

THE CRIER

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2018



From the Pastor – Elsewhere in this edition of The Crier is an article by Carl Graves, on the topic of stewardship. We are blessed each month with an article on this topic, as Carl teaches, encourages, and reminds us as to the breadth of life encompassed by the word “stewardship.” Such a broad focus is helpful, because our thinking might otherwise become too narrow. Stewardship certainly includes financial giving in support of the work of the church. At the same time, though, it goes much deeper.

It goes much deeper, in that it includes other types of giving – what we often refer to as giving of our time and of our ability. And it goes much deeper, in the sense that it isn’t just the act of giving that matters, but also what motivates our giving.

When we give of our time, ability, OR finances, we likely have a variety of motivations, rather than just one. And yet in that mix of factors that influence our behavior, we can ask our self: “what is my main reason for doing this, for giving in this way?” We can ask this question as a way of honest reflection, honest self-examination, as to how our answer lines up with our calling to live as followers of Jesus.

If we were to determine that our giving is largely about making us look good to others, bringing us recognition and praise, assuaging feelings of guilt, securing a write off on our taxes -- it would be an indication of our need for some reorientation. Not that the things just mentioned need to be entirely purged from the picture. As human beings such things might well be there, to some degree, and we need not feel terrible if that is the case. At the same time, God’s desire is for such things to be of minimal influence, and for something else to be front and center.

God’s desire is that our giving be deeply grounded upon and primarily motivated by: **Gratitude**. An appreciation for what God has first given us, how God has first blessed us, out of which our own giving flows in response. Just think of what God has done on our behalf! The gifts we receive from God’s gracious hand!

Martin Luther, in his explanation of the fourth petition of the Lord’s Prayer, wants us to realize that God gives us *every* good gift:

What does “daily bread” mean? It means everything included in the necessities and nourishment for our bodies, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, farm, fields, livestock, money, property, an upright spouse, upright children, upright members of the household, upright and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

WHEW! That’s quite a list! And even that list doesn’t contain ALL of what we receive from God’s gracious hand. Because that particular list does not mention directly God’s greatest gift of all, his son Jesus. Once again I’m going to quote from Luther’s Small Catechism. This time, his explanation of the 2nd article of the Apostles’ Creed:

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father in eternity, and also a true human being, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord. He has redeemed me, a lost and condemned human being. He has purchased and freed me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death. He has done all this in order that I may belong to him, live under him in his kingdom, and serve him in eternal righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as he is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally.

Continued on page 2

WOW! Even more amazing than food and drink, family and friends, peace and health, is the gift of God's son -- the gift of Jesus, who "redeems" and "frees" us with his "holy, precious blood" that we may "belong" to him! God blessing us through his son, freely and unconditionally, is what God desires to be front and center in our life of stewardship. Whatever we give – time, ability, finances – being primarily a response on our part, an action on our part, of deep seated GRATITUDE.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Rich

MESSAGE FROM A COUNCIL MEMBER: Perfect Love
By Faith Gillman

We all strive to be really good at something, don't you agree? Whether it's being the best at our career, in school, on the playing field, we want to succeed and feel accomplished. Luckily, I can report there is one thing I am perfect at, at the top of my game, hands-down—I am absolutely spot-on at being imperfect.

Fortunately, God loves me anyway and it is that knowledge that brings me to my knees, every time.

God's love for me is perfect and unconditional, whether I am an arrogant jerk, anxious and fearful or just a normal human being struggling with the point of my existence. In fact, it is when I have lost all hope that God's perfect love rushes in like the tide to restore my faith and lost hope.

In a prayer for help in Psalms 86, David implores God to "listen and answer my prayer. I am poor and helpless." David pours out his heart to God throughout the text, in words that ring just as true today as they did when they were being written. As he prays, David comes to the realization that no matter what happens, God is "kind and merciful" and doesn't "easily get angry." God's love "can always be trusted."

And knowing that I am covered by that love helps me to navigate when I am feeling adrift and unworthy, overcome with anxiety and worry. Turning to 1 John 4:18-19, I am reminded that my angst serves no purpose.

"There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because He first loved us."

God wants us to feel safe, calm, assured by the love so freely given.

"The Lord your God is with you, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing." Zephaniah 3:17.

