

MUSIC NEWS

The month of May brings many added events such as Mother's Day, church retreat, Memorial Day, etc. These times are wonderful, but traditionally have an impact on attendance for our ensembles which meet on Sunday afternoon.

For this reason, and due to much feedback, we will observe the following schedule:

Church Choir: Worship leadership needed and appreciated every Sunday morning, regardless of local and world events. Only two 6:00 pm evening rehearsals...May 1 and May 15. On the 15th we will host a very important **Worship and Music Committee** meeting at 5:00 pm! If you are on that committee, or would like to be, come join us!

Chamber Choir: 7:00 pm on Tuesdays. We will hold it together for the month of May, if possible.

Children's Ensemble: Sunday, May 1 will be our last 4:00 pm session. We will have a brief gathering and party in the fellowship hall. Then everyone is invited to view the local *Bike Criterium*. Sunday mornings, May 1 and 8, the kids will sing with the adult choir. Parents please **bring your children to the choir room at 10:15 am.**

John & Sonja Kreitzer have a piano to donate to any member of the church who would be willing to have it moved. It is an Everett Console which was in use at HolyC for over 50 years. Considered a good institutional piano. Let the church office know if you are interested.



VBS June 26-29, 2016 6:00-7:45 pm

This summer, Holy Comforter is providing kids an adventure like no other, deep within the mysterious sea. Our **Vacation Bible School** Program will allow kids to submerge themselves in God's Word, they will discover that Jesus didn't just see what's on the outside of people. He looked deep down on the inside. So grab your goggles, step into your flippers, and prepare to register your kids for diving below the surface to find the truth! A quick meal will be provided, and then the kids rotate through activities of recreation, Bible/missions, music and crafts. Parents are welcome to stay or take this time for themselves. Information about registering will be coming soon.

If you would like to help with the program, whether it's providing a meal, helping decorate, or assisting with one of the stations, you would be welcome! More formal guidance and materials will be provided for all volunteers.

Contact Melissa Bocchino at
Melissa.bocchino@pwc.com.

VBS Planning Committee: Melissa Bocchino, Jill Cassel, Jenn Kearney, Debbie Mendez & Krystyna Sarrazin



Lutheran Church of the
Holy Comforter COMMENT

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704-825-2483 holycomforter@gmail.com

Micah Kearney, Pastor email: micahkearney@gmail.com
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster
Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor
Dianne Lail, Communications



²And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. ⁴All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Acts 2:2-4

Communion Opportunities for May

May 1: The Sixth Sunday of Easter

May 15: The Day of Pentecost

May 22: The Holy Trinity

(and other Sundays after the service)



Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager
Volume 37, No. 5

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

FROM THE PASTOR



Grace and peace,

Lately with the weather being as beautiful as it has been, added to the excitement of having a new house and yard, our boys just want to be outside constantly. Depending on my own mood, this can get on my nerves because we can kid proof a house pretty well and get some things checked off our to do list, but outside we have to constantly be aware of what Nathaniel is doing. There is a creek at the back of our property and I know it is only a matter of time before he ends up in it.

But when I manage to relax a bit and enjoy the time with them outside, I remember how for much of my life I have been energized by the outdoors. It is where a lot of my faith has been shaped, both by the wonder of Creation itself and by Christian community in it. Being outside often seems to raise my awareness of God's majesty and God's work, often more than being in an office full of religious books and paraphernalia. It isn't even that I necessarily have new ideas or discoveries of God, but that I feel more aware of God's presence and in awe of God's greatness and abundance of grace in my life.

Not everyone gets that sense when they are in nature. Sometimes the dirt, bugs, and weather serve as too much of a distraction to be able to concentrate on much of anything at all. For some they feel most aware of God's presence and majesty listening to a

beautiful piece of music, staring endlessly at masterful pieces of art, or, as is also the case for me, watching my and other children and knowing that the incredible people that they are is certainly due more to the grace of God than any parenting skills we might possess. I hope that for all of us, to some extent, we feel that when we gather together as a community in Christ in worship, fellowship, and service for others.

While there is much more to it than this, I think part of the work we do in strengthening our faith is simply raising our general awareness of God. God is constantly active and at work in our lives, though often we are too distracted, or stressed, or weighed down by grief or pain to recognize that presence and grace. Often it is the times when we are distracted blinded to God's grace that we are most in need of it, most in need of reassurance of God's constant promise of abiding with us through life's joys and struggles. So I encourage you to figure out where the places and times are when your awareness of God is heightened. Where are the places and times when you give yourself an opportunity to think on God, to ponder God's grace and grandeur, and to reflect on how that grace is active in your own life? Then give yourself permission to take that time with God, to spend time realizing that God not only loves *us*, but loves *you*, and abides with you in love.

