Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, February 23, 2014

The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany



John Propst Interim Pastor Greg Cline Organist/Choirmaster

GATHERING/WELCOME

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 Let us come into the light of Christ, confessing our need for God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Holy and faithful God,
- C we so often choose our own way instead of yours. We think we can evade your commandments. We have spoken in ways that kill, strayed with our hearts, betrayed friends, and hated enemies. We have broken our promises. Search us deeply and create us anew. Lift the heavy burden of our sin and free us to follow your way of life. Amen.
- P "Call upon me," says the Lord, "and I will answer." Our God has come among us to loose every bond and set us free from all that weighs us down. Receive the forgiveness of all your sins in the name of + Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Savior.
- C Amen.



Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984, alt. Music: BUNESSÁN, Gaelic tune; arr. hymnal version Text © Oxford University Press, All rights reserved. Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

GREETING

- P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.
- C And also with you.

KYRIE





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



GLORY TO GOD





SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Almighty God our Father, your generous goodness comes to us new every day. By the work of your Spirit lead us to acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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 Genesis 1:26–31

A reading from the first chapter of Genesis.

²⁶ Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'

²⁷ So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.

²⁸God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.' ²⁹God said, 'See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰And to every beast of the earth, and to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.' And it was so. ³¹God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

A The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.



³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I shall keep it to the end.

³⁴Give me understanding, and I shall | keep your teaching; I shall keep it with | all my heart.

³⁵Lead me in the path of 'your commandments, for that is 'my desire.

³⁶Incline my heart to 'your decrees and not to 'unjust gain.

³⁷Turn my eyes from be- | holding falsehood; give me life | in your way.

³⁸Fulfill your promise | to your servant, which is for | those who fear you.

³⁹Turn away the reproach that I dread, because your judg-tments are good.

⁴⁰Behold, I long for 'your commandments; by your righteousness en- liven me.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 3:10–11, 16–23

A reading from the third chapter of 1 Corinthians.

Jesus Christ is the foundation of the church and its ministry. We are God's temple because God's Spirit dwells in us, and we belong to Christ. Hence we are called to build wisely upon this sure foundation not for our own benefit but for others to experience Christ's benefits.

¹⁰According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ. ¹⁶Do you not know that you are God's temple and that

God's Spirit dwells in you? ¹⁷If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

¹⁸Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. ¹⁹For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written,

"He catches the wise in their craftiness,"

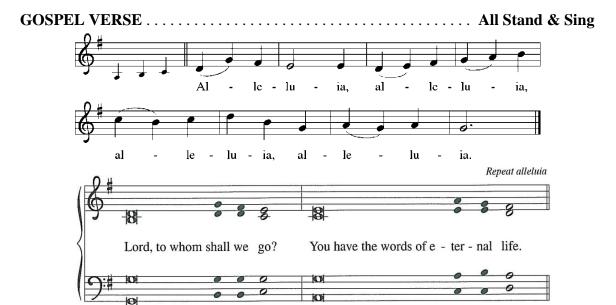
²⁰and again,

"The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise,

that they are futile."

²¹So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, ²²whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future — all belong to you, ²³and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

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



GOSPEL Matthew 9:36–38 (from *The Message*) The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the ninth chapter. Glory to you, O Lord.

[&]quot;Then Jesus made a circuit of all the towns and villages. He taught in their meeting

places, reported kingdom news, and healed their diseased bodies, healed their bruised and hurt lives. When he looked out over the crowds, his heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd. "What a huge harvest!" he said to his disciples. "How few workers! On your knees and pray for harvest hands!"

- P The gospel of the Lord.
- Praise to you, O Christ. \mathbf{C}

up,

now

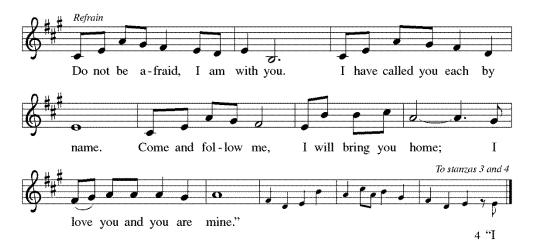
SERMON: Holy Comforter Café – "Yummy!!!" (Notes Page 18) Pastor John

HYMN OF THE DAY: You Are Mine All Stand & Sing



Refrain on next page...

To refrain



Text: David Haas, b. 1957
Music: YOU ARE MINE, David Haas
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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.

PEACE

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

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM & RESPONSE: We Are Called Choir sings verse 1, Congregation sings verses 2 & 3, Standing on verse 3.



Text: David Haas, b. 1957
Music: WE ARE CALLED, David Haas
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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.

Holy and perfect God, you call us to share your word of love even when it seems like foolishness to the world. Make your church bold to proclaim our hope in Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You make the sun to rise and the rain to fall on all. Feed rich and poor, land and animals, with your abundance. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

You call us to the ways of justice. Lead all who govern in the path of justice, so that those in need will not be forgotten. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

All in need belong to you through Christ. Strengthen weary caregivers. Comfort those who are sick and in pain. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Help this congregation trust that your Spirit dwells in us. Show us the way to be your holy people. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Sustain us, O God, until we gather with all your saints from every time and place in your eternal protection. Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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: We Are All One in Mission All Stand & Sing

We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,

Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

A single great commission compels us from above

To plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.

We all are called for service, to witness in God's name.

Our ministries are different; our purpose is the same:

To touch the lives of others with God's surprising grace,

So ev'ry folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.

Now let us be united, and let our song be heard.

Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming Word.

We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,

Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

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DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Christ is your light.
- C Thanks be to God.

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A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany. 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.

<u>PRAYER REQUESTS</u>: 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.

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Bob & Pat Koehler in memory of Louise Hawley; and by Laura, Elizabeth, Sarah & Khloe June Tench in honor of Jack Tench's birthday.

<u>Those who have placed flowers on the altar</u> 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, February 16, 2014:

Attendance: 134

Budget Report

Current Offering Received 2/16/14 Weekly Expenses

Offering, Year-To-Date

February 16, 2014

\$ 2,417.71

\$ 4,504.60

\$ 28.057.21

The Current Offering Received for the year through February 16, 2014 is \$ 1,461.38 more than Holy Comforter's expenses through that date.

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr. +

Marsha Kinley

CRUCIFERS: Madison Carr, Cooper Burwell

GREETER: Katie Kessen

ACOLYTES: Garrett Carpenter

Garrett Fox

NURSERY: (9:30-11:45 am) Volunteers

USHERS: Need Volunteers

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2) Louise Day, Co-Captain

Brenda Daly, Co-Captain

Nancy Powell Becky Richards

CANTOR: Diann Halvorson

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, February 23

9:30 am Sunday School 10:10 am Church Choir

10:30 am The Service

Tuesday, February 25

7:00 pm Chamber Choir Nar-Anon

Fellowship & Volunteer Luncheon

4:00 pm Children's Ensemble 5:00 pm Handbell Choir

6:00 pm Church Choir 8:00 pm Nar-Anon Saturday, March 1

7:00 pm **Staying Connected**Meet at church

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: February 23-March 1

Today, February 23 Dodie Reese February 25 Jack Tench February 27 Valerie Bruchon



Eligible members for **2013 Thrivent Choice Dollars** reminded to have your designations in by March 31, 2014. **Questions?** Call Myra Hollar 704-825-5885.



We will gather **today**, **February 23**, immediately after the worship service for a *Fellowship & Volunteer Luncheon*.



Do you know what your spiritual gifts are? Do you need help figuring out where your place is in serving your Church and community?

If these questions intrigue you, or if you just want to explore the topic of spiritual gifts, you are invited to join an exciting **new class** being offered at Holy Comforter. An **8-week series called "Discovering God's Vision For Your Life" continues during the Sunday School hour in the** *Seekers* **classroom. All materials will be provided to help you learn about your unique set of spiritual gifts and why they are so important.**

Accept this invitation for you to join an *Inquiring Heart* Class on Sundays mornings at **9:30 am on February 23 & March 2**. These classes, led by Pastor John, will be conversational & enjoyable. The classes are good for anyone...those new to Holy Comforter or those who would like a "refresher" on our beliefs.



Camp Agape Rising 1st Graders — Rising 8th Graders!

It is hard to believe, but it is time to start planning for summer camp again. Holy Comforter is hosting *Camp Agape July 14-18*. *Agape* is a day camp for rising 1st to rising 8th graders sponsored by Kure Beach Ministries.

This year we are expanding the day camp to include 6th-8th graders. The kids in this age group will participate in service projects throughout the week at Holy Comforter as well as off site. We must have a minimum of 6 middle school aged kids in order to offer this expanded camp.

Registration forms are available at the back of the church of from Misty Koehler. The cost is \$125 per camper and is <u>due at the time of registration</u>. There is only room for 20 campers, so register soon. **The spaces will be filled on a first come, first served basis**.

Please contact Misty if you have any questions about camp.

Misty Koehler, Holy Comforter Camp Coordinator

MENT[©]R A Child

Sarah Little is a counselor at Belmont Middle School and she is a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Mt. Holly. **Belmont Middle needs mentors!** Mentoring is such a rewarding experience. Their mentors typically meet with students for one hour, once a week during school hours. They do fun activities, talk, play games (even on iPads), or work on school work. One of her mentors does woodcraft and Legos with the three boys he mentors. **PLEASE pray about this potentially life-changing experience/ministry**. PLEASE contact Sarah today! Her school phone number is 704-825-9610, extension 244. Her email: sblittle@gaston.k12.nc.us. Contact Pastor John if you'd like more information.

Holy Communion will be offered immediately following today's service.

Please gather at the front of the sanctuary. Pastor John will join you at the altar after he greets folks.





PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

Louise Austin Deborah Bingham Virginia Crump Daniel Dowd

Ferrie Hedrick Richard Holden Zac Hullander Chase Lineberger Liz Propst Mabel Ratchford Mark Reese

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Kathy Beam Dale Burris Ronnie Hagy Brian Hedrick Kathy Helton Betty Fox Claudia Frazier Ronnie Hersey Dennis Jordan Wesley Jordan & Family Betty Kannapel

Laura Lanuto & Family

Jason Gardner

Jeff Lail Ruth Lail Dan Martin Peggy McKenney & Family **Grady Nichols** Sandra Nix **Dutch Passailaigue** Jean Peters Taylor Propst & Family

Mara Rappleyea Joel Rivera (NY)

Steve Sanford Kelly Shoe **Shore Family** Megan Sigler

Ramona J. Sinclair Jimmy Surratt

Charmaine Townsend **Buck Weatherford** Beverly F. Wall Gloria Ward



OUR SERVICEMEN

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 let Trudy Whitener know or tell Dianne in the church office.

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

"Holy Comforter Café - Yummy!!!!" - Sermon Notes

1) God owns; God loans

<u>Summary of today's Genesis reading</u> (from <u>Today's NIV</u> & <u>The Message</u>): God created humankind, blessed God's creation and charged humankind to be responsible for the fish, the birds, the cattle, and yes, the earth itself!

2) As God's stewards (managers) we are called to follow the Master Builder's blueprints

"Or, to put it another way, you are God's house. Using the gift God gave me as a good architect, I designed blueprints; Apollos is putting up the walls. Let each carpenter who comes on the job take care to build on the foundation! Remember, there is only one foundation, the one already laid: Jesus Christ."

(1 Corinthians 3:10-11 from *The Message*)

3) To God be the glory ... so pray & serve

"What a huge harvest!' Jesus said to His disciples. 'How few workers! On your knees and pray for harvest hands!" (Matthew 9:38 from <u>The Message</u>)

Our Response to God through the HolyC Café' (application):

- 1. Be a responsible caretaker
- 2. Build on Jesus, THE foundation
- 3. Be God's "harvest hands"

+ + + + + + +

"The Lord has made everything for His own purposes." (Proverbs 16:4)

"God doesn't call the qualified; God qualifies the called."

"Life on earth is a temporary assignment."

~Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Life*

"With God, every day matters, every person counts. And that includes you." ~Max Lucado, <u>Cure for the Common Life</u>

"We should certainly count our blessings, but we should also make our blessings count."



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
- ◆ Check your email. Please give us your email address if we do not have it.



Contributions to Women's Auxiliary of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary will be accepted on Sundays, March 9 & 16. A life membership to honor or memorialize someone is no longer available. All contributions will be just contributions...no lifetime memberships included.

On May 20, 1940, a large group of women, brought together by Mrs. E. C. Cooper, wife of the president of the Seminary at that time, met in the Seminary Reception Room and organized an auxiliary to be known as the Women's Auxiliary of the Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. **The auxiliary provides for non-budgeted needs through this membership.**

Please see Barbara Beale or Beverly Reynolds after church on March 9 or 16 to make your contributions. Please make your check payable to Holy Comforter with a notation that it is for LTSS Auxiliary. Thank you, Beverly Reynolds & Barbara Beale

The Lillian E. Lineberger



Scholarship Forms Available Soon!

To apply, you must meet the following requirements:

- Be a member of The Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter for at least one year
- Participate in Communion and contribute to the church during the time you are receiving the grant
- Submit the following by the deadline of April 24th:
 - 1. Your completed application
 - 2. A transcript from your most recently completed semester
 - 3. A typed essay (at least one paragraph) describing yourself, career plans, and life goals

Application forms available via email after March 1.

(Email the church office at holycomforter@gmail.com and request Lineberger Scholarship Form.)

Our best wishes to you in your educational journey.

Your Scholarship Ministry, Carmen De Nicholas



Shrove/Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner

Tuesday, March 4 at 5:45 pm In the Fellowship Hall



Lent 2014: Midweek Worship on Tuesdays @ 6:30 pm

(Following our Lenten meal at 5:45 pm)

Ash Wednesday is March 5 – that's the day we begin our pilgrimage to the cross. 7:00 pm Service of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes!

As part of our midweek worship on <u>Tuesday evenings</u>, 5 people will be sharing a brief (2-5 minutes) "testimony of grace." Our theme will be the Lord's Prayer. Below are the petitions, dates and those who will be sharing. THANKS friends, for answering God's call to meditate on one of the petitions! You are a blessing to God AND to those who will hear God's Word through you!

March 5 Ash Wednesday Pastor John

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

March 11 Beth Brittain

thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

March 18 Jo Singleton

Give us this day our daily bread;

March 25 Mandi Kline

and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

April 1 Mark Kline

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

April 8 Julia Gunter

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

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 666 Belmont, NC 28012 704-825-2483 holycomforter@gmail.com

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