

Lutheran Church of the Holy Comforter

P.O. Box 666 • 216 N. Main Street • Belmont, NC 28012 • Sunday, January 4, 2015

The Second Sunday after Christmas Day



Micah Kearney
Pastor

Greg Cline
Organist/Choirmaster

WELCOME/GATHERING

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, the Maker of heaven and earth, the Word made flesh, the Lord and giver of life.

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God of peace,

C we confess that we are not at peace—with others or with ourselves.

We bring to you all that tears us apart: discord in our families, violence in our world, our own conflicted hearts. In your mercy, mend us. Reconnect us to one another and to you. Let peace reign over all the earth, through the Prince of peace, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

P In the Word who has come to dwell with us, God has given us grace upon grace: forgiveness that is stronger than our sins, love that can heal every broken heart.

Hear this word of God's pardon and peace: in the name of + Jesus our Savior, you are free from all your sins. Rise, shine, for your light has come.

C Amen.

GATHERING SONG: *Brightest and Best of the Stars*

1 Bright-est and best of the stars of the m
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are sh
3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - v
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - l
5 Bright-est and best of the stars of the m

dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your
low lies his head with the beasts of the
Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di -
vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se -
dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your

Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - d
an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - c
gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the
rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - r
Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - d

guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is
mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of
myrrh from the for - est or gold from the
dear - er to God are the prayers of the
guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is

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

GREETING

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

C And also with you.

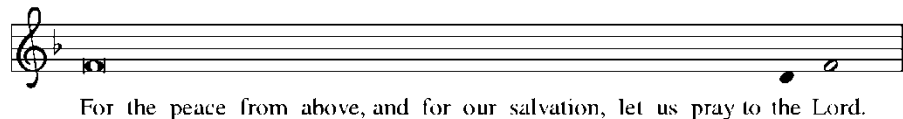
KYRIE

Assistant

Congregation



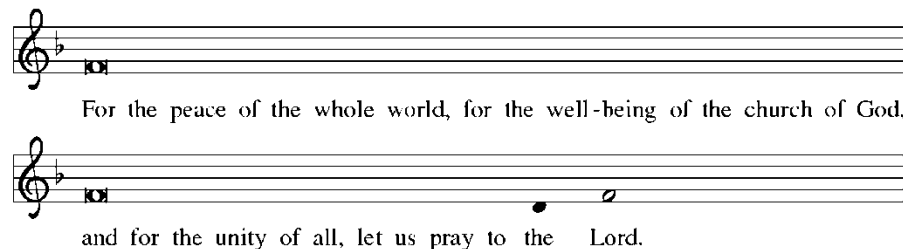
Assistant



Cong.



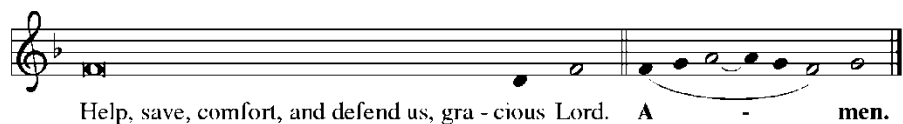
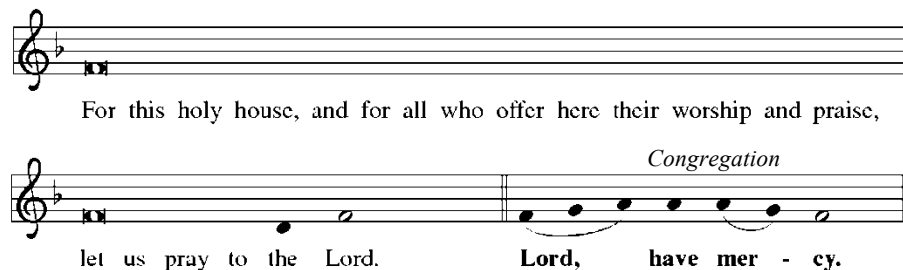
Assistant



Cong.

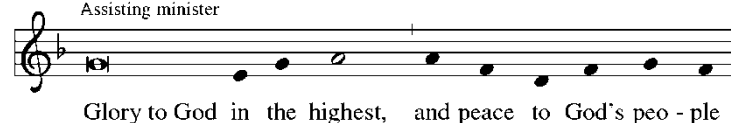


Assistant



GLORY TO GOD

Assisting minister



All



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.
Almighty God, you have filled all the earth with the light of your incarnate Word. By your grace empower us to reflect your light in all that we do, 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 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 nursery.**

FIRST READING

A reading from the thirty-first chapter of Jeremiah.