Yours in Christ, *Pastor Micah*

BCO Item of the Month:

Spaghetti Sauce



Saturday, May 7th, from 11 am-2 pm HCY will meet with the youth of Good Shepherd to team up for a **Day of Service at Faith Farm in Dallas**, a transitional housing program for female Veterans run by Lutheran Services Carolinas. **Youth should meet at the church at 10:45 am to depart and return about 2:15 pm.** During the day they will help spruce up the exterior of the home - pulling weeds, planting flowers, and trimming bushes among other things. This will be a great chance for the youth to give back and learn about an important program for Veterans provided by our Lutheran Church! Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend. **Please bring a bag lunch.** Drinks will be provided.

Sunday, May 22 from 6-7:30 pm HCY will meet at HolyC for dinner and outdoor activities (weather permitting). Friends are always welcome!

Gastonia Grizzlies
Take Me Out to the Ballgame!
Saturday, June 18



Holy Comforter will take over the *Gastonia Grizzlies* stadium. Join us for a fun game and lots of fellowship as we watch the *Grizzlies* take on Savannah. The game starts at 7:17 pm.

Advance tickets are \$6.00. A food voucher can be purchased for \$4.00 which includes a hotdog, chips, and a drink.

Contact Misty Koehler at mistykoe@holycomforter.org to reserve your tickets.



Children's Church leaders for the month of May:

May 1: Maria Carr
May 8: Volunteer
May 15: Volunteer
May 22: Volunteer
May 29: Volunteer

Christian Ed committee meets at 7:00 pm on **Tuesday, May 24th.**

Holy Comforter's **Camp Agape** is the week of **July 18-22**. *Agape*, a day camp for **rising 1st to rising 8th graders** is sponsored by Kure Beach Ministries.

This year we will again 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.

Registration forms are available at the back of the church or from Misty Koehler. **The cost is \$130 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**



Isle of Palms 26th Annual Retreat is May 20-22. Pray for favorable weather and safe passage. This is a wonderful time of fellowship for those who are able to attend. Should we have a last-minute cancellation, let me know if you or your family would like to be placed on stand-by. **Greg Cline**

Heart, Soul, & Strength

*"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength."
Deuteronomy 6:5*

Last year, more than 3,300 seniors received care from Lutheran Services Carolinas through its senior living communities, adult day services, and in-home care. That means these older adults lived a more abundant life thanks to LSC staff, churches, and volunteers. That is something to celebrate!

During the month of May, congregations across North Carolina celebrate LSC Senior Services Month. This is a chance to lift up the people who work for and receive care from LSC. The theme for LSC's emphasis month is "Heart, Soul, & Strength" taken from Deuteronomy 6:5, which tells us to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." Each day we are presented with opportunities to help those in need and be an example of God's love and kindness in the lives of others.

There are several ways to use your heart, soul, and strength to support the LSC ministry - deliver flowers or plants to your local LSC senior living community through *Blossoms of Hope* on Saturday, May 7, and take the time to visit with residents; share your talents by singing songs or playing an instrument for the seniors at LSC; or engage the residents in a favorite game. These are great service opportunities for youth groups, Sunday School classes, or congregations as a whole to partner with LSC. If you would like to make a tax-deductible contribution

to support the work of LSC senior services, please make checks payable to Lutheran Services Carolinas and write "Senior Services Month" on the memo line. Contributions may be mailed to P.O. Box 947, Salisbury, NC 28145, or made securely online at www.LSCarolinas.net.

Thank you for sharing your heart, soul, and strength with LSC and the people it serves!

*Kristen Kitchen, Director of Donor Relations,
Lutheran Services Carolinas*



Pentecost Picnic!

Saturday, May 14th
4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

All food provided.
Bring a dessert. Bring a friend.
Bouncy slide for kids.

If you want to help set up, contact
Tom Bocchino at
Tbocchino@hotmail.com or
704-616-3049



Newsletter articles and announcements for
next month are due to Dianne by May 20.

CHURCH SCHEDULE:

Sunday, May 1 Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

Thursday, May 5

7:00 pm Stewardship committee meets

Saturday, May 7

10:45 am-2pm **HCY for a Day of Service** at Faith Farm
(spruce up exterior of the home)

7:00 pm **Staying Connected** meets at church to plan
for upcoming service project & months ahead

Sunday, May 8 Seventh Sunday of Easter

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

Tuesday, May 10

12 Noon Agape Lunch Bunch/Bible Study
7:00 pm Property Committee meets

Saturday, May 14

4pm-7 pm **Pentecost Picnic**, bring dessert.

