



Sunday School continues with our children in **God's Eden** participating in the study of the **Last Supper**.

The **Youth** and **Adult** classes continue in their respective studies.

REMINDER: We will not have Children's Sunday School on March 31 due to the early Sunrise service and breakfast.

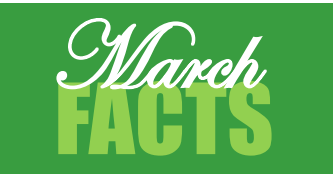
The **Wrap-Arounds prayer shawl ministry** will meet on March 17 at 4:00 pm in the church parlor. We would like to have a shawl dedication the last Sunday in April, so keep working on your projects and join us in March. **We currently have about 9 blessed prayer shawls and would like to at least double that number as we enter the summer and fall season.** Knit and crochet away!!

The children's **Easter Egg Hunt** will take place at 10:00 am on Saturday, March 30 at the church. Toddlers — Grade 5, are invited to bring their Easter baskets and join in the great hunt! Lunch, prizes, and fun for all!

Create in Me retreat will take place the weekend following Easter at Lutheridge. This year's theme is "Spirit Blazing: Rekindling + Refining + Revealing." There is always engaging Bible study, creative worship and workshops and drop-in stations. **If you think you are Not Creative—this retreat is especially for you!**

Save the date of June 21-22 for Vacation Bible School 2013. If you are interested in the planning and leading process, please contact Beth Brittain at 704-956-1203.

Beth Brittain, Christian Education



Birthstone: Aquamarine Birth Flower: Daffodil

- 1: Congress authorized the creation of Yellowstone National Park. 1872
- 1: Federal income tax takes effect (16th amendment). 1913
- 1: Hitler orders the destruction of all Germany; it is unworthy of surviving him. 1945
- 3: Congress establishes US Mint. 1791
- 3: North Carolina becomes 1st state requiring registration of nurses. 1903
- 3: Wilhelm II of Germany becomes the first person to make a sound recording of a political document, using Thomas Edison's cylinder. 1904
- 6: First college orchestra in US founded, at Harvard. 1808
- 6: "Aspirin" patented by Felix Hoffmann. 1899
- 10: Abraham Lincoln applies for a patent; only US President to do so. 1849
- 12: Girl Scouts of America were founded. 1912
- 13: Uncle Sam cartoon figure made its debut in the *NY Lantern* weekly. 1852
- 13: US adopts Standard Time. 1884
- 14: Eli Whitney received a patent for his cotton gin. 1793
- 15: *Freedom's Journal*, 1st Black newspaper, publishes. 1827
- 15: Cincinnati Red Stockings become the 1st pro baseball. 1869
- 15: 1st escalator patented by inventor Jesse W Reno (NYC). 1892
- 15: Chat rooms make their debut on the Internet. 1971
- 17: 1st St Patrick's Day parade in NYC. 1762
- 22: Gutenberg Bible became the first printed book. 1457
- 30: First US steam fire engine tested, New York. 1841

All information and articles for the April Newsletter are due to Dianne by March 18, 2013.

Holy Comforter Comment

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church P.O. Box 666 Belmont, NC 28012
704-825-2483 holycomforter@gmail.com

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



5b Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen.

Luke 24:5b

Communion Opportunities For March

- March 3 The Third Sunday in Lent
- March 24 Palm Sunday
- March 28 Maundy Thursday
- March 31 Easter Sunday



Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager
Volunteer Needed As a Reporter
Volume 34, No. 3

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

HCY MARCH SCHEDULE

Sunday, March 3, 5:00-6:30 pm

Reel to Real —Spider-man lesson in the theater

Saturday, March 9, 3:00—5:00 pm

Holy Angels' 21st Annual Angel Bowl at Liberty Lanes in Gastonia. Our goal is for each person to raise \$100 by asking family, friends, church members, etc. for donations. All donations benefit the programs and services at Holy Angels for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Please sign up with Kristen if you are interested. Teams are capped at 5 people and we will need to reserve our lane. This is an HCY activity, but others in the church are welcome to join us!

Sunday, March 17, 5:00-6:30 pm St. Patty Party

With a lesson on prayer led by Pastor John.



The Auxiliary of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary

On May 20, 1940, a large group of women, brought together by Mrs. E. C. Cooper, wife of the president of the Seminary at that time, met in the Seminary Reception Room and organized an auxiliary to be known as THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY OF THE LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SOUTHERN SEMINARY.

