

First Sunday after Christmas Day



**GATHERING/WELCOME**

**PRELUDE**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,  
as the presiding minister begins.*

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C Amen.**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Most merciful God,

**C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG: *Angels, from the Realms of Glory* . . . . . All Stand & Sing

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
 2 Shep-herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star,  
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

## GREETING

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.


**C** And also with you.

## KYRIE


**A**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.


C   
 Lord, have mer - cy.


A   
 For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.


C   
 Lord, have mer - cy.

A   
 For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

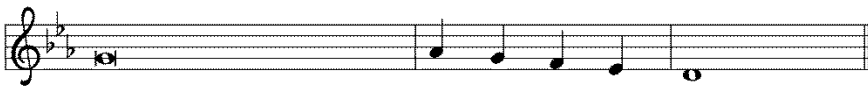
  
 and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C   
 Lord, have mer - cy.

A   
 For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

  
 let us pray to the Lord.

C   
 Lord, have mer - cy.

A   
 Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C   
 A - men, a - men.

## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and

Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we

praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus

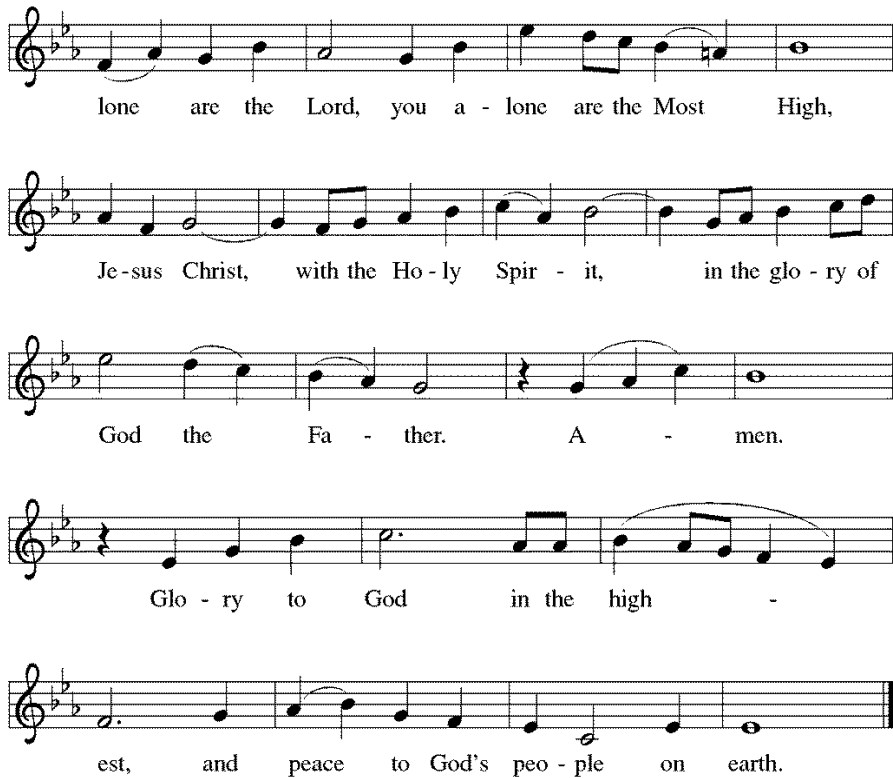
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the

right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

*Congregation is Seated and are invited to **sing “Jesus Loves Me”**  
 as the children come forward.*

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

**Children ages 4 to 8 years-old** are invited to go to the Education building for a 20-minute (or so) time together **immediately after the Children’s sermon**. *Children will return to their parents during the hymn of the day.* Children **birth through 3 years-old** are invited to join others their age **in the nursery**.

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 61:10—62:3

A reading from the sixty-first and sixty-second chapters of Isaiah.

*To the people who returned to Jerusalem after the exile, the prophet proclaims that the Lord's salvation will fully come to pass. Jerusalem will become a shining light to the nations and righteousness and praise will spring up as surely as the earth puts forth vegetation.*

### Chapter 61

<sup>10</sup>I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup>For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

### Chapter 62

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.

<sup>2</sup>The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

<sup>3</sup>You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 148** . . . . . Read Responsively

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens;  
praise God in the heights.

**<sup>2</sup>Praise the LORD, all you angels;  
sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.**

**<sup>3</sup>Praise the LORD, sun and moon;  
sing praise, all you shining stars.**

**<sup>4</sup>Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.**

**<sup>5</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
who commanded, and they were created,  
<sup>6</sup>who made them stand fast forever and ever,  
giving them a law that shall not pass away.**

**<sup>7</sup>Praise the LORD from the earth,  
you sea monsters and all deeps;  
<sup>8</sup>fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing God's will;  
<sup>9</sup>mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;  
<sup>10</sup>wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and flying birds;  
<sup>11</sup>sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;  
<sup>12</sup>young men and maidens,  
old and young together.**

**<sup>13</sup>Let them praise the name of the LORD,  
whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.**

**<sup>14</sup>The LORD has raised up strength for the people  
and praise for all faithful servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

## **SECOND READING**

**Galatians 4:4–7**

A reading from the fourth chapter of Galatians.

