

Beka's
Buzz

I have only ever had one successful New Year's resolution, to quit biting my nails. I can't tell you how many different things people told me to attempt to get me to quit. "doesn't it hurt?", "That's not good for you!", "Don't you want to be able to paint your nails?", and none of those helped. I don't know what the final straw was, but I just finally stopped. I filed my nails when I thought I would bite them, I chewed gum when I wanted something to do or got nervous and I tried to keep them clipped and painted. This is the *only* resolution I have stayed true to. Lots of people do vision boards, mind maps, bucket lists, a word to center you throughout the year, Pinterest is a black hole for New Years resolutions.

This year as I worked on the annual reports for 2018, I realized we did a lot of stuff. We at Holy Comforter have grown, stretched, and seen a lot of new things in 2018. 2018 was an exciting year that served us well. We had an exciting new Easter egg hunt, we sent 5 young people to the National Youth Gathering, we had a family style Christmas Play, and we had a second Christmas Eve service that was a warm way to welcome the Christmas season. This year was good to us.

Looking forward, how do we want 2019 to look? At the end of each year I personally write goals, for me, but also for church and ministry. As our youth and family programming grow and change in the coming years how do we what to shape the development and engagement of our faith? I wanted to share with you some of the things I hope to see this year. I hope to see more young people join youth programming. I want to continue to take the young people of Holy C out to the community, to widen our view and be faithful disciples. I want to see our kids engage in their style of worship, being more involved in worship

and milestones. I hope as Holy C grows so does our engagement within our church and outside of our church. My prayer for this year is for us to continue to grow deeper to grow wider.

Beka, Youth & Family Ministry

Faithful Families Tip:

★ Epiphany Stars ★

★ Supplies
Star outlines to be colored.

Read Matthew 2:10-11 to remember the journey that the wise men took by following a bright star. As a family, you can find your own stars. On your own star you can color and decorate it in any way your family wants. As you create the stars in the sky, think of one word that will help guide your family to Jesus. This word can help lead you to God all year, helping find your focus.



January 6: HCY at the Church
at 5:30 pm

January 13: HCY at the Church
at 5:30 pm

January 12: Kids' Club
at the Church at 10:00 am

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

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



¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Matthew 2:10-11

Communion Opportunities for January

January 6 The Epiphany of Our Lord
January 13 The Baptism of Our Lord
(Communion on other Sundays after the service)



Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager
Volume 40 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



FROM THE PASTOR

Grace and peace,

January brings the holiday season to an end. From Thanksgiving to New Years, we are in this season of festive parties, Christmas music in every store and half the radio channels, and extravagant and often nostalgic meals. It is the season of Hallmark movies, where most folks want their lives to look like them, at least for a time, though it almost never actually does. In truth I don't particularly love Hallmark movies, though I don't blame people who do. They are feel-good movies, and Lord knows we need as much "feel-good" as we can get these days. One of the things in the movies that I often roll my eyes at is that many of them have a romantic plot line, and somewhere in it is this idea that the two people are "made for each other." The story is written in such a way that the viewer knows this in the first ten minutes, but the characters don't until the last five, and it's just not a plot that interests me much, so I do the typical guy thing and roll my eyes and poke fun at it.

But throughout this holiday season the idea of people being "made for each other" has been on my mind a good bit. Granted, not so much in terms of romantic relationships, but in terms of how all people are created for each other. We are created not to be islands on our own, but created to be in community, to be in relationships with each other. The holidays are a time that I am reminded of that.

I am reminded of that when things are good, as we watch friends and family gather together at bad sweater parties, neighbors hang out and play in the snow together, as folks share meals of abundance with one another, as friends and strangers gather for New Years celebrations, and as a church family we gather together for Christmas plays, parties, meals, and worship. The holidays, while hectic themselves, can be a time when we stop with the daily hustle and bustle of life and focus on re-

lationships with those closest to us as well as the neighbor we haven't yet met.

I am also reminded that we are made for each other when things are hard. I watched from up close and afar as people for whom holidays are hard, who have lost loved ones, wrestle with broke relationships, struggle with finances, have been embraced and lifted up by others through meals, invitations, a shared sentiment, an embrace, or simply being present with them as they struggle. We were made for each other. God made us for community, for loving relationships. And in a recent conversation I was reminded how important it is for us to remember Christ's presence in one another. Because as the Body of Christ, as we celebrate with our neighbor, or as we walk with those who struggle, we are Christ for one another. Our acts of kindness, our loving embrace of another, our presence, is the very presence Christ reaching out to them, and Christ in them for us. I give thanks to God that we were made for each other, and for Christ's presence in you.

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



The **30th Annual Coastal Retreat to Isle of Palms** falls again on Memorial Day Weekend (Thursday, May 23-Monday, May 27).

Holy Comforter needs a coordinator to over see the signup sheet for this event. If you are willing to assist, or team with another individual, please contact the church office.



