

THE CRIER

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2019



From the Pastor – Its common to hear other people say, or to say one's self, "Where has the time gone?" Or it might be, "Boy, the time has sure flown by!" In either case a statement is being made as to how quickly events seem to be unfolding in one's life. The amount of time that has actually gone by is more than has appeared to be the case. One's "felt experience" doesn't line up with the "facts on the ground."

Another, similar saying is that "time sure flies when you're having fun" – bearing witness to the reality that positive experiences are more likely than negative experiences to produce this sense of time running at a faster clip than expected. Very possibly we lose track of time when something fun is happening. We aren't paying attention to the passing of the minutes, we aren't checking our watch or phone to see if its 2 pm or 4 pm or whatever. We're more so "living in the moment" and before we know it, by the time we take stock of what time it is, more time has elapsed than we would have imagined.

Time is funny, isn't it? We know in our mind that it progresses at a steady pace – 60 seconds makes a minute, sixty minutes makes an hour, 24 hours makes a day. Time runs steadily, consistently at all times – yesterday, today, tomorrow. Time doesn't ever change, even though our experience of time does.

Time can be particularly fascinating if we're watching a movie or a television show in which the plot includes time *travel*. Just imagine if people weren't locked into time, the way we know we really are. Just imagine being able to go forward to a time that hasn't happened yet, to see what the future holds. Or being able to return to a time that has passed to experience it over again, or to correct something we regret from the first go round.

From a specifically spiritual perspective, time is also pretty remarkable. One amongst many pertinent passages from the Bible that could be cited in this regard is the first chapter of John. Verses 1 and 2 read as follows: "In the beginning [of time] was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning [of time.]" Then verse 14 declares: "The word became flesh [in Jesus] and made his dwelling among us." How in the world can the Word/Jesus have been there at the very beginning, and also have become a flesh and blood human being who lived in the first century? The way time functions in that scenario is confusing to say the least.

A second Biblical passage may also be hard to comprehend on an intellectual level, but perhaps it provides a degree of comfort, because it points out that God himself is not locked into time, the way we are. "But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day." (2 Peter 3:8)

Reflecting upon time, and its passage, certainly happens at lots of different moments in our life. One such moment that is very common, very reliable, is the New Year. Quite often when the calendar page turns from December 31st to January 1st it gives rise to taking stock of time gone by, and thinking with particular intention about time yet to come.

My encouragement as you engage in such reflection entering 2019 is four fold:

- 1) Cherish time as a precious gift from God.
- 2) Make the most of the time God gives you.
- 3) Use your time in service to God.
- 4) Give thanks to God for His promise to be with you as time marches on.

Jesus said: "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28: 20)

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Rich

MESSAGE FROM A COUNCIL MEMBER: A Human Being

The words stopped me in my tracks. "I am not a human doing, but a human being," wrote James Bouzard recently in the daily devotional "Christ in Our Home." After a season of being a 'human doing,' with all that surrounds the holidays for better or worse, it was good to be reminded that we need to take time to just be.

Time to be a being loved by God, despite our worries and rushing, our faults and, at times, misplaced priorities. Time to look around us at the beauty offered each day through a sunrise, a snow-covered landscape, a crisp blue sky. Time to remember what truly matters—the fact that we are all children of God, loved and blessed by unimaginable mercy.

It is so easy to get caught up in the day-to-day, pressured to check items off our to-do lists, pushing to get more and more done and berating ourselves for not being good enough, fast enough, useful enough. It's so easy to worry.

But God reminds us that we are his precious children:

"I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you, by worrying add a single hour to your life?" Matthew 6: 25-27

When we make time to reflect on those truths and sit in stillness, we are renewed:

"Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes from him." Psalm 62:5

January offers a perfect time for reflection, stillness, and a little downtime. Sit at the window and watch the snow fall. Feel the cold, cleansing air on your face when you go for a walk. Listen to the birds—hardy enough to stay for a Maine winter—sing. Watch as the sun rises or sets. Close your eyes and listen to your own heartbeat. Be still. Don't do anything for five minutes, an hour or a day. Know and believe at that moment and for all time that you are loved, held and treasured by God. Just be a human "being."

Blessings for a Happy New Year,
Faith Gillman

WELCOMING IMMIGRANTS, OUR NEW NEIGHBORS – HELP NEEDED

Welcoming Immigrants, Our New Neighbors is currently supporting 30 newly arrived to Maine families from the Middle East and Africa. Currently there is a great need for the following donations:

Diapers (in all sizes), Gift cards for food (Hannaford, Market Basket, Walmart), Gift cards for winter outdoor clothing (Reny's, TJMaxx, Goodwill, Kohl's, Target). As the families live in Biddeford the above store locations are convenient for them.

