

## Beka's Buzz

Recently I was on Facebook and saw this picture that said, "I love working with kids because no adult ever asks you what you're 3rd favorite dinosaur is". Never has anything been truer. I really do love to work with young people. They are imaginative, grandiose, and think about small things in significant ways. When I talk to kids I usually say things like "What is the funniest thing you heard all day?" but one that gets the best reaction is "How do you feel about sprinkles?". For those of you who don't know, I don't care for sprinkles. I don't think they have any taste. Recently I was eating a meal with Alex Bocchino and I asked him how he felt about sprinkles and he said, "Sprinkles make your tummy giggle, they are the best". Folks, I can't make this greatness up. While I feel differently than Alex and most other people, I can't help but say that that response almost makes me want to like them.

In another conversation with Alex we talked about Communion and what communion means. That kid knows what he is talking about. When Pastor Micah asked what the bread is, he knew. When he asked what the wine was, he knew. First communion class is always interesting but it is so much fun to get to be a part of. We made bread, we watched a video on how to receive the bread and wine, we got to practice a little and taste the wafers. Those little people really know what they are talking about whether it be dinosaurs or the last supper. Those 6 boys got the chance to talk about what communion means to us and why we do it.

In the class I found myself reconnecting with what communion is and why it is so important. I remember my first communion,

way back in the second grade and I remember not liking the wine or the fact that I had to wear socks with my sandals. Communion is the ultimate forgiveness of our sins and getting to share that with young people is probably the best part of what I get to do. Do you remember your first communion? Is your family talking about the significance of communion? I look forward to hearing your first communion stories.

Couple of things coming up, HCY will meet on May 21<sup>st</sup> and we welcome anyone who would like to join us. On May 13<sup>th</sup> Kids' Club will meet to go to Kate Skate. VBS will meet and the date will be announced. VBS is looking for volunteers, if you are interested please see Melissa Bocchino. Christian Education will meet on May 18<sup>th</sup>. If you are looking to join our ministry please contact Beka.



Micah Kearney, Pastor email: micahkearney@gmail.com  
Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster  
Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries  
Dianne Lail, Communications/Office



<sup>6</sup> Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."  
John 14:5

## Communion Opportunities for May

May 14: The Fifth Sunday of Easter  
May 28: The Seventh Sunday of Easter



(Communion on other Sundays after the service)

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager  
Volume 38, 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



## Pastor's Page

Grace and peace,

Sometimes around my elementary school years, when I was learning about photosynthesis in plants, I remember having a conversation with my dad, telling him that I was disappointed to learn about photosynthesis and how plants work, basically because it no longer felt like "God's magic" making it all happen. My dad countered by saying he felt like learning about the details and intricacies of Creation made him even more amazed and filled with wonder by God and God's creative activity. I'm not sure how much I considered that at the time, but it is one of those moments that my questionable memory has retained for all of these years.

Fast forward a couple decades. My family and I were on vacation for most of the rainy week we had after Easter Sunday, but the rain was still falling as I unloaded the van and the couple pounds of sand that inevitably come home with you from a beach trip. On about my third trip back and forth between the van and the house, a particularly large drop of rain hit me on the forehead, and I had this flash of thought that included being amazed at the process that causes water to evaporate, form into clouds, and then fall back to earth as rain. It took me straight back to that conversation with my dad all those years ago about the details causing us to stand in awe of God's creativity.

And in that mundane moment of unloading the car in the rain after vacation, a moment that is usually a frustrating one, I stood in awe of God and God's Creation. My dad was right, at least for where I am today, that the more I learn about and experience God's Creation, the more I stand in wonder

and awe of the creativity in the details of God's Creation. All that, I guess, is to say that we should never underestimate the profound impact even an unplanned conversation with a child can have on their faith for a lifetime. Because of that conversation with my dad decades ago, a drop of rain on my forehead caused me to recognize God's creativity and activity in Creation and in my life in that moment. We don't always have to experience God in worship, or grand moments, but sometimes even the smallest, everyday things can cause us to be amazed by God.

"Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; <sup>12</sup>and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence." 1 Kings 19:11b-12

*Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Micah*



Ornaments made from Christian symbols (or **Chrismons**, a contraction for 'Christ monograms') were first developed by Frances Spencer and the women of the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, VA.

You are invited to join with the women of Holy Comforter as we work to repair the old and create new *Chrismons* for our Christmas tree.  
**Meet May 28th, 4pm in the Fellowship Hall.**



## MUSIC NEWS

**Our 28th Annual Isle of Palms Retreat is Memorial Day Weekend.** Over 40 members and friends from Holy Comforter will fellowship together this year. It is a wonderful way to get to know folks better. We wish all the participants God's-speed.



