## Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, January 6, 2019

## The Epiphany of Our Lord

Micah Kearney Pastor



Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

## WELCOME/GATHERING

#### **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,  $\pm$  one God, who shines in glory, clothes us in compassion, and bears gifts of mercy for all.

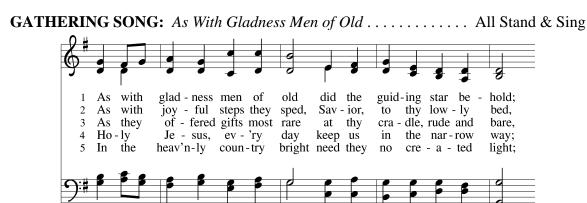
C Amen.

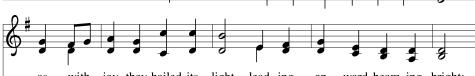
P Let us confess our sins with confidence in God's promise of forgiveness.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

- P God, wonderful counselor,
- C we confess that we have turned from your gifts and chosen our own way. We have not made room for you in our hearts or in our world. We have lived in fear; we have not welcomed the stranger; we desire gifts that will not endure. Forgive us our sins, known and unknown, and open us to receive the peace of Jesus dwelling in and among us. Amen.
- P God's lovingkindness has appeared to us in Christ our Savior. We are saved, not by anything we have done, but by God's mercy poured out on us richly. In the name of ± Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Through the Spirit living in you, God give you faith to trust Jesus, who is Love born for you, now and always.

C Amen.





with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on - ward, beam-ing bright; as there to bend the knee be - fore thee, whom heav'n and earth a - dore; may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy, past, bring our and when earth-ly things are ran - somed souls at last light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down; thou its





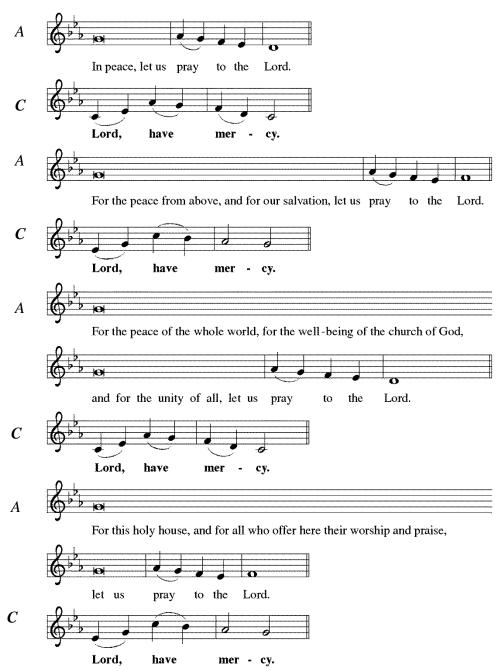
Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898, alt. Music: DIX, Conrad Kocher, 1786–1872

#### 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**



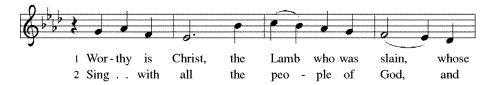


Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.





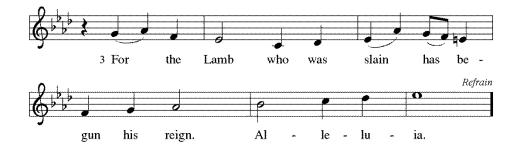












#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, on this day you revealed your Son to the nations by the leading of a star. Lead us now by faith to know your presence in our lives, and bring us at last to the full vision of your glory, through your Son, Jesus Christ 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 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 nurseries.

FIRST READING Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from the sixtieth chapter of Isaiah.

Jerusalem is assured that nations will make a pilgrimage to her, because the light of God's presence is in her midst. The bountiful food of the sea and the profits of international trade will come streaming to Jerusalem and thereby declare God's praise.

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;

but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around;

they all gather together, they come to you;

your sons shall come from far away,

and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice,

because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,

the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.



