of times being unchurched until the call to find a church to feed my soul led me back. What always drew me back? In words taken from Care of the Soul by Thomas Moore,

“The soul needs spirituality. It doesn't arrive fully formed without effort...but requires constant attention by which spiritual principles and understandings are kept alive. For good reason we go to church regularly: it's easy for consciousness to become lodged in the material world and to forget the spiritual.

Church teaches us directly and symbolically to see the sacred dimension in everyday life, a way of sustaining mindfulness about the religion that is inherent in everything we do. A weeklong observance that is inspired and sustained on the Sabbath.”

Thank you to my Holy Cross family for being the center of my spiritual life!

ADULT FORUM

A New Adult Forum class began on Sunday, October 15th! “Signs of the Kingdom.” The course description is as follows: Matthew's account of the good news shows Jesus weaving profound new teachings from the threads of ordinary life experience. Matthew also weaves in bright strands of ancient prophecies fulfilled, his way of showing the unbroken line of God's faithfulness in action, from creation to resurrection and beyond. Through the readings in this unit, we glimpse Jesus' formidable intelligence and political skill as he nimbly engages his adversaries. We see Jesus as a forward-thinking leader who takes care to equip people for the mission that one day will be theirs: making disciples throughout the world. This **7-session** study looks at the texts in Matthew from historical, literary, Lutheran theological, and devotional perspectives. Please join us!

O JESUS BE FOREVER BLESSED

by Donna Simmons

“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.”
John 1:12

“Every one who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” Romans 10:13

Contrary to what I’ve been told by family and friends, I always believed that you don’t do good works and attend church regularly to get into heaven or to have eternal life.

You do these things because it is the right thing to do. You do these things not because of what you hope to gain, but because Jesus taught you how to love. The first verse of two of my favorite hymns tells us so.

Jesus loves us this we know
For the Bible tells us so.
Little ones who Him belong
We are weak but He is strong.

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
All who by faith before the world confessed,
Your name, O Jesus be forever blessed.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

SHARE THE BOUNTY

Saturday, November 4th, 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!



WOMEN’S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS YANKEE SWAP PARTY:

Sunday, December 3rd at 2 p.m. is the Women’s Yankee Swap Party! It will be at Mary Keating’s house. Please bring a dish to share and a wrapped gift (\$20 value) to swap. There will be a sign- up sheet in the Narthex. All women are welcome!



ROGER'S REFLECTIONS: Luther's Three Uses of "Alones"

By Roger Rotvig

As we approach the end of the year-long celebration of the issues that led to the Protestant Reformation movement, it is important to observe that Luther's protest was all about clarifying "the way of salvation" as the church of that day seemed to present it.

Man's penance was increasingly replacing God's grace as that way. Raising money in wealthy Germany by the sale of "indulgences" for the building of the present-day St. Peter's Cathedral in Rome, exacerbated the issue.

Luther was a well-regarded Friar of the Augustinian order, teaching "scripture" in the local university opened by the powerful Elector, Frederick the Wise. When Luther's Biblical studies, especially in the epistle to the Galation Church, led him to believe that the current emphasis on indulgences was contrary to the essential truth of the Gospel, he opened the door to debate, threats of coercion, excommunication, and warfare that would last for half a century.

Luther's position, which would eventually be accepted by other rising reformers, was that salvation came by "Grace alone, Faith alone, and Scripture alone." These referred to (1) God's **gracious** giving of His only begotten Son to die on a cross for our sins; (2) our **faith** in the belief that Jesus death and resurrection saves us from eternal death and damnation; and (3) that the **Holy Scriptures** "alone" are the basis for such a belief being passed on to future generations. In the Latin language used for such debates in those days, it would read "Sola Gratia; Sola Fide; and Sola Scriptura."

How many times have you found yourself saying "I am saved by grace", only to be followed another day by saying "I am saved by faith". Actually, both are correct when seen in the light of Luther's three alone statements. We are saved by the gracious act of God sending His only son to die for our sins. This Grace is applied to us when we have Faith to believe in Christ's sacrifice. Likewise, these events are only seen as recorded in the Scriptures. Anything further that adds to or subtracts from that scriptural record, is false.

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

Thank you to those who contributed candy to the children's Halloween Carnival on Saturday, October 21st, and to all the youth and adults who planned and led the activities! Though the turnout was a bit small, those who attended had a great time. Plans are currently in the works for another child centered event in December, with an eye toward broader advertising in particular. Due to some special gifts, the Halloween Carnival did raise \$190 toward the 2018 Work Camp Mission Trip – thanks again!