Knowing that I am so loved restores my faith, soothes my fears and also reminds me that God's love is to be shared:

"So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples." John 13:34-35

So, join me in being "perfectly imperfect." It's ok. God's love is there for each of us—a sea of unfathomable depth that we are welcome to dive into—thanks be to God!

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!

FAMILIES COME IN ALL SHAPES AND SIZES

by Donna Simmons

I learned early on that I had to think outside the box of traditional families. I had been raised in such a family: mother, father, sister, grandparents (2 sets), aunts and uncles (a couple generations), cousins, dogs and cats. Then close friends became like sisters and neighbors became like second mothers. My friends at church became my church family.

Then along came a husband, and his extended family, then a daughter, and a son and a wide variety of animals: dogs, cats, rabbits, chickens, hamsters, guinea pigs, and rats and mice (tame rodents) and our family got bigger. Along with the children came their friends and their friends' children.

And then the son-in-law and grandchildren came, some blood related, some not. The four-legged children changed over the years and the two-legged grew up and multiplied.

So when my daughter sent me an email that we were now new great grandparents I was a bit confused because our grandchildren were not expecting, some of them were not even old enough.

Then, I read the next line. Our granddaughters have adopted a dog. Her name is Sadie.

***Families come in all shapes and sizes.
Thanks be to God!***

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Dear Pastor Horner,

On behalf of the children, their moms, and the staff of Caring Unlimited, I thank you and the members of Holy Cross for your continued support of the Back-to-School drive. As always, the response was beyond generous.

Hopefully, I'll be able to email a photo of one of their kiddies going back to school. CU is, of course, sensitive about guarding the anonymity of the little ones but knows that a picture speaks a thousand words.

Again, I thank you and everyone at Holy Cross. You made a little corner of our world brighter and lighter by your loving kindness and generosity.

Gratefully,
Pam Cloutier

OUTDOOR CHURCH

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!



theOUTDOORCHURCH

<http://facebook.com/theoutdoorchurch>

ROGER'S REFLECTIONS: Hats Off To Jesus ***By Roger Rotvig***

I don't know for sure where the etymology of the phrase "hats off to..." came from. It clearly is meant to indicate acknowledging something special. When a single player scores three goals in an ice hockey game, it is called a "hat trick" and hundreds, even thousands of hats are taken off and thrown onto the ice. When a real gentleman meets a real lady, he doffs or tips his hat to her. And even today's teens that seldom remove their hats indoors or even while eating will do so at the singing of the National Anthem.

Philippians 2: 9-11 reads: *Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Taking a "knee bow" in a church service every time the name of Jesus is mentioned is a tough regimen to follow. In cathedrals and churches until a couple of hundred years ago there was no central heating so in cold weather, coats and hats were worn by almost everyone. Over the years, "a simple removal and then ultimately, a tipping of the hat" took the place of kneeling at every mention of the name "Jesus". Now only the hierarchy of clergy (including our Lutheran Bishops) wear "hats" in a service, so even that doesn't cut it anymore.

Over the years I have developed the almost unseen habit of bowing my head ever so slightly at the hearing or saying of the name of Jesus. Think of it as the times on TV that you have seen people in the presence of royalty. The work of bowing from the waist or a knee genuflection always looks awkward, but that slight forward bend of the head looks graceful and meaningful. That's what I do. It helps me to internalize and makes me aware of the greatness that accompanies the mention of that holy name, Jesus. "At the name of Jesus, every knee should bow."

HURRICANE FLORENCE

Lutheran Disaster Response is conducting relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Florence. If you would like to make a donation in support of these efforts there are forms available on the stand at the back of the church. Please note that gifts designated for hurricane response will be used entirely (100 percent) for direct response until it is complete.



MONTHLY FOOD BOX

A Monthly Food Box is available to anyone 60 years and older who could use some help. This assistance is offered by the USDA, and is called the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. There are some suggested income guidelines listed on the application form, but the help is available to anyone who feels they need it. Application forms are available on the table in the entryway at church, and there is a flyer on the white board with a listing of "What's in the Box?" Boxes are distributed on the 4th Tuesday of each month from 10:30 am to 12 noon at St. David's Episcopal Church on Route 1 in Kennebunk. (St. David's also offers a complimentary lunch during that time for anyone who would like a good meal!) Please feel free to take one or more of the applications to share with anyone you know for whom this might be a help. If you have any questions please contact Pastor Rich.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, EVERY SUNDAY, EVERY DAY

We are now into the fall of the year. To me, this is almost my favorite time. I say almost because for some “New England” reason I like all four seasons. They each have their own unique characteristics and I think I can appreciate each one for what it is. But in the fall, outside of what the weather is, I am drawn to what the stewardship aspect is as we approach the year end. This year, I would say we at Holy Cross have done very well in all aspects. We have had great worship experiences, we have been blessed with good and unique music and our outreach to the community has been absolutely wonderful. But why not, we are Holy Cross! and we are known for the Bean Supper, soup tasting, and Friendship Lunch. But we can also know we do reach out to the community in many other ways that include all the aspects of Stewardship—time, talent and treasure.

We will soon begin to think about next year, and what we will do to ever more increase our outreach. Ah, budgets - finances and their support – and pledging for 2019.

Before we get to that inevitable subject, I want to show you what the ELCA thinks about in budgets. The following comes from their website on Stewardship:

“ELCA members in more than 9,300 congregations in the United States and Caribbean give approximately \$1.75 billion in regular offering to support ELCA ministries in their local communities and worldwide. When members give through their congregations, a percentage of that money is then shared with the local synod and the national church wide organization.

“The unrestricted giving, called Mission Support, gives us both the foundation and the fuel to do God’s work in the world and a portion of the gifts circle back to support ministries in synods and local congregations. Of these unrestricted gifts, the church wide organization receives around 2.6%. This represents the largest portion of the ELCA church wide organization’s operating budget.”

Mission Support helps fund the following church wide ministries:

Grow the ELCA in the U.S. 357 new congregations	25%
Grow The Lutheran Church worldwide 230 missions 48 countries	18%
Support church wide ministries and support records	16%
Support 7 ELCA seminaries and 26 colleges	15%
Invest in Technology and Communications	8%
Governance and Leadership for oversight and guidance	5%
Sustain and grow Financial resources thru Education	5%
Social ministry organizations impacting 1 of every 50 Americans	4%
Research and Strategic Planning for future innovation	2%
Sustain Ecumenical and Interfaith relations	2%

As we approach our own Holy Cross Lutheran Church financial planning we can be sure that the ELCA Church is doing the same. We will prayerfully approach our planning and be guided by faith, compassion and zeal.

Carl Graves



REFORMATION SUNDAY

Mark your calendar: On Reformation Sunday, October 28th, there will be potluck lunch following the single, 10 a.m. service that day. Please plan to take part in what is sure to be a delicious meal and a wonderful time of fellowship! Look for a sign-up sheet that will be posted on the white board in the Narthex at church to add your name and the dish you plan to bring.

Don't forget that **RED** is the color of the day so please wear your best red outfit!!

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

All Saints Sunday is November 4th. In addition to lighting candles in memory of all our loved ones who have gone before us into life eternal, there will be a power point of "saints" who have died in the past year, along with pictures of new "saints" who have been born over the course of the last year. If you have family members or close friends who have died or who have had children since November 1st of 2017 and would like to have their picture displayed in the All Saints power point this year, please submit it to Julie Clapp in JPEG format at juliane@julianemarie.com. If you don't have a computer or a way to scan a photo, you can deliver the picture itself to the church office (any such photo will be returned). **For all photo submissions, please put the name of the person (or persons) in the photo, what their relationship is to you, and your name, along with the date they died or the date they were born.** If you have any questions, please contact Julie Clapp at 459-4768 or at her e-mail listed above.

The deadline to send in pictures is Thursday, October 25th. Thank you!

ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE

An Ecumenical Prayer Service will be held on Wednesday October 17th, at 6pm at St. Mary's Church in Wells (236 Eldridge Street). The focus of the service will be joining in solidarity as a community concerned about the opiate addiction crisis, looking to God for help and hope. The service is being sponsored by Holy Spirit Parish Recovery and Hope Prayer Group, along with Catholic Charities Parish Social Ministry. The service will feature Dan Mahoney speaking on addiction here in Maine.

BOWLING LEAGUE



The possibility of a church bowling league mentioned this summer has unfortunately not come to fruition for this fall ... BUT come this December you will have the chance to sign up to be part of a team from Holy Cross for a winter league – so be on the lookout for more details coming soon!