Sunday, May 15 Pentecost Sunday

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service w/HC, Council after

Thursday, May 19

7:00 pm Evangelism committee meets

Sunday, May 22 Holy Trinity Sunday

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion
6:00 pm **HCY** meets for dinner & activities at church

Thursday, May 24

7:00 pm Christian Education meeting

Sunday, May 29 Second Sunday after Pentecost

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

REGULAR MEETING TIMES:

Sundays: 10:10 am Church Choir prep
6:00 pm Church Choir

Tuesdays: 7:00 pm Chamber Choir
Nar-Anon

Wednesdays: 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Warren Heller)

Report for Month	March 2016	Year-To-Date
Budget Expenses:	\$21,751.00	\$ 65,253.00
Actual Expenses:	\$20,959.52	\$ 63,059.70
Offerings Received:	\$24,448.00	\$ 67,862.00
Gain for the Period:	\$ 3,488.48	\$ 4,802.30

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTORS: Billy Joye, Chief Lector
May 8: Bonnie Faust
May 15: Billy Joye
May 22: Billy Joye
May 29: Donna Bean

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:
Need Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1)
Bev & Charles Mauney, Co-Captains
Carmen De Nicholas Deb Williams

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team A)
Shelia Kelly, Jo Singleton, Jack Tench

EUCCHARIST PRESENTERS:
May 1: Volunteers needed
May 15: Volunteers needed
May 22: Volunteers needed

GREETERS FOR THE MONTH:
May 1: Kathy Graves
May 8: Pat Long
May 15: Dawn Fleming
May 22: Becky Richards
May 29: Carmen Buell

TELLERS: Courtney Gatlin, Bill Hollar

USHERS: Volunteers Needed

FLOWERS:
May 1: Mark & Rebecca Yount, Via brothers
May 8: Carmen De Nicholas
Dianne Lail
May 15: Will & Evan Howard, The Carrols
May 22: Julia Gunter
1 vase available
May 29: Danny, Rochelle & Carson Potter
Jeff & Jane Howard

NURSERY: (9:30 am-11:45 am)
A nursery is provided for infants and a separate nursery for the toddlers. Let an usher know if you need assistance in locating the correct nursery for your child/children.

MAY 2016



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sixth Sunday of Easter 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion 4:00 pm Children's Ens. 6:00 pm Church Choir	2	3 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Property Committee Nar-Anon	4 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study	5 6:00 pm Stewardship Committee meets	6	7 HCY Day of Service 10:45 am-2 pm meet with Good Shepherd youth to spend time at Faith Farm in Dallas (home of female veterans). Staying Connected 7:00 pm Meeting at church to plan for upcoming projects
8 Seventh Sunday of Easter 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service MOTHER'S DAY! 	9	10 12 Noon <i>Agape Lunch Bunch/</i> Bible Study 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	11 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study	12  	13 14 Pentecost Picnic 4:00 -7:00 pm Meet at church for the picnic. All food provided. Bring a dessert. Bring a friend. Bouncy slide for Children. 	
15 The Day of Pentecost 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/HC Church Council 5:00 pm <i>Worship & Music</i> 6:00 pm Church Choir	16	17	18	19 7:00 pm Evangelism Meeting 8:30 pm 1st Movie Night. Come early for popcorn.	20 Congregational Retreat to the Isle of Palms begins 	21
22 Holy Trinity Sunday 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion 6:00 pm HCY dinner & outdoor activities (weather permitting)	23 Congregational Retreat to the Isle of Palms ends 	24 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Christian Ed Comm. Nar-Anon	25 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study	26	27	28
29 Second Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service	30  Memorial Day	31			Remember your Mother.  Sunday, May 8!	

May 1	Katie Kessen
May 2	Lucy Bocchino
May 3	Sonja Kreitzer
May 4	Daniel Rogers
May 5	Thomas Bocchino
May 7	Dianne Lail
	Alec Via
May 10	Zac Hullander
May 12	Jennifer Perez
May 16	Sherry Perry
May 21	Natalie Hullander
May 22	Billy Joye, Jr.
	Arch Lineberger
May 23	Chuck MacDonald
	Jennifer Miller
May 24	Mandi Kline
	Denise Taylor
May 25	Michael Jenkins
	William Kline
May 28	Richard Fox
	Angie Koehler
May 29	Dawn Mitchell
	Angie Morton
May 30	Jonathan Baker
May 31	John Zander

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