

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, January 12, 2014

The Baptism of Our Lord Sunday

John Propst
Interim Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster



GATHERING/WELCOME

PRELUDE: *Brightest and Best* Morning Star

GATHERING SONG: *Wash, O God, Our Sons & Daughters* All Stand & Sing



1 Wash, O God, our sons and daugh-ters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.
2 We who bring them long for nur-ture; by your milk may we be fed.
3 Oh, how deep your ho-ly wis-dom! Un-im-ag-ined, all your ways!



Num-ber them a-mong your peo-ple; bless as Christ blessed long a-go.
Let us join your feast, par-tak-ing cup of bless-ing, liv-ing bread.
To your name be glo-ry, hon-or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.
God, re-new us, guide our foot-steps; free from sin and all its snares,
We your peo-ple stand be-fore you, wa-ter-washed and Spir-it-born.



Fill, a-noint them; send your Spir-it, ho-ly dove and heart's de-light.
one with Christ in liv-ing, dy-ing, by your Spir-it, chil-dren, heirs.
By your grace, our lives we of-fer. Re-cre-ate us; God, trans-form!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Company, Nashville, TN.
All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used by permission.

PRESENTATION FOR HOLY BAPTISM

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Sponsors present the candidate:

I present Henry James Spikes for baptism.

The presiding minister addresses parents or others who bring for baptism children who are not able to answer for themselves:

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Henry James Spikes baptized into Christ?

Response:

I do.

The presiding minister continues:

As you bring Henry to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:
to live with him among God's faithful people,
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments,
place in his hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture him in faith and prayer,
so that Henry may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Henry grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response:

I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support Henry by praying for him in his new life in Christ?

C We do.

The assembly stands.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The presiding minister addresses candidates for baptism as well as the parents and sponsors of young children. The assembly may join in the responses.

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

C I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

P Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C 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.**

P Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P Blessed are you, O God, maker and ruler of all things. Your voice thundered over the waters at creation. You water the mountains and send springs into the valleys to refresh and satisfy all living things.

Through the waters of the flood you carried those in the ark to safety. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery to freedom. In the wilderness you nourished them with water from the rock, and you brought them across the river Jordan to the promised land.

By the baptism of his death and resurrection, your Son Jesus has carried us to safety and freedom. The floods shall not overwhelm us, and the deep shall not swallow us up, for Christ has brought us over to the land of promise. He sends us to make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pour out your Holy Spirit; wash away sin in this cleansing water; clothe the baptized with Christ; and claim your daughters and sons, no longer slave and free, no longer male and female, but one with all the baptized in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

The assembly may be seated.

BAPTISM

P Henry James Spikes, I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

C **You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Alleluia.**

Laying hands on the head of the newly baptized, the minister prays:

Sustain Henry with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

The presiding minister marks the sign of the cross on the forehead of the baptized. Oil prepared for this purpose may be used. As the sign of the cross is made, the minister says:

Henry James Spikes, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

Amen.

WELCOME

A lighted candle may be given to the newly baptized (to a sponsor of a young child) as a representative of the congregation says:

A Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

The ministers and the baptismal group face the assembly. A representative of the congregation leads the assembly in the welcome.

A Let us welcome the newly baptized.

C We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God our Father, at the baptism of Jesus you proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized into Christ faithful to their calling to be your daughters and sons, and empower us all with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Congregation is Seated

CHILDREN'S TIME

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 42:1–9

A reading from the forty-second chapter of Isaiah.

God's servant Israel is endowed with the Spirit in order to bring justice to the nations. The servant will not exercise authority boisterously or with violence, nor will weariness ever keep it from fulfilling its task. God's old promises have been fulfilled; the new assignment of the servant is to bring light to the nations.

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
²He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
³a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
⁴He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
⁵Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
⁶I am the LORD, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
⁷to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.

⁸I am the LORD, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
⁹See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 29 All Read Responsively

¹Ascribe to the LORD, you gods,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
²**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name;
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.**
³The voice of the LORD is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders;
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
⁴**The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice;
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.**
⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees;
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
⁶**the LORD makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.**
⁷The voice of the LORD
bursts forth in lightning flashes.
⁸**The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.**
⁹The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare.
And in the temple of the LORD all are crying, "Glory!"
¹⁰**The LORD sits enthroned above the flood;
the LORD sits enthroned as king forevermore.**
¹¹O LORD, give strength to your people;
give them, O LORD, the blessings of peace.