*Paul seeks to show the Galatians that the purpose of Christ's birth was to liberate us from the law's condemnation so that we would be fully adopted into God's family as sons and daughters.*

**<sup>4</sup>But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, <sup>5</sup>in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive**

adoption as children. <sup>6</sup>And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" <sup>7</sup>So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

- A The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION..... All Stand & Sing

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Repeat alleluia

GOSPEL Luke 2:22–40

- P The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

*Luke's narrative continues with stories that emphasize Jesus' connection to Judaism. His family is devout in its observance of the law, and Jesus himself is recognized as one who will bring glory to Israel.*

<sup>22</sup>When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two



young pigeons."

<sup>25</sup>Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. <sup>26</sup>It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. <sup>27</sup>Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, <sup>28</sup>Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup>"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel."

<sup>33</sup>And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

<sup>34</sup>Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed — and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

<sup>36</sup>There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, <sup>37</sup>then as a widow to the age of eighty- four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. <sup>38</sup>At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

P The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON . . . . . Pastor Micah

# HYMN OF THE DAY: *Of the Father's Love Begotten* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



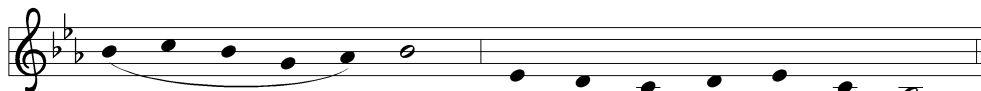
1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -  
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,  
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with  
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his  
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,  
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,  
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets  
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him  
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that  
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -  
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -  
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be  
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,  
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,  
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord  
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring  
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

## APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic\* church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

\* catholic with a small “c” refers to the whole Christian church throughout the world.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rejoicing in the light of Christ that shines upon us, we pray for the church, the world, and all according to their needs.

*A brief silence.*

Blessed are you, O God, for the salvation revealed in the face of Christ. Reveal the glory of your loving presence in our congregation and fill our hearts with songs of your praise. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Blessed are you for the earth that brings forth new life in due season. Blessed are you for sun and moon, snow and fog, mountains and hills, creeping things and flying birds. Thank you for them all. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Blessed are you for the hope you send among the nations. Stir leaders to act with righteousness and peace, that nations will see your glory. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Blessed are you for coming to us in our weakness. Shower healing and hope on all for whom the future seems to hold more threat than promise, the discouraged, the weary, and the sick (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Blessed are you for the children in our midst. Raise up for them faithful families, mentors, guides, and teachers, and make them joyous, healthy, and kind. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Blessed are you for the saints. Keep us in communion with them until we receive our inheritance with them in light. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Hear the hopes and prayers of our hearts, O God, and magnify our joy at the birth of your Light among us, Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other  
in the peace of the risen Christ.*

## PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

## OFFERING

**OFFERTORY & RESPONSE:** *What Child Is This* . . . . . Verses 1 & 2 Sit & Sing,  
Stand & Sing on Verse 3

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep-ing?  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas-ant, king, to own him.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'What Child Is This'. It consists of two staves: a treble staff at the top and a bass staff at the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#), indicating the key of D major or B minor. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the staves, with three verses provided. The first two verses are for sitting and singing, and the third verse is for standing and singing.

Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!  
 joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898  
 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

## THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

P O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**C Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.

## BLESSING

P The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C Amen.

**SENDING SONG:** *On Christmas Night* . . . . . All Stand & Sing



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the  
2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er  
3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come  
4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels



an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to  
made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since  
in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then  
sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which



hear the news the an - gels bring: news of great joy, news of great  
our re - deem - er made us glad, when from our sin he set us  
life and health come in its place. An - gels re - joice with us and  
made the an - gels sing this night: "Glo - ry to God in high - est



mirth, news of our mer - ci - ful king's birth.  
free, all for to gain our lib - er - ty?  
sing, all for to see the new - born king.  
heav'n; peace on earth, and good - will. A - men."

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.  
Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional

## DISMISSAL

**P** Go in peace. Share the good news.

**C** Thanks be to God.

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**A CORDIAL WELCOME** is extended to all of our visitors on this **First Sunday after Christmas Day**. We pray that you will find a warm fellowship while you are among us and that you will return home with a renewed sense of dedication to Jesus Christ. Please sign our guest register or a visitor's card so that we can become acquainted with you. If you are without a church home, we invite you to investigate membership in this family of God.

**CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP.** Jesus said, "let the children come to me!" Parents are encouraged to utilize the Kids Worship Kits found in the Narthex for older toddlers through early elementary age. A nursery for children (**infants through 3 years old**) is located in the Education building. Let an usher know if you need assistance finding it.