Any cash contributions can be earmarked for the Pastor's discretionary fund and we will purchase the items.

Diapers can be left in the bin located in the Narthex (entryway).

Gifts cards can be placed in the offering plate or sent to the church office – please be sure to mark them as being for "Welcoming New Immigrants."

If you have any questions please contact Cheryl Dearman Mills ([641-3837](tel:641-3837)) or pastor. Thank you for your generosity!

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!

THE MAJESTY OF GOD'S KINGDOM

by Donna Simmons

Sometimes, on a cold winter night, when there isn't a cloud in the sky, I stand in my snow covered yard and look up at the grandeur overhead. It's a blanket of stars, the moon, and sometimes if I'm lucky, a planet or two. There's nothing more majestic than this for me.

I'm sure the sun rising over the eastern horizon of the Atlantic Ocean is spectacular, if only I were awake then. I do love to see it set in the west beyond the mountains and sometimes, when I'm fortunate, over the western horizon of the Pacific Ocean.

Henri Nouwen in his book *Bread for the Journey* said, "Everything in creation belongs, with us, to the large family of God. . . . When we think of oceans and mountains, forests and deserts, trees, plants and animals, the sun, the moon, the stars, and all the galaxies as God's creation . . . we can only stand in awe of God's majesty."

I am in awe of all the grandeur, from those magnificent stars overhead to the little mouse who tunneled through the snow to stuff his cheeks at the base of the birdfeeder where my husband had scattered the seed, and the enterprising squirrel who climbed to the roof of my house and then jumped to the roof of the birdfeeder for dinner.

We are all part of the majesty of our God, even the stars above and the rodents below, the people we love and those with whom we disagree, those who feel hopeless and those who are hungry and alone.

We are all God's family!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!



The Christmas tree in Luther Hall has had ALL of its ornaments taken – thanks so much to everyone who has helped provide gifts for the York County Shelter.



To everyone who participated in the Cookies for College Students Project, thank you very much. These boxes are very much appreciated by these students. We sent out 22 boxes.



Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Food Basket program this year! We were part of a community wide effort to help feed hungry people, living out our commitment to follow Jesus by caring for those in need.

ROGER'S REFLECTIONS: THE BURIAL OF MARY

By Roger Rotvig

We lose track very quickly of those who witnessed the Incarnation, the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, Son of God. The shepherds, who were told of the event by a choir of angels, remained anonymous. The wise men arrived some time after the birth and after seeing the child, they left for their own country ASAP since they had been warned that King Herod would kill the child if he found him. Even Joseph and Mary, warned of Herod's plan fled, with the child to Egypt.

After the death of Herod, the parents and the child returned to anonymity in Nazareth, where Joseph worked as a carpenter. Joseph is mentioned as one of the parents who fulfilled all the religious laws of raising a child through his 12th year. After that time mention of Joseph ceases but Mary continues to be seen, as at the wedding feast in Cana.

Important to this study is the presence of Mary at the scene of her son's crucifixion where only the Gospel of John (19:26-27a) records Jesus' words from the cross. "When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, 'Woman, behold your son!' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother.'"

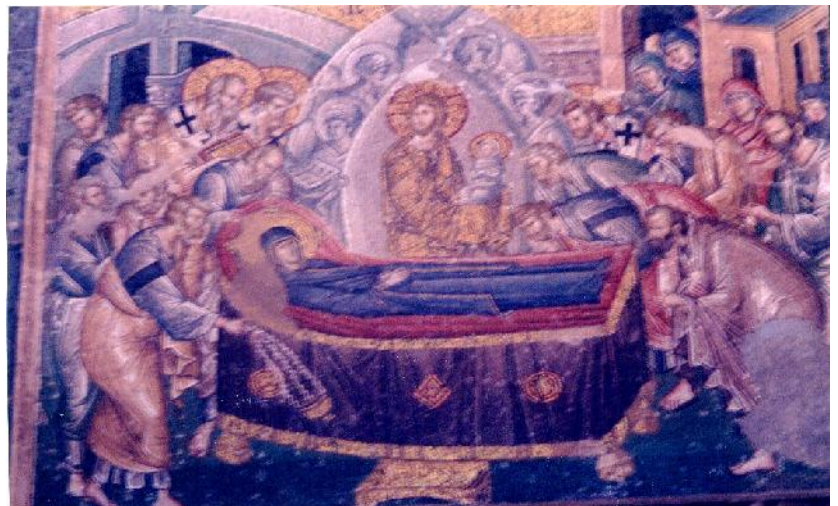
Mary, the mother of Jesus is not mentioned again in the scriptures. John, the disciple whom Jesus loved, is mentioned further in scripture and in rather strong tradition. Tradition says that most all of the disciples/apostles were martyred, with the exception of John the Beloved. Tradition says that he eventually moved westward, following Paul's work of establishing the Church among the Gentiles. He was said to have lived a long life in Ephesus and from there some believe he wrote the last Gospel record.

