



Sunday School continues for all ages in the educational building at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings.

In February, the *Adult Bible* class under the leadership of John Kreitzer and Greg Byrum will be exploring the Book of

James.

The *Seekers* class will complete a series of studies and begin a study of identifying Spiritual gifts.

Pre-K and God's Eden complete a study of Lydia on February 9 and begin a study of the Good Samaritan on February 16 that continues through March 9.

The youth class under the able leadership of Katie Kesson and Will Howard continue their studies of applying the teachings of Christ to their everyday life.

We continue to provide nursery support during Sunday School and encourage everyone to consider attending a class this month.

We are so very fortunate to be as close to Lutheridge as we are. In just a couple of hours we can attend a camp or retreat and really refresh and recreate our spirit and then return to our daily lives renewed and rekindled. Visit www.novusway.com for more information. The following are a few offerings to consider:

- Family Camp: June 29-July 5
- Christmas in Jyuly: July 20-26
- Music Week for adults: July 6-12
- Kinder Camp (4-7 year olds): June 16-20 & July 12-18
- *Wild Women* weekends (fill up quickly): Feb. 4-6, March 7-9, & March 14-16
- *Create in Me*: April 24-27
- 50 Forward: May 1-4
- Autumn Adults: October 14-18

These are just a few offerings for all ages...the website has many more. I will be attending Create in Me and would love to have at least 5 more people from our church attend. See me for more information!!

Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education



SAVE THE DATE:

Friday, June 27 & Saturday, June 28

Mark your calendars now and plan to help or attend VBS!

Church Council for 2014

Debbie Baker Tim Baker Tom Bocchino
Greg Byrum Greg Garrison Fran Holland
Will Howard Billy Joye Shelia Kelly
Mandi Kline Debbie Neagle Trudy Whitener

Thank you to Dean Halvorson, Ginger MacDonald, Bob Wiegand & Mark Yount who rotated off council at the end of 2013.

Share Your Love!

Fellowship & Volunteer Luncheon

Sunday, February 16

Following the worship service

Please bring a covered dish and a cheerful heart to learn how you can enhance the church in response to God's word and gifts given to you.

We Need You!

Any age, any or no experience.

**Fried & Rotisserie Chicken
provided by the church.**



Holy Comforter Comment

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

John Propst, Interim Pastor JohnCPropst@gmail.com

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education

Kristen Clanton, HCY Advisor

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager



16 ...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

Communion Opportunities For February

February 2 The Presentation of Our Lord

February 16 Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Volume 35, No. 2
Dianne Lail Communications/Office Manager

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

2014 Lent Midweek Worship

Tuesdays at 6:30 pm

(Following our Lenten meal at 6:00 pm)

Ash Wednesday is March 5—that's the day we begin our pilgrimage to the cross.

As part of our midweek worship on Tuesday evenings, we're inviting 5 people to share a brief (2-5 minutes) "testimony of grace." Our theme will be the Lord's Prayer. Below are the petitions with the dates. Please pray about sharing a brief reflection and let Pastor John know of your willingness.

Call him at 828-713-4646 or drop him a quick email to JohnCPropst@gmail.com.

March 5 Ash Wednesday (Pastor John shares)

Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name,

March 11

Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.

March 18

Give us this day our daily bread;

March 25

And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
Who trespass against us;

April 1

And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

April 8

For thine is the kingdom,
And the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen



Join your friends around the altar at Holy Comforter after worship on those Sundays that Communion is not a part of that morning service.

On February 9 & 23, come to the altar while others are leaving, following the service; after Pastor John greets folks, he'll join you for a time of meditation, prayer and communion as we break bread with Jesus our Lord!

Questions/thoughts: contact Pastor John at JohnCPropst@gmail.com.

MENTOR A Child

Sarah Little is a counselor at Belmont Middle School and she is a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Mt. Holly. **Belmont Middle needs mentors!** Mentoring is such a rewarding experience. Their mentors typically meet with students for one hour, once a week during school hours. They do fun activities, talk, play games (even on iPads), or work on school work. One of her mentors does woodcraft and Legos with the three boys he mentors. PLEASE pray about this potentially life-changing experience/ministry.