CHRISTMAS CAROLING WITH THE DEACONS



Joy to the World!

Saturday, December 16th the deacons and whoever else might like to join will be going Christmas Caroling at the homes of a few of our shut-in families. We will gather at the church at 2p.m. and carpool to these homes. We will be bringing baskets of goodies to each of these homes. We will meet at the church the same day at noon to put the baskets together. If you would like to contribute some items, please contact Mary Keating or Barbara Horner. Items needed are the following: baked goods, homemade preserves, books, magazines, candy, DVD's, toiletries, knitted socks, etc. or any other thing you can think of! We hope to see you there!

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, EVERY SUNDAY, EVERY DAY

Did you ever sit down to write something and suddenly your mind is just as blank as the page on the computer? Well, that just happened to me. November is a strange month for me. We have had summer, and while a little dry, it has been very pleasant. Dottie and I were very busy with family things that were very meaningful because many were outings and visits were long overdue, and we also had a great trip in early June that led to many new friends (one couple from Oregon who we met on the boat just visited here in Maine with us) and insights. Now the changing color of autumn and the cooler days (when do we turn on the thermostat for heat?) and nights are upon us, and that will promote good sleeping. But suddenly we are nearing the fall and winter holidays. Where did the time go?

But yes, the holidays. I resist the notion of dwelling on the very difficult times going on in our world today, both man-made and those from Mother Nature, but they do remain in our minds and hearts because it is so hard not to be as sympathetic and concerned for our fellow human beings as we can be. We may have difficulties in our own lives, but these may seem pale by comparison to others, and sometimes we can find it easy to forget those in more difficulty. Or, as Pastor Rich said in his "From the Pastor" letter last month, it may make us mad, but "mad" may be self-serving. We, as good stewards and with the faith that Jesus Christ has given us, can do as much as we can to help. There is a saying that in this case may just apply! "Don't get mad! Get even!"

Nevertheless, we will have Thanksgiving because we do have so very much to be thankful for. Make your own list. We will have Christmas, because celebrating the birth of our Jesus gives us joy and pleasure as we sing the hymns, light the candles and give the gifts that come from our hearts. And the ways of celebrating that I have seen at Holy Cross go to much more than these. We are generous. We are giving. We are caring. We are thoughtful and compassionate. We do think of others. We are good friends. We do look for ways to be good Christians. That's how we get even—by being good stewards and care for our friends and neighbors, at home and all over the world.

Carl Graves



PASTOR BUMBY

Here is Pastor Norm Bumby on a recent Sunday when he led worship while Pastor Rich was on vacation. Pastor Bumby has a long history of service to Holy Cross, as a worship leader, a teacher, and a good friend. Along with his wife Tricia we have been blessed to have them as part of our Holy Cross family!



Church Clean - Up: As the beauty of the Fall colors fade it's time to turn our attention to readying our building and grounds for the Winter months. This years Fall clean up will be held on Saturday November 11th from 9:00 to Noon. Rain date will be November 18th. Whether you can come for the whole time or just have an hour or two to spare, your help will be greatly appreciated.

FRIENDSHIP LUNCH

November's Friendship Lunch will be Monday, November 13th at noon. Everyone is welcome! The luncheon is always served on the second Monday of each month. If you would like to volunteer to help out at the luncheon, please contact Mary Keating.

HURRICANE HELP

Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria have caused significant physical damage and emotional turmoil in the lives of many of our fellow American citizens, creating a tremendous need for caring people across our country to pitch in and lend a hand in the process of property and lives being rebuilt. One great way to do so is through Lutheran Disaster Response, whose mission is to provide both immediate and long-lasting support. A check made out to "Lutheran Disaster Response" with "Hurricane Response - U.S." on the memo line can be sent to: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, ELCA Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. Or a gift can be given online by going to www.elca.org. Thank you!



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!



BAKE SALE

A Bake Sale to benefit the 2018 Work Camp Mission Trip will be held on Sunday November 19th, following each of the two morning worship services. The youth will be at church from 4-7 pm on Saturday November 18th, baking and setting up for the sale, and they would also welcome donations of baked goods from members of the congregation (such support in the past has been greatly appreciated!) If you can help in this way please add your name to the list posted on the white board in the Narthex (entryway). Please keep our young people in your prayers as they work toward their goal of raising several thousand dollars that will be used to support painting and home repair projects for people in need! (The dates for 2018 are June 17-23, and the location will be Wrightsville, PA.)