The Health Ministry and I will soon be bringing to you three - count them! - **THREE forms of exercise**. Even the most sedentary, or you who steadfastly say, "I don't exercise," will discover there will be a choice for you - the right fit for getting some exercise, and having fun while you do so. You will hear more about these in the near future. For now, let's all make a New Year's resolution to attend these exercise classes and to make an effort towards changing bad health habits into good health habits! With that in mind, I give you the following, for fun:

God's Diet...

God populated the earth with broccoli, cauliflower, spinach, and green and yellow vegetables of all kinds so Man and Woman would live long and healthy lives.

Satan created McDonald's which brought forth the quarter pounder burger with cheese. And Satan said to Man, "You want fries with that?" Man said, "Super-size them." and Man gained pounds.

God created healthful yogurt. Satan froze the yogurt, and brought forth chocolate, nuts, and brightly colored sprinkles to put on the yogurt. And Woman gained pounds.

God said, "Try my crispy fresh salad." Satan brought forth creamy dressings, bacon bits, shredded cheese, and ice cream for dessert. Man and woman gained pounds.

God said, "I have sent you heart healthy vegetables and olive oil with which to cook them." Satan brought forth chicken-fried steak. Man gained pounds, and his bad cholesterol went through the roof.

God brought forth running shoes, and Man resolved to lose those extra pounds. Satan brought forth cable TV with remote, so Man would not have to toil to change channels. And Man gained pounds.

God brought forth the potato, a vegetable naturally low in fat and brimming with nutrition. Satan peeled off the healthful skin, sliced the potato into chips and deep-fat fried them. Then he created salsa dip.

Man clutched his remote and ate the potato chips swaddled in cholesterol. Satan saw and said, "It is good." Man went into cardiac arrest.

God sighed and created quadruple bypass surgery...

Satan created HMOs...

Now, about those resolutions...which exercise class would YOU like to sign up for?

Contact Teresa Keller, Parish Nurse,
at 717-329-8507 or
parishnurse0407@gmail.com.



Saturday, January 12
6:00 pm **Staying Connected**
Meets at *Doffers Canteen* in Cramerton
to plan for 2019.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Report for the month	November, 2018	Year-to-Date
Budget Expenses:	\$24,055.08	\$264,605.92
Actual Expenses:	22,931.14	257,183.20
Offerings Received:	19,862.57	246,249.60
(Loss) for Period:	(\$ 3,068.57)	(\$ 10,933.60)
Offerings less Expected Expenses:	(\$ 4,192.51)	(\$ 18,356.32)

BCO January Items: Jelly, Tuna, Canned Pasta

MUSIC NOTES

I was talking with the members of the youth handbell ensemble recently as we prepared for our final Advent Vespers service of worship. "What is the number one item that you would like to receive for Christmas?" Everyone gave interesting answers.

Then came the final question, "What is the one thing that you just can't live without this Christmas?" Through the silence of the moment Leah Koehler boldly proclaimed, "Jesus!" What followed was applause by all the youth and adults in the sanctuary who overheard. We all agreed that no one could improve on that answer. That is one of the perks of working around this place. You never know when an unexpected blessing will come your way. We were blessed by Leah that day!



A big shout out to all of our ministers of music who lead and inspire us to sing boldly throughout the church year.

Our adult ensembles collectively rehearse hundreds of hours annually here at Holy Comforter. No other ministry in any church family that I know of is called upon to give as unselfishly of time and talent. To all of these music ministers we give thanks. While the Glory is given entirely to God, I encourage church members to express appreciation individually when given the opportunity. Let us never take any of our ministers for granted.



Thanks to all the members of the children's ensemble who participated this past year.

on Sunday mornings. We go directly from music into Sunday School. Their drivers, I think, have a wonderful conversational time during some of those quieter moments when the children are practicing.



Holy Comforter recently lost a musical angel when Carmen Buell passed away. Carmen was instrumental with cataloging the music library, as well as her gifts of organization and myriad of tasks that she shared and gave, not only to the music ministry, but crossing the bridge into other avenues of ministry in this church family.

Carmen cannot be replaced, but we would like for her gifts to live on through others. We invite folks, who are called to respond, to consider creating a team ministry to assist with some of the tasks that are needed throughout the year. For those who respond during the month of January we will formulate a meeting time to outline some of these needs. A degree is not needed, just a willingness to share. Contact Greg ASAP if you would like to know more.

Greg Cline
gclinea440@aol.com



Music Week at Lutheridge this year is **July 7 - 13**. The whole camp echoes with the sound of music. Every age group, including adults, meets daily with renowned instructors. If you like music, you'll love this experience. Holy Comforter music ministry offers 50% scholarships to members who wish to attend, making this most popular week one of the most affordable. **Contact Greg Cline ASAP**, as registration is currently taking advantage of the early bird discounts. Scholarships are awarded at the conclusion of camp week.

