

Beka's  
Buzz

In January our **Houston 7** got together with St. Paul's Lutheran Church from Dallas to talk and go over more of what the *National Youth Gathering* is. We played fun games, ate dinner, did trust building activities, and did a bible study. We also talked about what to expect when we get there. We will have one day of serving in the city of Houston. These activities will look like painting murals, cleaning up properties, stocking food banks, and service in the local schools. We will have another day that is more driven to interactive learning, such as giving blood or donating hair. The interactive learning day will be more focused on ways to serve and give back once we get home. When our groups were doing our Bible study, we talked a lot about what it is like to be in community with one another and how our relationships will change.

The kids (and Pastor Micah) did a game where their goal was to get people out, then they played a game where their goal was to intentionally not communicate and leave people out. These activities showed the importance of being welcoming, warm and eager with our community as we travel but also with the community in Houston. Our goal when going to Houston is to learn how to actively be the body of Christ. These pictures are from our Youth Gathering prep session.



Recently introduced was our **Parents Night Out** (PNO) on February 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:30pm. We will be eating dinner together along with watching a movie and doing craft activities. This will be a donation-based opportunity for the youth to raise support for their trip AND a good time to have a Valentines date for the parents. We will offer another PNO on March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Dates to keep in mind for the coming month are:

- **Parent's Night Out** on the 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.
- **Shrove Tuesday** is February 13<sup>th</sup>
- **Ash Wednesday** is **Valentine's day**
- We will have **Kids Club** on the 17<sup>th</sup>
- **Confirmation** will be held on the 18<sup>th</sup>
- **Christian Ed** meeting will be on February 20<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.



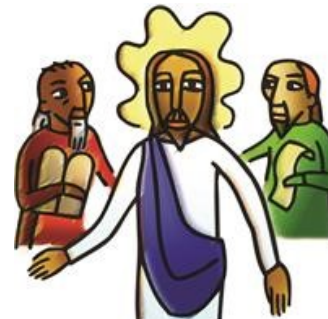
 Lutheran Church of the  
**Holy Comforter** COMMENT  
216 N. Main Street , Belmont, NC 28012  
704-825-2483 holycomforter@gmail.com

Micah Kearney, Pastor email: micahkearney@gmail.com

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office



<sup>2</sup>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them.

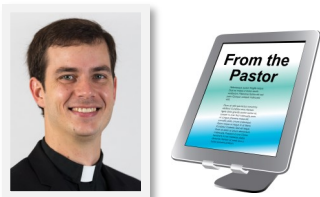
Mark 9:2-3

### Communion Opportunities for February

February 11 Transfiguration of Our Lord Sunday  
February 14 Ash Wednesday  
February 18 The First Sunday in Lent  
February 25 The Second Sunday in Lent

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager  
Volume 39 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



Grace and peace,

When Jenn and I first started dating, I hadn't caught on to the fact that her family excitedly celebrates any holiday they can. For example, a birthday in her family is really more of a birth month because of how they stretch out the celebrating. And with the cynical mind that I inherited from my father, I laid it on thick about how Valentine's Day was a made up Hallmark holiday (which isn't quite true, it possibly became recognized outside of the church beginning with Geoffrey Chaucer), and that one day set aside for romantic love seemed forced. Not the best move for our first Valentine's Day together, I know. I was never "smooth." Thankfully her mother's response when she heard this was to buy me a pair of pajama pants with red hearts all over them. And even more thankfully, Jenn didn't drop me on the spot.

This year the seasons of Lent and Easter both begin on dates popularly recognized for other reasons. Easter Sunday is also April Fools, while Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, falls on Valentine's Day. Both seem strangely appropriate. Easter, for obvious reasons. "April Fools!" seems like a much less pious way for Jesus to have announced his resurrection. Ash Wednesday falling on Valentine's Day seems a bit less natural of a fit, but we can get there.

At the surface Ash Wednesday is as far from Valentine's Day as you can get. It is a day when we ponder our mortality, our sinfulness, and our need to repent and turn to God. It leads into the season of Lent, a season of reflection of our fallen nature, that we are not fully living the kingdom lives of discipleship and joy in the Spirit that God desires for us. It is a somber time, for sure. Also not lost on me is that the season of fasting, when a lot of people give up sweets, begins on the holiday when husbands regularly give chocolates to their wives. That just seems cruel.

The flip side is that God is always ready to receive our repentance, waiting with open arms for us to turn towards God. And it is the greatest act of **love** that opened our eyes to the extent to which God yearns for our repentance. When we were unable to make that move on our own, God sent God's Son into the world in mortal flesh to proclaim God's kingdom to the world, and then to die on the cross so that Sin no longer separates us from God.

