

Beka's  
Buzz

I remember when I was a kid during Lent having to come up with something to give up for 40 days. As a kid, I always thought of the thing that I could give up that wouldn't be that hard because I had no clue why we had to give things up. So, one year I gave up chocolate milk, my Dad had given up all candy and I thought I would pick something like that and we could do it together. What actually happened is I didn't drink chocolate milk whenever my Dad was around because I didn't want him to know that I didn't succeed and because chocolate milk is delicious. Clearly, I had no clue what it meant to give up something for Lent.

"Growing deeper to grow wider", this quote sits on my desk and it is a gentle reminder that when things are tough it's for a good reason. I feel like this quote is applicable to most situations. I feel especially close to these words as we are in the midst of a busy season at church. This year I wanted to intentionally give something up that I would notice is missing. I gave up sweets this year, and I have definitely noticed. I have spent so much time explaining to our young people why some people choose to give something up for Lent that I needed this year to actually make me think and reflect on the sacrifice made for us. When I am craving one of Debbie Neagle's delicious cupcakes instead of delighting that sweet glory, I

have chosen to pray. The idea here is to spend more time with God. I think this is what that short and sweet quote is pushing me to. This is the growing deeper part, the growing wider is natural beyond this point. What are you and your families doing during this Lenten journey to grow deeper to stretch wider?

Upcoming events:

- **Parent's Night Out** on **March 10<sup>th</sup>** at 5:30pm.
- **HCY** meets **March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, & 18<sup>th</sup>** at **5:00 pm**
- **Kids' Club** meets **St. Patrick's Day, March 17<sup>th</sup> 10:00 am...wear green**
- **Confirmation** will be held at **2:00 pm** on **March 18<sup>th</sup>**
- **Christian Ed** meeting will be on **March 20<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm.

*Beka Forst  
Youth & Family Ministries*



Lutheran Church of the

**Holy Comforter COMMENT**

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Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster

Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office



**"Hosanna!**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!**

**<sup>10</sup>Blessed is the coming kingdom of our ancestor David!**

**Hosanna in the highest heaven!"**

**Mark 11:9b-10**

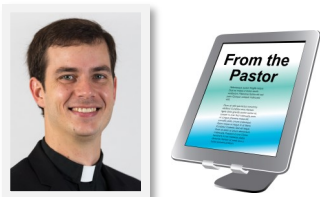
## Communion Opportunities for March

March 4 The Third Sunday in Lent  
March 11 The Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 18 The Fifth Sunday in Lent  
March 25 Palm Sunday  
March 29 Maundy Thursday



Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager  
Volume 39 No. 3

**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,

During the season of Lent, a season focused on our need for repentance, we spend time thinking about the sins in which we take part. While it is not all encompassing, an obvious place to start in this work is the Ten Commandments, God's basic guidelines for how to live in relationship with God and with our neighbor. While the commandments tend to be, at least superficially, simple and framed in the negative or, "thou shalt not," Luther's explanation of them expands on them and provides much deeper understanding of expectations of how we live in community.

Recently the commandments that I have been thinking about in this way are the 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> commandments, the commandments not to kill and not to bear false witness. Living in community is hard, to be sure. We are constantly dealing not only with the "saint" in one another, but also the "sinner." In other words, we don't always deal with the best versions of one another. In fact, sometimes it seems like our church family is the place where people feel most safe to show their backsides. While I hope that the simple, "Thou shalt not kill" would be obvious in these situations, and wouldn't be too hard to live by, Lu-

ther's explanation of these two commandments provide a greater challenge for us.

Of the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment Luther says that along with not killing or harming our neighbor, we are also meant to "help and support them in all of life's needs." Of the 8<sup>th</sup> Luther says of our neighbors that "we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light." This is immensely harder than simply not murdering or lying, because it means not only should we not cause harm, either by our words or actions, but that following God's commandments means we are meant to assume the best of people and their intentions, defend them when people speak ill of them, and do whatever we can to work for their good.

And there is no caveat. The commandments don't say we are off the hook if the people don't reciprocate, but that even when people cause us harm, our call as God's children is to continue to assume the best of others, speak well of them, and work for their good. May this season of Lent be a time of repentance not away from the harm we do to ourselves and others, but toward the life-giving good God calls us to in grace-filled community with one another.

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

## MUSIC NOTE

**We have a half dozen young people in our latest handbell class.** They are working on several new songs, ringing techniques, and portions of the evening prayer liturgy. Our final class will be held on March 21.

The Children's Ensemble continues to surprise this musician. I made the comment recently that, "You sounded like a children's choir on that song," to which one replied, "but we are a children's choir!"



Our church choir, chamber choir and handbell choir are very busy with literature for the Lenten Season, as well as upcoming Holy Week and Easter season. Special words of thanks to the choir leadership during our Ash Wednesday service of worship and Evening Prayer services.

The columbarium project has proceeded at a very slow pace. We had hoped it would be completed by now. Delays in custom materials and weather conditions have pushed completion into the spring. Final stages will hopefully be completed in a matter of weeks.

***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, March 3 at 7 pm**

## Welcome New Members to Holy Comforter

John & Mary Lee

Melanie & Josh Nixon with their  
children Maddox, Jagger & Madeline

Sherry Nelson with children Emily & Ryan

George & Teresa Keller

Elaine Moose

## Faithful Families' Tip

### Quiet Time

The family decides the amount of time that all will sit quietly.

In that quiet time you are listening to what God is trying to tell/teach you. After the allotted time is finished, the family will close together in prayer.



## Schedule

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



## Kids' Club

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

**St. Patrick's Day theme**  
**Wear green**



**Meet on Saturday,  
March 10 at 6:00 pm**

**At The Brass Monkey**  
3826 S. New Hope Road  
Gastonia, NC 28056

Men are invited this month! **Why?**  
Because it is also **Parents' Night Out** at the church so this will be a great outing for couples.  
So, come with a guy or without...  
**All are invited!**



**Bring a Friend**  
**Sunday, March 11**

The Evangelism Committee encourages every member to always share God's love with those around them!

Please invite your friend or neighbor who might not have a church of their own to worship with us at Holy Comforter



## TREASURER'S REPORT:

**Report for the month** January, 2018  
Budget Expenses: \$24,055.08  
Actual Expenses: 22,288.37  
Offerings Received: 19,661.03  
Gain (Loss) for Period: (\$ 2,627.34)

## CHURCH SCHEDULE:

**Thursday, March 1 Men's Group**  
7:00 pm Meet at Mayworth's Public House, Cramerton  
**Sunday, March 4 3rd Sunday in Lent**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion  
**Wednesdays March 7, 14, & 21**  
6:00 pm Lenten Dinner  
6:45 pm *Holden Evening Prayer*  
7:15 pm Chamber Choir  
**Saturday, March 10**  
5:30-8:30 pm **Parents' Night Out**  
(**National Youth Gathering** fundraiser)  
Dinner, games & watch the movie **Toy Story 3**  
6:00 pm **Staying Connected/Brass Monkey** in Gastonia  
**Sunday, March 11 4th Sunday in Lent**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service w/HC, Church council after  
**Monday, March 12**  
6:30 pm Social Ministry meets  
**Thursday, March 15**  
7:00 pm Evangelism Committee meets  
**Saturday, March 17 Kids' Club**  
10:00 am Meet at the church for *St. Patrick's Day* theme  
**Sunday, March 18 5th Sunday in Lent**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion  
2:00 pm Confirmation at Holy Communion, Dallas  
**Tuesday, March 20**  
7:00 pm Christian Ed meets  
**Sunday, March 25 Palm Sunday**  
9:30 am Sunday School  
10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion  
**Thursday, March 29 Maundy Thursday**  
7:00 pm Maundy Thursday service w/Holy C.  
**Friday, March 30 Good Friday**  
7:00 pm Good Friday service

## REGULAR MEETING TIMES:

**Sundays:** 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble  
5:00 pm Handbells  
*HCY on March 4, 11, & 18*  
6:00 pm Church Choir  
**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

## ASSISTING MINISTERS:

**LECTORS:** Billy Joye, Chief Lector  
(Communion all Sundays during March)

**ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS:** Volunteers

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 4)  
Carmen Buell, Captain  
Dean Halvorson Diann Halvorson  
Barbara Kasmer

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** (Team B)  
Need Volunteers each Sunday, Maundy Thursday, & Good Friday

**EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:**  
Need Volunteers each Sunday & Maundy Thursday

**GREETERS FOR THE MONTH:**  
March 4: Teresa Keller  
March 11: Carmen Buell  
March 18: Pat Long  
March 25: Volunteer (Palm Sunday)  
March 29: Volunteer (Maundy Thursday)

**TELLERS:** Shelia & Tim Kelly

**USHERS:** Volunteers

**ALTAR FLOWERS:**  
March 4: 2 vases available  
March 11: Carmen De Nicholas  
1 vase available  
March 18: Tench Family both vases  
March 25: Richard & Kay Holden  
1 vase available




**CHILDREN'S CHURCH:**  
March 4: Volunteers; March 11: Jenn Kearney  
March 18: Brandy Milton; March 25: Volunteers

**NURSERY:** (9:30 am-11:45 am)  
March 4: Sherry Alexander; March 11: Misty Koehler  
March 18: Lauren Shoemaker; March 25: Jill Leitner

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.



# March 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1            <b>HolyC Men's Group</b> 7:00 pm Meet at Mayworth's Public House, Cramerton	2	3
4 <b>3rd Sunday in Lent</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Handbells, <b>HCY</b> at the church 6:00 pm Church Choir	5	6          7:00 pm Nar-Anon	7      5:00 pm Handbell Class 6:00 pm Lenten Dinner 6:45 pm <i>Holden Evening Prayer</i> 7:15 pm Chamber Choir	8	9            	10 5:30-8:30 pm <b>Parents' Night Out</b> Dinner, Games, & watch <i>Toy Story 3</i> , a movie <b>National Youth Gathering</b> Fundraiser 6:00 pm <b>Staying Connected</b> At <i>The Brass Monkey</i>
11 <b>4th Sunday in Lent</b> 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion Church Council after 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Handbells, <b>HCY</b> 6:00 pm Church Choir	12      6:30 pm Social Ministry meets	13      7:00 pm Nar-Anon	14      5:00 pm Handbell Class 6:00 pm Lenten Dinner 6:45 pm <i>Holden Evening Prayer</i> 7:15 pm Chamber Choir	15      7:00 pm Evangelism meets	16              10:00 am <b>Kids' Club</b> Meet at the church for St. Pat's celebration... wear green	
18 <b>5th 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 at Holy Communion in Dallas 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Handbells, <b>HCY</b> 6:00 pm Church Choir	19 <b>St. Joseph, Husband of Mary And Guardian of Our Lord</b>	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 Prayer</i> 7:15 pm Chamber Choir	22	23	24 <b>The Annunciation Of Our Lord</b>
25 <b>Palm Sunday</b>  9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/Holy Communion 4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir	26	27      7:00 pm Nar-Anon	28	29 <b>Maunday Thursday</b>  7:00 pm <i>Maundy Thursday</i> Service w/Holy Comm.	30 <b>Good Friday</b>  7:00 pm <i>Good Friday</i> Service	31

**We recognize and celebrate these  
birthdays in the month of March.  
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.**



March 2 Khloe Tench  
March 4 Dean Halvorson  
March 5 Rob Ratchford  
March 6 Debbie Baker  
Jo Singleton  
March 7 Roger DiBiase  
Holly Harper  
March 10 Dee Smith  
March 11 Thomas Kasmer  
March 12 Veronica Bryant  
Arden De Nicholas  
March 13 Raini Kimball  
March 14 Tyler Ange  
Tracey Nault  
Nancy Powell  
March 20 Mike Wesson  
March 21 Riley Fleming  
March 24 Mollie Caldwell  
March 25 Pat Koehler  
March 26 Hailey Ange  
Cheryl Grant  
March 28 Callum Nance  
March 31 Pat Long

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