CHURCH SCHEDULE:

Sunday, January 6 Epiphany

8:45 am Children's Ensemble
9:30 am Sunday School
10:10 am Church choir prep
10:30 am Worship Service w/Holy Communion
2:00 pm Confirmation at Redeemer Lutheran
5:00 pm Handbells
5:30 pm *HCY*
6:00 pm Church Choir

Tuesdays, January 8, 15, 22, 29

7:00 pm Chamber Choir
Nar-Anon

Wednesdays, January 9, 16, 23, & 30

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

Thursday, January 10

12 Noon Prime Timers meet in fellowship hall

Saturday, January 12

10:00 am *Kids' Club* meet in fellowship hall
6:00 pm *Staying Connected* meets at Doffers Canteen

Sunday, January 13 The Baptism of Our Lord

8:45 am Children's Ensemble
9:30 am Sunday School
10:10 am Church choir prep
10:30 am Worship Service w/Holy Communion
Council after
5:00 pm Handbells
5:30 pm *HCY*
6:00 pm Church Choir

Tuesday, January 15

7:00 pm Christian Ed meets, Health Ministry meeting

Sunday, January 20 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

8:45 am Children's Ensemble
9:30 am Sunday School
10:10 am Church choir prep
10:30 am Worship Service
5:00 pm Handbells
6:00 pm Church Choir

Sunday, January 27 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

8:45 am Children's Ensemble
9:30 am Sunday School
10:10 am Church choir prep
10:30 am Worship Service
5:00 pm Handbells
6:00 pm Church Choir

REGULAR MEETING TIMES:

Sundays: 8:45 am Children's Ensemble
9:30 am Sunday School
10:10 am Church choir prep
10:30 am Worship Service
5:00 pm Adult Handbell Choir
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 (*Communions*)

January 6 & 13: Billy Joye
January 20: Brian Achor
January 27: Jim Buell

ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 1)

Bev & Charles Mauney, Co-Captains
Carmen De Nicholas Deb Williams

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS: (Team B)

Volunteers

EUCHARIST PRESENTERS:

December 2, 9, 23 & 24: Volunteers

GREETERS FOR THE MONTH:

January 6: Volunteer
January 13: Debbie Mendez
January 20: Volunteer
January 27: Pat Long

TELLERS: Fran Holland, John Koehler

USHERS: Volunteers

ALTAR FLOWERS:

January 6: Brandy & Brad Milton 1 vase
1 vase available
January 12: Dianne Lail, De Nicholas girls
1 vase available
January 20: Clair, Will, Katie, Beau, Evan
1 vase available
January 27: Judy, Carly & Molly Caldwell
1 vase available

CHILDREN'S CHURCH:

January 6: Volunteer
January 13: Volunteer
January 20: Volunteer
January 27: Volunteer

NURSERY: (10:30 am-11:45 am)

January 6: Volunteer
January 13: Volunteer
January 20: Volunteer
January 27: Volunteer

A nursery is provided for your convenience. We encourage you to use the nursery if your children become restless and/or vocal.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00 pm Nar-Anon	2	3	4	5
6 The Epiphany of Our Lord 8:45am Children's Ensemble 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/HC 2:00 pm Confirmation at Redeemer Lutheran 5:00 pm Handbells 5:30 pm HCY 6:00 pm Church Choir	7	8 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	9 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study	10 12:00 Noon <i>Prime Timers</i> Meet in Fellowship Hall Lunch provided. Collection taken for Carmen Buell memorial.	11	12 10:00 am <i>Kids' Club</i> Meet in the Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm <i>Staying Connected</i> Meet at Doffers Canteen in Cramerton
13 The Baptism of Our Lord 8:45am Children's Ensemble 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church choir prep 10:30 am The Service w/HC Church council after 5:00 pm Handbells 5:30 pm HCY 6:00 pm Church Choir	14	15 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Christian Ed meets Health Committee Nar-Anon	16 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study	17	18 The Confession of St. Peter	19
20 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 8:45am Children's Ensemble 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church choir prep 10:30 am The Service Congregational meeting 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir	21	22 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	23 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study	24	25 The Conversion of St. Paul	26
27 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 8:45am Children's Ensemble 9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church choir prep 10:30 am The Service 5:00 pm Handbells 6:00 pm Church Choir	28	29 7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon	30 6:45 pm Women's Bible Study	31		

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.

- January 1 Elizabeth DiBiase
Albert Ewing
Jason Shoemaker
- January 5 Jo Irwin
- January 7 Mary Lee
- January 9 Chuck Kimball
Melany Shaw-Nixon
- January 10 Charles Mauney
Brandy Milton
Becky Richards
- January 13 Abbey Kowalewski
- January 15 Zaneta Sarrazin
- January 17 Julie Wiegand
- January 18 Carmen De Nicholas
Jerri Wesson
- January 19 Faye Heller
- January 21 Jane Howard
Paul Nault
- January 24 Jill Cassel
- January 25 Ryan Nelson
- 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.