A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

#### SECOND READING

**Ephesians 3:1-12** 

A reading from the third chapter of Ephesians.

What had been hidden from previous generations is now made known through the gospel ministry of Paul and others. In Christ both Jews and Gentiles participate in the richness of God's promised salvation.

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was

given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

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

## **GOSPEL VERSE**



GOSPEL Matthew 2:1–12

P The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the second chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

God's promise shines bright in the night as magi follow a star to honor a new king. Strangers from a faraway land, they welcome the long-awaited messiah of Israel.

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for from you shall come a ruler

who is to shepherd my people Israel."

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time

when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On 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. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

- P The gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** The First Noel . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . All Stand & Sing





Text: English traditional Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840–1901

### **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.

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Dwelling in the presence of God with us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all in any need.

## A brief silence.

Drawn into the light of God, we pray for the proclamation of the grace of Jesus Christ. Give us courage and boldness to go forth into the world to tell the good news of what God has done. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Drawn into the glory of creation, we pray for the earth. Sustain every living thing with abundant resources, clean water, and sustainable harvests. Help us to steward all that you have provided. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Drawn into the brightness of God's presence, we pray for the nations of the world. Reveal your compassion and peace for the sake of all who live in the shadow of oppression, violence, and fear. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Drawn into the light of healing mercy, we pray for all who wait for healing and relief of suffering (*especially*). Give us hope in the promise of new life where pain and suffering will be no more. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Drawn into the dawn of a new day, we pray for the ongoing reconciliation between people. Make us bold to name sin in our lives and unite us in the promise of forgiveness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Drawn into the promise of everlasting light, we pray for those who mourn and give thanks for all the saints who now rest in the brightness of God's presence. Make us confident in our worship as we reflect the light of God with eternal praise. Hear us, O God.

## Your mercy is great.

Trusting in the presence of God by the power of the Holy Spirit, we commend all for whom we pray, dwelling in the light and hope of Christ, our Savior.

#### Amen.

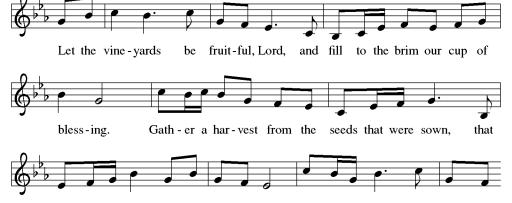
#### **PEACE**

- P The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C And also with you.

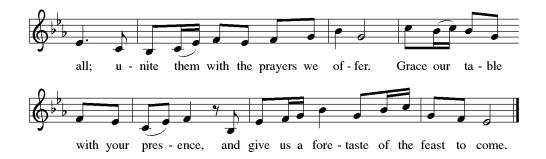
The assembly is seated.

#### **OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY RESPONSE:** Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful, Lord . . . All Stand & Sing



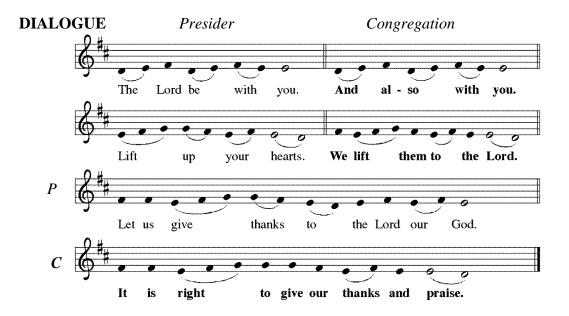
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

A Let us pray.

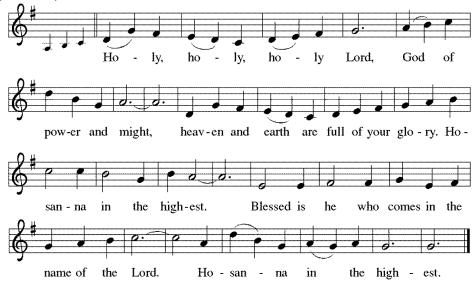
C Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross. As you gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



#### **PREFACE**

P ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



#### THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### 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.

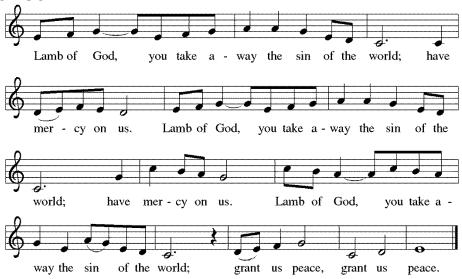
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.



## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P Come to the table where Christ meets you. Eat, rejoice, and be glad!
- C Thanks be to God.

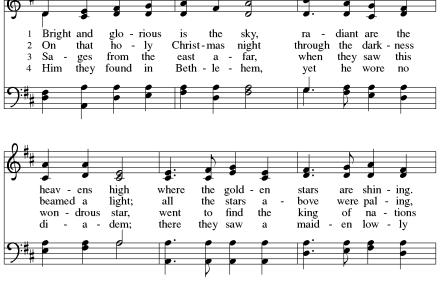
#### LAMB OF GOD

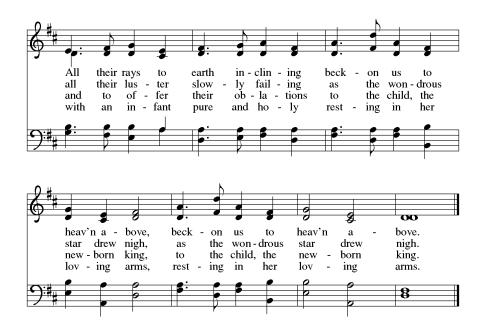


### **COMMUNION**

A cordial invitation is extended to all persons to participate in the celebration of the real presence of the Risen Christ in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: Bright is the Glorious Sky. . . . . . . . . . All Sing





- 5 Guided by the star, they found him whose praise the ages sound. We too have a star to guide us, which forever will provide us with the light to find our Lord, with the light to find our Lord.
- 6 And this star, as bright as day, that will never lead astray with its message so appealing, is the Word of God, revealing Christ, the way, the truth, the life, Christ, the way, the truth, the life.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Jens Christian Aaberg, 1877–1970, alt. Music: DEJLIG ER DEN HIMMEL BLÅ, Danish, 19th cent. Text ⊚ 1988 Service Book and Hymnal, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

- P The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Let us pray.

C God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near. As you have come among us now, send us out in joy, hastening to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever. Amen.

#### **BLESSING**

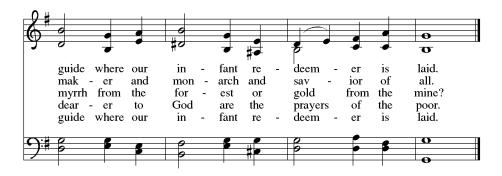
P God the Creator who delights in you, Jesus the Savior who is born for you, and the lifegiving Spirit who shines on you, + bless you and keep you in hope and peace.

## C Amen.



**SENDING SONG:** *Brightest and Best of the Stars* . . . . . . . . . . . All Stand & Sing





Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Jens Christian Aaberg, 1877–1970, alt. Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.

#### **SENDING**

A Go in peace. Share the joy of Christ.

C Thanks be to God.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2019 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.

Reprinted by permission under One License #A-724639

A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all our visitors on this **The Epiphany of Our Lord.** 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.

**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 Brad & Brandy Milton in honor of Brandy's father, Earl Gardner's, 78th 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.