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

⁷For thus says the LORD:
Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."
⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.
⁹With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.
¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."
¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.
A The word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 147:12–20
¹²Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem;
praise your God, O Zion,
¹³**who has strengthened the bars of your gates
and has blessed your children within you.**
¹⁴God has established peace on your borders
and satisfies you with the finest wheat.
¹⁵**God sends out a command to the earth,
a word that runs very swiftly.**
¹⁶God gives snow like wool,

scattering frost like ashes.

¹⁷**God scatters¹ hail like bread crumbs.**

Who can stand against God's cold?

¹⁸The LORD sends forth the word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the waters flow.

¹⁹**God declares the word to Jacob,
statutes and judgments to Israel.**

²⁰The LORD has not done so to any other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

A reading from the first chapter of Ephesians.

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Ephesians 1:3-14

GOSPEL

P. The holy gospel according to St. John, the first chapter.
C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the Word that was created. This Word became flesh and brought grace and truth.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and nothing came into being without him. ⁴What has come into being ⁴in him was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself came to testify to the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.


¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, but he did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks first because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, and his grace is unending and full. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father, who has made him known.

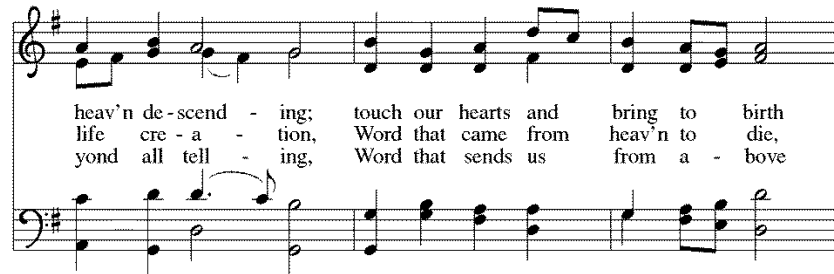
P The gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON Pastor

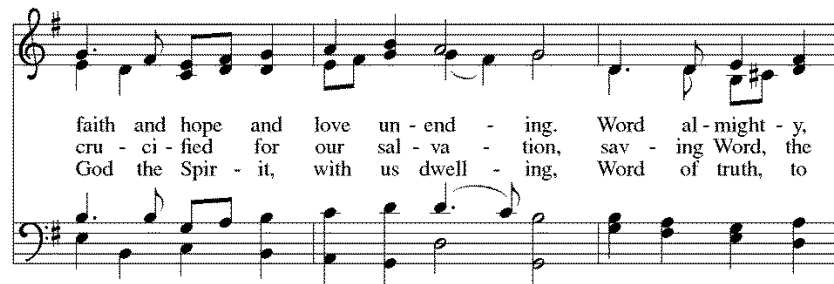
HYMN OF THE DAY: *Word of God, Come Down On Earth* All Stand & Sing



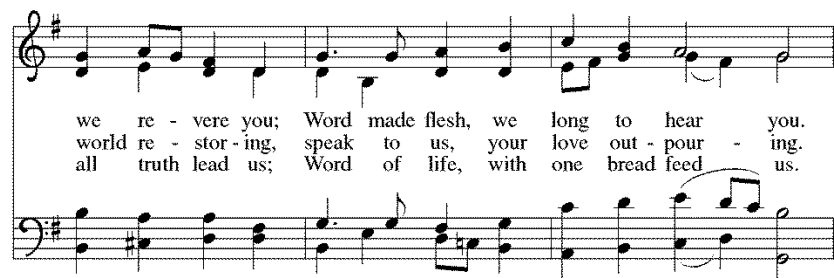
1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to
3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -



heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,
yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove



faith and hope and love un - end - ing, Word al - might - y,
cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the
God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to



we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.
world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.
all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

Text: James Quinn, St. L. 1919
Music: LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625-1673
Text © James Quinn, St. L. Selah Publishing Co., Inc., North American agent, www.selahpub.com.

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
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and v
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand o
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: *Deo Gratias* Assembly Sir

Refrain James J. Chi



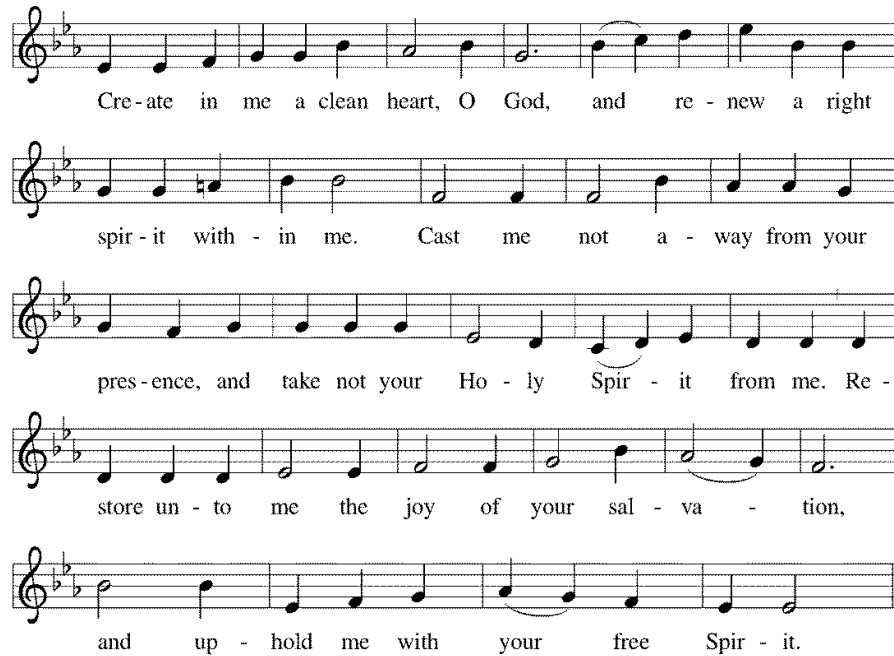
Lov-ing God, to you we sing. Hear the grate-ful song
bring. De - o gra - ti - as, De - o gra - ti - as, De
gra - ti - as. De - o gra - ti - as, De
gra - ti - as, De - o gra - ti - as.

* Pronounced: Deb-oh grab-tsee-ahs.

Refrain: James J. Chepponis, newly written and copyright © 2013 with this publication.
Music: Newly composed, and copyright © 2013 with this publication.

Copyright © 2013 Birmannwood Publications (ASCAP)
A division of MorningStar Music Publishers, Inc., St. Louis, MO
1.800.647.2117 www.MorningStarMusic.com

OFFERTORY RESPONSE All Stand and Sing.



Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

Your mercy is great.

O God, you stretch out your merciful hand to heal the sick and shie troubled. Touch all who are burdened by want, loneliness, or illnes their caregivers healing and hope (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, you are the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Fill us w new year, and guide us to have courage amid all the changes and cl O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, you are the hope of the saints, the light that filled their hear failed them. Comfort those who mourn, and in your time bring us t Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Hear the hopes and prayers of our hearts, O God, and magnify our Light among us, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

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.

O God, your light shines in the face of our brother, Jesus. Enliven the church's testimony about the grace and truth made known in his life, death, and resurrection. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, you speak in the immensity of space and the tiny detail of every grain of sand. We praise you for the creative joy evident in the wonder of life all around us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

O God, with holy delight you led your chosen people out of slavery into freedom. Bring freedom and peace to exiles, refugees, and those oppressed by harsh governments. Hear

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 Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

C **Amen.**

P May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

C **Amen.**

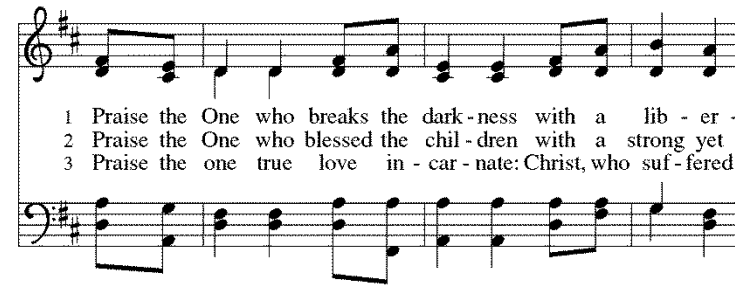
P May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

C **Amen.**

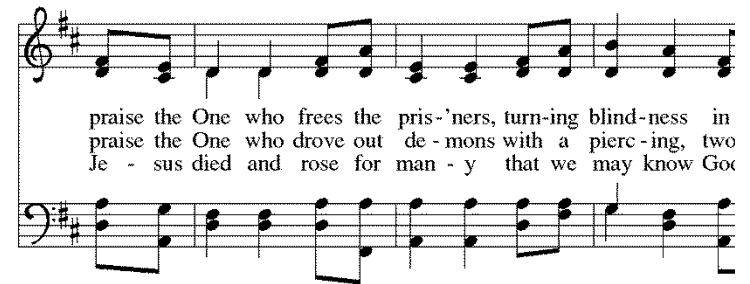
P And the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

C **Amen.**

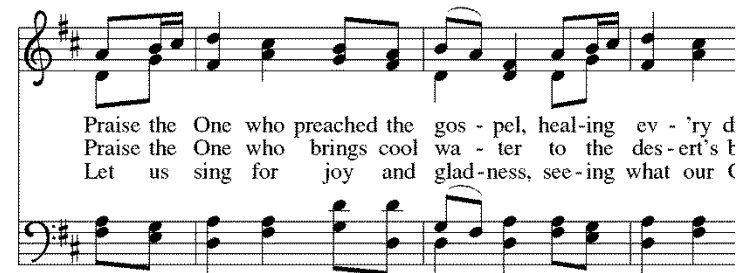
SENDING SONG: *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness . . .*



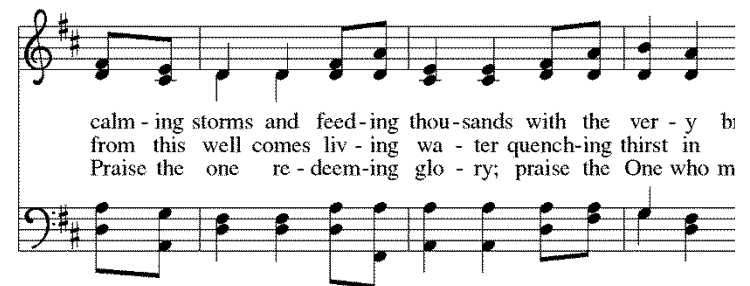
1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn-ing blind-ness in
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc-ing, two
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal-ing ev - 'ry d
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des-ert's b
Let us sing for joy and glad-ness, see-ing what our C



calm - ing storms and feed-ing thou-sands with the ver - y bi
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench-ing thirst in
Praise the one re - deem-ing glo - ry; praise the One who m

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955
Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813
Text © 1987 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION OFFERED immediately after the service at the altar.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 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.

Attendance & Budget Report for Sunday, December 28, 2014

Attendance: 80

Budget Report

	December 28,
Current Offering Received 12/28/14*	\$ 7,063.00
Weekly Budget Expenses	\$ 4,504.60
Offering, Year-To-Date	\$217,568.70
Offering less Actual Expenses Incurred, YTD	\$ 34.15
Offering less Budgeted Expenses, YTD	(\$ 15,156.42)

Includes offering from Christmas Eve service

ASSISTING MINISTERS:

LECTOR: Billy Joye, Jr. + Jo Singleton

GREETER: C

ACOLYTE: Need Volunteer

NURSERY: (C
Makayla & Mit

CRUCIFER: Need Volunteer

TELLERS: N
of

ALTAR GUILD: (Team 2)

Brad Milton, Co-Captain Donna Bean

Brandy Milton, Co-Captain Susan Woodcock

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP LEADER:

USHERS: De
Vo

Brandy Milton + Helper

BIRTHDAYS FOR THE WEEK: January 4-10

January 6	Ferrie Hedrick	January 10	Char
January 9	Chuck Kimball		Bran
			Beck

A CORDIAL WELCOME is extended to all of our visitors on this **Second 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 standard 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 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.holy.org**

THE FLOWERS ON OUR ALTAR TODAY are given to the glory of God by Beverly & Charles Mauney in honor of their children Ginger, Jimmy & Laurel and grandchildren Jake & Henry.

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**

THIS WEEK'S MEETINGS:

Today, Sunday, January 4

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

Tuesday, January 6

7:00 pm	Chamber Choir
	Nar-Anon

Saturday, Jan

9:00 am	Co
	ho
7:00 pm	St
	Th
	Ga

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.



PRAY FOR OUR FAMILY OF HOLY COMFORTER

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

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

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

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 today, January 4th**

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

GREATER FAMILY OF GOD

Dennis Jordan J
Betty Kannapel T
Steven Keating D
Marshall Kinley J
Lance Kirkland A
Terry Mahaffey M
Steve Mathis E
Kenadee Nelson G
Mark Outlaw P
Alicia Overton O

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.

Make check payable to Holy Comforter with "Altar Vase" in your memo line.

Matt Cisek

Jason Gardner

Dillon Kasmer



OUR SERVICEMEN

OUR MISSIONARIES

Austin & Tanya Propst (Young Adults in Global M

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

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

*Thank You to everyone for
All your prayers and cards and
Encouragement during our time of need.*

Rick & Debbie Neagle & Family

Holy Comforter Lutheran Church

P.O. Box 666 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 Rev. Beth Brittain, Christian Education

Kristen Williams, HCY Advisor

Dianne Lail, Communications/Office Manager