Holy Comforter's connection with our seminary auxiliary began when we proposed honoring members of our church with life membership to the auxiliary. Each life membership **OR** memorial is a **\$100 donation to the auxiliary**.

Beverly Reynolds and Barbara Beale will be accepting donations on Sundays, **March 10 & 17. Checks should be made out to Holy Comforter with a notation that it is for the LTSS Auxiliary.** The Auxiliary provides for non-budgeted needs through this membership.

The Lillian E. Lineberger Scholarship

To apply, you must meet the following requirements:

- Be a member of The Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter for at least one year
- Participate in Communion and contribute to the church during the time you are receiving the grant
- Submit the following by the deadline of April 24th:
 1. Your completed application
 2. A transcript from your most recently completed semester
 3. A typed essay (at least one paragraph) describing yourself, career plans, and life goals

Application forms available via email.

Our best wishes to you in your educational journey.

Your Scholarship Ministry, Carmen De Nicholas

Thrivent Choice Dollars Deadline

A big **Thank You** to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans *Choice Dollars* program and to our participating church members. **\$4918.00** has been contributed to Holy Comforter *Vision Fund* since its inception in March 2011. Eligible members of Thrivent with qualifying products **are asked AGAIN to direct their Choice Dollars to their preferred organization by March 31, 2013.** The options to direct are as follows:

- Log in to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice and select "Get Started."
- Contact a representative from the members connection center at 800-847-4836. When prompted, say "Thrivent Choice" and when next prompted, say "Choice Dollars."

For questions contact Myra Hollar, Thrivent Congregational Advocate at 704-825-5885.

CHURCH SCHEDULE:

Sunday, March 3 3rd Sunday in Lent

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion
5:00 pm **HCY** in theater room upstairs

Monday, March 4 Morning Circle/WELCA

11:00 am Meet at the home of Shirley Causby; bring food items & canned goods for BCO. Speaker is from BCO. Bring a sandwich for lunch.

Saturday, March 9

8:30 am Confirmands carpool to St. Paul's, Dallas
3-5:00 pm **HCY** meets for *Holy Angels' 21 Annual Angel Bowl* at Liberty Lanes, Gastonia

Sunday, March 10 4th Sunday in Lent

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service
Church Council meets after

Sunday, March 17 5th Sunday in Lent

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service
4:00 pm **Wrap-Arounds** Prayer Shawl Ministry, meet in church parlor
5:00 pm **HCY** St. Patty's Party; Pastor John, lesson

Sunday, March 24 Palm Sunday

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

Thursday, March 28 Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm Service with Holy Communion

Friday, March 29 Good Friday

7:00 pm The Service

Saturday, March 30 Easter Egg Hunt

10:00 am Toddlers-Grade 5 Fun, food & prizes

Sunday, March 31 Resurrection of Our Lord

7:30 am **Sunrise Service**
Breakfast after, **NO Children's** S. School
10:30 am **Regular Service with Holy Communion**

Wednesdays, March 6, 13 & 20 Lenten Evenings

5:45 pm Dinner
6:30 pm Lenten Service/23rd Psalm
7:00 pm Chamber Choir

Regular Meetings for the Week:

Sundays at 4:00 pm Childrens' Ensemble
5:00 pm Handbells
6:00 pm Church Choir
8:00 pm Nar-Anon
Tuesdays: 7:00 pm Nar-Anon

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTORS: Billy Joye, Jr. + Julia Gunter

ACOLYTES: Garrett Fox, Claire Mitchell

CRUCIFERS: Hannah Carnes, Noah Rogers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)

Diann & Dean Halvorson, Co-Captains
Barbara Kasmer Gayla Foscue

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team C)
Need Volunteers

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:

March 3: Dennis & Dee Tucker
March 24: Caroline & Tracey Nault
March 28 & 31: **Need Volunteers**

GREETERS:

March 3: Myra & Bill Hollar; March 10: Katie Kessen; March 17: Pat Koehler
March 24 & 28: Louise Day
March 29: **Need Volunteers**; March 31: Pat Long

USHERS:

March 3-17: **Need Volunteers**
March 24 & 28: Courtney Gatlin
March 29 & 31: Greg Garrison

FLOWERS:

March 3: Tim Baker
One vase available
March 10: Dianne Lail & De Nicholas Family
One vase available
March 17: Dee Smith
One vase available
March 24: Bob & Pat Koehler; one vase available
March 28: Two vases available
March 31: Greg Garrison
One vase available

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Treasurer's Report (Warren Heller)

Report for Month	January	Year-To-Date
Budget Expenses:	\$17,454.83	\$17,454.83
Actual Expenses:	16,356.32	16,356.32
Offerings Received:	19,848.00	19,848.00
Gain for Month:	\$ 3,491.68	\$ 3,491.68

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life.”

John 3:16 (from *NRSV*)

Dear Friends in Christ,

How is your Lenten journey to the cross going? This 40 day Spiritual walk with Jesus. Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance. It is a season for reflection and taking Spiritual stock.

Many believers “give up” something during Lent as a Spiritual discipline. Rather than “give up” I have always chosen to “give in” – to give in to Jesus’ love and grace in ways I might not throughout the rest of the Church year.

John 3:16 (above) is a good place to begin to “give in.” Martin Luther called John 3:16 “*the heart of the Bible – the Gospel in miniature.*”

Are you familiar with *Lectio Divina*? It means “divine reading” or “Spiritual reading” or “holy reading,” a practice of prayer and scriptural reading intended to promote communion/fellowship with God as you read God’s Word. It’s a way of *praying the scripture*, calling one to study, ponder, listen and pray as you read. Try it with John 3:16 as well as with other verses during your Lenten pilgrimage. Answer the following questions in your heart or journal them or invite another person or two to do this as a group ...

1. Begin with a few moments of **silent prayer**.
2. **Read** the scripture out loud, slowly. Pause and ponder.
3. What **word or phrase** caught your attention? Meditate on that word or phrase.
4. **Read the passage again** out loud, slowly.
5. Where does this passage **touch my life** today? What does it say to me personally?
6. **Read the passage a 3rd time** out loud, slowly.
7. What does **God want me to do** or be this week because of this verse? How does God invite a **change** in me through His Holy Spirit?
8. End by praying the **Lord’s Prayer**.

Friends, may God’s Spirit invite you into many moments of holy reading during these 40 days of Lent. Know that you are loved eternally by the One we call Jesus!



Lenten blessings, *Pastor John*



Schedule for Lent 2013:

Mid-week Dinner is served at 5:45 pm.
Mid-week Worship is on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

For the 6:30 pm services, we are using *Hold-en Evening Prayer*. **Our theme continues to be the 23rd Psalm.** Below is the remainder of the Psalm (from the *New King James Version*) with the dates and speakers.

March 6 *Speaker, Jo Singleton*
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
for You are with me;
Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

March 13 *Speaker, Greg Byrum*
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over.

March 20 *Speaker, Winston Baker*
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Do You Have an “Inquiring Heart?”

... **about things like** ...

- growing in your faith journey with Jesus (discipleship)
- what it means to be a Lutheran Christian ... beliefs about baptism, communion, salvation, the Bible, Luther’s Small Catechism, the Trinity, eternity, how to stay awake in Church (just seeing if you’re reading this!) ... and many, many more beliefs.
- about the ELCA, NC Synod, other denominations and how we are similar and different, about other Lutheran “flavors”
- Maybe you wonder about the Church year (seasons, colors, etc.), the Reformation, what to bring to a Lutheran pot-luck (still reading??)
- questions specific to Holy Comforter Church: about mission & ministry opportunities here, various SS classes, how you can join our WONDERFUL choir, the youth program, what membership means AND others.

Accept this as a **special invitation** for you to join an “*Inquiring Heart Class*” at Holy Comforter Church!

Sunday Mornings 9:30 am
(Sunday School hour)
March 10, 17, 24 & April 7

These 4 classes, led by Pastor John, will give you an opportunity to get to know some of the folks at Church as well. The format will be conversational & enjoyable. PLEASE KNOW, too, that these classes are for anyone (new to the Lutheran Church, new to the Christian faith, member of Holy Comforter, new to Holy Comforter – ANYONE!) They can be a good refresher class for you too!

If in fact you are considering membership, these classes would be great for you! We want you to know personally how pleased we are that God has led you to Holy Comforter. We do not believe that you are here by accident; God has a purpose for you being here!

Part of that purpose might be to join the membership of Holy Comforter. Reception of new members will be held **April 21**, at the 10:30 am service of worship.

We would love to know how many to expect for these classes, so if you would please call the Church office (704-825-2483) or e-mail Pastor John JohnCPropst@gmail.com. By the way, if you cannot make all the classes, please come to the ones you can!

Please know that you are special to God AND special to your Spiritual family at Holy Comforter Church!

MUSIC NEWS
















The choir ensembles are working hard in preparation for Holy Week and Easter services of worship. Anthems and hymns reflect the themes of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunrise. At the Easter 10:30 am Service the Liturgy will feature triumphant festival settings and descants. We’ll pull out all the stops on our magnificent pipe organ, which will also be enhanced by percussion and two trumpeters. Join us and invite your family and friends to join us for all of these special worship opportunities.

Church choir members wish to thank the ladies ***Morning Circle*** for the wonderful dinner that they recently hosted for us. We do feel appreciated.

Greg Cline

The ministries of **Lutheran Services Carolinas Child and Family Services** (formerly known as Lutheran Family Services) **are celebrated in congregations around the state during the month of March.** Every day, this organization is called upon to help people in need, who, in some cases, have nowhere else to turn. For more information on work of LSC child and family services, visit **www.LSCarolinas.net**.

March 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Southern Seminary Collection taken on March 10 & 17. Find Barbara Beale or Beverly Reynolds. 	HCY St. Patrick's Day Party Sunday, March 17 5:00-6:30 pm Fellowship Hall Lesson on Prayer by Pastor John 	 LUTHERAN SERVICES CAROLINAS Celebrated during the month of March. Visit www.LSCarolinas.net .			1	2
3 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service w/ HC 4:00 pm Children Ensemble 5:00 pm Adult Handbells 5:00 pm HCY in theater room 6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	4 Morning Circle 11:00 am Home of Shirley Causby BCO Speaker, bring food Items and canned goods for BCO. Bring a sandwich for lunch.	5	6  5:45 pm Mid-Week Dinner 6:30 pm Lenten Service 7:00 pm Chamber Choir	7	8	9 8:30 am Confirmands leave for St. Paul's, Dallas 3-5:00 pm HCY meets for Holy Angels' 21st Annual Angel Bowl Liberty Lanes, Gastonia
10 4th Sunday in Lent 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service Church Council after 4:00 pm Children Ensemble 5:00 pm Adult Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	11  Johnny Appleseed Day	12  Girl Scout Day	13  5:45 pm Mid-Week Dinner 6:30 pm Lenten Service 7:00 pm Chamber Choir	14	15 Ides of March	16
17 5th Sunday in Lent  9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service 4:00 pm <i>Wrap-Arounds</i> 4:00 pm Children Ensemble 5:00 pm HCY St. Pat's Party Handbells 6:00 pm Choir , 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	18	19 St. Joseph, Husband Of Mary and Guardian Of Our Lord	20  5:45 pm Mid-Week Dinner 6:30 pm Lenten Service 7:00 pm Chamber Choir	21	22	23
24 The Sunday of Passion  9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion 4:00 pm Children Ensemble 5:00 pm Adult Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	25	26	27	28  THE LAST SUPPER Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm Church Service With Holy Communion	29  Good Friday 7:00 pm Church Service	30 Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 am Church Yard Toddlers—Grade 5 Pizza for Lunch Prizes !  
31 Easter Sunday 7:30 am Sunrise Service Breakfast after No Children's SS 9:30 am Adult Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion 						

We recognize and celebrate these
birthdays in the month of March.



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.

March 4 Dean Halvorson
March 5 Robin Ratchford
March 6 Ann Ashe
March 6 Debbie Baker
March 6 Jo Singleton
March 8 Graham Baakko
March 8 Lydia Lawrence
March 8 Crystal N. Hughes
March 10 Virginia Crump
March 10 Dee Smith
March 11 Tom Kasmer
March 12 Arden De Nicholas
March 12 Gayla Foscue
March 14 Tyler Ange
March 14 Tracey Nault
March 14 Nancy Powell
March 15 Danielle Ballard
March 18 Melinda Lingerfelt
March 21 John Beasley
March 22 Louise Day
March 24 Timothy Baakko
March 25 Pat Koehler
March 26 Hailey Ange
March 26 Cheryl Grant
March 28 Doris Meekins
March 31 Pat Long

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