

# THE CRIER

## HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH

### MARCH 2019



*From the Pastor* – An important part of living out our Christian faith, is serving the needs of other people. Such service can take many forms. It might be something you do on your own, in a very quiet manner, and without anyone else really noticing – except maybe the person you help. It might be something you join in with a few friends to accomplish, but little notice is taken of your efforts beyond perhaps the members of your family being aware. Or, it could be something that quite a large group of people take part in, and it garners a significant degree of attention from others.

As Christians, there may be times when we feel uncomfortable about our good deeds being publicized – literally or figuratively. There may be a feeling that any notoriety that may come from helping others automatically undermines the goodness of what was done. As if receiving any degree of recognition means that was our motivation in the first place – wanting to be noticed, wanting to be praised.

Whether or not we could quote the chapter and verse, what Jesus says in the following passage from Scripture is likely something with which we are familiar, in terms of the gist of the message: “So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.” (Matthew 6:2-4a)

The warning in that passage is an important one – the warning against taking too much pride in our own actions, and becoming puffed up with an overinflated ego. As if we can take all the credit for what we did, rather than recognizing that our good actions are a reflection of God’s power in our life. So yes, a healthy dose of humility is called for, and is very appropriate, when it comes to doing good deeds.

But another part of the picture is also presented in Matthew’s gospel – this time in chapter 5, verses 14-17, where Jesus says: “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”

When we follow Jesus by serving the needs of others, there can be a very positive side to such efforts on our part being noticed. Our good deeds can be a witness to other people – can make an impression on others in a way that is quite positive. The critical difference being that we aren’t “blowing our own horn” (I’ll bet that expression originated with the passage above, “announce it with trumpets”!!!), but are instead acting for the benefit of those who are being helped, and so that GOD may be glorified and praised.

One great example of letting the light of faith shine brightly happens each summer at the youth work camp mission trip. The several hundred people who attend are part of an explicitly Christian group, who are there to show the love of Christ by painting and doing house repairs for people in need. The work the group does -- on about 50 homes throughout the community where the camp takes place -- is typically publicized in the local paper and occasionally on a local television news broadcast too. And yet participants are not lauded as some sort of extra special heroes who deserve to have their praises sung. They come across, instead, as humble servants who are happy to simply be of help to others.

We will probably struggle throughout our lives to keep these two things in their proper balance – humility and witness. But let’s all strive for that goal. Doing good readily and willingly, not thinking about how it might benefit us, and also not being shy when it comes to letting others see the light of our faith shining brightly.

In Christ, *Pastor Rich*

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# Ash Wednesday



On Ash Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. there will be a service with Holy Communion and the opportunity to receive the imposition of ashes on one's forehead. This is a somber service, but not one that is maudlin in nature. Though we are told "remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return" during the imposition of ashes, the significance of such a reminder is simply that we are human beings, and as such our ultimate hope and security rest not with our selves, but with God.

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# LENT

## ***LENTEN WEDNESDAY MEAL AND SERVICE***

Beginning Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, a simple meal of bread and soup will be served in Luther Hall at 6:00 pm followed by a worship service from 6:30 to 7:00 pm, also in Luther Hall. The services are a time of prayers, hymns, readings, reflection and sharing. These times to gather are encouraged as a part of one's Lenten preparation leading up to Holy Week and Easter. Indicating your intention to attend by adding your name to the list in the Narthex is appreciated, though not required.

**Signing up to bring a soup or bread is also appreciated.  
Thank you!**



## ***LENTEN DEVOTIONALS***

Lenten Devotionals are available on the stand at the back of the church. Under the title "Lasting Hope" the booklet provides a daily scripture reading, reflection, and prayer. A wonderful resource for the season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 6<sup>th</sup>. "The book of Psalms gives us a realistic look at the journey of faith.... From crying for help to singing songs of praise and thanksgiving ... the psalms show faith with all its ups and downs, twists and turns. More importantly, the book of Psalms points us to God."