So it seems weird, and we're jumping ahead in the Lenten narrative, I know, but as we receive the cross of ashes on our foreheads, and hear the somber words, "remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," we also remember that as we do we are held safely in the unconditionally loving arms of God, given room to wrestle with our sinfulness, our brokenness, and our doubt. All of that is because of the greatest love we will ever know. Which seems right to remember on Valentine's Day.

***Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Micah***

## MUSIC NOTE

**Sunday, February 11** our church choir members will be treated to an **appreciation dinner in the fellowship hall at 5:00 pm.** Thank you to the *Staying Connected* group for inviting us and sponsoring this fellowship opportunity.

We are offering a handbell class for children (grades 3-5) who would like to learn the art of ringing. **February 21 -March 21 from 5:00-5:45 pm.** Lenten meals served at 6:00 pm. If we have enough participants we would like to have the children accompany portions of our Lenten Evening Worship each week at 6:45 pm. See calendar. Let Greg know ASAP if your child can participate.



To date we have 5 registered to participate during Music Week at *Lutheridge*. Holy Comforter offers 50% scholarships through the music fund ministry for members who wish to attend this unique experience. **July 8-14** offers camp experience at *Lutheridge* for folks Grade 1—Adult. Contact Greg Cline for more details.

***Blessings, Greg Cline  
Organist/Choirmaster***



### SAVE THE DATE:

**The 29th Annual  
Holy Comforter  
Isle of Palms Retreat**  
will be Memorial Day weekend,  
**Thursday, May 24 through  
Monday, May 28th, 2018.**

Signup at the church.  
Contact Veronica Bryant or  
Mandi Kline for details.

**Cost: \$99 per room per night  
with a minimum of 2 nights.**  
Make checks payable to  
Holy Comforter  
(due by Easter Sunday)

### Holy C Basketball Schedule 4 Square Church-Belmont

**Saturday, February 3 at 6 pm  
Saturday, February 10 at 7 pm  
Tuesday, February 13 at 7 pm  
Saturday, February 17 at 6 pm  
Tuesday, February 27 at 7 pm**



## Faithful Families' Tip Prayer Slips

**Supplies:** Basket or jar, pens or pencils, slips of paper

**Directions:** Everyone write or draw one thing they are thankful for and one thing they pray for and then put them in the jar. Then one by one everyone pulls something out of the jar and the whole family prays and gives thanks for the things on the slip of paper.



**February 4:**  
5:00 pm meet at the church  
**February 11:**  
5:00 pm Meet at the church  
**February 18:**  
5:00 pm Meet at the church



### Kids' Club

Meets at the church at 10:00 am  
**Saturday, February 17**

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**July 30-August 2**  
**VBS 2018**

*Hero Central is the theme.*



**Meet on Sunday,  
February 11 at 5:00 pm  
Fellowship Hall**

**Staying Connected**  
will prepare and serve a meal to our church choir in love and appreciation for their labor of love in leading the congregation in hymn and praise.

## Men's Ministry

**Holy Comforter has started a new Men's Group!**

The group will focus on Service both to Holy C and the surrounding community.

**Meeting dates and times will be announced in the bulletins and the monthly newsletters.**

Any and all of you gifted guys are welcome-from Accountants to Woodworkers, Plumbers, Pruners, and Pickup owners.

**Come and join us!**

### BCO February Items of the Month:

Mashed potatoes  
Rice  
Grits  
Oatmeal



### CHURCH SCHEDULE:

**Thursday, February 1 New Men's Group**  
7:00 pm Initial meeting of the Men's Group at the church  
**Sunday, February 4 5th Sunday after the Epiphany**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service  
4:00 pm Church Choir  
5:00 pm **HCY** at the church  
**Saturday, February 10**  
5:30-8:30 pm **Parents' Night Out**  
(**National Youth Gathering** fundraiser)  
Dinner, games & watch the movie **Toy Story**  
**Sunday, February 11 Transfiguration Sunday**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion  
Church council after the service  
5:00 pm **HCY** at the church  
**Monday, February 12**  
6:30 pm Social Ministry meets  
**Tuesday, February 13 Shrove Tuesday**  
6:00 pm Pancake Dinner  
7:00 pm Chamber Choir  
**Wednesday, February 14 Ash Wednesday**  
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service w/Holy Communion  
**Saturday, February 17 Kids' Club**  
10:00 am Meet at the church  
**Sunday, February 18 1st Sunday in Advent**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion  
2:00 pm Confirmation at Philadelphia Lutheran  
5:00 pm **HCY** meet at the church  
**Tuesday, February 20**  
7:00 pm Christian Ed meets  
**Sunday, February 25 2nd Sunday in Lent**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion

### REGULAR MEETING TIMES:

**Tuesdays:** 7:00 pm Nar-Anon  
**Wednesdays: 5:00 pm Handbell Class (Kids)**  
6:00 pm Lenten Dinner  
6:45 pm Holden Evening Prayer  
7:15 pm Chamber Choir

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Report for the month	December, 2017	Year-to-Date
Budget Expenses:	\$24,511.17	\$294,134.00
Actual Expenses:	23,395.15	282,161.28
Offerings Received:	38,474.41	282,801.34
Gain (Loss) for Period:	\$ 15,079.26	\$ 640.06

### ASSISTING MINISTERS:

**LECTORS:** Billy Joye, Chief Lector  
February 11: Julia Gunter  
February 25: Judy Caldwell

**ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:** Volunteers

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 3)  
Fran Holland & Tracey Nault, Co- Captains  
Katie Kessen  
Rebecca Yount

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** (Team A)  
February 11, 14, 18, & 25:  
Bev Mauney, Fran Holland & Sherry Alexander

**EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:**  
February 11 & 14:: Volunteers  
February 18: Danny & Rochelle Potter  
February 25: Teresa Keller

**GREETERS FOR THE MONTH:**  
February 4: Katie Kessen  
February 11: Carmen Buell  
February 14 & 18: Volunteer  
February 25: Pat Long

**TELLERS:** Rochelle & Danny Potter

**USHERS:** Volunteers

**ALTAR FLOWERS:**  
February 4: 2 vases available  
February 11: 2 vases available  
February 18: The Potters, 1 vase available  
February 25: Tim & Shelia Kelly, 1 vase available

**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:**  
February 4: Volunteers  
February 11: Rebecca Yount  
February 18: Veronica Bryant  
February 25: Volunteers

**NURSERY:** (9:30 am-11:45 am)  
A nursery is provided for infants and a separate nursery for the toddlers. We encourage you to use the nurseries if your children become restless and/or vocal. Let an usher know if you need assistance.

# February 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1      7:00 pm New Men's Group Meet in fellowship hall	2  <b>Groundhog Day</b>  	3
4 <b>5th Sunday after the Epiphany</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church choir prep 10:30 am The Service <i>Souper Bowl of Caring</i> Collection by youth 4:00 pm Church Choir 5:00 pm <b>HCY</b> at the church	5	6      7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	7      6:45 pm Women's Bible Study	8	9	10   5:30-8:30 pm <b>Parents' Night Out</b> Dinner, Games, & watch the "Toy Story" <b>National Youth Gathering</b> Fundraiser
11 <b>Transfiguration Sunday</b> 9:00 am Handbells 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/HC 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble "Hike to Houston" 5:00 pm Church Choir Dinner <b>HCY</b> at the church 6:00 pm Church Choir	12      6:30 pm Social Ministry meets	13   <b>Shrove Tuesday</b> 6:00 pm Pancake Dinner 7:00 pm Chamber Choir	14   7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Service	15	16	17   10:00 am <b>Kids' Club</b> Meet at the church
18 <b>1st Sunday in Lent</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/HC 2:00 pm Confirmation, Philadelphia Lutheran 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Handbells, <b>HCY</b> 6:00 pm Church Choir	19	20      7:00 pm Christian Ed meets Nar-Anon	21      5:00 pm Handbell Class 6:00 pm Lenten Dinner 6:45 pm <i>Holden Evening</i> Prayer 7:15 pm Chamber Choir	22      7:00 pm Evangelism meets	23	24
25 <b>2nd Sunday in Lent</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/HC 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir	26	27      7:00 pm Nar-Anon	28      5:00 pm Handbell Class 6:00 pm Lenten Dinner 6:45 pm <i>Holden Evening</i> Prayer 7:15 pm Chamber Choir			

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 1 Teddy Sharpenberg  
February 4 Scott Carr  
February 6 Julia Ratchford  
February 8 Chris Hullander  
Scott Zander  
February 9 Shelia Kelly  
Karen Rogers  
February 14 Will Howard  
Noah Rawlins  
February 15 Leslie Crist  
February 16 Reesa Wilson  
Rochelle Potter  
February 20 David Buchanan  
February 25 Jack Tench  
February 27 Valerie Bruchon



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