Thanks to all our ensembles for their leadership and musical offerings during the Lenten and Easter season. Due to calendar events the month of May always brings annual meeting challenges. The *Children's Ensemble* and *Church Choir* will have their final sessions on **May 7 and May 21**. See the newsletter calendar.



The **Flower Chart** has some Sundays still remaining that are available for you to place flowers in memory of, in honor of, or to the glory of God. Just sign your name at the date you would like to provide the flowers and also to whom they are dedicated. The cost of one vase is \$22.50, the cost of both is \$45.00. This is a beautiful way to contribute to the worship service and honor someone you care for. The chart is in the narthex.



Are you interested in knitting or crocheting? Holy Comforter has a **Prayer Shawl Ministry** that needs your help. Many of our "knitters" are no longer with us, some having moved away.

We make these shawls to give to our members who are hospitalized to let them know they are wrapped in love and prayer. Our recipients are most grateful to our church for this ministry.

If you would like to be a part of this ministry, call Beverley Mauney at 704-5597 or 704-813-3590 OR Debbie Neagle at 704-827-5263 or 704-460-1547.



## Baby Bottle Blessings Change for Change

Beginning Mother's Day, May 14 until Father's Day, June 18<sup>th</sup>, we will be collecting silver change in baby bottles for a very special project that will **Change** countless lives . . . **Baby Bottle Blessings**.

Your spare pocket change can help provide numerous services to women facing an unplanned pregnancy. Some of the services include peer counseling, maternity and baby clothes, ultrasounds, and more.

The baby bottles will be returned to The Crisis Pregnancy Center of Gaston County (5 locations across Gaston County).





## Celebrate LSC Senior Services!

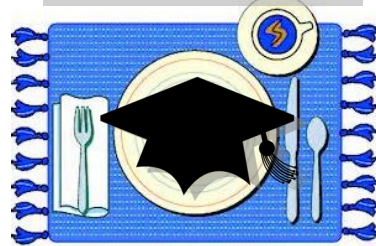
*Blossoms of Hope* is an annual service opportunity sponsored by Lutheran Services Carolinas to share joy with others through flowers. On Saturday, May 13, please consider bringing fresh flowers or plants to your local LSC ministry between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Flowers can be purchased or homegrown and will be used to fill living spaces and common areas with the beauty of spring. There are also opportunities for Sunday School classes, youth groups, or congregations as a whole to participate in landscaping projects. For more information, contact Ellen Watts at [ewatts@LSCarolinas.net](mailto:ewatts@LSCarolinas.net) or call 704-603-1696.

In 2016, Lutheran Services Carolinas brought joy to the journey of **nearly 4,000 seniors and caregivers** across North Carolina through senior living communities, adult day services, home care, and care management. These individuals received a high quality of care, enjoyed life-enriching activities, and felt supported by a dedicated staff. Visit [LSCarolinas.net](http://LSCarolinas.net) to learn more about the LSC ministry and ways you can get involved at your local LSC program. You can also support LSC with a tax-deductible gift. Gifts can be made by check (write Senior Services Month on the memo line) and mailed to P.O. Box 947, Salisbury, NC 28145. Thank you for supporting the work of LSC and those we serve!



### Kids' Club

will meet at the church on  
**Saturday, May 13 at 11:00 am**  
to carpool to Kate's Skating Rink



### Sunday, May 21

*Staying Connected Group*  
will prepare breakfast for our  
graduates and their families.  
Breakfast will be prepared at 8:30 am  
and served from 9:30-10:15 am.

There is a need of ladies to donate  
food, cook and help clean.  
The middle-school students  
will help serve.

Please contact Krystyna Sarrazin at  
[sarrazin1230@hotmail.com](mailto:sarrazin1230@hotmail.com) or  
262-497-4046  
with your interest in helping  
with this event.



All information for the  
June Newsletter is due to  
Dianne in the church office by  
May 21.

## CHURCH SCHEDULE:

**Wednesday, May 3**  
6:45 pm Women's Bible Study (Each Wednesday)

**Thursday, May 4**  
6:00 pm Stewardship Meeting

**Sunday, May 7 4th Sunday of Easter**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service  
2-4:00 pm Confirmation

**Tuesday, May 9**  
7:00 pm Property Committee meeting

**Sunday, May 14 5th Sunday of Easter**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion  
Council meets after

**No music practices since it is Mother's Day**

**Thursday, May 18**  
7:00 pm Christian Ed meeting

**Saturday, May 20**  
10:00 am Kids' Club

**Sunday, May 21 6th Sunday of Easter**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service

**Thursday, May 25**  
7:00 pm Evangelism Committee meeting

**Friday, May 26**  
*Isle of Palms* retreat begins

**Sunday, May 28 7th Sunday of Easter**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

**Monday, May 29 Memorial Day**

### REGULAR MEETING TIMES:

**Sundays:** 10:10 am Church Choir prep  
4:00 pm Children's Ensemble  
6:00 pm Church Choir

**Tuesdays:** 7:00 pm Nar-Anon

**Wednesdays:** 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

**Thursdays, 1st & 3rd:** 6:00 -7:30 pm Girl Scouts

### TREASURER'S REPORT: (Warren Heller)

Report for Month	March 2017	Year-To-Date
Budget Expenses:	\$24,511.17	\$73,533.50
Actual Expenses:	\$25,581.38	\$74,837.53
Offerings Received:	<u>\$24,967.00</u>	<u>\$66,374.59</u>
Gain (Loss) for Period:	(\$ 5,550.01)	(\$ 8,462.94)

## ASSISTING MINISTERS:

**LECTORS:** Billy Joye, Chief Lector  
May 7: Judy Caldwell  
May 21: 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:

May 14 & 18: Volunteers

### GREETERS FOR THE MONTH:

May 7: Sherry Alexander  
May 14: Carmen Buell  
May 21: Pat Koehler  
May 28: Becky Richards

**TELLERS:** Shelia & Tim Kelly

**USHERS:** Volunteers Needed

### FLOWERS:

May 7: Dianne Lail  
Pat Koehler  
May 14: Jim & Carmen Buell  
Brad, Brandy & James Milton  
May 21: Danny, Rochelle & Carson Potter  
1 vase available  
May 28: Kathy Graves (both vases)

### CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

May 7: Veronica Bryant  
May 14: Jill Cassel  
May 21: Need volunteers  
May 28: Need volunteers

### 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.



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
REMEMBER, MAY 14 <b>HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!</b>	1	2  7:00 pm Nar-Anon	3   6:45 pm Women's Bible Study Study of Revelation	4  6:00 pm Stewardship Meeting	5	6
7 <b>4th Sunday of Easter</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service 2-4:00 pm Confirmation 4:00 pm Children's Ens. 6:00 pm Church Choir	8	9  7:00 pm Property Committee Nar-Anon	10   6:45 pm Women's Bible Study Study of Revelation	11	12	13   <b>Kids' Club</b> 11:00 am meet at church to carpool to Kate's Skating Rink
14 <b>5th Sunday of Easter</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/HC Council after   Happy Mother's Day	15	16  7:00 pm Nar-Anon	17   6:45 pm Women's Bible Study Study of Revelation	18  7:00 pm Christian Ed meets	19	20
21 <b>6th Sunday of Easter</b> 9:30am Breakfast for Graduates & their families 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am Service 4:00 pm Children's Ens. 6:00 pm Church Choir	22	23  7:00 pm Nar-Anon	24   6:45 pm Women's Bible Study Study of Revelation	25  7:00 pm Evangelism Meeting	26   <b>Isle of Palms Retreat</b> →	27
28 <b>7th Sunday of Easter</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/HC   <b>Isle of Palms Retreat</b> →	29   <b>Memorial Day</b>	30  7:00 pm Nar-Anon	31   6:45 pm Women's Bible Study Study of Revelation			

- May 1 Katie Kessen  
Krystyna Sarrazin
- May 2 Lucy Bocchino
- May 3 Erin Cassel
- May 4 Darriel Rogers
- May 5 Tom Bocchino
- May 7 Dianne Lail  
Alec Via
- May 8 James Spikes
- May 9 Anthony DiBiase
- May 10 Zac Hullander
- May 12 Jennifer Perez
- May 13 Rebekah Milton
- May 16 Sherry Perry
- May 21 Natalie Hullander
- May 22 Billy Joye  
Arch Lineberger
- May 23 Chuck MacDonald  
Jennifer Miller
- May 24 Mandi Kline  
Perri Potter  
Denise Taylor
- May 25 Michael Jenkins  
William Kline
- May 26 Matthew Hogge  
Amelia Kline
- May 28 Richard Fox  
Angie Koehler  
Dawn Mitchell
- May 29 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.