SECOND READING

Acts 10:34–43

A reading from the tenth chapter of Acts.

Peter crosses the sharp religious boundary separating Jews from Gentiles and proclaims the good news of God's inclusive forgiveness in Jesus' name to Cornelius, a Roman centurion. As a result of Peter's preaching, Cornelius and his family become the first Gentiles to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

³⁴Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality,
³⁵but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.
³⁶You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ — he is Lord of all. ³⁷That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴²He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

Matthew 3:13–17

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Before Jesus begins his ministry, he is baptized by John, touched by the Spirit, and identified publicly as God's child.

¹³Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" ¹⁵But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. ¹⁶And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

P The gospel of the Lord.

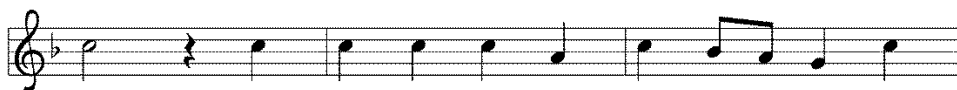
C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: *Baptism: A Spiritual GPS (God's Positioning System)* Pastor John
(Sermon Notes page 15)

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Christ, When For Us You Were Baptized* . . . All Stand & Sing



1 Christ, when for us you were bap - tized, God's Spir - it on you
2 God called you, "My be - lov - ed Son"; you are God's ser - vant
3 Straight-way and stead-fast un - til death you then o - beyed the
4 Bap - tize us with your Spir - it, Lord; your cross on us be



came, as peace - ful as a dove, and yet as
true, sent to pro - claim the reign of heav'n, God's
call to serve with free and will - ing heart, to
signed, that like - wise in God's ser - vice we may



ur - gent as a flame, as ur - gent as a flame.
ho - ly will to do, God's ho - ly will to do.
give your life for all, to give your life for all.
per - fect free - dom find, may per - fect free - dom find.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984, alt.

Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561

Text © 1985 The Church Pension Fund, admin. Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERING ANTHEM: *Three Great Kings* Church Choir

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: *Brightest and Best* All Stand & Sing

What shall we give him, in costly devotion?
Shall we bring incense and offerings divine,
Gems of the mountain and pearls of the ocean,
Myrrh from the forest or gold from the mine?

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.

Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.

INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Guided by the light of Christ, who has been made known to the nations, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For the community of the baptized throughout the world and its leaders, that justice and forgiveness be proclaimed to all, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the beauty of creation, trees and animals, clean water, and favorable weather, that all creatures live abundantly on our fragile planet, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For all in authority at the local, state, national, and international levels, that they rule with equity and sincerity of heart; for relief workers and those who support them, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the oppressed, the imprisoned, the sick, those living with HIV/AIDS, and all who call out for help, that all who dwell on the earth find comfort, peace, and redemption through Christ, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For this congregation and all who have been washed in the waters of, for those inquiring about the gift of baptism and life in Christ, and for those who are absent from this gathering, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

In thanksgiving for those who have died in the faith, that the grace of Christ in their lives guide us in our vocation as Christians throughout the world, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Radiant God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who has made his dwelling among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

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 May the God of glory dwell in you richly, name you beloved, and shine brightly on your path; and the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG: *Arise, Your Light Has Come!* All Stand & Sing

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893

Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is your light.

C Thanks be to God.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2014 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #24292.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **Baptism of Our Lord Sunday**. 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 online form at www.holyc.org.**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Eric & Ashley Ange in memory of Catherine Ange & Edna Farias; and by Sarah, Elizabeth & Khloe June Tench in honor of Jack & Laura’s 38th wedding anniversary.

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

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, January 5, 2014:

Attendance: 120

<u>Budget Report</u>	<u>January 5</u>
Current Offering Received 1/5/2014	\$ 5,319.00
Total Current Offering, Y-T-D	\$ 3,208.75
Expenses, Year-To-Date	\$ 5,319.00

The Current Offering Received for the year through January 5, 2014 is \$2,110.25 more than Holy Comforter’s expenses through that date.

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTORS: Billy Joye, Jr., Karen Rogers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 4)

Diann Halvorson, Co-Captain

Dean Halvorson, Co-Captain

Barbara Kasmer

Gayla Foscue

ACOLYTES: Names Not available

CRUCIFERS: Names Not Available

GREETER: Marsha Kinley & The Schollers

USHERS: Need Volunteers

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: January 12-18

January 13 Abbey Kowalewski

January 16 Riley Tucker

January 17 Julie Wiegand

January 18 Carmen De Nicholas



THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, January 12, 2014

9:30 am Sunday Church School

10:10 am Church Choir Prep

10:30 am The Service

Church Council meets after

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble

5:00 pm Adult Handbells

6:00 pm Church Choir Practice

8:00 pm Nar-Anon

Tuesday, January 14

7:00 pm Chamber Choir

Nar-Anon

Saturday, January 18

2:00 pm ***Kids' Club***

Bring favorite board game

Meet at the church

**Newly Elected Church Council Members being installed today are
Tim Baker, Thomas Bocchino, Will Howard and Mandi Kline**

If you would be willing to serve as a ***Eucharist Presenter*** during **2014**, please sign your name at the date you wish to serve. Sign-up sheet located in the narthex.

2014 Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex for you to pick up.

**The 2014 Congregational Annual Meeting will be held on
Sunday, January 19 before the worship service.**



We welcome to our congregation via infant baptism
Henry James Spikes,
Born March 5, 2013
Child of James Alister Spikes & Kathryn Christopher Spikes

Baptism: A new Start, not a Destination

(Some think it's a Gunna Pass on Serving)

"This is My Son, the Beloved; with Whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:17 from NRSV)
or *"You are My Son, chosen and marked by My love. You are the delight My life."*

(from The Message)

Baptismal journey (like Keds) ...

- ✓ **Fun**
- ✓ **Fast**
- ✓ **Built to Last**

What are the Gifts Received in Baptism?

"It brings about forgiveness of sins, redeems from death & the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe it, as the Word and promise of God declare."

(Luther's Small Catechism)

"The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned."

(Mark 16:16 from NRSV)

"Baptism is received by a believing heart that trusts in God's Word. In the case of infant baptism, the baptized person "borrows" one from his or her parents and sponsors."

(The Lutheran Handbook, page 35)

"Baptism without belief" ... (finish the sentence!)

Who is Baptism For?

"Peter fairly exploded with his good news: 'it's God's own truth, nothing could be plainer: God plays no favorites! It makes no difference who you are or where you're from – if you want God and are ready to do as He says, the door is open.'"

(Acts 10: 34-35 from The Message)

And Now What? Application!

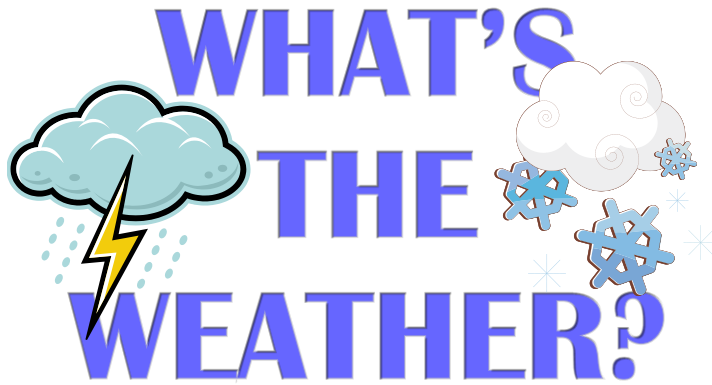
Ummm....how about the Great Commission from Jesus:

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

(Matthew 28:19 from NRSV)

A few questions of application – applying God's Positioning System (GPS) ...

1. So, how do I live out more faithfully my baptismal journey? Is my GPS Spiritually functioning?
2. Am I living out the Great Commission?



If you are concerned, due to inclement weather, as to whether we will have church services or planned activities, please check the following for information:

- ◆ Call the church office at 704-825-2483 and listen to recorded message
 - ◆ Check the church website at www.holyc.org
 - ◆ Watch WSOC-TV for their list of closings and/or delays
- ◆ Check your email. Please give us your email address if we do not have it.

Sunday School Attendance 1/5/2014

	Children	Adults
Nursery	0	0
Pre-K	3	1
God's Eden	6	1
Youth		2
Seekers		4
Adult Bible		8
Totals	9	16

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

PO Box 666 216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483

www.HolyC.org

John Propst, Interim Pastor - JohnCPropst@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:30am - 3:00pm
(Lunch break taken sometime between Noon – 1:00pm, it varies)