PLEASE contact Sarah today! Her school phone number is 704-825-9610, extension 244. Her email: sblittle@gaston.k12.nc.us. Contact Pastor John if you'd like more information.

MUSIC NEWS

The members of the children's ensemble will sing on February 2. All children are asked to meet in the fellowship hall immediately after Sunday School. The children will not meet in the afternoon again until February 16.

Lutheridge registration is now open for summer camp. You may go online to www.novusway.com and check it out. At this time **Holy Comforter music ministry is offering 50% scholarships for members attending music week July 6-12.** These scholarships make this most popular and most expensive camp week of the year, the most affordable. Custom programming is developed for Grade 1-Adult. **Contact Greg Cline ASAP** for more information. Music week fills up early.

Volunteering has been a big topic around the church campus lately. We had planned to get a group together last year and organize/reorganize/file/catalog our music library. If you have a laptop computer, some hours to donate, and a sense of humor, contact Greg Cline. We already have several folks interested, but this is a big undertaking and, as they say, the more, the merrier. We hope to get started soon.

Many folks keep asking about the *Carillon*. Installation is difficult during the winter months, but we are optimistic that the bells may ring by Easter 2014! That is subject to change, as we were originally told before Christmas 2013.

Choir Appreciation Dinner: The ladies circles will sponsor an appreciation dinner for the church choir. The meal will take place at 5:00 pm Sunday, February 9. Handbells will rehearse prior to dinner and church choir rehearsal is after. (See calendar)

The church choir welcomes **Jim Buell** to the tenor section. Jim and his wife, Carmen, come to us from

The great state of Wisconsin. We look forward to getting to know Jim and Carmen in the coming weeks and months ahead!

Our **25th Annual Isle of Palms Retreat** is nearly filled. (May 29-June 1) **If you are interested, let Greg Cline know NOW!** Some, in the past, have wanted to be on the waiting list, as we sometimes have a last-minute room to open up.

Greg Cline, Music Director



Camp Agape

Rising 1st Graders—
Rising 8th Graders!



It is hard to believe, but it is time to start planning for summer camp again. Holy Comforter is hosting **Camp Agape July 14-18**. *Agape* is a day camp for rising 1st to rising 8th graders sponsored by Kure Beach Ministries.

This year we are expanding the day camp to include 6th-8th graders. The kids in this age group will participate in service projects throughout the week at Holy Comforter as well as off site. **We must have a minimum of 6 middle school aged kids in order to offer this expanded camp.**

Registration forms are available at the back of the church or from Misty Koehler. The cost is \$125 per camper and is due at the time of registration. There is only room for 20 campers, so register soon. **The spaces will be filled on a first come, first served basis.**

Please contact Misty if you have any questions about camp.

*Misty Koehler,
Holy Comforter Camp Coordinator*

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 at 9:30 am
(Sunday School Hour)
February 9, 16, 23 & March 2

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!

In fact if 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.

We would love to know how many to expect for these classes, so if you would please call the church office at 704-825-2483 or email Pastor John at 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 Lutheran Church.

Do you know what your spiritual gifts are?
Do you need help figuring out where your place is in serving your Church and community?

If these questions intrigue you, or if you just want to explore the topic of spiritual gifts, you are invited to join an exciting **new class** being offered at Holy Comforter. An **8-week series called "Discovering God's Vision For Your Life" will begin February 2, 2014 during the Sunday School hour in the Seekers classroom.** All materials will be provided to help you learn about your unique set of spiritual gifts and why they are so important.

Please prayerfully consider joining this class. If you have any questions about the course please see **Mandi Kline** or email her at mandikline@gmail.com.