Ephesus was a hot bed of Greek philosophy as well as one of the strongest centers of Christianity. Reread the first 5 verses of that Gospel to get a real philosophical statement of the incarnation. (By the way, the John mentioned in verse 6 is John the Baptist, not John, the author or Apostle).

Finally, what does tradition tell us about Mary? We can assume that she did not die in Jerusalem in the 20 or so years after the crucifixion because it would certainly have been recorded in the Book of Acts. One tradition does claim that she eventually did die in Jerusalem and her place of burial was known absolutely and eventually made into a shrine. The other tradition is that she went along with John the Beloved in his move to Ephesus, died and was buried there. Any visitor to Ephesus today will be shown a large house on a hill to the south as the place where John and Mary resided into old age. Most of those who believe that John and Mary lived out their respective days in Ephesus reject that their big house still survives.

But the possibility that Mary did die in Ephesus is boosted by solid archeological facts. In 33AD, Constantine, the Emperor of Rome became a Christian and moved his capitol to the stronghold of Christianity in that period, to a large city on the Asia-Europe boundary, which he named Constantinople. Ephesus is only a short distance from Constantinople. It remained a center competing with Rome for dominance until 1453 when the Ottoman Turks conquered it, renamed it Istanbul, and turned Christian churches and Cathedrals into Mosques.

Muslim religious tradition allows no painting of actual people or places in their Mosques. Therefore, great Christian art works in churches were painted over or otherwise removed. After WWII, when Turkish policies began to change, they gave back most of the churches to Christians, who promptly started to remove the Muslim designs from the wall and restore the Christian art underneath. In one of our Mediterranean trips, we visited the church of St. Mary in Istanbul. They were restoring a wall painting covered over for centuries. The attached picture, known as "The Burial of Mary" has been uncovered. It would make sense that if the Christians at Ephesus had participated in the burial of Mary, nearby Constantinople would honor her in this and many more



STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, EVERY SUNDAY, EVERY DAY

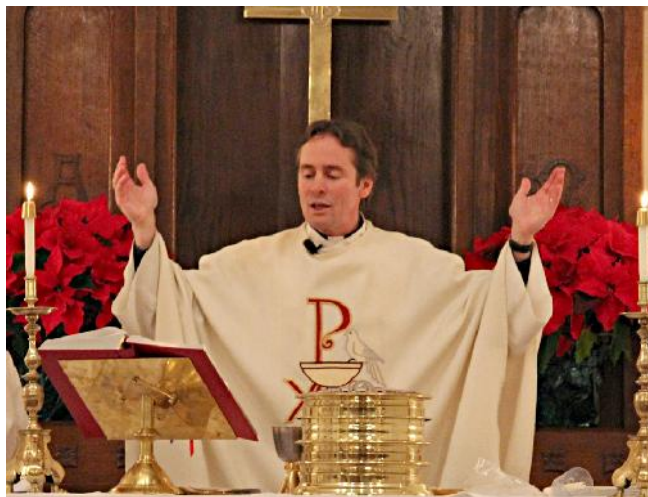
My Grandmother used to say “many hands make light work”. This works for almost everything we do in our day’s work, our family life and our Church life. The more contributing to the effort the more is accomplished. And, while not always the case, the more involved, more satisfaction is derived. We all like a job well done, and I think we all at Holy Cross Lutheran Church can be very proud of all the WORK we do here.

That said, I also like to look at our Church and the many “faces” that it takes on, and how it shows just how many faces are required to make “many hands make light work,” or in this case “greater work”.

The building of our church, our sanctuary, Luther Hall, our kitchen, our Sunday School rooms and our downstairs meeting rooms – the physical face of Holy Cross:



The Pastor of our Church, Pastor Rich, who has been here for over 20 years. He has led this congregation with wonderful spiritual wisdom and faith. He is that face and leader for us all at Holy Cross.



There are the Congregation and members of Holy Cross, faithful and generous, week in and week out, giving of their Time, Talent, and Treasure, and making our Church a pillar in our community. This is also a face of Holy Cross.

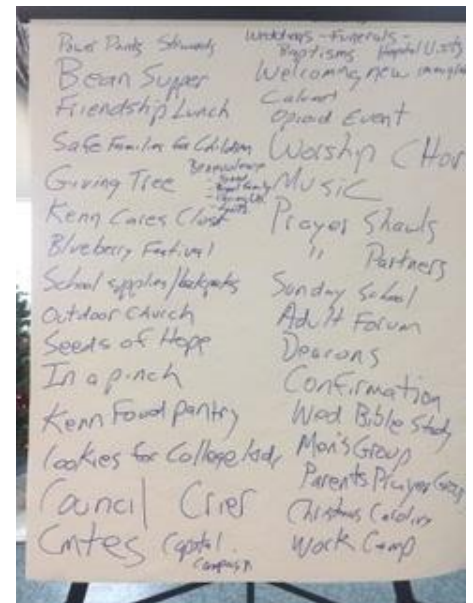


(Continued on page 6)

The Worship Services every Sunday, the special Holiday Services at Christmas and Easter, and the music makes those services so special. The music director and members who sing in the choir and the accompaniment with instruments are also the faces of Holy Cross.



The programs of the Church, giving to the community with free bean suppers and lunches each month, donations of time and financial support of local benevolences and financial contributions to our Synod and the ELCA are also faces of Holy Cross. Support for our youth as they work for others in summer programs is another face we can be proud of and support.



These are only a few of the faces that are Holy Cross. We have just finished our annual Stewardship Campaign for the coming year of 2019. When we look back on the past couple of years, all of us as members and friends of Holy Cross Lutheran Church have been amazing in their support. The Capital Campaign of Restoring, Renewing and Rejoicing of 2016-2019 is approaching our last year and almost all of the renovation programs have been completed. In addition to the physical improvements to our Church home that were needed, some of the mortgage pay down has begun, and this is on schedule to be completed by year end 2019. This will allow more financial contributions to be directed towards benevolences and other spiritual and physical needs in our budget. Thank you all for that major accomplishment in faith and generosity.

Going into 2019, the Trustees and Council are working on a budget to continue the work of the Church. The early estimates of income and expense have been shown to the congregation at the Stewardship Sunday lunch, but to complete the final estimates the pledges of financial support will be needed. Last year (2018) you, the members and friends of Holy Cross, supported the work of our Church in every way with Talent, Time, and Treasure. Sometimes it is hard to differentiate the spiritual work of Holy Cross from the financial work, but we all know that each is needed to accomplish our goals in faith, so a very large "THANK YOU" is offered to everyone in our Holy Cross family. And, a Happy New Year to everyone.

Carl Graves

HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN: “FEEDING BODY & SOUL!”

SHARE THE BOUNTY

Saturday, January 5th, 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. Everyone is welcome! If you'd like to volunteer and help with the meal, please contact Mary Keating.

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!

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>

JACK'S CORNER: Kid's Game – Adult Career ***Submitted by Jack Bates***

As a kid, did you ever knock on peoples' doors and run away before they could answer? Well here is your opportunity to be young again. ----- UPS is hiring.

I was going to write a joke about New Year's resolutions, but then I realized that most New Year's resolutions are a joke!



January 2019

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

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
Louise
Lenny and Vicky Lambert
Elaine Simmons
Dick Lord
Beth
Barbara Warner
Bill and Polly Janiak
Baby Myka

Earl
Joe Hakanson
Laurie Morin
Nicole Muniz
David
Dan Fisher
Barbara
Frank Heller
Missy Cheaver
Beth Hoffman

SERVING US IN JANUARY

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

8:15 am
Carl Graves
Sharon McGary

10:45 am
Val Reid/Frank Stetson
Michele Noble

ALTAR GUILD

Mary Bates

USHERS

8:15
Mary Keating

10:45
Robert White

CRIER PUBLICATION INFO:

The deadline for the February Crier is Friday, January 18th.

The Crier will be assembled and edited on Saturday morning, January 19th.

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

THE CRIER

JANUARY 2019

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
2 Lord Street
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Reverend Richard A. Horner, Pastor

www.kennebunklutheran.org

Worship Schedule

January 6, 13, 20

8:15 am Modern Lutheran Liturgy*

10:45 pm Traditional Lutheran Liturgy*

January 27th

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

*Holy Communion served at all services