COFFEE CLEAN-UP

Would you be able to take an occasional turn at cleaning up after coffee on Sunday mornings? A list of available Sundays will be posted in the Narthex for you to add your name. Early service worshippers who would like to help could sign up for a Single Service Sunday. Any help would be appreciated! Thank you!



USHERS

More ushers are needed for all services. It's an easy way to serve and a valuable part of the worship service. You will receive training on all components. This can be done by an individual or you can grab an old friend (or make a new one) and work together. Please see Peter Judd to sign up. Thank you!!

GOT A QUESTION?

About who to contact with regard to a certain event? About when a certain activity will be happening? About how to get something into the weekly bulletin or the monthly newsletter? Whatever your question might be about things happening at Holy Cross, if you don't know who to contact directly please be sure to call the church office (985-1681) or send an email to pastor@kennebunklutheran.org. If you call the office and don't get an answer, just leave a message and Pastor Rich will get back to you soon.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Submitted by Jack Bates

Modern Art

A Sunday School teacher asked her students to draw a picture of the Holy Family. After the pictures were brought to her, she saw that some of the youngsters had drawn the conventional pictures – the Holy Family and the manger, the Holy Family riding on the mule, etc.

But she called up one little boy to ask him to explain his drawing, which showed an airplane with four heads sticking out of the plane windows.

She said, "I can understand you drew three of the heads to show Joseph, Mary and Jesus. But who's the fourth head?"

"Oh," answered the boy, "that's Pontius the pilot!"

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



November 2017

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
5 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 5:30 Seaglass rehearsal	6 4:30 pm Parents Prayer Grp (LSH)	7 10 am Ladies by the Sea Quilters 7 pm Worship Cmte (LSH)	1 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	2 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	3 7 am COS Food Pantry (LH)	4 4 pm Bean Supper (LH)
12 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 5:30 Seaglass rehearsal	13 Noon Friendship Lunch (LH)	14 1pm Ladies by the Sea Quilting Group 7 pm Congregational Council (LH)	8 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	9 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30 pm Men's Grp (LH)	10 7 am COS Food Pantry (LH)	11
19 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 9:30 Bake Sale 10:45 Worship 5:30 Seaglass rehearsal	20	21 1pm Ladies by the Sea Quilting Group	15 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	16 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30 pm Men's Grp (LH)	17	18 4 pm Bake Sale baking
26 10:00 Worship 5:30 Seaglass rehearsal	27	28 1pm Ladies by the Sea Quilting Group	22 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	23 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	24	25
		29 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	29 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	30 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours		

FAMILY & FRIENDS WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS:



Jim Keating
Lauren
Trey and Gianna
Alice Lailer
Diana Breitenfield
John Kreie
Kurt
Rolf Bandle
Paul

Tyler
Jolene
Ken Roberts
Becky
Polly Janiak
Sandy
Eliza
Jim
Roger
Ray

A prayer of thanksgiving for God's healing power in the life of: Dean Smith, Phil, Dea Cleveland, Rachel

We commend into God's care the spirit of those who have died recently: Carolyn Essel (long time Holy Cross member)

SERVING US IN NOVEMBER

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

November 5, 12, 19
8:15 am

Carl Graves
Bobbie Jo Boulay

10:45 am

Donna Simmons
Dot Bois

November 26, 10:00 am
Donna Simmons
Bobbie Jo Boulay

ALTAR GUILD

Joy Judd

USHERS

8:15 am
Bob Brady
10:45 am
Robert White

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 December Crier is Sunday, November 19th.***

The Crier will be compiled and edited the next Saturday morning (November 25th) !

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

THE CRIER

NOVEMBER 2017

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
2 Lord Street
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Reverend Richard A. Horner, Pastor

www.kennebunklutheran.org

Worship Schedule

Sunday, November 5, 12, 19

8:15 am Modern Lutheran Liturgy*

10:45 am Traditional Lutheran Liturgy*

Sunday, November 26

10 am Single service: Modern and Traditional Lutheran Liturgy*

*Holy Communion served at all services

**God gave you a gift of 86,400
seconds today. Have you used
one to say "thank you?"**
~William A. Ward