Worship & Music Committee

## Offering and Attendance Report for December 30, 2018:

Attendance December 30: 125

Budget Report*	Dece	December 30, 2018		Year-to-Date	
Offering	\$	9,158.00	\$ 2	83,158.21	
Expenses	<u>\$</u>	<u>5,551.17</u>	2	80,973.94	
Offering less Expenses	\$	3,606.83	<u>\$</u>	2,184.27	
Budgeted Expenses			\$ 2	88,396.66	
Offering less Budgeted Expenses			(\$	5,238.45)	

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

\*Includes Christmas Eve Services

**LECTORS:** Billy Joye **GREETER:** Volunteer

**ACOLYTES & CRUCIFERS: TELLERS:** Fran Holland, John Koehler

Volunteers

**NURSERY:** (9:30-11:45 am) **ALTAR GUILD:** (Team 1) Volunteers

Bev Mauney, Co-Captain Charles Mauney. Co-Captain **USHERS:** Volunteers

Carmen De Nicholas

Deb Williams CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Veronica Bryant

**COMMUNION ASSISTANTS:** 

Volunteers **EUCHARISTS PRESENTERS:** Volunteers

BIRTHDAYS FOR THIS WEEK: January 6-12, 2019

January 7 Mary Lee January 10 Charles Mauney

January 9 Chuck MacDonald Melany Shaw-Nixon

# THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS: Today, Sunday, January 6

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 meets at the church

6:00 pm Church Choir

## Tuesday, January 8

7:00 pm Chamber Choir

Nar-Anon

## Wednesday, January 9

6:45 pm Women's Bible Study

## Thursday, January 10

12 Noon Prime Timers meets for

lunch (provided)
Collection taken for a
memorial to Carmen Buell

## Saturday, January 12

10:00 am Kids' Club at the church
6:00 pm Staying Connected meets
at Doffers Canteen in
Cramerton to plan for 2019



## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2019**

If you are willing to serve as a *Greeter*, *Lector*, *Usher*, *Eucharist Presenter* OR help in the nursery or Children's Church for the 2019 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.



# PRAYERS FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Cathleen Allen Cynthia Buchanan Brenda Dabrowski Becke Featherstone Sarah Tench Helms Zac Hullander

Sue Lahr Ben Moose Holly Peche Sherry Perry Kathie Schaumburg Scott Schaumburg

Marguerite Shive Denise Taylor Beverly Reynolds Jo Singleton Jerri & Mike Wesson

#### **GREATER FAMILY OF GOD**

Amy Beale Blythe Wayne Bradshaw **Doug Brewer** Ron de la Vega Carol Fox Earl Gardner

Larry "Poss" Garrett Ruth Lail Jennifer Lineberger Ronnie Lunsford Clarence McLain

Anne Murdy Tommy Smith **Brody Thornburg** Dennis Yates





Tom Kasmer Colton Parker Beau Carroll Leo Kasmer

Please remember these people in your prayers. If anyone has a person who needs to be added or removed from this list, please inform the church office.

The sign-up prayer forms are in the narthex and online at www.holyc.org.







**Gratitude** "Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his kindness endures forever!" With a New Year beginning, it's time to stop and count our blessings. We have a tendency to get busy and forget to thank God and others for the blessings we receive or sometimes we just don't feel thankful because times are hard. Here are ways to be grateful, regardless

of life's circumstances:

- Count the *simple* blessings of family, friends, health, food, shelter, electricity, freedom!
- Talk about the bright side what was the *good* that happened today?
- Put a sign on the fridge or bulletin board with the phrase, "Today I am grateful for..." and each family member takes turns filling in the blank each day.
- Thank God even when you're not grateful it's ok to tell God you're angry or hurt but then thank him for the good he'll bring out of that anger or hurt.
- Give thanks to God by thanking others. Rev. Billy Graham says, "God has given us two hands, one to receive with and the other to give with." By thanking others, we're thanking God.
- Lift your heart to God.

Despite trials and tribulations, you can be calm, lighthearted, and joyful by becoming
more aware of the blessings in your life and trusting in the goodness of God.

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



## **Holy Comforter Lutheran Church**

216 N. Main Street Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483 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 Greg Cline, Organist /Choirmaster Beka Forst, Director of Youth & Family Ministries Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager