

THE CRIER

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2018



From the Pastor – One of my favorite quotes from Martin Luther is the following: “I’m so busy, I need to pray more.” Having some familiarity with the kind of life Luther led, it’s not hard to imagine the hectic, demanding, frantic state of affairs in which he often found himself. As one of the principle figures of the Protestant Reformation, Luther was consistently pulled in many different directions at the same time. His attention was frequently required in order to extinguish “fires” that had broken out – controversies within the church that he needed to address. He produced a prodigious number of sermons, letters, pamphlets and books. He also spent a great deal of time speaking and debating with his opponents, and meeting and laying out plans with his fellow reformers.

Even though the specifics of my life and yours may be very different from that of Luther, we can probably relate to what he says about being so very busy. This is a time of year, in fact, when the pace of life often accelerates. On top of all our regular activities, even more gets crammed into our schedule because of it being “the holiday season.” The things that get added aren’t necessarily bad in and of themselves. But their overall effect can be a negative one. Because what can happen is that our life goes from a somewhat “manageable” level of stress, to a situation more aptly described as “frantic” or “chaotic” -- where the stress level involved takes an even heavier toll than usual.

The second part of what Luther said is often harder to comprehend, but no less true. Prayer may seem like one more thing on a “to do” list that is already overloaded. It may seem like taking time to pray will be taking time away from other things we are under pressure to get accomplished. The busier we become the lower down the list of priorities prayer may fall.

Granted, what Luther says is a paradox – two things that don’t seem like they go together. But his pithy saying nevertheless contains great wisdom. When we are overloaded and overwhelmed, because we have more to do than we could ever hope to achieve, that is when we especially need to pray. That is when we especially need to turn to our Father in heaven, and to His Son Jesus Christ, taking time to ask them for strength and guidance, for endurance and hope, for love and mercy.

Taking such time won’t be a hindrance to us, but a help. It will put the things we’re “busy” with into their proper perspective. It’s likely that we’ll be able to get more of those other things done, not less, because we’ll be more at peace, more focused, more clear as to what should be our top priorities.

When Luther said “I’m so busy, I need to pray more,” it was actually a way of saying something similar to what St. Paul wrote in his letter to the Philippians: “Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 4:6-7) May each of us take to heart this truth, that in everything – including being busy – we are to pray.

In Christ,

Pastor Rich



A SEASON OF LOVE AND HOPE

by Donna Simmons

As Henri Nouwen wrote in his book *Bread for the Journey*: “We live our lives in memory of Jesus and the saints. . . they inspire us, guide us, encourage us, and give us hope.”

This brings to mind lesser known saints in our lives who inspire us, people who are and were filled with compassion and love:

There was the timid little boy who played the innkeeper in the Christmas story and who was pressed by the boy playing Joseph for a place in the inn. The boy who was the innkeeper was so overwhelmed that he said, “You can have my room.”

There was the young man who dropped everything to drive 300 miles with \$3.88 in his pocket so that he could comfort a friend who was distressed over a broken relationship.

There was the young woman who bought a bag full of burgers at McDonalds at Union Station in Washington, DC and then walked across the street and distributed them to a group of homeless men who were resting on a concrete wall.

These are just a few memories of saints among us who inspire us, guide us, encourage us, and give us hope.

December is a month of giving when we are flooded with mail from charities, the Christmas giving trees in both the Alfred Town Hall and Luther Hall here at Holy Cross, and the Salvation Army people ringing their bells for us to drop spare change in their red kettles.

Jesus did not walk away from people in need, neither did the saints. Reach out and give those in need the Hope, Love, and Kindness that was given to us through Jesus and the saints.

***May you all be blessed this Christmas
with Love and Hope***

ADVENT

The Season of Advent begins in two weeks, on Sunday December 2nd. On the stand at the back of the church several devotional aids are available. There is a booklet called “How Should We Live?” offering daily Bible readings and reflections. There is an Advent window calendar titled “Living Light Was Born One Night.” And there is a kids’ Advent Wreath sticker book called “Circle of Light.” Please use these devotionals as resources for deepening your spiritual preparation during the weeks of Advent!



ROGER'S REFLECTIONS: NEVER SAY NEVER

By Roger Rotvig

People like word games like “never say never”. Another one I like is this: Question: “Do you always say no”? To which the person answers: “Yes”. These are called “oxymorons” meaning: “a figure of speech in which contradictory terms or ideas are combined”.

At the heart of the Christian Faith is a “near” oxymoron. It is found in the wonderful words of Luther in his explanation to the third article of the Apostle’s Creed, as found in his Small Catechism. It goes like this: “I believe that I cannot...believe...”. I called this a “near” oxymoron because I purposely left out some important words that too many of us leave out in our thinking, even if we say them correctly. The sentence should read: “I believe that I cannot by my own understanding or effort believe in Jesus Christ my Lord, or come to him. But the Holy Spirit has called me through the Gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, and sanctified and kept me in the true faith.”

Even when we say it correctly, far too many of us still rebel at the thought that we need help to achieve any goal. We have been raised with a strong “spirit” of independence. Americans have always had an independent spirit. Lately it has unfortunately reached a high point where we even start to think that we have no responsibility for anyone or anything except ourselves. To admit that we need the help of others, and especially a group of others is, to them, a sign of weakness.

Luther goes on to say the Holy Spirit works through many means, but especially the church. This thinking was especially made clear to Luther by the reading of such scripture as John 14:16-17 where Jesus was preparing his followers for the time he would be crucified. “And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you forever, even as the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you.”

I believe that the fellowship of believers in Christ, most often considered to be His Church, is the best place where important “near oxymoronic” ideas, practices, and especially beliefs, can be nurtured and sustained.

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 won't 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!

**Prayers are stitches
Hemming up the day's concerns
God provides the way
And the thread**

**by Betty Ford
9/5/02
(written by a friend of Donna Simmons)**

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, EVERY SUNDAY, EVERY DAY

In one of my earlier Stewardship pieces I mentioned one of the earliest sermons I had heard was the story of the “Widow’s Mite”. This happened when I was 6 or 7 years old. In the first two Sundays this November the sermons both recalled this story and in both cases it was part of larger stories of generosity by Pastor Rich and Pastor Stubbendick. Here in Holy Cross we are looking at our year end Stewardship program, getting ready for our greater challenges of outreach for 2019. But also this year we are experiencing even greater demands on our generosity. On a worldwide front we see drought, disease, famine, storm disaster, thousands fleeing intolerable lives, and war. In our own country fires out of control and floods are taking lives and destroying homes and businesses. This is putting our faith and generosity to a very difficult test.

The ELCA has sent an E-Alert from Lutheran Disaster Response asking for help. The letter begins with a quote from Romans 8: 38-39:

“For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ our Lord.”

The plea is addressing contributions for Lutheran Disaster Response for relief providing food and other necessities to fire survivors and to work toward long-term needs in rebuilding of structures and emotional and spiritual care.

Back to the story of the Widow’s Mite: the concept of giving all you have is retold in the sermon to the Macedonian people. Paul discusses this in 2 Corinthians 8: 1-7:

“And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they give as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God’s will. So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But just as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us—see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”

This begins the concept of tithing to the church- with what you earn, give 10%, save 10% and live on 80%. Again, the demands are great. We see and hear from many more charities and organizations asking for our help to feed the poor, house the homeless, fund research for life saving cures, save the children of poverty or without family and so many others. To me, frankly it is almost overwhelming. Yes, some can do more, I am sure, but doing what is in your heart and praying for the guidance and faith that the Macedonians were moved to is what our Lord and Jesus would want of us.

Since this will be published after our Stewardship Sunday at Holy Cross, I want to thank everyone who has pledged to support our Church and its programs of worship, service, and outreach to our community and beyond in the coming year.

Peace and love and God’s blessings for a safe and healthful Holy Season and Happy New Year.
Carl Graves

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY

A “Stew for Stewardship” Luncheon will be served following the single, 10 am service on Stewardship Sunday, November 25th. On the menu will be ... you guessed it, chicken stew! No need to bring anything for this event, as the Hospitality Committee is taking care of providing the meal. Just bring yourself to enjoy good food and great fellowship!



CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

Worship times on Christmas Eve will be at 5:00 pm and 9:00 pm. The 5:00 pm service will include a children's sermon. The 9:00 pm service will be lessons and carols. Both 5:00 pm and 9:00 pm will have special music and both will be candlelight communion services.



GIVING TREE



The Christmas tree in Luther Hall is decorated with ornaments that have a little tag attached describing a suggested gift based on a "wish list" provided by the York County Shelter. If you wish to participate, please take an ornament with a tag describing the gift you wish to purchase and place your unwrapped gift under the tree with the tag attached to it. Staff and volunteers at the Shelter will wrap the gifts. The **FINAL DEADLINE** for placing gifts under the tree will be **Sunday, December 16th**. This will give the shelter the needed time to sort and wrap the gifts in time for Christmas. If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Gallo or Cathy Norwood: (207) 967-4733.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING AND CHRISTMAS BASKET DELIVERIES

The deacons are sponsoring the annual Christmas caroling to our church family. Every year we travel to 3 or 4 families to sing carols and deliver a basket full of Christmas treats for them. This year we are going on Saturday, December 15th. We will meet at the church in Luther Hall at noon to assemble the baskets. We will be filling the baskets with lovely homemade treats, teas, cocoa, small books, puzzles, jams, jellies etc. We will leave to go caroling at 1:00. If you would like to donate any of these items, please talk to Mary Keating. Everyone is invited to go caroling! The more the merrier!



Joy to the World!

WOMEN'S ANNUAL YANKEE SWAP PARTY

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



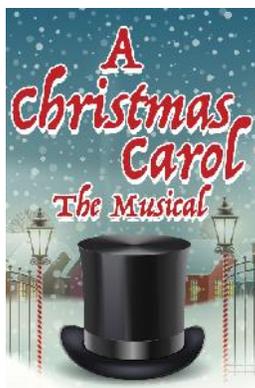
HOLIDAY FOOD BASKETS

As we enter the 2018 holiday season, we are again reaching out to our neighbors and friends through the Holiday Food Baskets Programs to ensure that those in need and those who want to give have the opportunity to participate in the Thanksgiving and Christmas programs. Your support of this community tradition will give comfort and happiness to many of our neighbors throughout the holidays. Items most needed for food baskets: potatoes, pudding, evaporated milk, onions, Jell-O, canned peas, pie crust mix, boxed stuffing, canned fruit, gravy, canned corn and other non-perishables. Please place all food items in the basket located in the Narthex. Monetary donations should be a check made out to Community Outreach Services, Inc., with "Holiday Food Baskets" on the memo line, and mailed to P.O. Box 1175, Kennebunk, ME

04043. COS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization, and all donations are tax deductible. **NOTE:** If you would like to help on Monday November 19th by packing Thanksgiving food baskets or being a driver to help deliver them, please contact Donna Patterson at 651-1997 by November 15th.

COOKIE BOXES

Once again we are planning to send boxes of cookies to our family college kids, hoping for the packages to arrive while students are studying for final exams. We are asking for donations of cookies, candy, cocoa packets....and other treats that will pack well. These items can be left in the church kitchen prior to Wednesday, December 5th at 10 am when we plan to pack the boxes and send them out. Please contact me, Carol Heller at [\(207\) 641-2487](tel:2076412487) or email me at: welvloons@maine.rr.com. I will need your student's name and college address. I will place a sign-up sheet on the board in the Narthex on Nov. 18, so you can indicate if you can help with this project. This annual cookie project is always well received by our students, and a way for them to know the people of HCLC are remembering them. Thank you.



A CHRISTMAS CAROL

Christmas Carol, the musical is at the Biddeford City Theater! We will be going on Sunday, December 9th at 2:00 pm. Please see Mary Keating for tickets. Sign up sheet is on the board in the Narthex. Tickets are \$22.50 each. We can carpool over if you would like!



Christmas Poinsettias for Our Sanctuary

Each Christmas Eve in celebration of Christ's birth, we decorate the altar area with a beautiful floral display of plants given in celebration or in memory of people who are important to you. If you would like to take part in this, you can **place your flower order no later than Sunday, December 16th.**

<u>Pot Size</u>	<u>Plant</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Quantity ordered</u>	<u>Total</u>
6"	Poinsettia 1 plant, 6-8 blooms	\$13	_____	_____
7"	Poinsettia, 2 plants, 9-12 blooms	\$22	_____	_____
8"	Poinsettia, 3 plants, 12-15 blooms	\$32	_____	_____

Grand Total _____

Dedication (Please check one or more and print names as applicable)

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

To the Glory of God

Donor Name and Phone #

Place order form with payment in collection plate. Note "Christmas Flowers" on the check memo line.

If you are paying with cash, please check here

~~ Flower order due NO LATER than Sunday, December 16th ~~





GREENING OF THE CHURCH

We will be greening the church for Christmas in two stages. On Saturday, December 8th, we will do the window decorations, wreathes, etc. On Sunday, December 16th, after the second service, we will decorate the tree. If everyone can stay and put on at least two ornaments, we will be done in no time!! It would be wonderful to have as many people as possible and so everyone can take satisfaction in a job well done and admire their handiwork throughout Christmas. Please see Julie Clapp if you have any questions. Thank you!!

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN: "FEEDING BODY & SOUL!"

SHARE THE BOUNTY

Saturday, December 1st, is the day for the next bean supper! There will be the usual menu of beans, cole slaw, hot dogs, various breads and, of course, PIE! Everyone is welcome, both from within the church and the wider community. If you are a regular volunteer, please check with Julie if you can or cannot help.

COME HAVE SOME PIE!



FRIENDSHIP LUNCH

The Friendship lunch is always held the second Monday of each month. We serve the meal at noon. Our December menu will be Homemade Pork Pies, coleslaw, applesauce and Christmas cookies for dessert. Everyone is welcome! If you'd like to volunteer and help with the meal, please contact Mary Keating.

GIVING STATEMENTS

Third Quarter Giving Statements are available to pick up on the table in the Narthex. Please take yours with you today to save the cost of postage. The statements provide an easy way to check on where you stand as we approach the end of the year. Fulfillment of pledges is very much appreciated as well as giving "above and beyond" if you are able. As of the end of October we have received \$6,693 less in income as compared to our expenses to date. A gap of this amount isn't too unusual for us from year to year, and many times the gap is closed by the end of December. People at Holy Cross are very generous, both in support of the annual operating budget and the Renewing + Restoring + Rejoicing capital campaign these past two years. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU for the generosity you have already demonstrated! And thank you in advance for whatever you are able to give between now and the end of 2018!

ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARDS

If you did not recently receive a mailing containing a stewardship letter and an Estimate of Giving card, or if you did but have misplaced the card, there are extra copies available on the stand at the back of the church. 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 by Sunday, November 25th, though if you need more time that's fine too. Cards can be put in the offering plate on Sunday morning, or mailed to the church office. Thank you!

OUTDOOR CHURCH



theOUTDOORCHURCH

The Outdoor Church, led by Pastor Jed Mannis, is a ministry for homeless people in Cambridge MA that Holy Cross has supported for many years now. Some simple items that are helpful to members of Pastor Jed's congregation are new pairs of socks, and toiletries. Donations of such items are greatly appreciated, and can be placed in the bin in the Narthex (entryway) of the church. Thank you!

<http://facebook.com/theoutdoorchurch>

KENNEBUNK CARES CLOSET

There is a need for volunteers in The Kennebunk Cares Closet. Due to the increase in both donations and requests, the Closet has increased their workdays from one day per week to two days per week. There is a need for additional volunteers on Thursdays from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM. Volunteers may be involved in sorting donations, shelving clothing that has been sorted and/or filling weekly requests. If you are interested in assisting the Closet and would like more information, please e-mail the Closet with your name and phone number at kbunkcarescloset@gmail.com. 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!

JACK'S CORNER: School Daze ***Submitted by Jack Bates***

One Christmas, I was talking with my four children about the orphan boy our family supported. I told them that he lived in the little village of Bet Sahour, which means "Shepherds' field," near Bethlehem, and attended a Lutheran school.

The kids were wide-eyed to think the school could be located at the very spot where the angels declared good tidings of great joy--- all the kids, that is, except my daughter Amy. Her comment: "Figures they'd mess it up with a school!"

---Clint Kelly

Three C's in life: Choices, Chances, Changes.

You must make a choice to take a chance or your life will never change.



December 2018

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
2 8:15 Worship 9:30 Sunday School/Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 2 pm Women's Yankee Swap Party 5 pm Al-Anon	3 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet 4:30 pm Parents Prayer Grp (LSH)	4 10 am Ladies by the Sea Quilters 7 pm Worship Cmte	5 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs) 10 am Cookie Boxes	6 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30 pm Men's Grp.	7	1 4 pm Bean Supper (LH) 8
9 8:15 Worship 9:30 Sunday School/Adult Forum 10:45 Worship	10 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet Noon Friendship Lunch (LH)	11 1 pm Ladies by the Sea Quilters 7 pm Congregational Council (LH)	12 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	13 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 6:30 pm Men's Grp.	14	15 Noon Christmas Basket Prep 1:00 Christmas Caroling 6 pm Confirmation Class
16 8:15 Worship 9:30 Sunday School/Adult Forum 10:45 Worship	17 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet	18 1 pm Ladies by the Sea Quilters	19 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	20 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 5:30 Harvest Café 6:30 pm Men's Grp.	21	22
23 8:15 Worship 9:30 Sunday School/Adult Forum 10:45 Worship	24 Christmas Eve! 5 pm Worship 9 pm Worship	25 Christmas Day!	26 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	27 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	28	29
30 10:00 Worship	31 New Year's Eve 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet					

FAMILY & FRIENDS WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS:



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

Ed Fox
David Donald
Jake
Kari Moncrief
Amy, Jonathan, Travis and
Grandmother Louise
Lenny and Vicky Lambert
Elaine Simmons
Dick Lord
Beth

Barbara Warner
Bill and Polly Janiak
Baby Myka
Earl
Joe Hakanson
Norm and Tricia Bumby
Laurie Morin
Nicole Muniz
David

A prayer of thanksgiving for God's healing power in the life of: Kim Najariean, Chuck Edwards, Bob Brady

SERVING US IN DECEMBER

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

8:15 am
Barbara Weldon-Morin
Mary Bates

10:45 am
Chris Cherry
Vicky Cherry

ALTAR GUILD

Joy Judd

USHERS

8:15
Jack & Mary Bates

10:45
Richard & Sayoko Wrage
Jon Janiak

CRIER PUBLICATION INFO:

The deadline for the January Crier is Friday, December 14th.

The Crier will be assembled and edited on Saturday morning, December 15th.

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

THE CRIER

DECEMBER 2018

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
2 Lord Street
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Reverend Richard A. Horner, Pastor

www.kennebunklutheran.org

Worship Schedule

December 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd

8:15 am Modern Lutheran Liturgy*

10:45 pm Traditional Lutheran Liturgy*

December 30th

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

*Holy Communion served at all services

A silhouette illustration of a nativity scene set against a dark purple and blue starry night sky. A bright, multi-pointed star shines in the upper center. In the foreground, the silhouettes of Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus in a manger are visible. To the right, a shepherd stands with a staff. The overall mood is serene and celestial.

**For unto us a child is
born, unto us a son is
given: and the
government shall be
upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be
called Wonderful,
Counsellor,
The mighty God,
The everlasting
Father,
The Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6 (KJV)**