



**Sunday School resumes for all ages on January 6.** Be sure to include the 9:30 am Sunday morning hour in your weekly schedule.

The **Wrap - Arounds** Prayer Shawl Ministry will begin meeting again on **January 20 at 4:00 pm** in the church parlor. Resolve to join us for fellowship and sharing as we knit or crochet for others.

**Kids' Club** will meet January 19th.

**A special thank you to Ashley Ange and Misty Koehler** for taking leadership in the children's play for Christmas. **Good work by all!**

**New Beginnings Thoughts...**

A new year, a blank slate...time for us all to reflect on the year(s) past and to look with renewed hope for the new year. Most of us are able to identify the regret of the past year—too much eating, spending, not enough exercise, the list goes on and on. How about also reflecting on the blessings of the past—enough food, shelter and money to make it another year; the ability to educate our children; still working when so many others are still not employed...most of us are more blessed than the vast majority of the population of the world.

As the new year comes and the reflections pass don't forget to resolve to continue to grow your faith this year... small group study, worship, ministry involvement, spending time with someone who is lonely, visiting the sick, helping those less fortunate...be sure to make room in your resolutions for some of these spiritual growth ex-

ercises. Just as our physical body needs disciplined exercise, food and water to grow, so our spiritual lives need nourishment. Resolve to stretch those spiritual muscles by becoming more involved in the congregation that gathers as The Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter.



**Now is the time to register for: Create in Me Retreat**

April 4-7, 2013  
(Thursday-Sunday after Easter)  
Engaging Bible Study, Creative

Worship, Workshops and Drop-in Stations

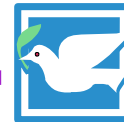
**If you think you are NOT CREATIVE this retreat is especially for you!!**

**Study Theme: Spirit Blazing: rekindling + refining + revealing**

**Bible study leader: NC Synod Bishop Leonard Bolick** – exploring Biblical images of FIRE as Inspiration & Process for a Creative Life with God. Enjoy a wonderful exchange of ideas encouraging creativity as central to the life of faith! Participate in creative worship and enriching fellowship. Workshops and creation stations offer hands-on opportunities to try new arts and crafts in a safe place where you cannot fail. Process over product is stressed – everyone is a beginner at something! Meet others striving to give God's creative Spirit larger space in their lives.

For more information or to register online: [www.lmi.net](http://www.lmi.net) and click on Adult Programs, Create In Me.

**Holy Comforter Comment**



Holy Comforter Lutheran Church P.O. Box 666 Belmont, NC 28012  
704-825-2483 [holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto:holycomforter@gmail.com)

John Propst, Interim Pastor  
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster  
Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education  
Kristen Clanton, HCY Advisor



*<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.*

*<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you;* **Isaiah 60:3-4a**



**Communion Opportunities For January**

January 6 The Epiphany of Our Lord  
January 13 The Baptism of Our Lord

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager  
Volunteer Needed/As a Reporter  
Volume 34, No. 1

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE** 9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service  
**Church Office Hours** Monday-Thursday  
8:30 am—3:00 pm

*"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:3-6 from Today's NIV)*

Dear Friends at Holy Comforter Church,

I **DO** thank my God for you...every morning before the sun rises and I get into the day! I do thank God for our partnership in the Gospel beginning January 1 AND I know that the good work that God's Spirit began in you many years ago in this Belmont community will continue! My good friend, Mike Varn, your pastor for 3+ decades, faithfully served you as Spiritual shepherd. I am grateful for his leadership. As I serve our Lord Jesus by serving you as your pastor during this interim "season," may we find great **joy** in serving together! Thank you Mark Yount, the Congregation council and ALL who have begun to make my transition as your "seasonal" pastor such a joy-filled one! And thank you Pastors Linda & Jack for your faithful ministry during the "interim before the interim!"

A brief bio: As a Lenoir-Rhyne University and Southern Seminary graduate, I served much of my 37 year ministry in the southwest (California & Arizona) before being called by the ELCA to become pastor-developer of a new congregational start southeast of Charlotte. God also called me to be developer of a new start in Arizona as well. God's Spirit has blessed me with a missional heart for ministry. For the last 9 years I have served in interim ministry – for 6 congregations as well as serving as the interim ELCA Mission Director for the NC Synod.

Liz and I just celebrated our 41<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in June. Home for us is on the Lutheridge Camp & Conference Center campus in Arden, south of Asheville. Just 25 minutes from us live our 3 grandchildren: Keaton, Nola & Calloway. In addition to our son, Brian & daughter-in-law, Emily in Asheville, we have a daughter, Jenni in Charlotte (it will be great being a little closer to her), a 2<sup>nd</sup> son & 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter-in-law. Austin was ordained a year ago into the ELCA ministry; he and Tanya are serving in global mission & ministry in Madagascar! Liz and I are blessed immeasurably by the family God has given us!



I was asked by someone here at Holy Comforter to share a bit of my "vision" for our Church during the interim season. I shared that the Spiritual gift of "encouragement" was given to me at my Baptism; therefore, as an encourager I'll be inviting you to do the same...encourage folks along their Spiritual journey; give strokes; give hugs; give God thanks for blessings! And don't put these opportunities off – all we have to do is remember with a sad heart what recently happened in Newtown, Connecticut.

During this season of waiting for God's Spirit to reveal who your next Pastor will be, I'll walk with you as one of your Spiritual guides. Other gifts I pray I will bring to the Holy Comforter family of faith are witness & outreach and Spiritual formation. **And** I love kids, young and old...have I shown you pictures of my grandkids?!

May we together find much joy, love & peace as we minister together in the season we have before us.

Many blessings to you in the New Year in the name of Jesus! **Pastor John Propst**

**CHURCH SCHEDULE:**

- Sunday, January 6 Epiphany Sunday**  
9:30 am **Sunday School**  
10:30 am The Service w/**Holy Communion**  
5:00 pm **HCY in fellowship hall**
- Monday, January 7 Morning Circle/WELCA**  
11:00 am Meet at the home of Sonja Kreitzer; bring a sandwich. Beverly Reynolds has the program.
- Sunday, January 13 Baptism of Our Lord**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service, w/**Holy Communion**  
**Church Council meets after**
- Saturday, January 19 Kids'Club**  
10:00 am Meet at Monkey Joe's in Gastonia
- Sunday, January 20 2nd Sunday after Epiphany**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service  
4:00 pm **Wrap-Arounds** Prayer Shawl Ministry  
Meet in church parlor
- Thursday, January 24 Nordic Choir Concert**  
6:00 pm Leave Holy Comforter for Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Hickory NC
- Sunday, January 27 3rd Sunday after Epiphany**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service  
5:00 pm \***HCY** in fellowship hall

**Regular Meeting Times:**

- Sundays:** 10:10 am Choir  
4:00 pm Childrens' Ensemble  
5:00 pm Adult Handbells  
**HCY on 1st & 3rd Sundays**  
6:00 pm Church Choir  
8:00 pm Nar-Anon
- Tuesdays:** 7:00 pm Nar-Anon

**\*NOTE: HCY is meeting on January 27 instead of the 20th because of the Martin Luther King holiday.**

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

**Treasurer's Report** (Warren Heller)

<u>Report for Month</u>	<u>November</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Budget Expenses:	\$18,559.25	\$204,151.75
Actual Expenses:	24,045.02	204,705.13
Offerings Received:	<u>17,355.03</u>	<u>194,186.63</u>
<b>Loss for Month:</b>	<b>\$ 6,689.99</b>	
<b>Loss Year-to-Date:</b>		<b>\$ 10,518.50</b>

**ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**LECTORS:** Billy Joye, Jr. + Volunteer

**ACOLYTES:** To Be Announced

**CRUCIFERS:** To Be Announced

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 2)

Louise Day, Co-Captain  
Brenda Daly, Co-Captain  
Nancy Powell  
Becky Richards

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** (Team C)

Sherry Alexander Charles Mauney  
Fran Holland Dee Smith

**EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:**

January 6: Need Volunteers  
January 13: Need Volunteers

**GREETERS:**

January 6: Need Volunteer  
January 13: Need Volunteer  
January 20: Pat Long  
January 27: Need Volunteer

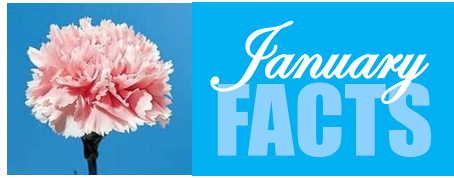
**USHERS:**

Need Volunteers

**FLOWERS:**

January 6: Debbie Bray  
Dianne Lail  
January 13: Julia Gunter  
Gary & Karen Rogers  
January 20: Brian & Lucy Mitchell  
One vase available  
January 27: Bryant & Jane Deaton  
One vase available

All information and articles for the January Newsletter are due to Dianne by January 21, 2013.



Birthstone: Garnet  
Birth Flower: Carnation

- 1: Papal Chancery adopts January 1 as beginning of the year (was Mar 25). 1622
- 1: The first traveler's checks issued (London). 1772
- 1: 1st US public bath opens, in NYC. 1852
- 1: Building of Panama Canal begins. 1880
- 3: Leonardo da Vinci unsuccessfully tests a flying machine. 1496
- 3: Martin Luther excommunicated by Pope Leo X from the Roman Catholic Church. 1521
- 3: First US building & loan association organized, Frankford PA. 1831
- 3: 1st electric watch introduced. 1957
- 7: George Washington is voted in as U.S. president in the first nationwide election. 1789
- 11: 1st American life insurance company incorporated. 1759
- 12: Union fleet bombs Fort Fisher NC. 1773
- 12: House of Representatives rejects proposal to give women the right to vote. 1915
- 12: Boeing 747 makes its maiden voyage. 1970
- 15: Fort Fisher, NC falls to Union troops. 1865
- 15: The Coca-Cola Company, then known as the Pemberton Medicine Company, is originally incorporated in Atlanta, Georgia. 1889
- 18: 1st polar bear exhibited in America (Boston). 1733
- 18: Eastern Airlines goes out of business after 62 years. 1991
- 20: US Senate approves the naval base lease of Pearl Harbor. 1887
- 23: The first bridge over the Mississippi River opens in what is now Minneapolis, Minnesota, a crossing made today by the Father Louis Hennepin Bridge. 1855
- 30: US Navy's 1st ironclad warship (Monitor) launched. 1862

# MUSIC NEWS

Special thanks to all our church musicians who led and participated in the beautiful ringing and singing throughout the Advent and Christmas season. Now that Epiphany is in our midst we are engaged with music for this season, as well as upcoming Lent and Easter. The choirs are always thinking 4-12 weeks ahead.

The members of the church choir wish to thank our Christmas Party hosts, Tom & Shirley Causby. The Causbys have opened their doors to the choir for over 30 years!

**Thursday, January 24 at 7:30 pm a concert** presented by the *Nordic Choir* from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa will be held at **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Hickory. The church address is: 547 6th Street, NW.** There will be a freewill offering (No tickets required).



A number of us have attended the phenomenal performance of this touring choir. We will offer a caravan for this concert. In order to hope to get a seat **we will need to depart Holy Comforter at 6:00 pm sharp.** Let Greg Cline know ASAP is you wish to attend, and the number in your party. We will try to coordinate as few carloads as possible.

*Greg Cline*



*Give of Yourself this New Year...*

## Join A Committee for 2013

### WORSHIP

Worship & Music

### LEARNING

Christian Education Committee

Youth Ministry Committee

### SUPPORT

Finance Committee

Church Property Committee

Stewardship Committee

### WITNESS & SERVICE

Evangelism Committee

Social Ministry Committee

Lector (Reads the lessons)

Usher

Communion Assistant

Greeter

Newsletter Reporter

Other \_\_\_\_\_

## Thank you for your willingness to serve!

Please fill in the information below so it can be forwarded to the committee chairpersons.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

The church is its people. Please consider helping your church by using your talents to and for the glory of God.  
Turn in your volunteer form to the ushers, a church council member or give to Dianne in the church office. Everyone's help is greatly appreciated!

# January 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1  7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-A-Non	2	3	4	5 <b>Staying Connected</b> 7:00 pm Meets at Holy Comforter
<b>6 The Epiphany of Our Lord</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service with <b>Holy Communion</b> 4:00 pm Children Ensemble 5:00 pm <b>HCY</b> in Fellowship Hall Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	7 11:00 am <b>Morning Circle</b> Meet at the home of Sonja Kreitzer. Bring a sandwich. Beverly Reynolds has the program.	8  7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-A-Non	9	10	11	12
<b>13 The Baptism of Our Lord</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service with <b>Holy Communion</b> <b>Church Council after</b> 4:00 pm Children Ensemble 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	14	15  7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-A-Non	16	17	18 <b>The Confession of St. Paul</b>	19  <b>Kids' Club</b> 10:00 am Meets at Monkey Joes Gastonia, NC
<b>20 2nd Sunday after Epiphany</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service 4:00 pm Children/Youth En. <b>Wrap-Arounds</b> 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	21	22  7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-A-Non	23	24 <b>6:00 pm</b> Leave Holy Comforter to drive to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Hickory, NC to <b>attend</b> <b>concert at 7:30 pm by</b> <b>Nordic Choir</b> From Luther College, Iowa	25 <b>The Conversion of St. Paul</b>	26
<b>27 3rd Sunday after Epiphany</b> 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service 4:00 pm Children/Ensemble 5:00 pm <b>HCY</b> in fellowship hall Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	28	29  7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-A-Non	30	31		 tacklehunger.org <b>Souper Bowl of Caring</b> Sunday, February 3, 2012  <b>HCY</b> will collect for this worthwhile cause.

We recognize and celebrate these birthdays in the month of January. We are thankful for the life and spirit of those we celebrate. May the blessings of God flow in the life of each of you.

- January 1 Albert Ewing  
Brenda Jenkins
- January 6 Ferrie Hedrick
- January 10 Brandy Milton  
Charles Mauney  
Becky Richards
- January 13 Abbey Kowalewski
- January 17 Julie Wiegand
- January 18 Carmen De Nicholas
- January 19 Faye Heller
- January 21 Jane Howard  
Paul Nault
- January 26 Matthew Carr

**NOTE:** If we have unintentionally left any member's name off this list, or if there are any errors, please call the church office.