

Beka's
Buzz

When I was a kid, if I was asked what I wanted to be when I grew up I would have told you many different answers. I wanted to be a fashion designer as my mom says. My mom tells this story about how when I was 18 months old if I didn't like what I was wearing I would just take it off, so she then said "that child will design clothes because she will always wear something she likes!". I would have told you I wanted to be a writer or a teacher. When I was asked what I want to be when I grew up I never mentioned what characteristics I wanted to have. I didn't envision anything other than what career I wanted that would make money and have fun.

January has been a full month. We had snow, we had ukulele playing and we had vision. I sat down with the parents of our church this month and we talked about who we want their kids to be. Tom Bocchino said that he wanted his kids to be tall and good at tennis. We talk about what we want our kids to be because we want to encourage them to fulfill their dreams. We talk about what we want our kids to be because we want to be able to give them the tools to be able to reach their goals. We talk about what we want our kids to be because we want the best for them. What you want for your kids is what I want for you kids.

I envision kids who want to be together, who want to come to church and kids who want to worship together. One of my favorite parts of this conversation was the accountability piece. We talked about our expectations of each other were. I loved getting to hear about how much you want me to mean to your kids. I want to create a community that builds not only our kids faith but our own. I want our kids

and youth to understand that church is more than Sunday morning. Church is friendship, family, accountability, it's Jesus, it's love and its community. I want our kids, parents and adults to know that and live that out. I want our vision to grow, I want us to challenge ourselves to be what we are called to do and be.

Speaking of things we see and the future we are looking forward to what our ministry is doing in February. Starting this month HCY will be meeting twice a month, which we are so excited about. We will be talking about the importance of prayer and what prayer does for our relationship with God. *Kids' Club* will be meeting on February 18 to plant flowers at the church and have a picnic. Lastly Christian Ed is excited to have picked a VBS curriculum and will meet soon to look through it. The committee will meet again on the 21st at 7 pm. If you are interested in getting involved in our ministry please let us know.

Beka Forst

Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Holy Comforter Alternate Music Schedule

Super Bowl Sunday, February 5:

We are simply bumping everything up one (1) hour, as we have in the past.

Sunday, February 12 at 3:00 pm:

The Children's Ensemble will stage a pre-valentine event at Carillon Assisted Living, 500 Cramer MT. Road in Cramerton, NC. All other music ensembles will meet at the regular meeting times on this date.

*Thanks everyone for your understanding
in working around these alternate
schedules.*



Lutheran Church of the

Holy Comforter COMMENT

216 N. Main Street, Belmont, NC 28012

704-825-2483 holycomforter@gmail.com

Micah Kearney, Pastor email: micahkearney@gmail.com

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications



¹Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. **Matthew 17:1-2**

Communion Opportunities for February

February 12: The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 26: The Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday

(Communion on other Sundays after the service)

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager
Volume 38, No. 2

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

Church Office Hours Monday-Thursday
8:30 am—3:00 pm



Pastor's Page

Grace and peace,

So we have kicked off our Centennial year of celebrations that will include, among other things, tree plantings in Wittenberg, Germany and here as well, Lenoir-Rhyne choir visiting, monthly service projects, a historical display in the education building, and Bishop Tim joining us in December for our culminating celebration worship and banquet. It's an incredible thing to think about, that for 100 years we have gathered together for worship, for fellowship, and for service to our community in the name of Christ.

One of my seminary professors, who was one of the kindest people I have ever met, had a guiding question for us for times that were confusing, in crisis, momentous, or any other time to be honest. Instead of "What Would Jesus Do?", his question was "Where Is God In All This?" That has actually become a bit of a working definition for spirituality for me, the ability to recognize God's action in, through, and around us. Spiritual growth often happens as we study the scriptural narrative of God's covenant relationship with all Creation, as we absorb the Church's traditions over the years as God's action, and as we pray for God to reveal God's self to us today. Recognizing God's action in, through, and around us allows us to rest assured that God remains faithful to God's people and to Creation, working grace and shining light into the darkness. There is often a sense of peace that comes with recognizing God's sovereignty when the world and our lives can seem chaotic. Recognizing God's action also allows us to join that action, as God calls us to work for and enact the kingdom

in our communities.

As we move through our centennial year, that's one question that I want us to keep asking as we celebrate 100 years of ministry. "Where Is God In All This?" Not only what have we done over the past 100 years in discipleship of Christ, but where has God been at work in, through, and around us as The Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter, and where is God at work now, and calling us to join in the kingdom work? In my two and a half years here I have seen God work to lift up the poor and vulnerable through work with SOCKS and the BCO, as well as funds you've donated which allow me to work with those who come to our door in need. I've seen God proclaim love for all people in the warmth and compassion you have for all who gather here. I've seen God through the way you've ministered to one another in times of grief and sorrow through meals, cards, kind words, and a ministry of presence. God is at work in, through, and around us, and I challenge you to think of the ways that is true for you as an individual, and for our congregation as a whole, as we celebrate 100 years of ministry together in Christ.

Yours in Christ, Pastor Micah

February Happenings...

BCO Items for February: School supplies, particularly copy paper and glue sticks, for local schools.

Souper Bowl of Caring: On February 5 watch for our HCY holding the big pots to collect for the *Souper Bowl of Caring*. All monies will be donated to BCO. Details in bulletin and weekly schedule.

Service project of the month: On February 12 (time TBD), we will travel to Carillon where we will spend time with the residents and the kids will sing. In preparation for this, there will be supplies to make Valentine's cards for the residents available on Sundays leading up to it.

MUSIC NEWS

As everyone knows, we are now in the midst of our Centennial year at Holy Comforter. One of our next upcoming celebrations will be to host the Lenoir-Rhyne University **A Cappella Choir** on **Sunday, March 12 at 7:00 pm**. That evening the choir and brass ensemble will present a hymn festival (1 of 3) across the state of North Carolina commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.



This gives us all an opportunity to be involved with the spring tour. A number of individuals have volunteered from Holy Comforter and are stepping forward to provide a meal for the 50 students who will be presenting this public concert. Each host congregation is asked to provide housing for the choir, basically outlined in the host family letter previously email to the congregation.

There is a sign-up sheet circulating through the church, but the master list is on the choir room door, across from the church office. As of the time of writing we are still in need of housing for 30 more students. If you and your family would be willing to host 2 or more students overnight on Sunday, March 12, please let us know. Thanks and blessings for your consideration. If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

Yes, it's February, but not too soon to start thinking about a beach retreat.

The Holy Comforter 28th Annual Retreat to the Isle of Palms is scheduled for Thursday, May 25-Monday, May 29, Memorial Day Weekend. We have an optional 4th night available. **There is a 2-night minimum stay at \$79.00 per night, per room.**



There will be a sign-up sheet on the choir room door. We will collect full payment on Easter Sunday, April 16. *Please make personal or bank checks payable to: Holy Comforter Lutheran Retreat. Please do not send cash.*

If you sign up and discover before Easter that you cannot attend, just notify the church. We will offer available space to those who may be on a waiting list. Remember, first come, first served. This will be a very popular weekend.

Blessings! Greg Cline



All information for the March Newsletter is due to Dianne in the church office by February 20.



Sunday, February 5
Our HCY will collect for the **Souper Bowl of Caring**.
Look for our youth holding the big pots.



Saturday, February 11
7 pm at the Sarrazin's
5901 Gilchrist Circle
Belmont, NC

Service Project for the
Women's Shelter
Details at a later date.



Holy Comforter Youth (HCY)
will meet at the church on
Sunday, February 12 at 5:00 pm
and on
Sunday, February 26 at 5:00 pm
Friends Invited!

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Warren Heller)

Report for Month	December 2016	Year-To-Date
Budget Expenses:	\$21,751.00	\$261,012.00
Actual Expenses:	\$21,754.23	\$252,768.31
Offerings Received:	\$29,170.78	\$266,744.30
Gain for Period:	\$ 4,416.55	\$ 13,975.99



Kids' Club

will meet at the church on
Saturday, February 18th at 10:30 am
to plant seeds (future flowers) at the
church. Will also be making tags for
the future flowers.
Picnic lunch around 12 Noon.
Please send lunch with child.



Shrove Tuesday

Tuesday, February 28
at 6:00 pm

We will have our
Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper.
Wear your Mardi Gras
colors and be ready to enjoy
some pancakes and
fellowship.



CHURCH SCHEDULE:

Sunday, February 5 5th Sunday after the Epiphany
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service
Collect for **Souper Bowl of Caring**
All afternoon activities moved up 1 hour

Tuesday, February 7
7:00 pm Finance Committee (tellers)
Property Committee

Saturday, February 11 Staying Connected
7:00 pm Meet at the Sarrazin's home
Service project for Women's Shelter

Sunday, February 12 6th Sunday after the Epiphany
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion
Council meets after

2-4 pm **Confirmation** at Holy Comforter
3:00 pm Children's Ens. to Carillon in Cramerton
5:00 pm **HCY** meets

Tuesday, February 14 Valentine's Day
6:00 pm Stewardship Committee meeting

Thursday, February 16
7:00 pm Evangelism Committee meeting

Saturday, February 18 Kids' Club
10:30 am Meet at the church for service project
Bring picnic lunch

Sunday, February 19 7th Sunday after the Epiphany
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Worship Service

Tuesday, February 21
7:00 pm Christian Education meeting

Sunday, February 26 Transfiguration of Our Lord
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion
5:00 pm **HCY** meets

Tuesday, February 28 Shrove Tuesday
6:00 pm Pancake Dinner

REGULAR MEETING TIMES:

Sundays: 10:10 am Church Choir prep
4:00 pm Children's Ensemble
5:00 pm Adult Handbells
6:00 pm Church Choir

Tuesdays: 7:00 pm Chamber Choir
Nar-Anon

Wednesdays: 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTORS: Billy Joye, Chief Lector
February 19: Jim Buell

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:
Need Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 3)
Fran Holland, Co-Captain
Tracey Nault, Co-Captain
Katie Kessen, Amanda Kelly, Rebecca Yount

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:
Need 4 volunteers

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:
February 12 & 26: Volunteers

GREETERS FOR THE MONTH:
February 5: Pat Koehler
February 12: Carmen Buell
February 19: Sue Lahr
February 26: Misty Koehler

TELLERS: Raini Kimball, Dennis Tucker







USHERS: Volunteers Needed

FLOWERS:
February 5: Tim Kelly
1 vase available
February 12: Dee & Dennis Tucker
1 vase available
February 19: The Potters
Greg Garrison
February 26: Both vases available
(Call the office to reserve)

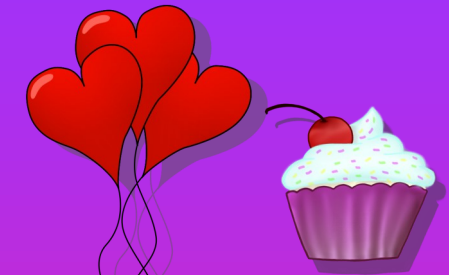
CHILDREN'S CHURCH:
February 5: Krystyna Sarrazin
February 12: Krystyna Sarrazin
February 19: Jill Cassel
February 26: Rebecca Yount

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.

FEBRUARY **2017**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  6:45 pm Women's Bible Study	2 Groundhog Day 	3	4
5 5th Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service 3:00 pm Children's Ens. 4:00 pm Handbells 5:00 pm Church Choir	6	7 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Property Comm. Finance (tellers) in fellowship building Nar-Anon	8  6:45 pm Women's Bible Study	9	10	11 
12 6th Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/HC Council after 2- 4:00 pm Confirmation 3:00 pm Ch.Ens. at Carillon 5:00 pm Handbells, HCY 6:00 pm Church Choir	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day!  6:00 pm Stewardship 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	15  6:45 pm Women's Bible Study	16 7:00 pm Evangelism Committee	17	18  10:30 am Meet at church to do service projects
19 7th Sunday after Epiphany 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service 4:00 pm Children's Ens. 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir	20	21 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Christian Ed. Nar-Anon	22  6:45 pm Women's Bible Study	23	24 St. Matthias, Apostle	25
26 Transfiguration of Our Lord 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/HC 4:00 pm Children's Ens. 5:00 pm Handbells, HCY 6:00 pm Church Choir	27	28  Shrove Tuesday 6:00 pm Pancake Supper 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon				

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.



February 4 Scott Carr
 February 6 Julia Ratchford
 February 8 Jennifer Boone
 Chris Hullander
 Scott Zander
 February 9 Shelia Kelly
 Karen Rogers
 February 10 Jennipher
 McLaughlin-Williams
 February 14 Will Howard
 Noah Rawlins
 February 15 Leslie Crist
 Sam Thompson
 February 16 Courtney Gatlin
 February 20 David Buchanan
 February 22 Cynthia Ashe
 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.