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN: "FEEDING BODY & SOUL!"

SHARE THE BOUNTY

Saturday, October 6th, 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 the second Monday of each month. The next lunch will be Monday, October 8th.

If you are interested in helping out with the lunch, please contact Mary Keating.

JACK'S CORNER: The White Lie Cake

Submitted by Jack Bates

Have you ever told a white lie?

Mary was to bake a cake for the Bible Study Bake Sale, but forgot to do it until the last minute. She remembered it the morning of the bake sale and after rummaging through cabinets, found an angel food cake mix, quickly made it while drying her hair, dressing, and feeding the dogs.

When she took the cake from the oven, the center had dropped flat and the cake was horribly disfigured and she exclaimed. "Oh dear, there is not time to bake another cake!"

So, being inventive, she looked around the house for something to build up the center of the cake. She found it in the bathroom – a roll of toilet paper. She plunked it in and then covered it with icing. Not only did the finished product look beautiful, it looked perfect. And, before she left the house to drop the cake by the church and head for work, Mary woke Annie and gave her some money and specific instructions to be at the bake sale the moment it opened at 9:30 and to buy the cake and bring it home.

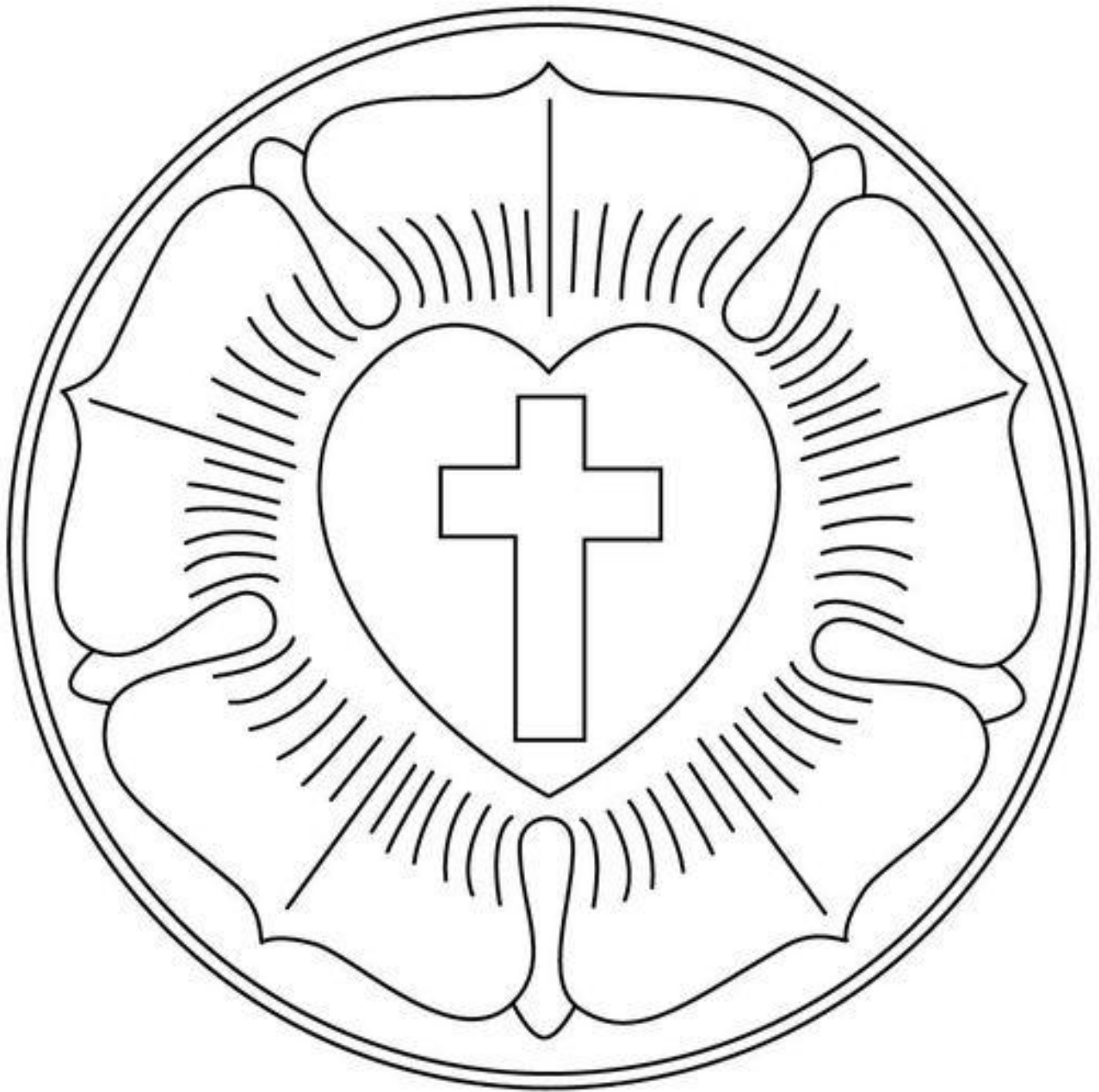
When Annie arrived at the sale, she found the attractive, perfect cake had already been sold. Annie grabbed her cell phone and called her mom. Mary was horrified, she was beside herself! Everyone would know!

What would they think? She would be talked about. All night, Mary lay awake in bed thinking about people pointing fingers at her. And talking about her behind her back. The next day, Mary promised herself she would try not to think about the cake, and would attend the fancy luncheon/bridal shower at the home of a fellow church member and try to have a good time. She did not really want to attend because the hostess was a snob, but having already RSVP'd, she couldn't think of a believable excuse to stay home.

The meal was elegant, and to Mary's horror, the cake in question was presented for dessert! Mary felt the blood drain from her body when she saw the cake! She started out of her chair to tell the hostess all about it, but before she could get to her feet, the Pastor's wife said, "what a beautiful cake!" Mary, still stunned, sat back in her chair when she heard the hostess (who was a prominent church member) say, "Thank you, I baked it myself."

Mary smiled and thought to herself, "God is good."

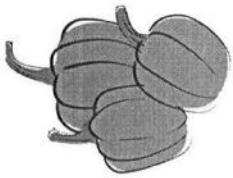
A positive mind finds opportunity in everything, while the negative mind finds faults in everything.



A Luther Rose to color!

Here is a sample:





October 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
	1 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet 4:30 pm Parents Prayer Grp (LSH)	2 10 am Ladies by the Sea Quilters 7 pm Worship Cmte	3 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	4 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	5	6 4 pm Bean Supper (LH)
7 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 4:30 Seaglass	8 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet Noon Friendship Lunch (LH)	9 1 pm Ladies by the Sea Quilters 7 pm Congregational Council (LH)	10 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	11 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	12 8:30 am Kennebunk Cares Closet	13 8:30 am Kennebunk Cares Closet
14 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 1 pm Kennebunk Cares Closet 4:30 Seaglass	15 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet	16 1 pm Ladies by the Sea Quilters	17 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	18 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	19	20
21 8:15 Worship 9:30 Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 4:30 Seaglass	22 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet	23 1 pm Ladies by the Sea Quilters	24 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)	25 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	26	27 9:00 am Evergreen Quilters
28 Reformation Sunday 10:00 Worship 4:30 Seaglass	29 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet	30 10 am Ladies by the Sea Quilters	31 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs)			

FAMILY & FRIENDS WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS:



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

Dottie Graves
Ed Fox
David Donald
Jake
Rob Nutter
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
Chuck Edwards
Bob Brady

A prayer of thanksgiving for God’s healing power in the life of: Dick, Sharen Moessner, John Pendelton

We commend into God’s care the spirit of those who have died recently: Alice Lailer (Arlene Casey’s sister); Ken Roberts (Irene Eaton’s son-in-law); Debbie Van Esch (Bill Simmons’ cousin); Nancy Johnson (Richard Johnson’s mother); Norman Perkins (Henry Perkins’ and Priscilla Kenney’s brother); John Whelply (Lucille Donovan’s son)

SERVING US IN OCTOBER

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

8:15 am
Cheryl Mills, Linda Gaidimas
Bobbie Jo Boulay

10:45 am
Irene Eaton, Donna Simmons
Roger Anderson

ALTAR GUILD

TBA

USHERS

8:15
TBA

10:45
Alyce Carrera

CRIER PUBLICATION INFO:

***The deadline for the October Crier is Friday, October 19th.
The Crier will be assembled and edited on Saturday morning, October 20th.***

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

THE CRIER

OCTOBER 2018

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
2 Lord Street
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Reverend Richard A. Horner, Pastor

www.kennebunklutheran.org

Worship Schedule

October 7th, 14th, and 21st

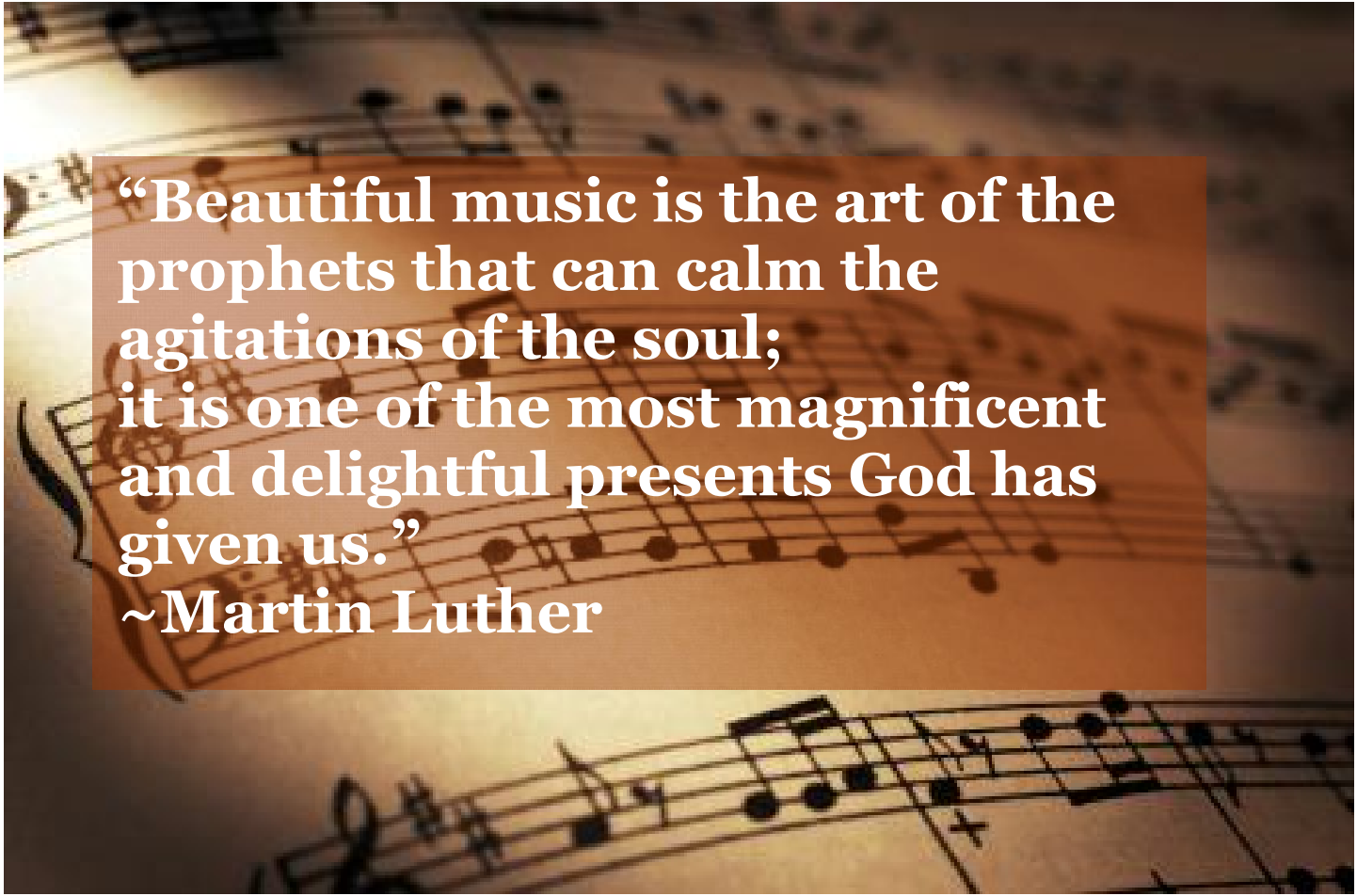
8:15 am Modern Lutheran Liturgy*

10:45 pm Traditional Lutheran Liturgy*

October 28th

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

*Holy Communion served at all services



“Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us.”

~Martin Luther