

Beka's
Buzz

As 2017 came to a close, I took time to reflect on all of the things we have accomplished and are working towards. I am excited and motivated by what we do. We had a successful Trunk or Treat, VBS, Agape Day Camp, Confirmation camp and classes, Easter Egg Hunt, and Rally Day. More than that we had time to connect during Advent, celebrate during Christmas, reflect during Lent, rejoice on Easter, pray as a family, and spend time together with our church family. There are lots of people who made these events and seasons what they were. I wanted to take the time to thank those people for sharing their time and talents with us. If it wasn't for all the different people on our committees, we wouldn't have been able to have shining programs to offer our church family. So, with all that being said, I am grateful for all the support and encouragement as we move into a new year with new goals.

A couple of things to remember in the coming weeks, all of our regularly **scheduled programming starts back up on January 7th**. So, things to look for are Sunday School, Women's Bible study, Children's Choir, HCY, Kids' Club on the 20th, and Christian Ed on the 16th.

Beka Forst,
Youth & Family Ministries

Faithful Families' Tip

Share your *highs* and *lows* with your family at dinner or bedtime.

How did you see God in your high and low?

Was God teaching you something?



If you are willing to serve as a **Greeter, Lector, Usher, Eucharist Presenter** OR help in the **nursery** for the **2018** year, please sign your name on the sign-up sheet for each position you are volunteering for. Each volunteer position is listed on a separate clipboard. The clipboards are in the narthex. If willing to volunteer for the whole month, then sign your name at each date for that month. **The chief lector will serve on festival Sundays. To help with the nursery, contact Beka.**



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



⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Mark 1:9-11

Communion Opportunities for January

January 7 The Baptism of Our Lord

January 23 The Third Sunday after the Epiphany

(Communion on other Sundays after the service)

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager
Volume 39 No. 1

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,

In 2017 we spent the year in celebration of the past. As Lutherans, as well as many others, we commemorated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation that largely began with Martin Luther. The celebrations included worship services around the world, many of them with our Catholic brothers and sisters in Christ. As our Holy Comforter congregation we celebrated our Centennial year all throughout the year, looking back and giving thanks for God's faithfulness through 100 years of ministry in Christ's name.

My hope is that throughout 2018 we will spend a good bit of time looking forward, discerning who we are, our gifts and personality as a congregation, and how God is calling us to be in ministry moving forward. We are a congregation that is immensely gifted, as individuals and as a community as a whole. I am looking forward to discovering more specifically what those gifts are, and our conversations on how we might better use those gifts for ministry.

It just so happens that recently, as I was building my library with resources for this work, I was asked to take part in a pilot program with the

ELCA that will walk us through this process throughout the year and beyond. While I'll be the one going to meetings throughout the year, it will be a process that we will all take part in together, as a staff, a congregational council, and members of the congregation. Throughout the process we will, together with the Holy Spirit, discern our gifts as a congregation and where God is calling us to use those gifts for work for the sake of the kingdom among ourselves, in Belmont, and in the world beyond.

I look forward to this time of discernment and vision planning with you all, and am excited to see the direction God calls us in ministry in year 101 and beyond!

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



Altar Flowers

The 2018 Flower Chart is now available in the narthex.

Please *print your name* at the date you wish to furnish the altar vases
(1 vase or both).

If you wish to purchase both vases, please sign your name on both lines.

Cost of both vases = \$45,
One vase = \$22.50.

MUSIC NEWS

Thank You shouts to all of our children/adult musicians who have shared musical gifts in 2017. Every service of worship includes a wealth of musical material sung by congregation and choir. Children and youth joined in with the church choir as we celebrated our first 100 years together. This has been a joyous year of worship and fellowship. So many folks give so unselfishly of their time and talent. To all of our ministers of music we give thanks to Almighty God.



We will offer a handbell class during our Wednesdays together during the Lenten Season: **Wednesdays, February 21-March 21 from 5:00-6:00 pm.** The fellowship meal and Lenten worship will follow. If you would like your child to participate in the handbell class, please register during the month of January. **These classes are geared for beginners in grades 3-6.** For those with a bit more ringing experience we invite you to participate and to serve as "assistants."

Parents...please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have.

***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.**

More details and a
sign-up sheet to come.
Contact Mandi Klein or
Veronica Bryant for details.



2018 Offering Envelopes
are available
in the fellowship hall.



Schedule

January 7:

5:00 pm meet at the church

January 14:

Collection for the Gaston County Animal Shelter...pet supplies: toys, blankets, food, etc.

January 21:

5:00 pm Meet at the church



Holy Comforter is starting a new Men's Group!

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

An initial monthly meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 1** at 7:00 pm at Holy Comforter to gather for introductions, fellowship and to inventory the gifts we have.

Then we can discuss how and where to deploy them.

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

Come and join us!



**Meet on Saturday,
January 13 at 6:00 pm
Doffer's Canteen
119 Center Street
Cramerton**

The meeting will be to plan for 2018...
Please RSVP to Krystyna to let her know if you will be attending.

Kids' Club

Meets at the church at 10:00 am
Saturday, January 20
To carpool to
Ray's Splash Planet
In Charlotte
Drivers needed.
Contact Beka.

BCO January Items Of the Month Canned Soups



CHURCH SCHEDULE:

Sunday, January 7 The Baptism of Our Lord

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion
5:00 pm **HCY**, activities

Saturday, January 13

6:00 pm **Staying Connected** meets at
Doffer's Canteen in Cramerton to plan for **2018**

Sunday, January 14 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service
Church council after the service
5:00 pm **HCY** Collection for Gaston County Animal Shelter

Saturday, January 20

10:00 am **Kids' Club**, Rays Splash Planet

Sunday, January 21 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Congregational Meeting
The Service with Holy Communion
5:00 pm **HCY** meet at the church

Sunday, January 28 4th Sunday after the Epiphany

9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am The Service
2:00 pm Confirmation at Antioch, Dallas

REGULAR MEETING TIMES:

Sundays: 4:00 pm Children's Ens.
5:00 pm Adult Handbells
6:00 pm Church Choir

Tuesdays: 7:00 pm Nar-Anon

Wednesdays: 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Report for the month	November, 2017	Year-to-Date
Budget Expenses:	\$24,511.17	\$269,622.83
Actual Expenses:	23,510.87	259,210.75
Offerings Received:	19,236.00	244,326.93
Gain (Loss) for Period:	(\$ 4,247.87)	(\$ 14,883.82)

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTORS: January 7 & 21: Billy Joye, Chief Lector
January 14 & 28: Brian Achor

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)

Carmen Buell, Captain
Dean Halvorson Diann Halvorson
Barbara Kasmer

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:

January 7 & 21: Volunteers

EUCCHARIST PRESENTERS:

January 7 & 21: Volunteers

GREETERS FOR THE MONTH:

January 7: Katie Kessen
January 14: Carmen Buell
January 21: Volunteer
January 28: Volunteer

TELLERS: Amanda & Nathan Kelly

USHERS: Volunteers

ALTAR FLOWERS:

January 7: 2 vases available
January 14: Julia Gunter
Arden & Merritt De Nicholas
January 21: 2 vases available
January 28: 2 vases available

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

January 7: Volunteers
January 14: Volunteers
January 21: Volunteers
January 28: 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.



January 2018

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.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2 7:00 pm Nar-Anon	3	4	5	6 The Epiphany of Our Lord
7 The Baptism of Our Lord 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church choir prep 10:30 am The Service with Holy Communion 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Handbells HCY at the church 6:00 pm Church Choir	8	9 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	10  6:45 pm Women's Bible Study	11	12 6:00 pm National Youth Gathering meeting at the church	13 6:00 pm Staying Connected Meet at Doffer's Canteen in Cramerton to plan for 2018
14 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church choir prep 10:30 am The Service Church Council 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Handbells HCY Collection/Animal Shelter 6:00 pm Church Choir	15	16 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	17  6:45 pm Women's Bible Study	18 The Confession of St. Peter	19	20 10:00 am Kids' Club Carpool to Ray's Splash Planet Drivers needed.
21 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church choir prep 10:30 am The Service Congregational Meeting 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Handbells HCY meet at the church 6:00 pm Church Choir	22	23 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	24  6:45 pm Women's Bible Study	25 The Conversion of St. Paul	26	27
28 4th Sunday after the Epiphany 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church choir prep 10:30 am The Service 2:00 pm Confirmation, Antioch 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir	29	30 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	31  6:45 pm Women's Bible Study			

January 1 Elizabeth DiBiase
Albert Ewing
January 4 Jason Shoemaker
January 5 Jo Irwin
January 9 Chuck Kimball
January 10 Charles Mauney
Brandy Milton
Becky Richards
January 13 Abbey Kowalewski
January 15 Zaneta Sarrazin
January 17 Julie Wiegand
January 18 Carmen DeNicholas
Jerri Wesson
January 19 Faye Heller
Paul Outlaw
Elliott Williams
January 21 Jane Howard
Paul Nault
January 24 Jill Cassel
January 26 Matthew Carr



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