## CHANNELS OF GOD'S GRACE

by Donna Simmons

There are many quotes in the scripture and devotions that I was reading just before I wrote this article that moved me. They tell of my faith and the Lord's love, my quest to do as the Lord guides me, and my struggle to stay on a faithful path.

From Psalm 138:

"I give thee thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart . . ." (v. 1a)

"On the day I called, thou didst answer me . . ." (v. 3a)

"My strength of soul thou didst increase . . ." (v. 3b)

"Though I walk in the midst of trouble, thou dost preserve my life . . ." (v. 7a)

"Thy steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever." (v. 8b)

And then from Karen Minnich-Sadler in *Christ In Our Home* on Friday 2/8/19:

"We are created to serve as channels of God's grace, even as we grow in understanding what this means . . ."

"Whatever we do, we do out of God's divine love flowing through us and in us, enlivening us and rooting us in joy."

Her prayer in the end is my plea in prayer:

"Lead me to ground my life in you, O Christ, that I may embody your love in this world. Amen"

The prayer concern that day was for those who feel their lives are meaningless. In my life I lost two people to suicide and I almost became a third but for these words from Psalm 138:

***"I give thee thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart."  
"On the day I called, thou didst answer me."***

The Lord is always with you. Call on Him when you are in need. Call on Him for guidance. Call on Him to praise Him and to give Him thanks -- every day.

***He is there for you -- EVERY DAY.***

## 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!

**Special request that came in this week: An Iraqi family is in need of a *small chest freezer*. Please let Pastor or Cheryl know if you have one or know of one that can be donated. Thank you!**

## ***ROGER'S REFLECTIONS: Never Judge a Book By Its Cover***

***By Roger Rotvig***

I have been a life-long fan of the writings of Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain). From his earliest childhood adventure stories, I graduated to appreciate his clever wit in tales like "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court".

I spent almost the last half of my working life in Hartford, CT, first as pastor at Grace Lutheran and then as the Ex. Dir of the New England Lutheran Social Service. For all of that time, my office was a short walk from the historic "Mark Twain House", a national historic site. Twain lived longer in Hartford than any other place, most of which we better remember from his writings. It was also a few blocks away from the church that he mentioned occasionally in his works.

Once when Twain was asked what church he belonged to, his answer was "I guess I stay away from the Asylum Hill Congregational Church". Reading that, I had to go visit my neighbor church. I was pleasantly surprised at the beauty of the old structure and its additions. Their community programs and Pastoral staff were well known for their high caliber. There was little or no mention of Twain as a distinguished member, but I learned from the pictures, that a Rev. Joseph Twitchell had been the long time Pastor during that period. In a weak moment, I thought what Mark Twain could have done with a Pastor's name like Twitchell.

A few years ago, after Twain had been dead for 100 years, his will allowed all of his personal papers to be released to scholars. A number of our leading educational institutions collaborated to put together a comprehensive biography of this great man. I couldn't wait to read it. It was very worthy of him.

I was amazed at what I read on page 320. I will quote 2 paragraphs in total: "Mid-August 1896 – Samuel, his wife and Clara arrived in England from an around the world tour. Suzy, Katy & Jean were to join them. A cable waiting for them indicated that Suzy was ill. The Clements headed to Southampton to return to Ct. Another cable indicated that more news would follow by cable. Mrs. Clements and Clara embarked for America but Samuel waited for the later cable and would follow.

The morning cable indicated that Suzy had died. Samuel wrote: "The last 13 days of Suzy's life were spent in our own house in Hartford, the home of her childhood and always the dearest place on earth to her. About her she had faithful old friends...her pastor, Mr. Twitchell, who had known her from the cradle and who had come a long journey to be with her." P. 324

"Editor's note on the initial appearance in the autobiography (page 73 lines 13-22) of Rev. Joseph H. Twitchell: "He struck up a friendship with Clemens in 1868, which deepened when the Clemens moved to the neighborhood of Nook Farm where the Twitchells also lived: ...He was one of Clemens closest friends, presiding at both his wedding and Funeral." Page 479.

Never judge a book by its cover.

### ***ADULT FORUM***

Beginning on March 3rd, Pastor Rich will start a six week series entitled "Basics of the Faith." This course has been offered in the past, as both an introduction to Lutheranism for those new to our congregation and as a "refresher" course for people who have been part of the Lutheran Church for years. Topics to be covered are the Bible, Church History, Worship, Sacraments, Christian Ethics, and Church Structure. For any who attend who wish to become members of Holy Cross, there will be an opportunity to do so after the course has finished up. If you have any questions please be in touch with Pastor Rich. The class will meet from 9:30 am to 10:30 am in Luther Hall on Sundays March 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and April 7th, 14th.

### ***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!



## ***STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, EVERY SUNDAY, EVERY DAY***

This month's contribution to the Crier is a little different than my usual. I came across the following two "situations" that were posted on the internet and felt they were worthy of mentioning as this month's Stewardship memo: The first was a video and the second was a narration of an actual incident.

### **"The Power of Positivity"**

The first was a scene in a fourth grade classroom. The teacher finished her teaching session and announced it was time for lunch. All the children took their lunch boxes from inside their desks and opened them. The view focused on one boy, and when he opened his lunch box it was empty. He had a sad look on his face and put his head down and looked quietly at his neighbors on both sides as they opened their lunches. After a moment he raised his hand and asked permission to leave the room. He went out, walked slowly down the hall, looked out the window, went to the drinking fountain and took a long drink of water. When he returned to his seat in the classroom all the other kids were eating their lunch, some quietly looking out of the corners of their eyes at the boy, but he did not notice. As he lifted his lunch box a look of wonderment came over his face. He held the box for a moment, and then he slowly opened it. He saw inside two half sandwiches, a bunch of grapes, some cheese and a cookie! The look on his face told the whole story, but as the camera panned around the room, the classmates did not look up from their lunches, but their faces showed their joy of giving, unconditionally.

The second "situation" began when a young woman drove up to a bank ATM to withdraw some money. When she started to insert her ATM card she noticed there was money in the slot of the machine. She took it out and counted it. \$500! She knew at once whoever had used the ATM before her had not taken their withdrawal.

She drove to the bank office and approached a teller and told her experience. The teller asked what the lady wanted to do and she said "find out who the customer was who left the money!" The teller called the manager and they went to the ATM and found the name and address of the person who had left the money in the machine. The lady asked if she could have the address because she wanted to return it. The customer was an elderly woman who had withdrawn all her savings to pay her rent. She needed \$480 for the rent, and because she was so grateful for the return of her money she offered to give the lady the \$20 that was left. Of course she refused, but she returned to the bank manager and told him the circumstance. She then withdrew \$200 from her own account and deposited in the elderly lady's account. When the word spread in the bank, most of the employees in the bank contributed as well!

Stewardship is there every day in the Power of Positivity.

*Carl Graves*

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## ***HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN: "FEEDING BODY & SOUL!"***

### ***SHARE THE BOUNTY***

Saturday, March 2nd, 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!***



### ***MARCH FRIENDSHIP LUNCH***

Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, is the Friendship Lunch. We will be serving a St. Patrick's Day type meal, such as corned beef, colcannon potatoes and Irish soda bread. Everyone is welcome! We serve at noon. If you're interested in helping with the meal, contact Mary Keating.



## ***LETTER FROM THE BISHOP***

Hi. It's snowing here...how bout you?

I'm writing a book on Everyday Spirituality, and I'm looking for examples of God showing up in people's lives, in the ordinary, commonplace parts of our lives. Interested?

Where and when have you seen God?

- at the grocery store
- on a vacation
- while spending money
- around the cafeteria
- over coffee
- in the hospital
- on the soccer field

If you've got a story, (even a weird one) I'm interested in hearing about it. It just might end up in a book, and it might help other people realize that God shows up in unexpected ways and in unexpected people and places. We can do this anonymously if you prefer.

Let me know. Just send an email with your story. It doesn't need to be perfectly written, cause this is just a first draft.

Thanks and Blessings to You on this wintery day.

Bishop Jim Hazelwood  
bishop@nesynod.org

New England Synod - ELCA  
www.bishoponabike.com  
www.nelutherans.org

Our mailing address is:  
Bishop on a Bike  
20 Upland St  
Worcester, MA 01607  
USA

## ***THEATER TRIP***

On Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm, "The Light in the Piazza" is playing at the Biddeford City Theater. Based on a novella by Elizabeth Spencer, the story is set in the 1950s and revolves around Margaret Johnson, a wealthy Southern woman and her daughter, Clara, a beautiful and surprisingly childlike young woman who spend a summer together in Italy. When Clara falls in love with a young Italian man, Margaret is forced to reconsider not only Clara's future, but her own deep-seated hopes and regrets as well. Nominated for eleven and won six 2005 Tony Awards, including best original score.

Mary Keating has bought some tickets, so if you're interested in attending, please contact her. Tickets are \$22.50 each and if you need a ride, just ask!



## ***DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME!***

In order to arrive at church at the correct time for services for Sunday, March 10th, please note on your calendar that you will need to turn your clocks ahead one hour, before you go to bed, Saturday, March 9<sup>th</sup>.

***Spring arrives on March 20th!***

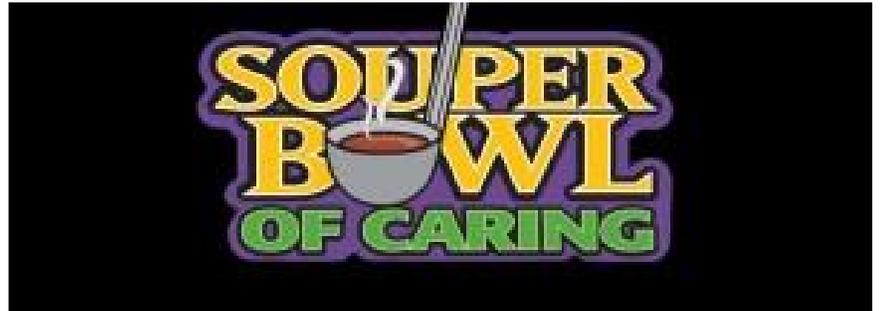
## ***COOKIE WALK***



THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Cookie Walk this year! To all who baked cookies and to all who purchased them! The event raised a total of \$549 in support of the youth work camp mission trip!

## ***SOUPER SUNDAY***

THANK YOU to everyone who participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring this year! The total raised was our second highest amount in our 20 year history: \$500! Proceeds are going to Community Outreach Services, to help with food, fuel, and other needs for people in our local community who need a helping hand



## ***JACK'S CORNER: Adam and Eve Submitted by Jack Bates***

The story of Adam and Eve was being carefully explained in the Sunday School class. Following the story, the children were asked to draw a picture to illustrate some part of the story.

Little Emily was most interested and drew a picture of a car with three people in it. In the front seat behind the wheel was a rather large man and in the back seat a man and a woman.

The teacher was at a loss to understand how this illustrated the lesson but little Emily was prompt with her explanation.

“Why, this is God driving Adam and Eve out of the garden.”

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“Compassion is language the deaf can hear and the blind can see.”

Mark Twain

# † March 2019

To Schedule Meeting Space (in Luther Hall, Lord Street House, sanctuary, etc.) please be sure to contact Faith Gillman -- [faithgillman@yahoo.com](mailto:faithgillman@yahoo.com) -- to avoid any conflicts on the church calendar.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 9:00 Adult Forum 10:00 Worship 5:30 Sea Glass					1 4 pm Bean Supper (LH)	2 8 am Blueberry Festival Craft Day Noon LSH office in use
3 8:15 Worship 9:30 Sunday School/ Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 5 pm Al-Anon 5:30 pm Sea Glass	4 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet 4:30 pm Parents Prayer Grp (LSH)	5 10 am Ladies by the Sea Sea Quilters	<b>6 Ash Wednesday</b> 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs) 7 pm Ash Wednesday Service	7 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	8	9 8 am Blueberry Festival Craft Day Noon LSH office in use
10 8:15 Worship 9:30 Sunday School/ Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 5:30 Sea Glass	11 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet Noon Friendship Lunch (LH)	12 1 pm Ladies by the Sea Quilters 7 pm Congregational Council (LH)	13 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs) 6 pm Bread & Soup 6:30 Lenten Service	14 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	15	16 8 am LSH office in use 9 am Evergreen Quilters
17 8:15 Worship 9:30 Sunday School/ Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 5:30 Sea Glass	18 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet	19 1 pm Ladies by the Sea Quilters	20 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs) 6 pm Bread & Soup 6:30 Lenten Service 7 pm Worship Cmte	21 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours 5:30 pm Harvest Cafe	22	23 8 am LSH office in use 9 am Sea Glass
24 8:15 Worship 9:30 Sunday School/ Adult Forum 10:45 Worship 5:30 Sea Glass	25 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet	26 1 pm Ladies by the Sea Quilters	27 8:30 Bible Study (LH) 9 Al-Anon (downstairs) 6 pm Bread & Soup 6:30 Lenten Service	28 9:00 am Kennebunk Cares Closet 9-11am Pastor's Office Hours	29	30 8 am LSH office in use 9 am Sea Glass

***FAMILY & FRIENDS WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS:***



Jim Keating	Ed Fox	David
Diana Breitenfield	David Donald	Barbara
Rolf Bandle	Jake	Missy Cheaver
Patti Berg-Anderson	Lenny and Vicky Lambert	Herb
Becky	Bill and Polly Janiak	Susan
Liz Lienhard	Baby Myka	Henry Perkins
Konrad	Earl	Dea Cleveland
Brady Provencher	Joe Hakanson	Olivia
Brenda & Tom	Laurie Morin	Silas
Dottie Graves	Steve	

A prayer of thanksgiving for God’s healing power in the life of: Beth Hoffman, Dan Fisher, Benjamin, Kari Moncrief

We commend into God’s care the spirit of those who have died recently: Dick Lord (friend of Carol and Frank Heller), Bernie Chase (friend of Donna and Bill Simmons), Elaine Simmons (mother-in-law of Donna Simmons, mother of Bill Simmons)

***SERVING US IN MARCH***

**WORSHIP ASSISTANTS**

8:15 am  
Linda Gaidimas  
Mary Bates

10:45 am  
Chris Cherry  
Robert White

**ALTAR GUILD**

Sandie Hamel

**USHERS**

8:15  
Bob Brady

10:45  
Alyce Carrera

***CRIER PUBLICATION INFO:***

***The deadline for the April Crier is Friday, March 22nd.***

**The Crier will be assembled and edited on Saturday morning, March 23rd.**

Please send all articles to Julie Clapp at [juliane@julianemarie.com](mailto:juliane@julianemarie.com) or leave them in the church office.

# *THE CRIER*

*MARCH 2019*

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
2 Lord Street  
Kennebunk, ME 04043

Reverend Richard A. Horner, Pastor

[www.kennebunklutheran.org](http://www.kennebunklutheran.org)

## **Worship Schedule**

March 3, 10, 17, 24

8:15 am Modern Lutheran Liturgy\*

10:45 pm Traditional Lutheran Liturgy\*

March 31

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

\*Holy Communion served at all services

God loves each of us as if there were only one of us.  
~St. Augustine