CHURCH SCHEDULE:

Saturday, February 1

7:00 pm ***Staying Connected***
Meet in fellowship hall

Sunday, February 2 Presentation of Our Lord

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service w/**Holy Communion**
6:00 pm **HCY** meets in fellowship hall

Monday, Feb. 3 *Morning Circle*

11:00 am Meet at church.
Go out to eat after meeting.

Sunday, Feb. 9 5th Sunday after the Epiphany

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service
Church Council meets after
5:00 pm Choir Appreciation Dinner

Sunday, Feb. 16 6th Sunday after the Epiphany

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service w/**Holy Communion**
6:00 pm **HCY**

Saturday, Feb. 22 *Kids' Club*

11:00 am Meet at Kate's Skating Rink
Lowell, NC

Sunday, Feb. 23 7th Sunday after the Epiphany

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service

Regular meeting times:

Sundays: 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble
5:00 pm Adult Handbell Choir
6:00 pm Church Choir
8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesdays: 7:00 pm Church Choir
Nar-Anon

NOTE: No Children's Ensemble practice on Feb. 2
OR Feb. 9.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Treasurer's Report (Warren Heller)

<u>Report for Month</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Year-To-Date</u>
Budget Expenses:	\$17,454.83	\$209,458.00
Actual Expenses:	20,742.80	209,845.29
Offerings Received:	<u>20,084.85</u>	<u>226,185.97</u>
Gain (Loss) for Period: (\$	657.95)	\$ 16,340.68

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTORS: Billy Joye, Jr.,
Jo Singleton: Feb. 2 & 9
Elizabeth Bruchon, Feb. 16
Marsha Kinley, Feb. 23

ACOLYTES: Garrett Carpenter, Garrett Fox

CRUCIFERS: Cooper Burwell, Madison Carr

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2)
Louise Day, Co-Captain
Brenda Daly, Co-Captain
Nancy Powell Becky Richards

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team B)
Fran Holland Dee Smith
Charles Mauney Volunteer Needed

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:
February 2: Eric & Renee Carpenter
February 16: Brenda Daly & Louise Day

GREETERS:
Feb. 2: Jo Singleton & Shirley Causby
Feb. 9: Jo Singleton & Ginger MacDonald
Feb. 16: Bill & Myra Hollar
Feb. 23: Katie Kessen

USHERS: Need Volunteers: Feb. 2, 16 & 23
Feb. 16: Tim Baakko

TELLERS: Lynn Martin & Sherry Perry

FLOWERS:
February 2: Linda Grimsley & Cher Grant
February 9: Tim & Debbie Baker
Dennis & Deva Tucker
February 16: Bill & Myra Hollar
February 23: Bob & Pat Koehler

All information for the March newsletter is due to Dianne in the church office by Monday, February 17th. Remember, it is a "short" month!

February 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Staying Connected 7:00 pm Meet at church
2 Presentation of Our Lord 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion 4:00 pm Adult Handbells 5:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	3 11:00 am Morning Circle Meeting at church, then out to eat after the meeting.	4 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	5	6	7	8
9 5th Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service Church Council after 4:00 pm Adult Handbells 5:00 pm Choir Dinner 6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon	10	11 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	12	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day!	15
16 6th Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Adult Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir	17	18 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	19	20	21	22 Kids' Club 11:00 am Meet at Kate's Skating Rink Lowell, NC
23 7th Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir 10:30 am The Service 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Adult Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir	24 St. Matthias, Apostle	25 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	26	27	28	

We recognize and celebrate these Birthdays in the month of February. 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.



February 2	Fred Meekins Stacy Whitener
February 4	Scott Carr
February 6	Julia Ratchford
February 8	Chris Hullander Scott Zander
February 9	Shelia Kelly Karen Rogers
February 10	Jennipher Martin
February 14	Will Howard
February 15	Leslie Crist Sam Thompson Reesa Wilson
February 16	Courtney Gatlin Rochelle Potter
February 20	David Buchanan
February 22	Cynthia Ashe
February 23	Dodie Reese
February 25	Jack Tench
February 27	Valerie Bruchon

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