**KIDS' WORSHIP CENTER:** Pick up kits as you enter for worship! **Please return the tote bag** with the plastic bag of crayons, scratch pads, and pencils to the stand in the narthex. The children may take any papers home with them.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** A notebook has been placed in the narthex for your prayer requests during the week. The book will be in the narthex on Sundays and in the church office during the week. **If you wish a name to be added to our prayer board, please fill out a form from the prayer book or fill in the form on line at [www.holyc.org](http://www.holyc.org).**

**THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY** are given to the glory of God by Jack, Laura & Khloe June Tench in honor of Elizabeth's 29<sup>th</sup> birthday; and by Mark & Rebecca Yount and Alec Via celebrating Luke Via's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**Those who have placed flowers on the altar** may use the containers to take them home, but please return the containers to the church.

*Greg Byrum, Worship & Music*

**Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, December 21, 2014:**

Attendance: 169

**Budget Report**

**December 21, 2014**

Current Offering Received 12/21/14

\$ 5,218.00

Weekly Budgeted Expenses

\$ 4,504.60

Offering, YTD

\$210,505.70

Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD

(\$ 2,524.26)

Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD

(\$ 17,714.83)

**Today we welcome Beth Kreitzer (daughter of Sonja & John)  
as our guest keyboardist.**

**ASSISTING MINISTERS:**

**NURSERY:** (9:30 – 11:45 am)

Need Volunteers

**LECTOR:** Billy Joye, Jr.

**CHILDREN'S WORSHIP:**

Judy & Mollie Caldwell

**ACOLYTES:** Becca Gatlin, Alec Via

**GREETERS:** Need Volunteers

**CRUCIFERS:** Madison Carr, Noah Rogers

**TELLERS:** Janet Achor, John Koehler

**ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 2)

Louise Day, Co-Captain

**USHERS:** Need Volunteers

Brenda Daly, Co-Captain

Donna Bean

Nancy Powell

Becky Richards

**GUITARIST:** Mark Kline



## THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

### Today, Sunday, December 28

9:30 am **Adult Sunday School Only**  
10:10 am Church Choir  
10:30 am The Service  
8:00 pm Nar-Anon

### Tuesday, December 30

7:00 pm Nar-Anon

## BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: December 28-January 3

Today, December 28 Molly Koehler

January 1 Albert Ewing

December 29 Trudy Whitener

December 30 Blake Harper  
Elizabeth Tench  
Luke Via



If you would be willing to serve as a ***Communion Assistant, Eucharist Presenter, Greeter, Lector,*** and/or ***Usher*** during **2015**, please sign your name at the date you wish to serve on the sign-up sheets located in the narthex.

**2015 Offering Envelopes** are available in the narthex for you to pick up.

**The 2015 Congregational Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25 before the worship service.**

**All year-end reports from committee and church group chairpersons are Due to Dianne in the church office by Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>.**

**The 2015 Flower Chart is Now Available in the Narthex.**

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



### **PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER**

Louise Austin  
Daniel Dowd  
Monique Estelle  
Ferrie Hedrick  
Dot Holland  
Zac Hullander

Bill & Pauline Joye  
Chase Lineberger  
Virginia Neagle  
Holly Peche  
Carol Posey  
Mabel Ratchford

Mark Reese  
Beverly Reynolds  
George Roberson  
Marguerite Shive

### **GREATER FAMILY OF GOD**

Harriett Ange  
Paige Beaver  
Jenny Beer  
Father Frank Cancro  
Tina Capwell  
J. Don Devine  
Poss Garrett  
Ronnie Garrison  
Lewis Gilbert Family  
Brian Hedrick

Dennis Jordan  
Betty Kannapel  
Steven Keating  
Marshall Kinley  
Lance Kirkland  
Terry Mahaffey  
Steve Mathis  
Kenadee Nelson  
Mark Outlaw  
Alicia Overton

Jean Peters  
Taylor Propst & Family  
David Prouty  
Joe Reynolds  
Anna Rudder  
Megan Sigler  
E. Taylor & Family  
Gloria Ward  
Pastor Gary Weant  
Olivia Wilcox

### **OUR SERVICEMEN**

Matt Cisek

Jason Gardner

Dillon Kasmer



Jeremy Shaver

### **OUR MISSIONARIES**

Austin & Tanya Propst (Young Adults in Global Mission)

Please remember these people in your prayers.

**If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please inform Trudy Whitener or Dianne in the church office.**

The sign-up prayer forms are located in the narthex and online at [www.holyc.org](http://www.holyc.org).



### Sunday School Attendance December 21, 2014

	<u>Children</u>	<u>Adults</u>
Nursery	3	1
Pre-K & God's Eden	18	4
Youth		
Seekers		7
Adult Bible Class		8
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>

### Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 666 Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483 [holycomforter@gmail.com](mailto:holycomforter@gmail.com)

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE:** 9:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am The Service  
**Church Office Hours:** Monday-Thursday 8:30 am — 3:00 pm

Micah Kearney, Pastor email: [MicahKearney@gmail.com](mailto:MicahKearney@gmail.com)

Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education

Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager